

## 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).

<b>Mobility program</b>	<b>PARTNERSHIP (outside Europe)</b>
<b>Home university</b>	Singapore Management University
<b>Field of study</b>	Law
<b>Semester</b>	Fall term 2012
<b>Name und E-Mail (optional)</b>	

<b>General impression</b> Please describe your stay in 4-5 sentences	Switzerland is a very pleasant place to stay in. The environment is extremely idyllic and the scenery is awesome. Though I highly recommend trying to pick up some basic German, local people and students generally speak good English and are very helpful to tourists and outsiders. The school and its international relations office has been very helpful in helping us deal with administrative matters. The cost of living was extremely high though and I was not able to eat out or go out much in Switzerland, which was sad.
<b>Entry/ arrival in Switzerland</b> Immigration formalities, visa	It took a long time for me to deal with all the immigration formalities and it was extremely expensive. Students not in the EU have to pay 35 CHF initially and then 239 CHF for the residence permit which allows you to stay for up to 6 months. There are quite a few offices to go to in order to get your permit ready, so it takes a few weeks. Most administrative officers at the immigration office speak English, but I have met one which did not and got irritated and mean when I did not understand her.
<b>Searching for rooms/ accommodation</b> Experiences and useful addresses	The Student Mentor Foundation of Lucerne has been excellent in providing information about their accommodation in Lucerne. I would highly recommend staying in the student accommodation in Steinhofstrasse so that you can mix around with and make friends with the other exchange (and some Swiss) students. The place itself is new but the downside is that it looks rather bare and the living room is only furnished with a table and eight chairs. Getting your own apartment is more expensive but it could put you in a more central location which is good.
<b>Public transportation</b> Train, bus, accessibility of university buildings	The university is right next to the main train station which is very helpful. Most of us living in Steinhofstrasse bought the monthly pass for 50 CHF. The school is around 20 minutes walk from our accommodation.
<b>Prearrangements</b> Registration for courses, language tests, academic records	Registration for courses was simple and the professors made it a point to talk about it to us very early in our exchange, so the information was clear. It was easy to register for examinations on the university portal.
<b>Information on university</b> Location, size, infrastructure	The university complex is rather small, but it is in a good location and it offers very good free sports classes in school and in other parts of Lucerne.
<b>Studying at the university</b> Content of lectures, credits, assessments	The lectures are very manageable and the professors are friendly and willing to help us out. Assessment methods are sometimes not as clear as they should be. There seems to be a huge disparity between the quality of lectures and the amount of work from professor to professor.

<p><b>Assistance at the university</b> Student advisors, Mobility Office, mentors, contact with other students</p>	<p>The Mobility Office has been very helpful with all my queries. Mentors have put in much effort in making our stay more enjoyable by organizing activities around Lucerne and we got quite a few free dinners and lunches during the course of our stay. I did not get to interact much with the local Swiss students because our classes are usually filled with just exchange students.</p>
<p><b>Budgeting</b> Living costs, study material, money transfer</p>	<p>I paid 550 CHF a month as rent in Steinhofstrasse, laundry was paid for separately. Study material costed around 15-20 CHF for each reader and I had to buy a book for my International Environmental Law course which cost 50 CHF. I did not open a local account but drew money from my Singapore card whenever I needed cash. ATMs are easily available and most places allow you to pay by card anyway. Eating out was simply unaffordable for me and groceries are more expensive here than in other parts of Europe. Transport was still reasonably priced, almost everyone got the half-fare card which allows you to take trains for half the usual price. It costs 165 CHF for 1 year. Trying to find cheap flights to travel out of Switzerland is a pain because there are almost no budget flights from Zurich airport. Flying from Basel airport is recommended but there is a 1 and a half hour train and bus ride there.</p>
<p><b>Living/ leisure</b> Meeting places, sports, culture</p>	<p>There are cheaper movies on Mondays and a bunch of pubs and clubs that students usually hang out at. Shops close at 5-6pm and the place usually quietens down at night, especially during winter. I usually hung out in the apartments with the other students. Sports lessons are provided for free and there are many ongoing every week to choose from so that was really good (but lessons are conducted in Swiss German).</p>
<p><b>Comparison</b> What is better/ worse at the University of Lucerne compared to your home university?</p>	<p>The pace of lectures here is definitely much slower and the professors are more relaxed about grading requirements and attendance issues. This also means that much less material is covered, which could be a good or bad thing depending on your priorities.</p>