

Exchange Field Report, Spring 2010

My name is Vesa-Pekka Ahonen and I am from Lappeenranta University of Technology, Finland.

I made my Erasmus exchange to Switzerland, where I studied in HTW Chur in Business Administration.

I decided to do an exchange semester abroad because firstly I wanted to improve my language skills and secondly I considered that it would be nice to have more knowledge about other cultures, especially from middle Europe.

What impressed me, were the Alps. Although I have been in Tirol earlier, but those mountains are still astonishing. I was also impressed about the rich culture and long history of the villages and cities. In Switzerland everything is well organized and clean. Swiss said that they are quite inward people but as a Finn I discovered that they are friendly and helpful.



Exchange semester gave me lots of good experiences. I met some very interesting and nice people from Switzerland and from different countries. Hope I see them again. In Switzerland I skied, made few trips to other cities, visited in Germany, and got a fine in Austria for not paying a motor highway tax. I got acquainted to Swiss traditional food, drinks and habits. But the most unforgettable experience was sledging down the mountain hills. That was so fun, dangerous and totally awesome.



Flat mates



Finnish team

For spring semester HTW Chur Business Administration had only four master level courses to offer me and they were all in German. I wanted to have also some courses that were in English, so I took two extra courses from Tourism. I had some problems to follow the lectures that were in German, because it was not always High German and the Swiss dialect is quite hard to understand. But the people in the International Office were helpful and tried to find a solution for any problem.



Chur

I'm very glad that I did an exchange semester to Switzerland. Chur is a very nice city between the mountains but it is a rather small. So next time I would prefer to go to some bigger city. I would recommend Switzerland and HTW Chur also for others because there are some good courses and the lecturers are very qualified. But although I understand German, in Switzerland I would only take courses that are in English. If I would like to learn German I would go to Germany.

Cheers,

Vesa-Pekka Ahonen