

Exchange report

Luzern Switzerland

Fall semester 2021



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Introduction

This report covers my experience with my exchange semester in Switzerland fall 2021. I wanted to go on exchange to experience new cultures and to get new perspectives and capabilities to my education. I also saw this as a great opportunity to go travel and see more parts of Europe.



Experience with host university

The host school was really helpful and informative when it came to choosing classes and gave all the information needed to find accommodation. When I arrived I had to change some of my classes and the school was really helpful with this process.

Most of the classes I took offered only the basic knowledge to each topic, but I found both business intelligence, usability and ecology interesting. I would definitely recommend to sign up for some of the intensive-week classes during the first two weeks. This makes it easier to focus on the other classes during the rest of the semester and also limits the exams at the end of the semester. These includes:

- Ecology, Aisa Culture and Politics, and Leadership.

Because of the amount of different classes I would also recommend to do some culture classes like Swissness or Aisa culture. This adds something else to the lectures and you get to meet other people, than you usually would.



Social and cultural experiences

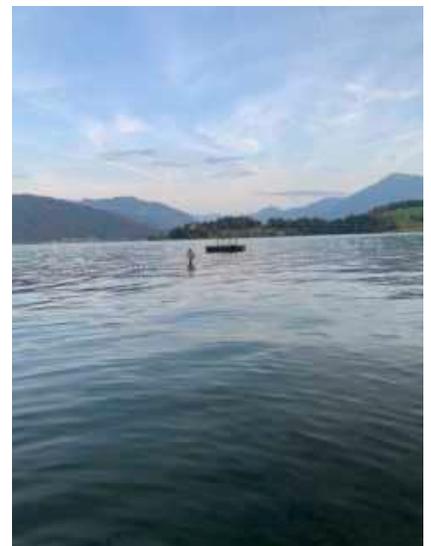
Challenges

I did not really experience a lot of challenges, but I did have some difficulties planing all the exams and starting my internship. Exams in Switzerland ends after KEA's next semester begins. This all got sorted due to the exams being online.

Best cultural experience

The best experience was to live with eight other people from different countries with completely different cultures. Other than that it was to experience the stunning mountains and nature in Switzerland.

Due to Luzern being located in the centre of Europe we had a lot of opportunity to travel, with only a three hour train ride to Milan and a four hours to Munich we also got to experience a few other countries.



Advice

I would recommend to do the classes with more ETCS point, thus having less overall to focus on. Also try to take most classes on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays, so that you can have Fridays or Mondays off. This makes it possible for you to go travel somewhere and stay there for a bit longer than just one or two days. Go to as many social events as possible and try to find a group or someone to travel around Switzerland and Europe with.

Practical experiences:

Application process

The application process was really easy. Both KEA and HSLU were good at informing me about all the steps and what it included. I found it easy to get in contact with both my contact person at KEA and the one at HSLU. They were always helpful and kind.

Accommodation

I lived in Rotkreuz which was right next to the campus that I was the most and the train station was only a seven minute walk from the flat. It was a 20 minute train ride from Luzern and around 45 minutes to Zürich. I paid 641 CHF a month for a fully furnished room.



The school has a few different options when it comes to accommodation, so I did not find it difficult to find fitting accommodation. I choose the one closest to campus, so that I had the option to go home in between classes. Which I really appreciated on the longer days.

Budget

Switzerland is pretty expensive which I also budgeted with before I arrived. Therefore I also made sure to apply for a few grants. I ended up receiving one from Nordea-fonden for 10.000 DKK and I also received a compulsory grant from Switzerland. With this I would still recommend to save up some money before, so that you are not limited when you want to travel or participate in activities.

My monthly expenses consisted of:

Rent: 641 CHF

Groceries: 200 CHF

Insurance: 74 CHF

Other (Travel, Movies, etc.) : 150-200 CHF

Transportation: 60 CHF

Conclusion

If you are considering to go on exchange I would definitely recommend you to do it. It is a great way to meet people from different parts of the world and get to know other cultures. The classes also gave me another perspective on the things that I have learned at KEA.