



## UU Study Abroad Report Form

Family name:	xxx
First name:	xxx
Student number:	xxx
Faculty/college:	Social Sciences
Level:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Psychology (Bachelor, specialization: cognitive neurobiological psychology)

Destination city & country	Basel, Swizerland
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	Universität Basel
Purpose of exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	14/09/2017
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	23/12/2017

### Preparation

#### Exchange/placement application process:

If I am completely honest, Basel was not my first choice but it was on my list. Nevertheless I loved it. The application went fine, especially at university Basel. I had to upload my documents and after about an hour I got an email that I was accepted!

#### Counselling/support at home university:

The support was good, all my questions were answered quite quickly.

#### Academic preparation:

I did not do anything special, in my specialisation the first semester of the third year consists of elective courses, which I could do abroad. Having some extra ECTS from being a mentor in the second year did help.

#### Language preparation:

My level of German was already sufficient since I grew up in Germany. I did find out Swiss German is very different and it took me a while to get better at understanding it, but all the classes where in high German and the locals were willing to switch to high German as well so it didn't cause any problems.

#### Finances:

In Switzerland there was no Erasmus grand, but there is a replacement scholarship from the Swiss government. You get it once you are at the university and fill out a form. That really helped, I barely had to use my savings.



**Study/placement abroad period**

**Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):**

To me this was a bit stressful, I am used to apply for the courses of the first semester before the end of June. In Basel the application period starts on the first of August and continues until the end of the fourth week of lectures. Still for seminars, which are subjects with workgroups, there are earlier deadlines which I found out about quite late. Nevertheless I found plenty of interesting subjects in different departments, ranging from biology and psychology to an Egyptology class! Don't forget to check the admission requirements. I had applied for a course with only a limited amount of spots for students from a different faculty, and I only found out it was full when I emailed the lecturer.

**Academic quality of education/placement activities:**

I felt like the quality was not really different from Utrecht University. Some courses were a bit easier, but because I had so many courses it still was a challenge.

**Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:**

The support was quite all right, I would have wished to get more support for picking my courses, but I was able to do that by myself in the end. The mobility office was very willing to answer my questions.

**Transfer of credits:**

The transfer of credits went fine, I had all the courses approved by the .. while I was still in Basel and would have been able to switch. Thankfully that wasn't necessary. I got an official transcript of records by mail (first I forgot to change my address in ADAM to my Dutch address, don't forget to change it when you go back home!) and took it to the STIP. The credits were in Osiris within a few days. I believe my grades were adapted a bit, but not in a way that a pass would become a fail. The Swiss grading system is a bit different from the Dutch, 6 is the highest, 1 the lowest.

**Student life**

**Welcome/orientation programme:**

There was a welcome event from the mobility office where they provided us with practical information. The Erasmus Student Network (ESN) also had a welcome event which gave us more of a chance to socialize. It was great for getting to know the other international students, some long lasting friendships started there.

**Accommodation:**

If you want to get into one of the student homes (studentenheim) you really need to start early! I was quite late myself so I had to try my luck at the Unimarkt, a website where people offer rooms among other things. In the end I was very lucky, my dad knew someone who knew someone who lives in Basel really close to the university and had a spare room.

**Leisure/culture:**

Basel itself is a very nice city, the Rhine dividing it in two. While the weather is still nice, many people meet up at the bank of the Rhine and hang out there. If it's really nice you can actually swim in it. There are a lot of museums, I definitely recommend the Tinguely museum, with a lot of literally moving art! ESN Basel is quite active, organising things like a pub crawl, tickets to a ballet, cheap trips and a hike, among other things. There are a few clubs in Basel, for instance Verso which is in the basement of one of the university buildings (how amazing is that!). I went on some trips with a group of friends as well, the university gives you a discount on a card you can use to get a discount on train tickets. Switzerland is a beautiful country, I really recommend going on a hike in the south! A lot of tourists also go to Grindelwald, I went there just before the main skiing season and it was just magical in the snowy mountains. In the time I was in Basel there were two big events, the Herbst Messe and the Christmas market. The Herbst Messe is a big market in the autumn, quite expensive but nice to see. There are not only stands everywhere in the city, but also a big Ferris wheel, a little roller-coaster and some other attractions. The raclette is delicious. Just a few weeks later the Christmas market starts. It is a bit smaller, but still nice.



There is glühwein everywhere and the look of all the little stands helps you feel warm while it gets colder outside. In Basel the climate is still quite mild, a lot like in the Netherlands actually. In autumn the weather was nicer than in Utrecht, but there was not as much snow in the winter. Another similarity is the amount of bikes, there are plenty since there are not as many hills. You don't really need to bring a bottle of water while walking around in the city, there are a lot of fountains with drinking water so you will not get thirsty.

**Suggestions/tips:**

Don't let the paperwork scare you off. It will really be worth it in the end, enjoy every second and make the most of your stay.

**Conclusions**

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

Yes, it might not be the first place you think of but I think you would be pleasantly surprised to see how nice it is. A nice part about it not being that incredibly far away is, you can go back to visit others that stay for the whole year. I do recommend people to think twice if their German is not as good and they are still in their bachelor. There are plenty of English courses in the master, but in the bachelor they are quite scarce. Even if you don't go to Basel, I definitely want to recommend studying abroad, I have learned a lot and I feel like I have grown.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

If you need more information or would like some help, I would be happy to!