

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 2014
Name und E-Mail (optional)	NG SUI PING, PENELOPE ANN (penelope.ng.2011@law.smu.edu.sg)

<p>General impression Please describe your stay in 4-5 sentences</p>	<p>My four-month stay in Lucerne exceeded all expectations: beautiful place, wonderful weather, and friendly people. Another thing I will definitely miss is the excellent public transport system in Lucerne (and the rest of Switzerland). I also enjoyed my time in the University of Lucerne. The professors were approachable, the workload was manageable, and the mobility office has been the most amazing – I am extremely grateful for the events planned as well as all the administrative help. I am happy to have had Lucerne as my home for the past few months.</p>
<p>Entry/ arrival in Switzerland Immigration formalities, visa</p>	<p>Coming from Singapore, there were no visa requirements. However, there were quite a few administrative issues to settle upon arrival in Lucerne. I felt that the process could be simplified by better coordination between the various organisations. Furthermore, it took a long time for our residence permit to arrive. (In fact, at the point of writing, we have not yet received our residence permit, and we only have 25 days left in Lucerne!) However, I am definitely thankful for all the help from the efficient mobility office.</p>
<p>Searching for rooms/ accommodation Experiences and useful addresses</p>	<p>I shared an apartment in Zihlmatweg with two other Singaporeans. We found the apartment through Hitrental, and decided to stay here instead of the student accommodation because the rent is cheaper (when split three-way) and we did not have to take out a private liability insurance. It has a good location (10 minutes by bus to/from Luzern Bahnhof), the place is clean, and there is a washing machine and dryer available for use at a fee. Since it is a serviced apartment, there are people who come by once a month to clean our apartment as well. The service here is excellent: the office staff respond to inquiries quickly and are very helpful. (Link: http://hitrental.ch/apartment-lucerne-museggmauer-III.html)</p>
<p>Public transportation Train, bus, accessibility of university buildings</p>	<p>The public transport system is definitely the best I have experienced so far. It is great that the trains and buses follow a schedule – I was amazed at how punctual and reliable they were! This made it easy to plan my day. It was very convenient to get to school and around Lucerne. Each month, I bought the monthly zonal pass for 54 CHF.</p>
<p>Prearrangements Registration for courses, language tests, academic records</p>	<p>Registration for courses was mostly easy and efficient.</p>
<p>Information on university Location, size, infrastructure</p>	<p>The location of the university is great. It sits between the Luzern Bahnhof and the beautiful Lake Luzern. I do not have any complaints about the size of the university. As regards the infrastructure, the university is very modern looking and the campus card system is convenient and easy to use. However, the library can be improved. There were only one or two books available in the library for a particular course, and</p>

	<p>this is definitely not feasible as there are usually about 20 students in a class. It is common for us to not have access to the readings for the class. For example, there was only one textbook available in the library for the course on International Environmental Law. This was very inconvenient as it was difficult to even get hold of the book.</p>
<p>German course at the university „German for Beginners“ visited? Content of course, usage</p>	<p>I really enjoyed the German course for beginners at the university. My teacher, Ms Catrin, was very patient and structured in her teaching. The content and pace of the course was suitable for our purposes. Though basic, it was overall a very useful course in helping me to settle down in Switzerland. I can now understand some announcements at the train station, as well as greetings/questions from shopkeepers, waiters, and cashiers.</p>
<p>Studying at the university Content of lectures, credits, assessments</p>	<p>The university offers a sufficient range of interesting courses in English. The credits awarded for each course are commensurate with the amount of work needed. Classes were also mostly engaging and meaningful. However, in terms of assessments, I urge the university to consider arranging for early examinations/a research paper in lieu of written examinations for exchange students. (At present, oral examinations are not available for all courses.) It is inconvenient and disruptive for us to take exams back in our home university in January, in the middle of a new semester. Moreover, for the block course on International Environmental Law, we only found out about the exam date after we had enrolled in all our classes. The exam schedule is an important factor in our choice of classes, as we would rather not have to sit for exams back in our home university.</p>
<p>Assistance at the university Student advisors, Mobility Office, mentors, contact with other students</p>	<p>I really appreciate all the help from the mobility office – all our concerns were addressed adequately and efficiently. I felt that we were very well taken care of during our time here. Thank you!</p>
<p>Budgeting Living costs, study material, money transfer</p>	<p>The cost of living in Lucerne is very high. I spent about 1,800 CHF each month (including insurance, accommodation, and miscellaneous expenditure).</p>
<p>Living/ leisure Meeting places, sports, culture</p>	<p>I am happy that we got the opportunity to take part in some of the university sports.</p>
<p>Comparison What is better/ worse at the University of Lucerne compared to your home university?</p>	<p>I think both universities are great. It is difficult to compare as my role in either university is different, and I experience a different side of things: in the University of Lucerne, I am an exchange student; in my home university, I am a regular undergraduate.</p>