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STUDYING IN SWITZERLAND

UNIVERSITIES

2009



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SWISS HIGHER EDUCATION

(by COHEP, CRUS, and KFH, Berne 2009)

SWITZERLAND

The Country and its People

Switzerland is a small country of 41 284 square kilometres located in Europe between France, Germany, Austria, the Principality of Liechtenstein (FL), and Italy. Its capital is Berne. The country is one of the most mountainous in Europe: the Alps, Pre-Alps, and Jura occupy more than two-thirds of its land area. Contrasting with these mountainous regions is the Swiss plateau, which is home to a majority of the country's 7.4 million people.

Over two-thirds of the population live in urban areas. Zurich is Switzerland's largest city, with about 374 000 people. Four other cities have populations in excess of 100 000: Geneva, Basel, Berne and Lausanne. Zurich, Berne, and Geneva are all three placed on the second rank with respect to European cities' public safety and offer high quality of life which makes them to popular places of residence.

Geographically diverse, Switzerland is also diverse in terms of its spoken languages. This small country recognises no fewer than four national languages. German is spoken by 64 % of the population, French by 20 %, Italian by 6,5 %, and Romansh by less than 1 %. About 9 % speak other languages. A fifth of the population is made up of resident foreigners.

Economy

Switzerland's unique education and training system provides a vast range of educational options, from vocational training and apprenticeships to university-level education, thereby producing a well qualified workforce at all levels. On account of Switzerland's high-quality education system and its multicultural society, a large part of the population is fluent in several languages. As the workforce is generally highly motivated, Switzerland ranks fifth among the world's leading national economies with respect to overall productivity.

Switzerland's size has enabled well-developed networks between the various fields of expertise in research, development, and industry. Its location in the heart of Europe is another advantage. Situated at the nexus of European technologies and cultures, Switzerland is equidistant between America and Asia. Close ties with the EU assure direct links to European science and innovation programmes. Bilateral contracts with the EU provide Swiss-based companies with excellent market access to more than 450 million consumers. And last but not least, Switzerland has an almost ideal size – and spirit – to qualify as a pilot market in which manufacturers can analyse market response to new products.

Political Organisation

Switzerland is a confederation comprising 26 cantons. In 1848, Switzerland adopted a new constitution marking the power of the central government while at the same time leaving a relative high degree of sovereignty in the hands of the cantons. It constituted a decisive step towards democracy. It promoted centralisation without rejecting liberalism, in line with Swiss traditions. This federalist system is still in force today.

Endowed with their own constitutions, their own governments and their own laws, the cantons have the right to legislate in quite a lot of areas. In areas such as education they enjoy broad power.

Direct democracy is entrenched firmly at each level (Confederation, cantons, communes). Citizens do not only elect the members of their parliaments, but also the members of their governments, except for the Federal Council. Moreover, important questions are submitted to popular votings – for constitutional questions, or following the exercise of the popular right of initiative and referendum. In Switzerland, Members of Parliament are not professionals; they fulfil their local or federal mandates along with other jobs.

THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN SWITZERLAND

Education has always been an overriding priority in Switzerland, as evidenced by an outstanding level of resources allocated to Swiss schools and different types of universities. Switzerland's unique dual education and training system provides a vast range of educational options, from vocational training and apprenticeships to university-level courses.

Preschool education (kindergarten) and compulsory schooling (primary and lower secondary) both take place in the communes. The Confederation ensures that primary education satisfies standards of quality, and guarantees compliance with the principle of free education. At the upper secondary level, the Confederation is responsible for vocational training. Recognition of the relevant certificates – the Federal Certificate of Competence and the Professional Maturity Certificate (Professional Baccalaureate) – is also a federal matter. General education at the upper secondary level and in the gymnasias, in particular, is the responsibility of the cantons which regulate the school-leaving examinations marking the completion of these academically oriented secondary-school studies. The Confederation recognises these diplomas insofar as they satisfy the relevant conditions. The diplomas certify that their holders have the required general knowledge and aptitudes to take university-level studies.

Higher education in Switzerland, fitting into the general dual system, covers the range from academic to applied studies by charging two types of institutions with the different training tasks. Twelve doctoral / research universities (ten cantonal universities and two Federal Institutes of Technology) offer theoretically oriented, scientific bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees. Professionally oriented studies are offered at the nine universities of applied sciences («Fachhochschulen» / «Hautes écoles spécialisées») and at the 14 universities of teacher education («Pädagogische Hochschulen» / «Hautes écoles

pédagogiques»/«Alte scuole pedagogiche»). In the universities of applied sciences integrated are also the top education in music, theatre, design, and fine arts.

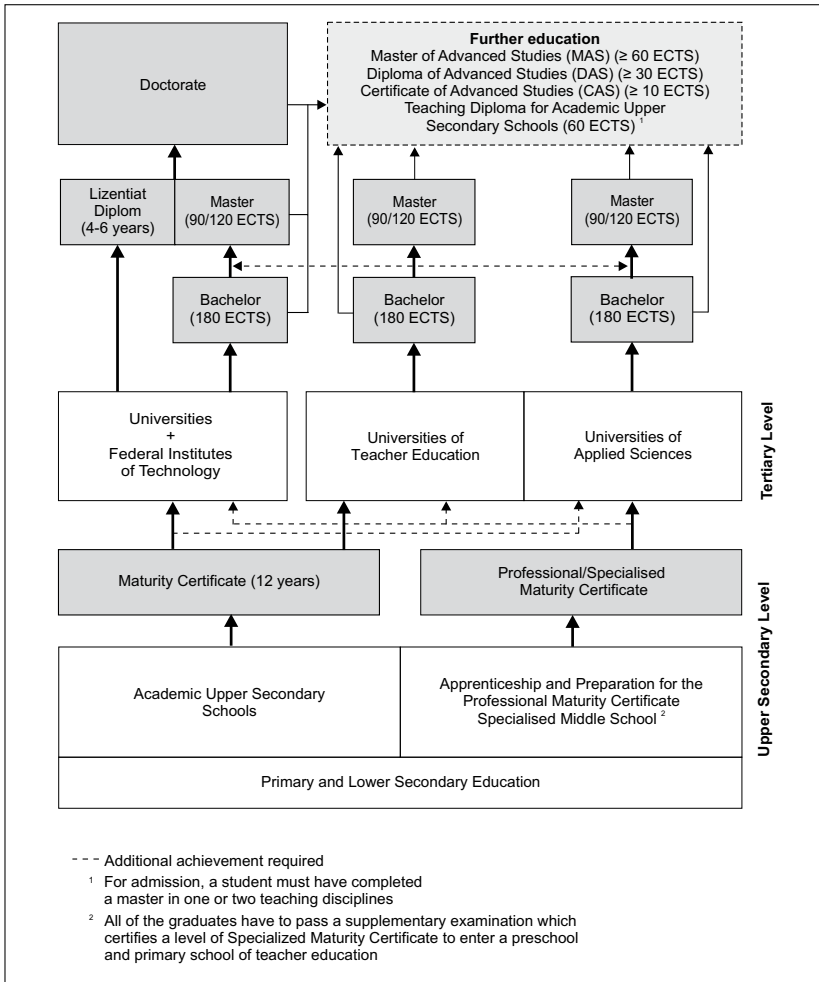
At all the different types of universities the Bologna declaration is implemented.

