

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	PARTNERSHIP
Home university	University of Wollongong
Semester	Spring 2016
Field of study	Law, Bachelor
Name and E-Mail (optional)	Hannah Scott – hs368@uowmail.edu.au

<p>General impression Please describe your stay in 4-5 sentences</p>	<p>Only the best experience! Switzerland and Luzern in particular is a beautiful place to live and study. I met so many amazing people from all over the world and each brought their own perspectives to the classroom which was really interesting. The university really aims to make you feel welcome and assist you in anyway. Can't recommend it enough!</p>
<p>Entry/ arrival in Switzerland Immigration formalities, visa</p>	<p>Very involved process; you have to visit a number of offices but during orientation the Mobility Office outlined the process and where exactly I had to go. If I had any issues, the office more than helpful in assisting me. Also, keep in mind that all these formalities cost money. Your first month will be very expensive!</p>
<p>Searching for rooms/ accommodation Experiences and useful addresses</p>	<p>Very easy. Was offered student housing when applying. Only offered Emmenbrücke housing however this was not an issue. Rooms, big or small are spacious and apartments clean. Shared kitchen, bathroom and toilet. Only issue was there was no common area – this made it difficult to get together in big groups.</p>
<p>Public transportation Train, bus, accessibility of university buildings</p>	<p>Housing 7 min train ride and then 2 min walk from the uni. Buses and trains 2 min walk from accommodation and they run frequently. However, after midnight, only a few buses running so need to be aware of that. Recommend getting the Half-fare card especially if you plan to travel around Switzerland otherwise tickets are expensive. Also the Gleis 7 allows you to travel after 7pm for free.</p>
<p>Prearrangements Registration for courses, language tests, academic records</p>	<p>Everything was explained during orientation and the process was not difficult. Just need to be aware of the different methods of registration for the courses depending on its format i.e. whether it's a lecture, guest course etc. I was not required to do a language test. Very accommodating as to whether you want a grade or pass/fail mark.</p>
<p>Information on the university Location, size, infrastructure</p>	<p>Compared to Wollongong, much smaller. Only one building. There's a nice cafeteria and library although a lot of it is in German or French – which is to be expected. Classrooms quite modern and the view of the lake from the classroom, is beautiful, although distracting! Has everything you may need.</p>
<p>German course at the university "German Short Course" visited? Content of course, use?</p>	<p>I did participate. Helpful in learning basic greetings and phrases but not enough to learn the language. It was a good way to get to know the other exchange students and a nice orientation to both the university and Luzern.</p>
<p>Studying at the university Content of lectures, credits, assessments</p>	<p>Classes were mostly interesting. You are able to change your classes during the first week or so to get a taste of each before deciding. The English courses are small in size and either given in lecture format or more discussion type classes depending on the teacher. Most courses only have a final assessment whether a paper or an exam. Exams were either written or oral.</p>
<p>Assistance at the university</p>	<p>Mobility office was always happy to help, even if it was just translating a letter from</p>

<p>Mobility Coordinator, International Relations Office, student advisors, mentors, contact with other students</p>	<p>German. A number of events were organized by the office, the law faculty and student mentors which were a great way to meet new people and in some cases see Switzerland or try Swiss delicacies. I highly recommend participating in all of the events that they organize.</p>
<p>Budgeting Living costs, study material, money transfer</p>	<p>Switzerland in general is expensive. Lidl is the cheapest (and closest) supermarket. I only needed to buy one reader which was reasonably priced – all other material was online. I didn't open a Swiss bank account, I found a Citibank account which offered free international transactions and worked everywhere I went. Living in Emmenbrücke meant having to pay for transport but the monthly Zone 10 pass is ideal, especially if you're going to class 3+ times/week. Eating out is expensive so we mostly cooked.</p>
<p>Living/ leisure Meeting places, sports, culture</p>	<p>The uni offers a range of free sports/fitness classes throughout the week. Outside of uni we mostly ended up meeting in each other's' apartments. We also organized lots of walks and day trips to other cities in Switzerland.</p>
<p>Comparison What is better/ worse at the University of Lucerne as compared to your home university?</p>	<p>Compared to my home university the number of contact hours required is less per subject. This allowed for many opportunities to travel. There were also fewer, if any, assessments throughout the semester. Most were just final exams. For exchange students there was no study period before exams, so the last weeks of the semester were busy revising and attending classes. The library is small considering the number of students so during exam period, unless you were there early it was difficult to find a study space.</p>
<p>Reasons Why did you choose to complete an exchange semester at the University of Lucerne?</p>	<p>The subjects being offered were both different to those at my home university and they sounded interesting. Its location both in central Switzerland and central Europe offered many opportunities to travel.</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>