

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	PARTNERSHIP
Home university	Singapore Management University
Field of study	Law
Semester	Fall term 2013
Name und E-Mail (optional)	Rachel Chin

<p>General impression Please describe your stay in 4-5 sentences</p>	<p>Luzern is an enchanting and beautiful city with a crystal-clear lake, surrounded by the majestic alps. Switzerland is also safe and clean, making my stay pleasant and memorable. I am really thankful for having the opportunity to study in UniLu, where I got to meet new friends from all over the world, learning about their cultures and sharing our experiences and stories with one another. I also learnt to be more independent and resourceful as it was the first time that I was away from home for an extended period of time. The pace of life was slower in Switzerland than in Singapore and initially, I had to adjust to the shops' earlier closing hours. However, after getting used to it, I really appreciated the work-life balance in Switzerland.</p>
<p>Entry/ arrival in Switzerland Immigration formalities, visa</p>	<p>Entry into Switzerland was rather hassle-free as a visa was not required for Singaporeans. However, we had to apply for the Swiss residence permit, which we only received close to a month after arrival. Prior to our arrival in Luzern, the university had also provided instructions pertaining to registration at the Communal Office and then at the Migration Office.</p>
<p>Searching for rooms/ accommodation Experiences and useful addresses</p>	<p>I stayed at the student apartment in Emmenbrucke, which was efficiently arranged by the University of Lucerne months before my arrival. Hence I settled my accommodation without any trouble.</p>
<p>Public transportation Train, bus, accessibility of university buildings</p>	<p>The public transport network system in Luzern is fantastic and extremely punctual. Travelling to the university was very convenient as well since both the student apartment and the university are located right next to their respective train stations. It is more cost-efficient to purchase the monthly public transport pass within certain zones in Luzern and Emmenbrucke, as it entitles one to take unlimited rides on the trains and buses.</p>
<p>Prearrangements Registration for courses, language tests, academic records</p>	<p>The prearrangements were simple and straightforward. However, it would perhaps be better if the university could release the exam dates earlier. This would help the students in scheduling the dates to return home, or just to make plans in general.</p>
<p>Information on university Location, size, infrastructure</p>	<p>All the information on the university can be found online. Brochures can also be found in my university in Singapore.</p>
<p>German course at the university „German for Beginners“ visited? Content of course, usage</p>	<p>The beginners' German course was engaging and useful especially for foreign students who want to engage in basic conversational Swiss-German with the locals. The content was relevant, as we were taught vocabulary and phrases related to day-to-day living. The teachers were also very patient and student-oriented. Lessons were conducted in an interactive and interesting manner.</p>

<p>Studying at the university Content of lectures, credits, assessments</p>	<p>The courses were interesting and provided greater exposure to international law. Most lessons were also well paced and conducted in an interactive manner. The professors were student-centred and availed themselves of consultation as much as possible.</p> <p>I think it would be fascinating to have substantive Swiss law modules offered to exchange students as well. There was Introduction to Swiss law offered in the Fall term, but perhaps more introductory English modules on substantive aspects of Swiss law could be offered, such as corporate law and family law.</p>
<p>Assistance at the university Student advisors, Mobility Office, mentors, contact with other students</p>	<p>The mobility officers were very helpful when I encountered problems with deregistering my Swiss health insurance. As a result, the issue was resolved very efficiently. They also assisted me in translating certain letters from German to English. The student mentors were also very friendly and reassuring. I'm very grateful for all of their prompt email replies and patience!</p>
<p>Budgeting Living costs, study material, money transfer</p>	<p>Although it is often said that the cost of living is relatively higher in Switzerland than other parts of Europe, I found it manageable as there were different brands or shops catering to various consumers with different expenditure patterns. Some readers were rather expensive in my opinion.</p> <p>I had set up a bank account with Credit Suisse; the procedure was smooth and quick. Money transfer was also efficient.</p>
<p>Living/ leisure Meeting places, sports, culture</p>	<p>I really enjoyed exploring the Luzern Old Town, strolling along the lake, or just stopping by a café for pastries and coffee. The park next to the university is also a great picnic spot in the warmer months. There are so many beautiful destinations around Luzern that are perfect for day-trips, such as Mount Pilatus, Mount Rigi, Weggis, and Engelberg. The sports programme offered had great variety. There were also many awesome performances and concerts held at the KKL.</p>
<p>Comparison What is better/ worse at the University of Lucerne compared to your home university?</p>	<p>The English law courses were somewhat limited. Nevertheless, this is understandable since most of the lessons have to be conducted primarily in German.</p> <p>I enjoyed the Diversity Management module, where we stayed in Lungern for a couple of days and even had an excursion to the Aare Gorge. It allowed us to learn in an environment that is not strictly confined to the four walls of the classroom. This is different and extremely refreshing for me as class excursions are a rarity in my home university.</p> <p>The UniLu library has a vast selection of books. However, I found it difficult to access the catalogue to search for the availability of certain titles as the website was in German. I also encountered some technical issues with the printing service towards the end of the semester, but did not resolve it as I was leaving in a few weeks' time. The costs of printing and photocopying were also rather steep compared to my home university. Besides that, the printing service was really great.</p>