Holders of a maturity certificate («gymnasiale Matura») have access to doctoral / research universities or a universities of teacher education. They also can enrol, after completing a one-year internship or work placement, in a university of applied sciences. Holders of a professional maturity certificate («Berufsmaturität») are entitled to study at a university of applied sciences or, after passing a supplementary examination, at a doctoral / research university or a university of teacher education.

The modern, diversified but coherent system of Swiss higher education is perfectly suited to the needs of students, the scientific community, modern society, and the economy and it is directly compatible with other European educational systems.

A perfect example for the coherence of the Swiss higher education system is the harmonisation of the semesters: Switzerland is the first and only country in Europe in which all higher education institutions start their courses in the same weeks of each year. The autumn semester begins in week 38 and the spring semester in week 8. Today, other European countries are discussing on how to follow the Swiss example.

The Swiss Higher Education System



DOCTORAL/RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES

Ten cantonal universities and two Federal Institutes of Technology are labelled **swiss**university.ch. They are currently the only research universities in Switzerland that are allowed to confer doctoral degrees. The ten cantonal universities are in Basel, Berne, Fribourg, Geneva, Lausanne, Lucerne, Neuchâtel, St. Gallen, Italian-speaking Switzerland, and Zurich. Most of them have been evolving over a number of centuries in step with societal and economic needs, always in harmony with a humanist ideal.

Since the mid-19th century, the Confederation has played an active role in national science policy. While it began by creating its own polytechnic in Zurich, the Confederation now has six institutions comprising the two Federal Institutes of Technology in Lausanne (EPFL) and in Zurich (ETHZ) and four research institutes, the Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI), the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL), the Swiss Federal Institute for Materials Science and Technology (EMPA), and the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (EAWAG). The two Federal Institutes of Technology (ETHZ and EPFL) are known worldwide and have brought forth many Nobel Prize laureates.

In addition to the federal institutes, Switzerland's cantonal universities also have excellent reputations on account of their high-quality research. In recent worldwide rankings at least five of the Swiss universities (depending on the ranked area) have always been amongst the 50 best universities of the world, which means they guarantee to all potential students the possibility of choosing among high-quality courses in different universities and in different cultural regions of Switzerland within a reachable distance.

Although each of the universities has its own characteristics, they all basically have the same structure combining research and education (a prerequisite for those students, who intend to follow their studies up to a doctorate level). The twelve Swiss universities are divided into faculties or departments, including theology, law, economic and social sciences, arts, natural science, and medicine (Fribourg and Neuchâtel offer but basic medical courses). St. Gallen is renowned for economics, social sciences and law especially in German-speaking Europe, but also in the US and Asia. Lucerne, the youngest institution to qualify as a Swiss university, in 2004, succeeds in offering Catholic theology/religious studies, humanities, and law. The second youngest Swiss university, the Università della Svizzera italiana (USI) in the Italian-speaking canton of Switzerland, is not only famous for its courses in architecture with Prof. Mario Botta, but also offers economics, communication sciences, and informatics. The two Federal Institutes of Technology are well known for producing highly qualified engineers, architects, and scientists and work closely together with their counterparts, the University of Zurich and the University of Lausanne, respectively, in study areas such as the human sciences.

In addition, there are some smaller institutions offering a limited curriculum which confer diplomas in association with a traditional university. The following are considered as public institutions of higher education: the Graduate Institute for International and Development Studies (Institut de hautes études internationales et du développement, IHEID) in Geneva and the Graduate Institute for Advanced Public Administration (Institut de hautes études en administration publique, IDHEAP) in Lausanne. They are not allowed to confer doctoral degrees without specifically associating to one of the twelve doctoral / research universities.

For more information see www.swissuniversity.ch, www.crus.ch, www.proff.ch. Specific information for doctoral candidates and researchers on: www.euraxess.ch.

UNIVERSITIES OF APPLIED SCIENCES

Switzerland has since 1997 seven public-funded universities of applied sciences (UAS) and two private UAS which are recognised by the Swiss authorities. Both offer practice-oriented university-level education.

The universities of applied sciences are organised regionally and all have several campuses.

The universities of applied sciences in the German-speaking part of Switzerland are:

- Berne University of Applied Sciences (BFH, Berner Fachhochschule) with campuses in Berne, Burgdorf, Biel, Zollikofen, and Magglingen
- University of Applied Sciences Northwestern Switzerland (FHNW, Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz) with campuses in Brugg / Windisch, Olten, Basel, and Muttenz
- University of Applied Sciences of Eastern Switzerland (FHO, Fachhochschule Ostschweiz) with main campuses in St. Gallen, Rapperswil, Buchs, and Chur
- Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts (Hochschule Luzern) with campuses in Lucerne and Horw
- University of Applied Sciences of Zurich (ZFH, Zürcher Fachhochschule) with campuses in Zurich, Winterthur, and Wädenswil
- Kalaidos University of Applied Sciences Switzerland (FH KAL) with campuses in Basel, Berne, St. Gallen und Zurich

The university of applied sciences in the Italian-speaking part of Switzerland is:

- University of Applied Sciences of Southern Switzerland (SUPSI, Scuola Universitaria Professionale della Svizzera Italiana) with campuses in Lugano, Manno, Canobbio, and Verscio

The universities of applied sciences in the French-speaking part of Switzerland is:

- University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland (HES-SO, Haute Ecole Spécialisée de la Suisse Occidentale) with main campuses in Geneva, Lausanne, Sion*, Sierre*, Fribourg, Yverdon-les-Bains, Changins, Neuchâtel, and La Chaux-de-Fonds. (*offering, in part, degree programmes in German)
- University of Applied Sciences Les Roches Gruyère with campuses in Bluche, Bulle and Gihe

The universities of applied sciences (UAS) cover the following areas of knowledge and research:

- Engineering and Information Technology (all UAS except KAL and Les Roches Gruyère)
- Architecture, Building Engineering and Planning (all UAS, except KAL and Les Roches Gruyère)
- Agriculture and Forestry (BFH and HES-SO only)
- Chemistry and Life Sciences (all UAS except FHO, SUPSI and HSLU, KAL and Les Roches Gruyère)
- Design (all UAS except FHO, KAL and Les Roches Gruyère)
- Social Work (all UAS except KAL and Les Roches Gruyère)
- Health (all UAS except HSLU and FHNW, KAL and Les Roches Gruyère)
- Business, Management and Services (all UAS)

- Applied Psychology (ZFH and FHNW only)
- Applied Linguistics (ZFH only)
- Sports (BFH only)
- Teacher Education (ZFH, FHNW, and SUPSI)

A distinctive feature of Swiss universities of applied sciences is their integration of artistic courses of study in

- Theatre Arts (ZFH, BFH, and SUPSI only)
- Music (all UAS except FHO, KAL and Les Roches Gruyère)
- Fine Arts (all UAS except FHO), KAL and Les Roches Gruyère.

