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## **Personal experience report**

### **Coming and going**

#### **Preparation**

The preparations for the semester abroad in Switzerland were straightforward and simple. Since my stay at the HSLU was quite spontaneous, everything had to happen quickly. I found accommodation in a dormitory via the HSLU website. There were several options, but only one where I could book a room for 4 months instead of 6. I, therefore, opted for the student dormitory called Eichhof. Furthermore, I got a SIM card before the move, which I could use to make phone calls from Switzerland. Unfortunately, there is no EU roaming in Switzerland. I already had a credit card for abroad (I recommend a credit card without fees). As far as the courses at the HSLU are concerned, I was able to discuss these in advance with a contact person at the HSLU. The contact persons there were very helpful and friendly. Nevertheless, choosing good courses was a bit complicated, as some were held at different locations in Lucerne.

#### **Arrival**

The trip to Lucerne was very convenient. Since Lucerne is only a four-hour drive from Augsburg, I was driven there by car. During the semester, I also took the train from time to time, but I can't recommend it. Most of the time, it is necessary to change trains four times, and it takes much longer. What is important to mention, however, who travels by train, gets through the

scholarship of the HSLU 100 euro extra for the fact that you have chosen the sustainable way of travel.

It is essential to know that you must register with the city of Lucerne within two weeks of arrival and apply for a temporary Swiss identity car. On departure, you must then deregister with the city again.

On the same day as my arrival, I had an appointment with Ms Farrar to discuss my final Learning Agreement. Again, everything was very organised, and Ms Farrar was very helpful.

### **Apartment and accommodation**

As already mentioned, I chose the student room Eichhof. It is a large housing complex in a lovely area not too far from the city centre and the lake. I lived in a shared flat for five people. However, it felt more like a two-person flat-share because most of the flatmates were never there.

The buildings and rooms are very modern and nice. There was a huge kitchen and living room. We also had two bathrooms. In addition to that, there was a washroom in each complex. The only thing that bothered me were the silverfish that lived in the apartment. Although we cleaned very often and even distributed poison, I saw the little creatures every now and then, especially in the bathroom. The dormitory cost 580 Swiss francs per month, and a deposit of 1100 Swiss francs had to be paid. Unfortunately, these prices are typical for Switzerland.

Shopping facilities can be reached on foot in 20 minutes, and the city centre is also within walking distance. It's pretty cool that as a student in Lucerne, you can use the bikes from next bike for free for four hours every day. They can only be parked in certain places, but that has already saved me a few kilometres of walking.

## **Semester duration**

I myself was there in the summer semester, so from February to June. The time span was just right. So you could still experience 1-2 months of winter in Switzerland in the mountains on the ski slopes and then relax at the beginning of summer at the lake.

At the beginning of the semester, there were several introductory events and student groups that organized events, especially for the exchange students. This made it easier to make contacts. Also, during the semester, there were always trips, like hiking, skiing or similar.

## **Lectures**

### **Modules**

Since I had already achieved a large part of my credits, I only took 12 credits in Lucerne, i.e. 2 courses. Both courses involved a lot of work. One course was about a project in which small and medium-sized companies were to be surveyed, and then a report was to be written about it. The professor was very pleasant to work with. In the other course, called Organizational Transformation and Change, I attended weekly lectures, there was a simulation game and a group work. At the end of the semester, I had to write a two-hour written exam. Unfortunately, I was not satisfied with the content of the lectures and the preparation for the exam.

### **Other interesting facts**

If you go to Switzerland or Lucerne, you should definitely take the ferry across the lake, hike up Mount Pilatus, eat fondue, hike up Bürgenstock, go pedal boating on the lake and try the drink Rivella.