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Information Sheet: Swiss Education System

Canton Lucerne would like to welcome you as an applicant to an English-speaking hotel management school and hopes you have a successful stay in central Switzerland

For your information, the Canton Lucerne education department would like to draw your attention to the following points:

1 Organisation of the state education system

The Swiss education system consists of the following three levels:

- First level: primary and secondary schools (years 1 - 9)
- Second level: middle and vocational schools (years 10 - 13)
- Third level: professional education and training colleges, universities of applied sciences/universities (years 14 - 19 or more)

In Switzerland, only those schools, courses and qualifications that correspond to these three levels of education can be recognised by the state. Most private hotel management schools are subject to other standards which are listed below.

2 Private English-speaking hotel management schools in Canton Lucerne follow a different training concept

The private English-speaking educational institutions in the sector of hotel management follow a different training concept. As students come from all over the world and tend to return to their respective countries once they have completed their training, the private hotel management schools deliberately ensure that the qualifications they issue are recognised by foreign institutions.

3 State supervision of private English-speaking hotel management schools – recognition by foreign partner universities

If hotel management schools cannot clearly be assigned to the second or third level of Swiss education, neither the canton itself nor Switzerland can legally recognise such private English-speaking hotel management schools. All hotel management schools in Canton Lucerne are, however, under cantonal supervision. To be recognised abroad, most private hotel management schools submit to the recognition and control procedure of a foreign partner university.

4 Placements

An essential component of training in any hotel management school is the paid placement in a hotel or restaurant which is an integral part of the course. This placement may be in Switzerland or abroad. As students are responsible for their own placements, please make sure that the hotel management school of your choice guarantees it will organise sufficient placements.

5 Criteria for selecting a hotel management school

As a future student at a hotel management school in Canton Lucerne, you should assess your chosen school using the following criteria:

- Does the school have reputable accreditations?
- In addition to its own diplomas, does the school offer diplomas from a reputable, state-recognised foreign partner university (US, UK etc)?
- Is the school listed in the register of Swiss private schools (www.swissprivateschoolregister.com)?
- Does the school have an eduQua certificate (www.eduqua.ch)?
- Does the school have a list of offices outside the school that you can turn to for help?
- Does the school guarantee it will find sufficient placements both in Switzerland and abroad?

With his/her signature, the applicant confirms that he/she has read and understood this information sheet before starting his/her course of study:

Chosen school: _____

Last name, first name: _____

Nationality: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Submitted by:

Last name, first name: _____

Position: _____