Universities of applied sciences provide a practice-oriented education, accommodating the needs of both students and the job market. They offer an excellent learning environment: small campuses, a communal atmosphere, a good learning infrastructure, well-equipped laboratories, a good student / faculty ratio, small study groups, student-oriented classes, and highly qualified teachers who are often involved in research and/or professional practice.

In addition to their bachelor's and master's degree programmes, the UAS offer a wide range of federally recognised courses in continuing education (MAS – Master of Advanced Studies / EMBA – Executive Master of Business Administration) to facilitate lifelong learning among graduates. Their flexible organisation allows UAS to respond quickly to the needs of both students and the professional environment.

In all departments, the UAS also conduct distinguished research which aims at solving problems related to their professional fields. With their research, the UAS form an important link in the innovation chain. Research at the UAS is also connected to instruction, with students gaining research expertise in their respective professional fields. In the artistic courses of study, the main emphasis is on the development of students' artistic identity.

As the education they receive is practice-oriented, students graduating from UAS have very good prospects on the job market. The most recent studies show that 96 % of students find employment in their professional field within twelve months of graduating. The education supplied by the UAS meets the demands of the job market. A UAS degree also serves as an entry qualification to further studies at universities both in Switzerland and abroad. All universities of applied sciences are accredited by the federal government of Switzerland.

For more information see www.kfh.ch (website of the Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities of Applied Sciences).

UNIVERSITIES OF TEACHER EDUCATION

The universities of teacher education were created in 2001 and train teachers in Switzerland. The universities of teacher education have the same principals like the universities of applied sciences – they offer a practice-oriented education – but are for the most part independent establishments.

In most cases, teachers working at the different levels of the school system (initial and continuing education) are trained in the universities of teacher education which are financed by the cantons. In some cases the teachers are trained in universities or in other tertiary institutions.

Today, Switzerland has fourteen universities of teacher education. Twelve of them are independent establishments (Berne; Brig / St-Maurice; Chur; Fribourg; Kreuzlingen; Lausanne; Locarno; Luzern / Schwyz / Zug; Porrentruy / Bienne / La Chaux-de-Fonds; Schaffhausen; St.Gallen; Zurich¹) while two universities of teacher education form part of universities of applied sciences (in Basel / Brugg / Solothurn and in Zurich). In Geneva, the university trains future pre-primary and primary school teachers.

In Geneva, the university trains teachers at different levels: pre-primary, primary and soon, as a replacement of the Institut de Formation des Maîtresses et des Maîtres de l'enseignement Secondaire du canton de Genève (IFMES) still in service during a phase of transition, also secondary I and II. The University of Fribourg offer training courses for secondary I and II. In Zurich, training of teachers for secondary II is provided by an institute which is managed jointly by the university, the Federal Institute of Technology and the University of Teacher Education.

The Swiss Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training is responsible for the training and further education of teachers for the vocational education. They also provide a Master of Science in vocational training. The Swiss Federal Institute of Sport Magglingen (SFISM) passes on knowledge and develops appropriate skills for sport & physical activity's practice and education as well as for teacher training.

The universities of teacher education award diplomas, bachelor's or master's degrees for the following domains: pre-primary education, primary education, secondary education, special needs education, speech and language therapy, psychomotor therapy, vocational training and sport. Besides this, the universities of teacher education provide masters of advanced studies, diploma of advanced studies and certificate of advanced studies. The universities of teacher education are responsible for tuition (initial and continuing training), applied research, development and evaluation; they also provide other services like consultation, introduction to the profession, mobility and others.

RELATIONS BETWEEN UNIVERSITIES, UNIVERSITIES OF APPLIED SCIENCES AND UNIVERSITIES OF TEACHER EDUCATION

Cooperation and transfer possibilities between the different types of Swiss higher education institutions are essential. A perfect balance between cooperation and division of tasks are the objective of Switzerland's higher education institutions. The Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities (CRUS), the Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities of Applied Sciences (KFH), and the Swiss Conference of Rectors of Universities of Teacher Education (COHEP) therefore encourage exchange programmes and work together readily.

An example for this cooperation between the three rectors' conferences is the agreement concerning the permeability between the different types of universities. Under defined conditions students of one type of university can continue their studies at another type of university.

INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY

Switzerland participates as an «indirect partner» in the European Union's education programmes (Lifelong Learning Programme, [LLP], Leonardo da Vinci, Youth Programme). Swiss participation and scholarships awarded to foreign students who come to Switzerland are temporarily financed by the State Secretariat for Education and Research, SER.

The Information and Coordination ERASMUS Switzerland (ICES) agency, hosted by CRUS, is responsible for allocating the resources for ERASMUS student mobility grants to the participating higher education institutions.

The higher education institutions introduced the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS), which seeks to foster student mobility by ensuring the recognition of credits obtained elsewhere.

With the entry into force of the bilateral agreements between Switzerland and the EU, Swiss scientists have access to EU programmes to encourage mobility for researchers.

RESEARCH IN SWITZERLAND ²

Switzerland has superior qualities and skills in education, science and technology which are recognised internationally. The competitiveness of Switzerland is due to the considerable investment into research. On a percentage basis, the amount Switzerland spends on research and development in relation to gross domestic product (GDP) puts this country near the top of the list. More than two-thirds of these resources come from the private sector with the major interest coming from the chemical, pharmaceutical, electronics, and metallurgical industries.

The federal legislation puts the onus for the promotion of scientific research on the Confederation, which in turn has created various instruments including in particular the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) and the Innovation Promotion Agency CTI to carry out this task.

The Swiss National Science Foundation is the most important instrument of the Confederation for the promotion of research and the development of a new generation of scientists. The foundation which was set up in 1952 supports scientific research at Swiss higher education institutions and independent research institutes. The main thrust of the foundation's activity is the financial backing of high-quality individual projects in the sphere of general basic research. The promotion of young scientific talent is

achieved through grants for future and advanced researchers and exchange programmes with various partner countries. The SNSF is also responsible for carrying out the National Research Programmes (NRP) and for the National Centres of Competence in Research (NCCR). A special programme of the SNSF called DORE promotes the research in the fields of social sciences, health sciences, school education, music, and fine arts.

The Innovation Promotion Agency CTI is the federal agency promoting applied research and development of economic interest. The CTI promotes the development and application of new technologies and methodology. It brings dynamic companies and institutions and researchers at all types of universities together by supporting their cooperation in applied research and development. CTI services range from action programmes in different fields of the economy, the public services, and cultural life to the support for setting up of new firms and services. The tools of the CTI can also be used by small and medium-sized enterprises or other institutions with needs in new knowledge.

