

«An Invaluable Experience»

Die Notre Dame Law School und die Rechtswissenschaftliche Fakultät in Luzern sind seit einem Jahr Partneruniversitäten. Die Austauschstudenten Andrew Meerwarth (Notre Dame) und Philipp Anton Burri (Luzern) erzählen von ihren Erfahrungen.

■ INTERVIEW: MARTIN MEIER

Andrew Meerwarth and Tony Burri, please introduce yourselves.

Andrew Meerwarth: I am a JD Candidate at the University of Notre Dame Law School [NDLS]. I am from New York State, where I received a Bachelor's degree in English Literature at Stony Brook University.

Tony Burri: I am a student in the Master of Law program here at the University of Lucerne. During the past two semesters, I spent a year as an exchange student at the NDLS.



Andrew Meerwarth (oben) und Philipp Anton Burri vor ihren jeweiligen Austauschunis.

Why did you choose to go abroad?

Burri: I learned of the new partnership agreement between the Universities of Lucerne and Notre Dame from Professor Mathis. When he asked me whether I wanted to be one of the first students to study at this new partner university, it did not take me long to decide. The prospect to spend a part of my studies at such a prestigious US law school got me excited. Also, I met Notre Dame's Professor Avishalom Tor at the Law and Economics Conference here in Lucerne. He further motivated me to go to Notre Dame.

Meerwarth: I met Tony Burri while he was studying abroad at NDLS this past year. Tony is really passionate about legal research, and he was always talking about the University of Lucerne and his experiences here. When I saw Tony's enthusiasm, I really wanted to visit his school and work with the people that had generated so much interest in him. In addition, my own interests lean toward research and international law.

Andrew Meerwarth, what was the basis of your work in Lucerne?

I have been working as a research assistant to Professor Klaus Mathis in the field of Energy Law and Economics. My research has been concerned with the «rebound effect» that undermines energy efficiency strategies. Because energy efficiency is such a large aspect of many contemporary approaches in environmental policies, it is really important to overcome the legal challenges that are presented by the rebound effect.

Tony Burri, what was the focus of your studies in Notre Dame?

Once in the United States, I wanted to learn about the American legal system and its peculiarities. To that end, I took introductory classes for international LL.M. students and more advanced courses together with American JD students. A second focus was law and economics, my main research interest. I also had the opportunity to work with Professor Alexandra Levy and help her with her research on the economics of human trafficking and prostitution.

Would you recommend that students work or study abroad?

Burri: Yes. It is of course a personal decision and depends on the individual circumstances. But I think it is an invaluable experience and when the opportunity pops up, one should take it.

Martin Meier ist wissenschaftlicher Assistent bei Prof. Dr. Klaus Mathis, Ordinarius für Öffentliches Recht, Recht der nachhaltigen Wirtschaft und Rechtsphilosophie.

Read the whole interview in the tablet version