

As a destination for my 5th semester exchange I chose University of Applied Science and Arts in Lucerne. It was the Fall semester 2023, which means that classes started on 18th of September and the last day of classes was just before Christmas 22nd of December. First two weeks of September, before the semester starts there are also intensive weeks modules that work as a summer school and I highly recommend taking them.

My program at KEA is Bachelor of Arts in Business Economics & IT and in HSLU its equivalent was Bachelor of Science in Business Information Technology. For this degree you are allowed to take classes that take place on campus in Rotkreuz and in Horw which is important to take into consideration when planning your schedule, commuting time and decide where you want to live depending on which campus you spend most of your time.

### ***CLASSES (MODULES) THAT I TOOK:***

#### *intensive week in Leadership - 3 ECTS*

That was one of the most popular courses and I had a chance to meet most of the people from the campus there. The content was also interesting and we had a chance to take different quizzes/personality tests and learn about different leadership styles. On the last day of the week we had an excursion to SIX Group in Zurich that is running the Swiss Stock Exchange. That was one of the highlights of the exchange.

#### *intensive week in Technology and Society - 3 ECTS*

Another intensive week that I took, the content was mainly about Human Rights. I do recommend this course. However I do not think that the name of the module is really reflecting what it teaches.

#### *Swissness - 3 ECTS*

The class that every exchange student should take! We have covered all the topics related to Switzerland. From its history, culture, arts, politics to wines, watches, cheeses, chocolate and everything that Switzerland is known for.

We had also had different trips and excursions that were offered free of charge. It includes wine/ cheese tasting, hike to Rigi, Kunsthaus in Zurich and many more local events.

#### *English for Future Development - 3 ECTS*

English class that was a mistake I took. As for a person that studies in English on a daily basis that is nothing new that could be discovered.

#### *Sales Management - 3 ECTS*

My opinion about this class is really neutral. The content was okay but not really interesting for me and everything was on a really theoretical level.

### *International Project - 6 ECTS*

The class is essentially about Design Thinking projects. You will be working in teams. Depending on what you like, you are going to hate it or love it.

### *Corporate Ethics and Sustainability - 6 ECTS*

The most interesting class that I took. Personally I am interested in ethics and this class made me even more considerate about it. Throughout the semester we were also playing a simulation game which made us accountable and the results of the game were part of the final grade.

### *Academic Methods - 3 ECTS*

Also a class that I should have not been taking. That is because this class is for people who are working on their Bachelor Thesis which I was not informed about before.

1. How Helpful Was the receiving school The Process Of choosing classes and settling you in?

The process was really easy and essentially you tell your coordinator which modules you would like to take and they register you in there. Any sort of question was always answered within max 2 days. They were extremely helpful.

I think BEIT students should choose more IT oriented subjects there such as Artificial Intelligence. The English for Future Development class was the least relevant class for me. While the most rewarding was Corporate Ethics that does not naturally land lose to my curriculum.

## **Practical Experience**

1. How Was The Application Process?

The school was very helpful and gave us all the information we needed. We also had a zoom introductory meeting that was helpful. In case of any questions I could always come by the office or write an email.

2. Where Did You Live?

I lived in the center of Lucerne, I looked up a place on my own much in advance so it was only 550 CHF.

### 3. What Kind Of Expenses Did You Have In General?

Most of the prices are similar to Copenhagen standard except for food that is much more expensive in Switzerland.

### 4. What kind of income did you have during your exchange?

Sadly I was not able to receive the SEMP grant as other KEA students at that time. I was living off my salary (I still worked remotely from Copenhagen) and SU.

## **Cultural/Personal Experience**

### 1. What Challenges Did You Experience Culturally While Being abroad?

Culturally wise it was pretty similar to my experience in Copenhagen where I am also an international student.

The best cultural experience was all the excursions from Swissness class.

What advice would other KEA students going to study abroad at the receiving school give?

If you are considering going on exchange to Lucerne I do recommend it. What I would advise is to build your schedule in a way that you can have more travel days and explore the countries and cities around Switzerland. I would definitely focus more on the personal and cultural experience than the academic one.