Basic research is carried out in Switzerland mainly by universities and the Federal Institutes of Technology. The universities of applied sciences on the other hand concentrate on applied research and development and pursue the establishment of close contacts between their research units and those in the private sector, especially with SME (small and medium enterprises) and the creative economy. Research is one of the emphases at the universities of teacher education as well. The main research at the universities of teacher education will be developed in the context of the professional didactics and the master study programmes.

Efforts to integrate Swiss research activities into those taking place internationally began in the early 1950s; since then these efforts have been consistently reinforced through Swiss membership in the most important international research organisations and Swiss participation in the main international research programmes.

KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

Switzerland ranks fifth among the world's leading national economies with respect to overall productivity. Cooperation and synergies on the cantonal, national, and international levels make Switzerland an almost ideal place to identify solutions designed to develop products to market maturity.

There are a large number of institutions and tools in Switzerland for promoting and supporting research and establishing contacts to promote exchanges between universities, universities of applied sciences and businesses. During the last ten years, the cantonal universities, Federal Institutes of Technology and the four research institutes have either created technology transfer departments or designated officers responsible for relations with industry.

The universities of applied sciences act as a transmission belt between research and industry. All of the universities of applied sciences have a technology transfer service. The

cooperation between the UAS and the private sector has developed rapidly over the past ten years.

Besides the activities of the CTI, an important instrument for the creation of synergies between the public and private sectors is the so-called European Union Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development. These programmes encourage cooperation on a European level between universities and firms, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises. Swiss participation in these programmes is one of the most important priorities of this country's international science policy.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Internationality begins on campus, amongst students. Switzerland has the highest share of international students in Europe (2005: 17 %), on bachelor and advanced studies levels, most of them coming from other European countries.

Internationality means also promoting the mobility of students and researchers, and hence depends on cooperation. Swiss higher education institutions are reliable partners in European exchange and research programmes. Bilateral agreements ensure and facilitate cooperation between higher education in Switzerland and European partners. Furthermore CRUS implements the Scientific Exchange Programme with the New Member States of the EU from 2009–2016 (www.sciex.ch).

Higher education institutions themselves have numerous bilateral agreements with countries throughout the world. The international relations of universities are generally managed both by rectorates and their international officers and by faculties, depending on the type of cooperation. Thousands of people cross one of the borders every morning to reach their workplaces. Since 1991, seven universities located on the Upper Rhine and close to national borders have formed EUCOR, the cross-border Confederation of Upper Rhine Universities. The joint EUCOR student card grants unhindered mobility and access to the seven partner universities. Through joint programmes and courses, and through joint research initiatives and staff exchanges, internationality has become a matter of everyday life at the EUCOR universities. A similar programme also takes place at the universities of applied sciences of north-western Switzerland with homologous higher education institutions in France and Germany.

Active participation on the level of the three Swiss higher education rectors' conferences is secured by membership in organisations such as the European University Association EUA, the Academic Cooperation Association ACA, and the Network of the Universities of Applied Sciences UAS NET and on platforms such as the above-mentioned EAIE and the NAFSA, an association of international educators and an organisation promoting international education and providing professional development opportunities to the field in the USA. These efforts ensure Switzerland's integration in the process of promoting visibility as well as quality of higher education.

In view of the increasing importance of international exchange in the area of science, the State Secretariat for Education and Research will be concentrating its efforts in 2008–2011 on Switzerland as a university and research location. The focus on cooperation areas conducive to the mobility of students, teaching staff, and researchers will be confined to Europe as well as to non-European partners. Increasing efforts are geared to collaboration with suitable non-European partner countries and regions amongst which the most important will be China, India, Russia, and South Africa.

Moreover, higher education institutions strongly cooperate with the science advisers of the Swiss embassies and the outposts of the Swiss Knowledge Network «swissnex».

Recognition of Diplomas

In neighbouring countries ...

In addition to these multilateral relations, Switzerland also attaches great importance to bilateral agreements, in particular with neighbouring countries, in order to ensure student mobility and mutual recognition of programmes and diplomas. It has concluded bilateral agreements with Austria, Germany, Italy and France. These agreements govern the recognition of the programmes and diplomas of all higher education institutions.

... and elsewhere

Switzerland acceded to the university conventions of the Council of Europe and UNESCO in 1991 and ratified the Lisbon Convention, in 1998. Among other measures, this Convention provides for a «Diploma Supplement» (DS), which is a description of the qualification to be attached to each diploma awarded by a university, university of applied sciences or university of teacher education. In general, foreign universities recognise the Swiss maturity certificate as a qualification giving access to university studies. Both the Lisbon Convention and the Bologna Declaration recommend the introduction of the Diploma Supplement.

Reforms in the Higher Education System

Internationalisation, and mainly the implementation of the Bologna Declaration, is the major reforming factor in Switzerland. The implementation of quality assurance and accreditation procedures on the basis of international criteria and standards are some of the most important elements in the frame of the Bologna implementation process ...

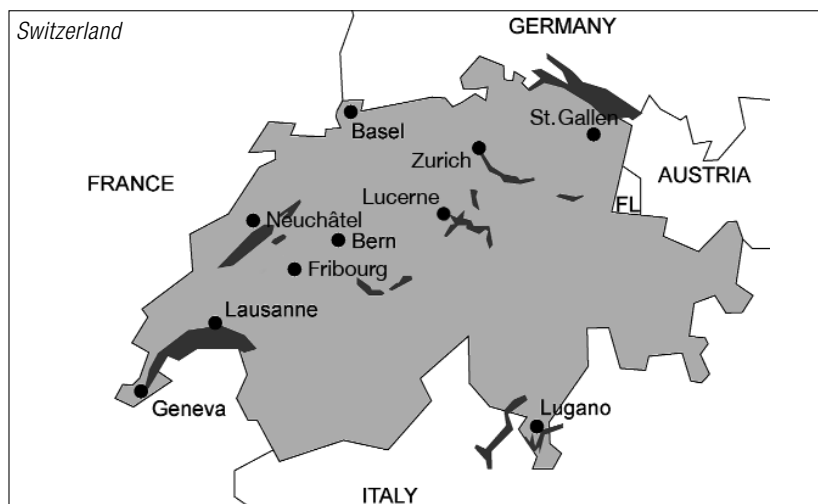
A structural reorganisation of the Swiss higher education system is being prepared for the period after 2012. It is planned to introduce a framework law to regulate the universities, universities of applied sciences, and universities of teacher education, and to apply uniform funding principles to them. Responsibility at federal level shall be concentrated in a single department, with joint bodies being created to take on overall steering of the higher education system.

STUDYING AT DOCTORAL / RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES

By Leander Amherd, lic. phil., Information and Documentation Centre, Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities, March 2009

GENERAL INFORMATION

There are 12 doctorate degree awarding universities in Switzerland (10 cantonal universities and 2 federal institutes of technology).



