

Final Report on Study Exchange at the University of Lucerne

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

Mobility program	ERASMUS
Home university	University of Gothenburg, School of Business, Economics and Law
Field of study	Law, Masters level
Semester	Fall term 2014
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General impression Please describe your stay in 4-5 sentences	I have had a very pleasant stay. Beautiful country and city, I met a lot of nice people and managed to travel a lot. The courses I attended were interesting, even though some could have been more demanding.
Entry/ arrival in Switzerland Immigration formalities, visa	On the day of my arrival I flew in to Zürich and got the train to Luzern from there. It's very convenient, the train goes straight and takes about 50 minutes. All europeans have to register with the immigration office. Bring a passport sized picture and you will get a temporary residents permit ID within a few weeks time.
Searching for rooms/ accommodation Experiences and useful addresses	Well I contacted the university's mobility office and they gave me an email which I used to sign up for a dorm room. I lived with five other guys in an apartment located in the outer rim of central Luzern. It has worked very fine and I have become very good friends with some of them. I guess it is a good social base if one does not know people in beforehand. The accommodation in Switzerland is pretty expensive but if you register with one of the established renters you usually get apartments with high standards. This is the website to the foundation I rented from: http://www.studentmentor.ch/index-en.htm
Public transportation Train, bus, accessibility of university buildings	Well Luzern is quite small so you are usually within walking distance when going somewhere. I bought a bike in the beginning of my trip and I definitely have not regretted doing so. It is a great means to explore and there is a lot of cycling tracks. Otherwise the busses run surprisingly often and the train tracks are in great shape (a genuine Swiss pride). If you plan to go traveling in Switzerland I would recommend getting a "halbtax" card from the SBB. It gives you 50% of on all public transport fares and on some other stuff.
Prearrangements Registration for courses, language tests, academic records	Once here (Luzern) you can register for courses. You will receive detailed instructions on how to do so and the course offerings can be found online. However, if you want to attend a intense language course arranged by the university pre-semester, then you need to register in advance. Otherwise it is all pretty straight forward.
Information on university Location, size, infrastructure	The university is located in the heart of Luzern, right next to the baanhof. You will find it behind the KKL building, it is a fairly large building. The university building is fairly new and the premises are in good shape. ca 2000 students attend the university. This is the address: Frohburgstrasse 3, 6002 Luzern. The restaurant serves good quality food and they sell it to the most favorable price you will find in Switzerland.

<p>German course at the university „German for Beginners“ visited? Content of course, usage</p>	<p>I attended the German course and it was a good way to meet some people right at the start and a good opportunity to dust of old german skills. The course is a nice way to make new friends but don't expect to really improve your German. In a way the course is more suited for people new to Europe and western culture but I am still glad I attended. Furthermore, there are "courses" arranged by university student where you meet up and talk german for a few hours each week. Those I would really recommend as they offer a good way to get some talking experience and to get more comfortable using the language.</p>
<p>Studying at the university Content of lectures, credits, assessments</p>	<p>Switzerland uses credits of the same "value" as Sweden do so all I needed to do was pick out courses that amounted to 30 credits and then they got transferred straight to my home university's system. I studied a wide range of courses, everything from finance to diversity management. Some of the guest lectures are really interesting but otherwise I must say that the courses taught in English keeps a fairly low standard. If you have the possibility I would recommend mixing courses taught in English and in German. You do need to fill out a learning agreement which has to be signed by your home university and by the University of Luzern.</p>
<p>Assistance at the university Student advisors, Mobility Office, mentors, contact with other students</p>	<p>The student advisors and the mobility office are all very helpful. Do not be afraid to contact them, they provide good service. Or that is at least my impression. There is also a mentor program which I guess can ease the process of transitioning in to life in lucern for some.</p>
<p>Budgeting Living costs, study material, money transfer</p>	<p>Living in Switzerland in general and Luzern especially is expensive. Luzern is a small town with a lot of tourists and the commerce drives up the prices. Food and living are costsome expenses in general. Most banks let exchange students set up bank accounts for free and if you are from the European Union you can transfer money without any charge via the SEPA-service. It takes about 24 hours to wire money from within Europe. Study material you either get by the teachers or you can lend the books needed from the university. I would recommend scanning the required readings in the library.</p>
<p>Living/ leisure Meeting places, sports, culture</p>	<p>The university arranges a lot of sports which I really would recommend. Most are free and attending it is a great way to meet people. You will have a lot of opportunities to get to know people, a lot of events take place in the beginning of the semester. There are some nice bars, both in "old town" and in the modern city center. Nightclub wise I would recommend bar 59. The museums such as the rosegarten and museum of transport are worth a visit on a rainy day and also, to visit a concert at the "KKL" is a must.</p>

Comparison

What is better/ worse at the University of Lucerne compared to your home university?

Better:

- The student restaurant serves good quality food to a good price
- The facilities are in very good shape
- The scenery is fantastic. Luzern and Switzerland is a beautiful place to live in.
- The way courses are arranged (1 course equals between 2-6 credits) gives students the opportunity to attend a range of various courses.
- The university is really generous. During my stay I have attended numerous aperos, wine tasting, events and more.

Worse:

- The standard of the courses really varies from course to course and all in all I must say that the overall impression is a light disappointment.
- Courses on a maximum of 6 credits does not give you as a student a chance to get in depth knowledge and understanding about a subject.
- The range of subjects could be broader and more extensive.

