

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	University of Sheffield
Semester	Fall Semester 2015 and Spring Semester 2016
Field of study	Law, BA
Name and E-Mail (optional)	Hollie Cook

<p>General impression Please describe your stay in 4-5 sentences</p>	<p>Lucerne is by far one of the most beautiful places I have been. There is so much to do including hiking the local mountains, swimming in the lake and trying out Swiss cuisine. The area is really nice, clean and has a positive vibe. It is a busy town with lots of cafes, bars and restaurants.</p>
<p>Entry/ arrival in Switzerland Immigration formalities, visa</p>	<p>Entry into Switzerland was very easy being from the EU. There were no unusual formalities that I had to go through. Upon arrival I had to register at the immigration and cantonal office of Lucerne which was a very easy process.</p>
<p>Searching for rooms/ accommodation Experiences and useful addresses</p>	<p>I applied for accommodation through the University of Lucerne. Even though my first choice of accommodation was not available, the university provided me with an alternative option through the Student Mentor Foundation (Steinhofstrasse). Both student accommodations are very well kept and in great locations. My accommodation is very modern and also has its own BBQ area for summer evenings.</p>
<p>Public transportation Train, bus, accessibility of university buildings</p>	<p>Public transport in Switzerland is great. Even though it is a little more expensive than home, the quality is much better. Lucerne is in a great location for travelling not only within Switzerland but also other European countries. I would definitely recommend purchasing a half fare card entitling you to 50% discount on almost all public transport. The university building is in a great location as is right next to the main bus and train station and is only 20-25 minutes walking distance from my accommodation.</p>
<p>Prearrangements Registration for courses, language tests, academic records</p>	<p>Registration for courses was extremely easy. I enrolled via the online learning platform a few weeks before the semester was due to start. Upon arrival I attended a few other classes in order to see if I preferred them. Changing to other courses was very easy and there are a good number of classes available in English.</p>
<p>Information on the university Location, size, infrastructure</p>	<p>The university building is located very centrally which is ideal. It is a modern building consisting of 5 floors. It has everything you need in one building including a post office, canteen, book shop, library and even a gym room for fitness classes. Having everything in one place means you don't have to worry about getting from one class to another in time.</p>
<p>German course at the university "German Short Course" visited? Content of course, use?</p>	<p>I attended the German language course during the first week which I found very useful. I have previously studied German and so the course was helpful to refresh my memory and meant I was also able to meet the other exchange students. The teachers were also very friendly and provided us with leaflets and information about the best student places to visit in Lucerne. There is also the opportunity to continue with a language course during the semester.</p>
<p>Studying at the university Content of lectures, credits, assessments</p>	<p>Studying at the university was great. The lessons are all 2 hours long and the teaching style is different from home. Classes are much smaller than I am used to and much more interactive. It was also great that there is mixture of exchange and Swiss</p>

	<p>students. I took 6 courses in my first semester and 5 in my second semester in order to fulfill the credit requirements. The university offer a good number of courses in English. One of my favourite courses to attend was Introduction to Swiss Law, where we learnt about the history and politics of Switzerland and also got to go on numerous trips courtesy of the university. I also took a number of block courses which were great as meant it reduced my contact hours for the rest of the semester enabling me to do extra-curricular activities and travel more. Assessment consisted of papers, presentations and examinations (both written and oral). We don't really have oral examinations at home so it was interesting to take courses that were assessed in this way.</p>
<p>Assistance at the university Mobility Coordinator, International Relations Office, student advisors, mentors, contact with other students</p>	<p>The assistance at the university was great. The student advisors and the mobility office were always well equipped with information and would always respond to any queries via email. The university also put on a number of events including excursions to various parts of Switzerland, fondue evenings and farewell dinners all covered cost wise by them which made the already enjoyable experience even better. They are <u>extremely accommodating of international students</u>.</p>
<p>Budgeting Living costs, study material, money transfer</p>	<p>Switzerland is quite expensive but there are easy ways to budget. A lot of the study material is available online, as a reader or in the library so it is easy to cut down on costs. It is easier to pay the rent all in one go to avoid having to pay the money transfer cost multiple times and to avoid the cash transaction charges. It could be helpful to open a Swiss bank account, although I found it very manageable without one. Living costs can be kept to a minimum by shopping in supermarkets such as Denner which are much cheaper than the big stores.</p>
<p>Living/ leisure Meeting places, sports, culture</p>	<p>There are a number of great places to spend time in Lucerne. Lots of beautiful seating areas can be found around the lake and there are usually people playing instruments there too. In terms of things to do in leisure time you will never be bored in Switzerland. If is snowy in the winter you can ski, and if it is sunny in the summer you can swim in the lake or go hiking. The university also offers free gym classes which are great and there are also sports teams you can get involved with too.</p>
<p>Comparison What is better/ worse at the University of Lucerne as compared to your home university?</p>	<p>The University of Lucerne was better compared to home in the sense that it was much more interactive and I got to improve some very useful skills such as presentation skills. My home university is better in the sense that I prefer the way in which things are taught. You have lectures followed by seminars that build on the content learnt previously, whereas in Lucerne there was only one class a week for the majority of courses.</p>
<p>Reasons Why did you choose to complete an exchange semester at the University of Lucerne?</p>	<p>I had never been to Switzerland before and had heard so many great things. I enjoy the outdoors and wanted to experience something different to the city and so chose to study in Lucerne. My time in Lucerne by far exceeded my expectations.</p>
<p>Duration Looking back, was the duration of your stay here:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> too short <input type="checkbox"/> too long <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> just right</p>