The universities of Basel, Berne, Lucerne, St Gallen, Zurich and the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich are located in the German-speaking part of Switzerland. The universities of Geneva, Lausanne and Neuchâtel, as well as the Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne are in the French-speaking part of Switzerland. The University of Fribourg is situated in a bilingual canton. Therefore the teaching language is French and/or German. The Università della Svizzera italiana is located in the Italian-speaking part of Switzerland.

ACADEMIC DEGREES

Since winter semester 2001/2002, the universities in Switzerland have been instituting reforms in degree programmes in accordance with the Bologna Declaration. This is a two-cycle (undergraduate / postgraduate) system and qualifications structure: (1) Bachelor's degree (180 European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) credits or three years of full-

time study), and (2) Master's degree (90–120 ECTS credits or 1.5–2 years of full-time study beyond the Bachelor's degree). Access to a Master's degree programme requires the successful completion of the Bachelor's degree. Access to doctoral level studies (dissertation) requires successful completion of a Master's degree with good grades.

The universities also offer an additional post-graduate degree called Master of Advanced Studies (MAS) (minimum 60 ECTS credits or one year of full-time study). The MAS does not give access to doctoral level programmes.

As the implementation of the Bologna reforms is not yet complete in Switzerland, academic degrees following the older system are still being awarded. In the older system, students are awarded the Licentiate or Diploma after completion of 4–5 years of full-time studies. Completion of a Licentiate / Diploma with good grades gives the holder access to doctoral level studies.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The number of university graduates continues to rise each year in Switzerland. Nevertheless, all study programmes have remained open to students having a valid maturity certificate or other certificate qualifying for university entrance. The only exceptions are study programmes in medicine (human medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine) and chiropractic. There may be entrance examinations to these study programmes depending on the number of applicants for admission in any given year. The limited number of openings is the reason why international students, apart from some special cases, are not admitted to these study programmes.

a) Admission to a Bachelor's Programme

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 of the universities makes its own decisions as to what certificates and qualifications it recognizes. Detailed information on general and country-specific access and admission requirements can be found at the CRUS / Swiss ENIC Web site (www.enic.ch → Zulassung → Zulassung in der Schweiz). There are special regulations for study programmes in medicine and chiropractic.

b) Admission to a Master's Programme

The prerequisite for access to a Master's programme is a successfully completed Bachelor's level programme. Graduates of Bachelor's programmes have access to certain Master's programmes, as listed in the data base available at www.uni-programme.ch. Each of the universities makes its own decisions as to whether a foreign Bachelor's degree gives the holder access to Master's programmes without entrance examinations, or access under certain conditions, or access with further requirements, or does not give access to Master's programmes.

c) Language Requirements

The universities require good knowledge of the language of instruction. At the Master's level especially, the universities are offering an increasing number of study programmes in English. For students that do not hold fully recognized certificates qualifying for university entrance, the admission requirements also include a university entrance examination.

UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

a) Central Entrance Examination

Students that do not hold fully recognized certificates qualifying for university entrance must pass a university entrance examination. This applies mainly to students with foreign educational qualifications.

The central entrance examination for students with foreign educational qualifications is conducted twice a year (June and August / September) in Fribourg by VKHS (Preparatory Courses for University Studies in Switzerland). VKHS also offers a University Preparatory Course (UPC) for the central entrance examination. To be admitted to a UPC, students must have (among other things): knowledge of either German or French corresponding at least to the level of B1/B2 in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, and provisional admission to a Swiss university. The UPC lasts from September to June of the following year and costs CHF 5 200.

VKHS (Vorbereitungskurse auf das Hochschulstudium)

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E-mail: info@vkhs.ch

Web site: <http://www.vkhs.ch>

b) University of St. Gallen

As the only Swiss university to do so, the University of St. Gallen requires foreign national students to take its own entrance examination. The reason is that the university restricts the total percentage of foreign national students to 25 %. Foreign nationals who hold a recognized Swiss maturity certificate are exempt from this examination requirement.

c) Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology

The Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich ETHZ) and Lausanne (Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne EPFL) offer the opportunity to take entrance examinations to applicants, both foreign nationals and Swiss, who do not hold a fully recognized upper secondary school-leaving certificate qualifying for university entrance.

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 CH-8092 Zurich
 Phone +41 (0)44 632 56 53
http://www.rektorat.ethz.ch/students/admission/bachelor/foreign_qual/

Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale (EPFL)
 AA-EBM CMS, Station 4
 Phone +41 (0)21 693 22 95
<http://cms.epfl.ch>

COSTS

TUITION FEES PER YEAR 2008/2009 (IN CHF)

	EPFL	ETHZ	Uni BS	Uni BE	Uni FR	Uni GE	Uni LA	Uni LU	Uni NE	Uni SG	Uni ZH	USI
For Swiss students	1266	1288	1400	1310	1224	1000	1160	1570	1030	2040	1378	4000
Additional fees for foreign students					300				550	300	200	4000
For foreign students	1266	1288	1400	1310	1524	1000	1160	1570	1580	2340	1578	8000

Living expenses: between CHF 18 000.– and 28 000.– per year
 (depending on the location of the university and personal demands)

SCHOLARSHIPS

Governmental Scholarships

The Swiss Government offers scholarships to foreign students and artists on the basis of reciprocity or within the frame of a scholarship pool to several countries. Scholarships are granted to postgraduate candidates or researchers from both industrial and developing countries.

Candidates should, in the first instance, find out from their own country's authorities whether they are entitled to a governmental scholarship or should approach the Swiss embassy or consulate (www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/rebs.html) in their home country. A list of the relevant countries and further information on the governmental scholarships, such as application requirements, duration of scholarship, scholarship amount, application procedure etc. are available at www.sbf.admin.ch/eskas-e.html.

Before applying, candidates (who must be under 35 of age and proficient in English, German, French or Italian) should get in touch with a professor (www.proff.ch) or with the responsible service of the programme at the chosen Swiss higher education institution in order to get a written confirmation of acceptance.

University Scholarships

To find out whether Swiss universities offer scholarships to foreign students, candidates are advised to check with the mobility centers of the Swiss universities at www.erasmus-online.ch/international-offices.html or to visit www.swissuniversity.ch/info (International Cooperations of Swiss Universities).

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

All persons living in Switzerland for more than three months, including also international students, must have basic health insurance coverage. Students from countries that provide international mutual health coverage may be exempted from the compulsory health insurance. Other students may be exempted if they have equivalent health insurance coverage in their home country.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

The academic year is divided into two semesters. Classes are held starting in the fall from week 38 to week 51 and in the spring from week 8 to week 22.

