

Please answer with as much information as you would have liked to know before studying abroad!

1. Academics

- Describe your class selection/enrollment process.

This was by far one of the best class selection/enrollment process in my entire educational career. I went to the classes I thought would be interesting aside from the ones that corresponded with getting credit that transferred back to CSULB. I had three weeks to decide if I would stay in them and was able drop them efficiently if I did not like them. This was not taken negatively as it is the normal process offered by the University. They give you a hand book that is specific to the college you are designated to and all the classes are found in the book with a description of what the course entails. This makes it easier for the students to pick and choose which courses they can receive credit for.

- How did your classes differ from those you have taken at CSULB?

Same structure, instruction, exams, quizzes and a variation of assignments. The classes will dictate that. The professors understood that I was an exchange student and were very helpful and welcoming.

2. Housing

- Where did you live? (homestay, apartment, etc.)

I stayed in the housing provided by the university which was expensive. Again, should you plan ahead of time; you can find a nice room in the city for less than what university housing cost. It's just easier to house through the campus. I found an apartment for the last two months of my stay which helped me better adjust to the locals and the language.

- What was the housing selection process? Was it easy or difficult to arrange?

This process is very easy. You will be contacted by the university and they will ask that you fill out some forms, you will have to set a deposit, which they will understand that you don't receive financial aid until the beginning of the semester. You must let them know this so that they can hold your room. If you do not they will release it to the next person in line. It is important that you remember that they are 9+ hours ahead of us so communication is key. This process is not difficult unless you make it difficult.

- Would you recommend where you stayed to future students?

There is construction going on near where I stayed so I would not recommend it currently until the completion of the project. It can be very loud and disturbing when trying to study.

- What was your monthly housing cost?

Prices vary but in an 8-person studio the rent was 850 swiss francs, per person, which during my time was the same in US currency. You have to calculate for the exchange rate at all time because it varies.

3. Costs and Budgeting

How much did you spend on average per week on things like:

- Food?
- Transportation?
- Travel?
- Personal expenses?
- Other?

There is no specific set amount. You must plan accordingly. I did a lot of traveling but it was very inexpensive due to timely planning. Europe is very small compared to the US and flying to the major destination can be economically done. Food is also inexpensive outside of Switzerland and you can easily have a great weekend in any of the other countries for around 130 euros that includes flight, hostel (which are very nice in some cities) food and beverages. Planning is key.

4. Foreign Language

***For students who studied abroad in non-English speaking locations,*

- Would you recommend students studying abroad in this location have familiarity with the language before attending?

This is an absolute must. You need not be proficient but knowing the common commands of ordering food or asking for directions can get you very far in a foreign country. Manners are important and can get you farther with the locals than trying to speak English with them.

- Do you feel like immersion in the language improved your language ability?

Immersion was key in the acquisition of language spoken in Lausanne. The benefits of having no option but to speak the language vastly improves ones' grasp and utilization of the language in day to day life.

5. Additional comments

Have fun and enjoy the culture shock, I met students from all over the world. German, French, Italian, Espanoles..... they all spoke English and wanted to know all about the US. You wont have a problem meeting and making friends.