

2013 Spring Exchange Report

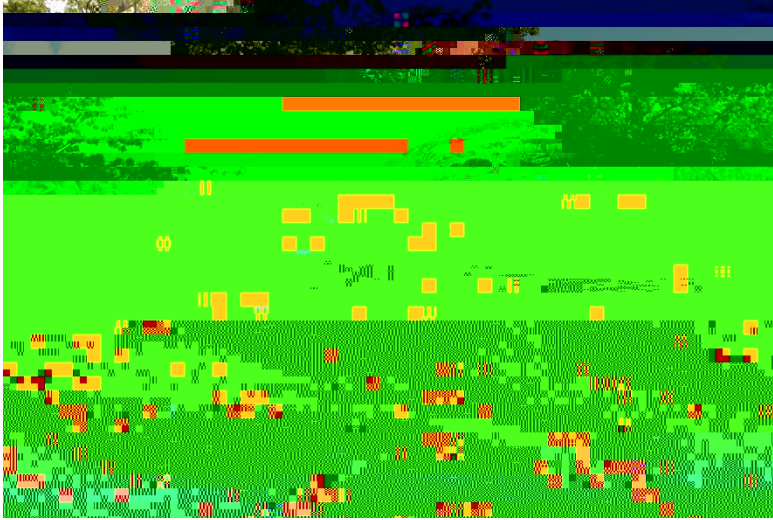
University of Basel

I am a third year Linguistics student who participated in an exchange to Basel, Switzerland. One of the great things in preparing for my exchange was the fact that, apparently, the Swiss really like Canadians. Getting my visa was not a problem at all. In fact, I had my application submitted, processed, and a visa in my hands within about 8 weeks over Christmas break. That said, you still need to be prepared to fill out a couple of forms and sign a few documents when you arrive in order to get your resident's permit, but it's all very simple. The application for the scholarship offered by the university is similarly simple: it is done automatically, and deposited into an account of your choosing in 1000 Frank lumps on a monthly basis through the semester.

The semester system at the University of Basel is similar to that of SFU, except that it is about 2

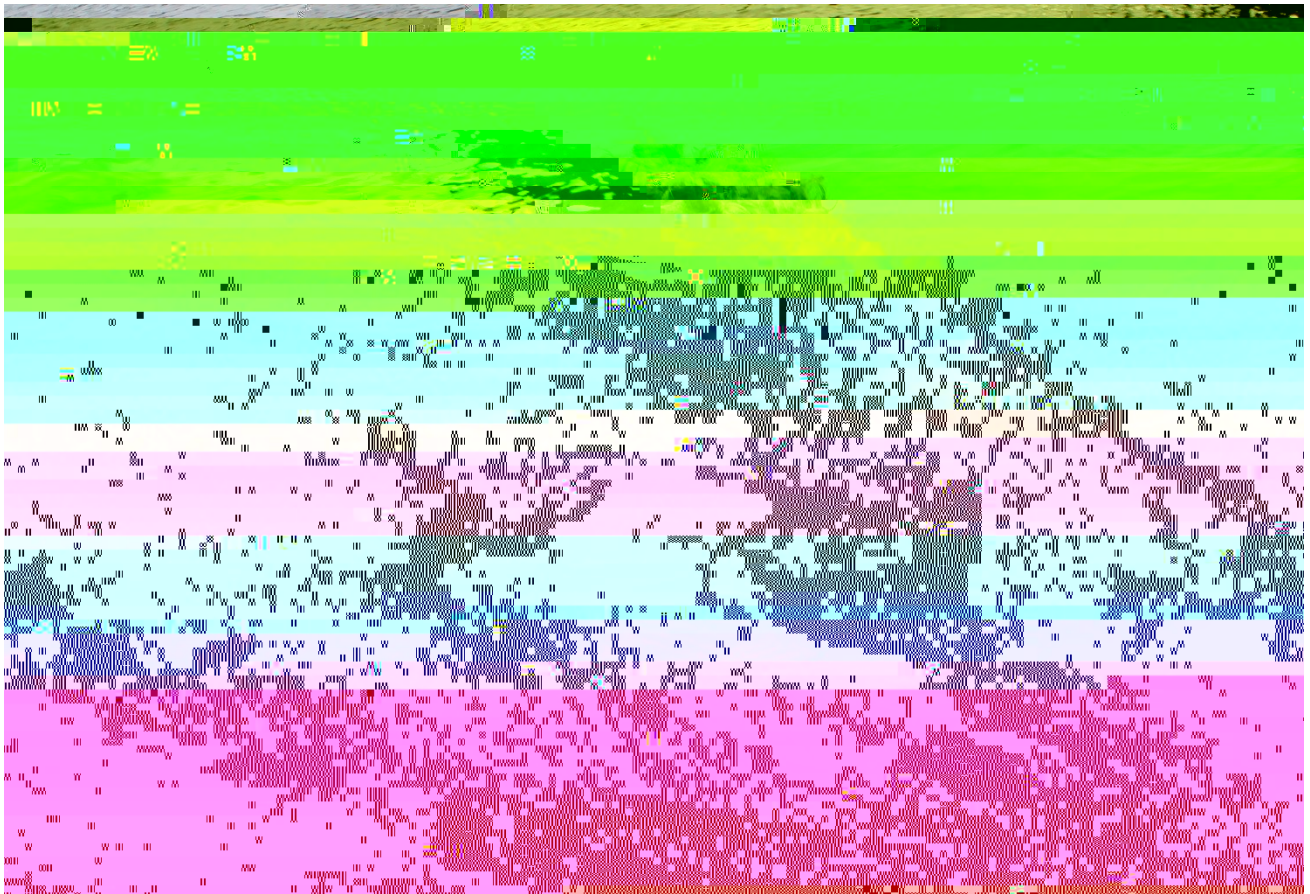
One thing I found surprising about the school was how busy the musical scene was. A short distance from the main campus is the "musical campus", where there were hundreds of students walking around with violins, cellos, and the like. One of my roommates attended classes there as a Master's student, and I was able to attend one of his performances at a local symphony orchestra.

In the city itself, English, French, German, and variations thereof are all extremely common. Someone who spoke French fluently would be in just as good of a position to succeed in Basel as someone fluent in German; there are even some supermarkets where the employees tend to use French instead of German. Basel is an extremely beautiful city, but it must be admitted that it is small. As a tourist, you could do everything interesting in a day without working too hard, but it's a hard place to get sick of. The university is located in the old-town area of Basel, right next to the Rhine, and the



This picture is from the same trip, about halfway up to as high as we got. The lake in the picture is Interlaken Ost, and you can see a smaller lake in the bottom right corner in the middle of all the trees. Right beside that lake are the ruins of an old fort which has been converted into a cemetery. It's a beautiful place.

This is one of the infamous swans, and is one of several hundred pictures my girlfriend took of them.



They were about a 10 minute walk from where I lived.

This is a picture of the