REQUIRED STEPS IF YOU WANT TO STUDY IN SWITZERLAND

If you fulfil the requirements listed in section 5 above, proceed as follows:

a) Apply for Admission

Contact the university of your choice prior to the admission deadline. Some of the universities also accept online applications. The main documents that you will have to send to the university are your upper secondary school-leaving certificate (the original or a notarized copy) and an up-to-date passport photograph.

b) Entry / Visa and Residence Permit

Within 14 days of entering Switzerland, EU/EFTA citizens must register with the local authority (*Einwohnerkontrolle*, Residents' Registration Office) at the place of residence and apply for a residence permit. You will need to present the following documents:

- Personal application for residence permit
- Valid passport or identity card
- Proof of registration at the university
- Evidence of sufficient funds (bank certificate or certified document)
- Proof of address at place of residence
- 2 passport photographs

Other foreign national students must contact the Swiss embassy or consulate in their own country (www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/rebs.html) and apply for a visa. If the responsible immigration or police authorities approve the application, the requirements for entry into Switzerland and for residence for the purpose of study are met.

Foreign nationals who are not EU/EFTA citizens and who do not require a visa should consult the Swiss embassy or consulate in their country for the current entry and residence requirements and formalities.

INFORMATION SERVICE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities (CRUS)

Information and Documentation

Sennweg 2, CH-3012 Berne, Switzerland

Phone: +41 (0)31 306 60 44 (Mo–Fr 8.30–11.30), Fax: +41 (0)31 306 60 20

E-mail: iud@crus.ch, website: www.studying-in-switzerland.ch

STUDY PROGRAMMES OFFERED AT THE SWISS UNIVERSITIES

By Leander Amherd and Tiziana Tafani, Information and Documentation Centre, Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities, March 2009

The following table comprises the study programmes which have been published by the universities on the website www.uni-programme.ch (as of: November 2008). Specialisations are not listed separately. For more up-to-date information or details on each subject, please check the websites of the universities.

Source: www.uni-programme.ch

ABBREVIATIONS OF THE UNIVERSITIES IN SWITZERLAND

Universities in the German-speaking Part:

BE	Universität Bern	ZH	Universität Zürich
BS	Universität Basel	ETHZ	Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich
LU	Universität Luzern		
SG	Universität St. Gallen		

University in the Italian-speaking Part:

USI	Università della Svizzera italiana
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Universities in the French-speaking Part:

GE	Université de Genève
LA	Université de Lausanne
EPFL	Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne
NE	Université de Neuchâtel

University Where Courses Are Taught in French and/or German:

FR	Universität Freiburg / Université de Fribourg
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Key to the Study Programmes:

B	Bachelor's degree
M	Master's degree
SM	Specialized Master's degree
MAS	Master's of Advanced Studies degree

1. THEOLOGY, RELIGIOUS STUDIES

	German							Ital.	French				
	BE	BS	ETHZ	FR	LU	SG	ZH	USI	EPFL	FR	GE	LA	NE
Ancient Near Eastern Studies		M									B		
Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies	B/M	B/M					B/M				B/M		
Science of Religion	B/M	B/M		B/M	B/M		B/M			B/M	B/M	B/M	
Theology	B/M	B/M		B/M	B/M		B/M			B/M	B/M	B/M	

2. LAW, CRIMINOLOGY

	German							Ital.	French				
	BE	BS	ETHZ	FR	LU	SG	ZH	USI	EPFL	FR	GE	LA	NE
Forensic Sciences												B/M	
Law	B/M	B/M		B/M	B/M	B/M	B			B/M	B/M/SM	B/M	B/M

3. ECONOMICS, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION / MANAGEMENT, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

	German							Ital.	French				
	BE	BS	ETHZ	FR	LU	SG	ZH	USI	EPFL	FR	GE	LA	NE
Business Administration	B/M	B/M	M	B/M	M	B/M/SM	B/M	M	SM	B/M	B/M	B/M	B/M
Business Informatics				B/M			B/M			B/M		M	B/M
Communication and Media Studies		B/M/SM		B/M	B/M		B/M	B/M	B/M		B/M		B/SM
Economics	B/M/SM	B/M/SM	SM	B/M	M	B/M/SM	B/M	B/M/SM		B/M	B/M/SM	M	B/M
Finance				M			B/M			M	M	M	
Political Science	B/M	SM	SM	M	B	B/M	B/M	M/SM		M	B/M/SM	B/M	
Professional Officer (of the Swiss Armed Forces)			B										

4. MEDICINE, PHARMACY, HEALTH

	German							Ital.	French				
	BE	BS	ETHZ	FR	LU	SG	ZH	USI	EPFL	FR	GE	LA	NE
Applied Biosciences	SM		SM				SM		M		M		
Biology	B/M	B/M	B/M/SM	B/M			B/M/SM			B/M	B/M	B/M	B/M
Biomedical Engineering	SM		SM										

4. MEDICINE, PHARMACY, HEALTH

	German							Ital.	French				
	BE	BS	ETHZ	FR	LU	SG	ZH	USI	EPFL	FR	GE	LA	NE
Dentistry	B/M	B		B			B			B	B/M	B	
Human Medicine	B/M	B		B			B			B	B/M/SM	B/M	
Human Movement and Sports Sciences	B/M	B/M	B/M	B						B	B/M	B/M	B
Nursing Sciences		B/M											
Pharmaceutical Sciences	B	B/M	B/M	B						B	B/M	B	
Veterinary Medicine	B/M						B/M						

5. SOCIAL SCIENCES, SOCIAL WORK

	German							Ital.	French				
	BE	BS	ETHZ	FR	LU	SG	ZH	USI	EPFL	FR	GE	LA	NE
African Studies		SM											
Communication and Media Studies		B/M/SM		B/M	B/M		B/M	B/M	B/M		B/M		B/SM
Economics	B/M/SM	B/M/SM	SM	B/M	M	B/M/SM	B/M	B/M/SM		B/M	B/M/SM	M	B/M
Education	B/M	M		B/M/SM			B/M			B/M/SM	B/M		B/M/SM
Geography	B/M	B/M		B/M			B/M			B/M	B/M	B/M	B/M
History	B/M/SM	B/M/SM	SM	B/M	B/M		B/M/SM			B/M	B/M/SM	B/M	B/M
Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies	B/M	B/M					B/M				B/M		
Political Science	B/M	SM	SM	M	B	B/M	B/M	M/SM		M	B/M/SM	B/M	
Psychology	B/M	B/M		B/M/SM			B/M/SM			B/M/SM	B/M/SM	B/M	B/M
Science of Religion	B/M	B/M		B/M	B/M		B/M			B/M	B/M	B/M	
Social and Cultural Anthropology	B/M	B/M		B/M	B/M		B/M			B/M	B	B	B/M
Social Work and Politics				B/M						B/M			M
Sociology	B/M	B/M/SM		B/M	B/M		B/M	M		B/M	B/M	B/M	B/M
Special Education				B/M/MAS			B/M			B/M/MAS	M		B/SM

