

EXCHANGE SEMESTER

September 2024 -
January 2025

**Lucerne University of
Applied Sciences and
Arts**



At the time of my exchange program, I was studying IT-Architecture in my 5th semester. I studied in Switzerland at the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts, specifically in Rotkreuz, where the "School of Computer Science and Information Technology" is located.

Most of the available courses were 3 ECTS credits each, although I took one course worth 6 ECTS. This led to a total of 9 courses, as outlined in the table below:

Tidspunkt	Mandag	Tirsdag	Onsdag	Torsdag	Fredag	Self study	Intensiv Week
09.05 – 11.25	Object-oriented Programming for Creative Tech (on-site) I.BA_OOPCREA Suurstoffi 41	Object-oriented Programming for Creative Tech (on-site) I.BA_OOPCREA Suurstoffi 41	Business Intelligence (on-site streamed) I.BA_BUINT Suurstoffi 1			Introduction to C Programming Language (selvstudie) I.BA_I2C	Leadership
12.50 – 15.10	Human Factors & Design (on-site/online) I.BA_HFD_MM Suurstoffi 41	Ethics in the digital World (on-site streamed) I.BA_ETHDW Suurstoffi 1		Intercultural Competences (on-site streamed) I.BA_ICCO Suurstoffi 12			
15.30 – 17.50							
18.30 – 20.50	Digital Transformation for Sustainability (on-site/online) I.BA_STDW Suurstoffi 1			Cloud Security (online) I.BA_CLOUDSE C_MM			

Object-Oriented Programming for Creative Tech (6 ECTS): We learned the fundamental principles of object-oriented programming with a focus on C#. We worked on developing small games in Unity and integrated the use of VR headsets to create interactive experiences.

Human Factors & Design (3 ECTS): We explored the key anatomical and physiological aspects of humans in relation to interaction with systems. The topics covered included Gestalt Laws, the Auditory and Tactile Systems, Memory, Gamification and Hardware Design.

Digital Transformation for Sustainability (3 ECTS): This module explores how digital transformation contributes to sustainable development by tackling social and environmental challenges. Key topics include systems thinking, the circular economy, life cycle analysis and business management processes within a sustainability context.

Ethics in the Digital World (3 ECTS): The course was taught by a priest, who focused on ethics, morals, values, and Aristotle. To be honest, I'm still a bit unsure about what we learned. The teacher was quite humorous and talkative, but I felt there wasn't much connection made to "the digital world." Overall, the course was not very demanding.

Business Intelligence (3 ECTS): This course focuses on transforming raw data into actionable insights to support decision-making. It covers methods such as classification, regression and clustering along with the underlying assumptions of these techniques. The course emphasizes the use of tools like R.

Intercultural Competences (3 ECTS): This module provides skills for navigating diverse cultural environments, promoting inclusivity, culturally- sensitive communication and conflict management skills. Emphasizing awareness of bias and bridging cultural divides, it encourages embracing diverse viewpoints for mutual growth.

Cloud Security (3 ECTS): This course covered various elements of cloud security, including Security Layers, Identity in the Cloud, Encryption, Security Blueprints, and Compliance Management. Half of the course was taught in German, while the other half was in English.

Introduction to C Programming Language (3 ECTS): This was an online course where we followed a Udemy course.

Leadership (3 ECTS): An intensive one-week course where we were introduced to topics such as emotional intelligence, communication rules, DISC, leadership styles, and learning styles.

The process of selecting courses:

In terms of course selection, I thought it was fine. I received an Excel sheet with all the available courses, followed by another document outlining the days and times of the classes. It was a bit tricky, as I had to carefully check to ensure that the courses didn't overlap.

What classes/study experiences did you find the most rewarding?

1) Object-oriented Programming for Creative Tech

I really enjoyed learning C# and how to develop games, as it was something new to me.

2) Leadership

I thought it was a great week. There were both exchange students and Swiss students, so I got to know a lot of people during that time.

3) Digital Transformation for Sustainability

I found this course insightful, as we went in-depth into various sustainability concepts that I wasn't familiar with before. The instructor was also very passionate about the subject.

What classes/study experiences did you find least relevant or least valuable to you?

1) Cloud Security

I didn't find the teaching particularly inspiring. The instructor mainly read from PowerPoint slides and quickly went through the topics. Also, half of the course was in German, which made the learning experience quite limited. I would have chosen a different course if I had known in advance that it would be like this.

2) Business Intelligence

There were no practical assignments, only a lot of theory.

Practical experience with the application process

I found the process of applying for the exchange program to be quite straightforward. At KEA, we used "Mobility Online," where we could track our progress regarding the required documents:

Online-Registration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	27.01.2024		Display/Edit Registration Data
Confirmation e-mail: online registration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	27.01.2024	Automatically generated	
In the next step you have to complete additional information on your application. To open the application form for modification, please press FORWARD at the bottom of the application form. In order to return to your application form after completion of the application data, click on MY APPLICATION DATA - WORKFLOW or RELOAD APPLICATION WORKFLOW.				
Application form completed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	27.01.2024	Ana	Complete application form
Documents uploaded by KEA	<input type="checkbox"/>			Download documents
Here you can download documents uploaded by the International Office at KEA.				
Max. 1 A4 page				
Motivation letter uploaded	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	28.02.2024	Ana	Upload motivation letter
Upload a photo of yourself	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	28.02.2024	Ana	Upload a photo of yourself for the application
Passport scan for the application uploaded	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	28.02.2024	Ana	Upload passport scan for the application
EU health insurance card uploaded (optional)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	28.02.2024	Ana	Upload EU health insurance card

Accommodation - Rotkreuz

I got student accommodation through the school. The process involved applying for a place via a link they provided, and it was on a "først til mølle princip". I lived in Rotkreuz, where I took all my courses, except for "Leadership," which was held in Horw. The accommodation was just a few minutes' walk away.





When I arrived, I applied for a residence permit and requested an exemption to use my EU Blue Card instead of purchasing Swiss health insurance.

Living Costs in Rotkreuz

My room costs 640 CHF per month plus a 1,100 CHF deposit. In total, it came to 4,940 CHF, which is approximately 38,785 DKK spread over 6 months. The full amount had to be paid upfront. When you leave, you will also get a portion of your deposit back.

For transportation, I purchased a "Half Fare Travelcard" for 1,500 DKK for a year. This allows you to buy tickets at half price. If you plan to travel around a lot, I think it's worth it.

In terms of groceries and experiences, I would say things are 20-30% more expensive in Switzerland than in Denmark.

In addition to my own savings, I got SU during my stay as well as an Erasmus grant of 16,479 DKK. You can apply for other grants, for example through Legatbogen, although I chose not to apply for them.

Introduction days

At the beginning of the exchange, there will be introduction days organized by ESN (Erasmus Student Network) Lucerne: <https://luzern.esn.ch>.

After the intro days they frequently organize events, such as trips to Zürich, Geneva, beer tastings and more.