EXCHANGE PARTICIPANT QUESTIONNAIRE

STUDENT INFORMATION

Faculty: FASS  Major: Political Science
Major/Minor:  Ext. Minor: French
Host university: University of Lausanne  Host Country: Switzerland
Dates of your exchange: (month/year) September 2018 to (month/year) December 2018

TRAVEL
Approximately how much did air transportation cost? $2400 CAD
Approximately how much did any required ground transportation cost? I had someone pick me up
Do you have a recommended routing or airline?  No  Yes
If yes, please describe:

VISAS
What is your citizenship? (voluntary; may impact following information) Canadian
Did you need a student visa/permit?  No  Yes: What was the cost? only shipping costs
If yes, what documentation was needed? Resume, Acceptance letter, cover letter, assets, etc.
Did you need a visitor visa/permit?  No  Yes: What was the cost? 
If yes, what documentation was needed?
Where was your immigration documentation processed? Swiss embassy in Vancouver
How long did it take to procure your visa/permit? 4 months (15 weeks)
Were any other documents required (residence permit, etc)?  No  Yes
If yes, please comment: All needed documents are specified on the website.

AIRPORT RECEPTION
Were you met at the airport by representatives of the host university?  No  Yes
Is there easy transportation between the airport and university?  No  Yes
Please comment: There is a train station at the Geneva airport, and you take 1 train straight to Lausanne (40 mins).

What is the closest airport to the host university? Geneva Airport (GVA)

ORIENTATION
Is there an organized orientation session upon arrival at the host university?  No  Yes
Was there a cost for the orientation session?  No  Yes, how much? 
If yes, do you recommend that future students participate?  No  Yes
Please comment: There is an orientation AND a whole week of activities. I recommend going because that is when you will meet most exchange students. Sign up fast because the events become sold out very quickly!
LANGUAGE PROGRAMS
Is there a language program available either before or during the term? ☐ No ☑ Yes
If yes, how long is it? I am not sure, refer to the website.
Is there an additional cost for language training? ☐ No ☐ Yes: How much?
Please comment: I did not take that course, so refer to the University’s website where it is all well-indicated. There are definitely a lot of opportunities to learn French there.

ACCOMMODATION & LIVING
Is on-campus or university dormitory accommodation available? ☐ No ☑ Yes
If yes, are you living in a university dormitory? ☑ No ☐ Yes
If yes, can you make a recommendation for a specific dormitory? ☑ No ☐ Yes
If yes, please describe: N/A
What is the average monthly cost of accommodation? I don’t know
Is there a meal plan? ☐ No ☐ Yes: How much is it? N/A
If no, do you have access to adequate cooking facilities? ☐ No ☑ Yes
How far is your dormitory from the main campus? One metro station away (5-10 min walk).
Please comment on internet and phone access in your dormitory: N/A
Did you have to make a deposit for your accommodation prior to arrival? ☐ No ☐ Yes
If yes, how did you arrange this? N/A
Is off-campus housing easily available? ☑ No ☐ Yes
Please comment on off-campus housing:
I lived with a host family (close family friends of mine), so I did not worry about rent. Housing is, however, definitely available.

Approximately how much money per month is needed for living, including accommodation and meals? $1400 CAD
Any other comments on accommodation:
Be mindful that Switzerland is an expensive country, the cost of living is higher than in Vancouver. You just need to manage your money responsibly.
FINANCIAL DETAILS
Have you opened a bank account in your host country? ☑ Yes

No: What are the challenges/benefits to opening a local bank account?

Advantage: I did not pay fees to transfer money and was more aware of how much I was spending.

Disadvantage: There are fees to close the bank account (50 CHF = $65 CAD)

Local currency + a credit card

How would you recommend students bring money (Canadian/American cash, travelers' cheques, local currency?)

What is/are the preferred method(s) of payment at most establishments? ☑ Cash ☑ Debit ☐ Credit card

Please comment: most are available everywhere, but always carry a bit of cash with you just in case.

ACADEMIC DETAILS
Was it possible for you to get all of the courses that you wanted? ☑ No

No: Please describe the course registration procedure:

You sign up by handing out a registration form at the faculty's office. You also have to register separately for your exams.

What discipline(s)/program(s) are you taking at your host university? Political science

What is the language of instruction in your courses? French

If not English, are English-taught courses available? In some faculties, yes, not in Political Science

Describe the manner and quality of instruction at your host university.

Great quality of instruction. As good as Vancouver or greater. You usually have all exams and assignments due at the very end, so start early on them. I loved every single one of my classes.

What do you feel is/will be the main academic benefit of your participation in this exchange program?

Networking with professors, new ways of thinking/learning, developing open-mindedness.

Submission Instructions:

1. Please complete and return this form by E-mail to studyabroad@sfu.ca as a PDF.
2. Subject line of email: Questionnaire - [Host Country, Host University]
3. Please include your full name and student number in the body of your E-mail.