6. LINGUISTICS + LITERARY STUDIES, COMMUNICATION, INFORMATION

	German							Ital.	French				
	BE	BS	ETHZ	FR	LU	SG	ZH	USI	EPFL	FR	GE	LA	NE
African Studies		SM											
Ancient Near Eastern Studies		M									B		
Central Asian Studies	M										B/M	B	
Classical Philology	B/M	B/M/SM		B/M			B/M			B/M	B/M	B/M	B/M
Communication and Media Studies		B/M/SM		B/M	B/M		B/M	B/M	B/M		B/M		B/SM
Comparative Literature				M			B/M			M	B/M		
East Asian Studies							B/M				B/M/SM		
English Languages and Literatures	B/M	B/M		B/M			B/M			B/M	B/M	B/M	B/M
French Language and Literature	B/M	B/M/SM		B/M			B/M			B/M	B/M	B/M	B/M
German Language and Literature	B/M	B/M		B/M			B/M			B/M	B/M	B/M	B/M
Ibero-Romance Languages and Literatures	M	M		B/M			M			B/M	B/M	B	B/M
Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies	B/M	B/M					B/M				B/M		
Italian Language and Literature	B/M	B/M		B/M			B/M	M		B/M	B/M	B/M	
Linguistics	B/M	SM		M/SM			B/M			M/SM	B/M	B/M	B/M
Modern Greek Language and Literature											B/M		
Nordic Languages and Literatures		B/M					B/M						
Rhaeto-Romanic Language and Literature				B			M			B	B/M		
Slavonic Languages and Literatures	B/M	B/M		B/M			B			B/M	B/M	B/M	
South Asian Studies / Indian Studies							B/M					B/M	

7. HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL SCIENCES

	German							Ital.	French				
	BE	BS	ETHZ	FR	LU	SG	ZH	USI	EPFL	FR	GE	LA	NE
Ancient Near Eastern Studies		M									B		
Archeology	B/M	B/M/SM		B/M			B/M			B/M	B/M	B/M	B/M
Art History	B/M	B/M		B/M			B/M/SM			B/M	B/M	B/M	B/M/SM
Central Asian Studies	M										B/M	B	
Classical Philology	B/M	B/M/SM		B/M			B/M			B/M	B/M	B/M	B/M
East Asian Studies							B/M				B/M/SM		
Egyptology		M									B/M		
History	B/M/SM	B/M/SM	SM	B/M	B/M		B/M/SM			B/M	B/M/SM	B/M	B/M
History and Philosophy of Science	M		SM										
Musicology	B/M	B		B/M			B/M			B/M	B/M		
Philosophy	B/M	B/M		B/M	B/M		B/M			B/M	B/M	B/M	B/M
Science of Religion	B/M	B/M		B/M	B/M		B/M			B/M	B/M	B/M	
Theatre, Dance and Film Studies	B/M										B	B/M	

9. SCIENCES, MATHEMATICS

	German							Ital.	French				
	BE	BS	ETHZ	FR	LU	SG	ZH	USI	EPFL	FR	GE	LA	NE
Agricultural Science			B/M										
Applied Biosciences	SM		SM				SM		M		M		
Archeology	B/M	B/M/SM		B/M			B/M			B/M	B/M	B/M	B/M
Biochemistry	B/M	B/M	B/M	B/M			B/M			B/M	B/M		
Biology	B/M	B/M	B/M/SM	B/M			B/M/SM			B/M	B/M	B/M	B/M
Chemical Engineering			B/M						M			M	
Chemistry	B/M	B/M	B/M	B/M			B/M		B/M	B/M	B/M	M	
Earth Sciences	B/M	B/M	B/M/SM	B/M			B/M			B/M	B/M	B/M	B/M/SM
Environmental Sciences	SM	M/SM	B/M/SM				SM				M	B/M	
Food Science			B/M										
Forensic Sciences												B/M	

9. SCIENCES, MATHEMATICS

	German							Ital.	French				
	BE	BS	ETHZ	FR	LU	SG	ZH	USI	EPFL	FR	GE	LA	NE
Geography	B/M	B/M		B/M			B/M			B/M	B/M	B/M	B/M
Human Movement and Sports Sciences	B/M	B/M	B/M	B						B	B/M	B/M	B
Life Sciences and Technologies									B/M		M		
Materials Science and Engineering			B/M						B/M				
Mathematics	B/M	B/M	B/M/SM	B/M			B/M		B/M	B/M	B/M	B	B/M
Pharmaceutical Sciences	B	B/M	B/M	B						B	B/M	B	
Physics	B/M/SM	B/M	B/M/SM	B/M			B/M		B/M	B/M	B/M		B/M

10. COMPUTER SCIENCE

	German							Ital.	French				
	BE	BS	ETHZ	FR	LU	SG	ZH	USI	EPFL	FR	GE	LA	NE
Applied Biosciences	SM		SM				SM		M		M		
Business Informatics				B/M			B/M			B/M		M	B/M
Communication Systems								M	B/M		B/M		
Computational Science and Engineering		B	B/M								B/M		
Computer Science	B/M/SM	B/M	B/M/SM	B/M			B/M/SM	B/M	B/M	B/M	B/M	M	B/M
Electrical Engineering			B/M/SM						B/M				

11. ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURE

	German							Ital.	French				
	BE	BS	ETHZ	FR	LU	SG	ZH	USI	EPFL	FR	GE	LA	NE
Agricultural Science			B/M										
Applied Biosciences	SM		SM				SM		M		M		
Architecture			B/M					B/M	B/M				
Chemical Engineering			B/M						M			M	
Civil Engineering			B/M						B/M				
Electrical Engineering			B/M/SM						B/M				
Environmental and Geomatics Engineering			B/M/SM						M		M	M	
Food Science			B/M										

11. ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURE

	German							Ital.	French				
	BE	BS	ETHZ	FR	LU	SG	ZH	USI	EPFL	FR	GE	LA	NE
Life Sciences and Technologies									B/M		M		
Materials Science and Engineering			B/M						B/M				
Mechanical Engineering	SM		B/M						B/M				
Micro Engineering		M	SM						B/M				B/M
Physics	B/M/ SM	B/M	B/M/ SM	B/M			B/M		B/M	B/M	B/M		B/M

12. HUMAN MOVEMENT AND SPORTS SCIENCES

	German							Ital.	French				
	BE	BS	ETHZ	FR	LU	SG	ZH	USI	EPFL	FR	GE	LA	NE
Human Movement and Sports Sciences	B/M	B/M	B/M	B						B	B/M	B/M	B

13. TEACHER EDUCATION, SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDIES, EDUCATIONAL SCIENCE

	German							Ital.	French				
	BE	BS	ETHZ	FR	LU	SG	ZH	USI	EPFL	FR	GE	LA	NE
Academic Upper Secondary School Teacher				MAS			MAS			MAS			
Education	B/M	M		B/M/ SM			B/M			B/M/ SM	B/M		B/M/ SM
Human Movement and Sports Sciences	B/M	B/M	B/M	B						B	B/M	B/M	B
Pre-primary School Teacher											B		
Primary School Teacher											B		
Secondary School Teacher				M						M			
Special Education				B/M/ MAS			B/M			B/M/ MAS	M		B/SM

