

# Studying in Switzerland as a foreign student

Are you from a foreign country intending to study in Switzerland for a bachelor's or master's degree? Then read this information sheet.

## 1. The Swiss university system and the subjects offered

In Switzerland the range from academic to applied studies is covered by three types of institutions with different training tasks: Doctoral/Research Universities (Universitäre Hochschulen UH), Universities of Applied Sciences (Fachhochschulen FH), Universities of Teacher Education (Pädagogische Hochschulen PH).

The subjects offered at these universities are: Theology (UH), Economics and Law (UH, FH), Medical Sciences (UH, FH), Sports (UH, FH), Social Sciences (UH, FH), Arts and Humanities (UH), Languages, Literature and Communication (UH, FH), Applied Arts, Music, Design (FH, UH), Mathematics and Information Sciences (UH, FH), Life Sciences (UH, FH), Engineering and Architecture (UH, FH), Education (PH, FH, UH). The language of tuition is German, French or Italian, depending on the part of Switzerland you intend to study. Some subjects are offered in English, especially those on a master's degree level.

The following links lead to all study programmes offered at Swiss universities.

### Study programmes UH

[www.crus.ch](http://www.crus.ch) > Study in Switzerland > Study Offers

[www.crus.ch](http://www.crus.ch) > Study in Switzerland > Study Offers > Study Programmes in English

### Study programmes FH

[www.kfh.ch](http://www.kfh.ch) > English > Universities of Applied Sciences and Offers

[www.kfh.ch](http://www.kfh.ch) > English > About the KFH > Study Programmes in English

### Study programmes PH

[www.cohep.ch](http://www.cohep.ch) > Universities of Teacher Education > Study programs

## 2. Conditions for admission

Conditions for admission depend on the individual university and study programme. There are general conditions like relevant basic education prerequisites or knowledge of the language of study on one hand and specific conditions for the subject chosen on the other.

### 2.1 General conditions for admission

For access to Swiss universities a valid Swiss maturity certificate or an equivalent foreign upper secondary school-leaving certificate qualifying for university entrance is required. Each university makes its own decisions as to which certificates and qualifications it recognizes. Specific courses and entry exams for foreign national students are offered (see the [information sheet](#) 'Prüfungen für Studienbewerber/-innen mit ausländischer Vorbildung'). Most universities demand a good command of the language of instruction (generally level C1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, CEFR/GeRS).

### 2.2 Specific conditions for admission

Some study programmes demand specific additional conditions like personal suitability or professional prerequisites. As a rule all applicants for medical studies (UH/FH), social sciences (FH), applied arts, music and design (FH) have to pass an entry exam. There are special regulations for the application to study programmes in medicine and

chiropractic. Detailed information is offered by the CRUS / Swiss ENIC web site ([www.crus.ch](http://www.crus.ch) > Studieren in der Schweiz > Anmeldung zum Medizinstudium).

Links to all universities and their exact conditions of admission can be found on the CRUS web site ([www.crus.ch](http://www.crus.ch) > Recognition / Swiss ENIC > Recognised or Accredited Swiss Higher Education Institutions).

### **3. Costs and scholarships**

Tuition fees per year at most universities are between CHF 1'000.- and CHF 2'200.- for foreign national students. Exceptions: University of St. Gallen (CHF 4'300.-), Università della Svizzera italiana (CHF 8'000.-) and private universities of applied sciences (up to CHF 10'000.- and more). The cost of living in Switzerland varies from 21'000.- to 31'000.- per year (see [information sheet](#) ‚Studienkosten‘).

Candidates must find out from their own country's authorities whether they are entitled to a scholarship. No further scholarships are offered by Switzerland or the Swiss universities for Bachelor or Master studies. (Exception: Grants for particularly gifted arts students)

### **4. Application for admission**

Foreign national students must contact the university of their choice prior to the admission deadline. Most universities accept online applications. Deadline for the autumn semester is 30<sup>th</sup> April (earlier for study programmes with specific entry conditions). Prior to the beginning of the courses the applicants have to present themselves personally at the university immatriculation office.

### **5. Entry requirements**

Students entering Switzerland for study reasons must register with the local authority (Einwohnerkontrolle, Residents' Registration Office) at their place of residence within a fortnight and apply for a residence permit. The permit can be granted when students have a valid passport (plus visa if necessary), a proof of registration at the university, evidence of sufficient funds and a certificate of their health insurance coverage.

### **6. Accommodation and work**

Students have to look for their accommodation by themselves. Most universities however have their own housing agency ([www.crus.ch](http://www.crus.ch) > Studieren in der Schweiz > Studentisches Leben > Studentisches Wohnen).

Foreign national students are allowed to work a maximum of 15 hours per week during term, up to 100% during semester breaks. Students from non EU/EFTA countries wait for six months from the beginning of their studies until they are allowed to work (see [information sheet](#) ‚Arbeitsmöglichkeiten für Ausländerinnen und Ausländer in der Schweiz‘).

### **Further information**

[www.swissuniversity.ch](http://www.swissuniversity.ch)

General information concerning living and studying in Switzerland (in English)

[www.berufsberatung.ch](http://www.berufsberatung.ch) > Studium

Detailed information on the university system and all study programmes in Switzerland (in German)