

Final Report on your Study Exchange at the University of Lucerne

Please write the report (max. 2 pages) in German or English and in complete sentences (no keywords).

Mobility Program	SEMP/ERASMUS (inside Europe)
Home university	Nottingham Trent University
Semester	Spring Term 2015
Field of study	LAW, Master
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<p>General impression Please describe your stay in 4-5 sentences</p>	<p>To begin with, I would definitely describe my stay as fun because of the various events taking place when I arrived such as Fasnacht and the welcome meal for the exchange/Erasmus students before the semester began. I would next describe my stay as somewhat different, different in terms of how the university library works, how the assessments are and the ratio of exchange to Swiss students per class.</p> <p>In my opinion, I experienced a shock to the opening hours system, coming from England where shops are open on Sundays at least to 4pm, not having that option here was a complete shock. Furthermore, I felt that there was a good balance between work and enjoyment of being at Luzern and I felt part of the university.</p>
<p>Entry/ arrival in Switzerland Immigration formalities, visa</p>	<p>I hoped that this part was going to be smooth and simple and it was. Arriving in Switzerland, in Zurich was interesting and I was happy with how efficient and quick the trains were to Luzern. Once I got to Luzern I just got on a bus to my accommodation. In addition, although I spent close to two weeks sorting out the immigration formalities, I had a smooth procedure and started it early so my resident permit was sent relatively early in comparison to others.</p>
<p>Searching for rooms/ accommodation Experiences and useful addresses</p>	<p>I did not experience the process of having to search for rooms because my room was sorted out prior to when I arrived.</p>
<p>Public transportation Train, bus, accessibility of university buildings</p>	<p>One thing I can definitely credit and acknowledge the Swiss for is the public transportation. Train times are printed in each station whether it is at a commune or a city of the canton and bus times are visible and printed at every stop. Accessibility of the university building was easy and simple.</p>
<p>Prearrangements Registration for courses, language tests, academic records</p>	<p>Registration for courses was strange to me at first because of signing up for that on another site 'OLAT' instead of the unilu website and then having to then request for the semester material as additional step was quite a process but nevertheless, a quick one once you knew what to do.</p>
<p>Information on university Location, size, infrastructure</p>	<p>The information on university was relatively good. However, I would have liked to have further information on the size of the university and the each faculty.</p>
<p>German course at the university „German Short Course“ visited? Content of course, usage</p>	<p>I took part in the German short course. Although the content was good, I think it was quite intensive for four days and would have preferred if it was split throughout the semester and done once a week for up to two hours.</p>
<p>Studying at the university Content of lectures, credits, assessments</p>	<p>Content of lectures was good but in some classes for particular courses were too heavy and assessments too soon. I would have wanted to fully understand the credit system. Nonetheless, I thoroughly enjoyed the block courses and how it was presented, I think having a chance to do a block course was a great idea.</p>
<p>Assistance at the university</p>	<p>In my opinion, the assistance at the university was good. There was never a situation</p>

<p>Student advisors, Mobility Office, mentors, contact with other students</p>	<p>where I find myself without help from the student advisors or mobility office. However, I did not have as much contact with other home students but this may have been because of the difference in courses.</p>
<p>Budgeting Living costs, study material, money transfer</p>	<p>Budgeting was one of the most difficult things in my opinion. I found that no matter where you go in terms of grocery shopping, meat was always going to be expensive. I felt that if we had a visual activity, in our welcome lecture, on shopping or perhaps was showed online shopping from COOP and Migros and then shown others shops such as Lidl and Denner this would have helped immensely. This is because being in a new country wanting to experience things such as skiing or sledging or hiking, coupled with the fee of a monthly bus pass, half-fare card, study materials i.e. the reader(s) with buying food on a week to week basis was hard. Having a presentation on finance and budgeting alone would have helped.</p>
<p>Living/ leisure Meeting places, sports, culture</p>	<p>The leisure and living here was fairly simple despite the monetary aspect of it. There was some events for the exchange group to meet up and have dinner organized by the full-time students i.e our mentors. Also, there were opportunities to take part in sports however; it would have been extremely useful if the website for the sports information and sign up was in English language as well. Although, the booklet we were given was useful, I think this too needed a separate presentation showing the different sports buildings and how we could take partake in.</p>
<p>Comparison What is better/ worse at the University of Lucerne as compared to your home university?</p>	<p>What is better is having a vending machine available on-site in the university and having one on each floor, the sleeping room, the free scanners which is very useful when you have to scan a chapter of a book, a customized student shop with students working there, the student card system for the student shop, the food at the canteen and vending machine. I addition, I was thrilled at having the ability to purchase a reader for most of my courses which would have proved difficult without one.</p> <p>What is worse are that there are no tutorials, no tutor classes, no personal tutor or tutorials where a group of say 6 of us can group and discuss our experiences so far and what we struggle with. Plus, the distorted clarity of when the term and assessments are, for instance here assessments such has papers are due when lectures end and others when the end of term ends thus not having much time to devote time to complete.</p>
<p>Reasons For what reasons are you aiming for a mobility period at the University of Lucerne?</p>	<p>I thought of Switzerland as a neutral state and having an interest in Human Rights and International Law in general I felt like this was the place to come to. In addition to this, I really like Swiss chocolate and the scenery here; I hoped to move out my comfort zone of always seeing tall buildings and infrastructure, to, seeing mountains, some greenery and snow. In addition to this, I just wanted to be in Central Europe and see how the culture here is with having influences of German, French and Italian all interlinked and working to form Switzerland aroused my curiosity and keen interest.</p>
<p>Duration If you look back, was the duration of your stay for mobility</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> to short <input type="checkbox"/> to long <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> precisely</p>