STUDY PROGRAMMES TAUGHT ENTIRELY OR PARTIALLY IN ENGLISH AT THE SWISS UNIVERSITIES

A list of programmes, especially at master level, taught in English, in German and English (at least 50 % in English), or in French and English (at least 50 % in English) can be downloaded at:

www.studying-in-switzerland.ch/study-programmes-in-english.html

RECOGNITION QUESTIONS IN SWITZERLAND

By Christine Gehrig, lic. phil., Recognition Information Centre / Swiss ENIC,
Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities, March 2009

ACADEMIC RECOGNITION

In Switzerland, like in many other western European countries, the competence over academic recognition lies within the universities or academic institutions themselves. In Switzerland this competence is based on the individual cantonal university legislation and the legislation on the Federal Institutes of Technology. This competence includes:

- admission requirements
- recognition of study periods and exams
- admission to postgraduate studies and doctoral studies
- the conferment of academic degrees and titles.

Since each university is entitled to decide autonomously, decisions may vary considerably among the different institutions.

PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

The question of professional recognition is much more complicated. One has to distinguish between regulated and non-regulated professions.

Whereas the question of pursuing a career in a regulated profession (such as physician, dentist, lawyer, pharmacist, nurse, midwife or (in certain cases) architect) is regulated on a national level in some countries, in Switzerland federal and cantonal regulations exist side by side; sometimes the competence to lay down rules has been delegated to professional associations such as the Swiss Medical Association, the Swiss Red Cross or the Swiss Registers of Architects, Engineers and Technicians REG.

Basically one can state that whoever or whatever body is authorised to organise and supervise a certain education may also be entitled to recognise foreign diplomas in the same field.

The situation in the field of non-regulated professions is much easier (e. g. biologist, economist, historian ect.). It is up to the employer to recognise a foreign education or qualification. The question of professional recognition is superfluous for self-employed persons practising a non-regulated profession. He/she has to compete within the limits of the free market.

The Swiss ENIC has set up a list of addresses of the various Swiss authorities which are responsible for the recognition of qualifications earned abroad. It can be found in the internet (www.enic.ch).

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS, AGREEMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH REGULATE QUESTIONS OF RECOGNITION

Today educational authorities and universities have various instruments when dealing with questions of recognition: multilateral and bilateral agreements.

Between 1953 and 1990 the Council of Europe set up 5 multilateral conventions, 2 declarations on the application of the conventions and a general declaration (on the European equivalence conventions) concerning the recognition of secondary school leaving certificates, study periods and academic qualifications. The Council of Europe also drew up the so called principles of good practice in academic recognition procedures, however, these are only recommendations. These agreements were followed by a similar convention, set up by UNESCO in 1979. It is meant for the «European Region» which also includes the countries of eastern Europe, the United States, Canada, Israel, and Australia. Due to various reservations within the different cantons Switzerland joined these conventions mentioned above only in 1991. Finally, in 1997, the so called Lisbon Convention (# 165) – a joint effort of both the Council of Europe and UNESCO – was adopted. It will eventually replace all previous conventions by both organisations.

Many countries have also concluded bilateral agreements, which are more specific and which regulate the question of study periods and diplomas in a rather precise manner. The Swiss government concluded bilateral agreements with Austria (1993), Germany (1994) and Italy (2000). These agreements include the mutual recognition of study periods, intermediate exams and academic diplomas for students wishing to continue their studies in the other country.

With France simply an outline agreement between the respective rectors' conferences was concluded in spring 1994. This «outline agreement» includes those Swiss or French universities which are members of the CRUS (Switzerland) or of the CPU (France). It has been renewed in 2008 and includes now those Swiss or French higher education institutions which are members of the CRUS, the KFH and the COHEP (Switzerland) or of the CPU and the CDEFI (France).

It is important to point out that the question of professional recognition is excluded in all four bilateral agreements.

REGLEMENTATIONS WITHIN THE EUROPEAN UNION

It is often assumed that the European Union has standardised admission requirements and academic recognition for all its member countries. We would like to stress that this is not the case: Universities in all the member states still enjoy autonomy in such questions. The European Union has, however, assumed responsibility in the field of professional recognition in order to establish a large European internal market and to allow the free movement of persons. Thus, the European Union has created a number of directives (sectoral directives and three general directives) which standardise the recognition of

academic and other professional diplomas. They are binding for all member countries of the EU and of the European Economic Area.

After having approved the bilateral agreements with the EU in May 2000, these directives are also binding for Switzerland.

INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS FOR QUESTIONS OF RECOGNITION: ENIC, NARIC

By introducing the various conventions of the European Council and the UNESCO, both organisations started to create information centres in each member state in the 70ties, which have the task to provide information on questions of recognition and equivalency of qualifications. In 1994 both networks were merged into one called ENIC (European Network of National Information Centres on Academic Recognition and Mobility). In the 80ties a similar information network was founded by the EU (NARIC: National Academic Recognition Information Centres). Although both types of networks have similar responsibilities, their institutional structures, financial resources and competencies vary greatly.

AGREEMENTS WITHIN SWITZERLAND

Recognition of qualifications is not only a problem internationally but unfortunately also nationally within the borders of Switzerland. As student mobility among the different Swiss universities has been very low until the mid-80ties, the question of recognition of study periods and diplomas in case the student wished to change university was neglected considerably. Only in 1989 it was decided on the federal level that student mobility within Switzerland should be fostered, upon which all Swiss universities signed a mobility convention, which provides the basis for a standardised mutual recognition of study periods, exams and academic degrees.

In 1992 the Swiss mobility convention was completed by setting up a recommendation signed by all university rectors which should promote a homogeneous evaluation of Swiss and foreign secondary school leaving certificates. Since then each university has made efforts to harmonise the admission requirements.

Another considerable initiative must be mentioned which has been taken on a cantonal level by the Conference of the Cantonal Ministers of the Departments of Education. In 1993 they passed an inter-cantonal agreement on the recognition of diplomas. This agreement must be regarded as a very significant milestone in the complicated federal educational system of Switzerland. It regulates the recognition of all cantonal certificates and diplomas as well as the comparable foreign certificates. Diplomas in the area of e. g. teacher education, education in social work or health professions are included. It stipulates also that co-operation between the federal government and the cantons in the area of professional or academic maturity certificates.

THE RECOGNITION INFORMATION CENTRE / SWISS ENIC

The Swiss ENIC is located at the Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities CRUS. It can also be found in the internet: <http://www.enic.ch>

Functions:

- Information on recognition problems in Switzerland, e. g. on the recognition of higher education institutions or private universities
- Information on the general admission requirements of the Swiss universities for students with non-Swiss qualifications
- Information on the higher education system in Switzerland
- Information about the use and protection of academic titles
- Information about the multilateral conventions and the bilateral agreements
- Implementation of the Lisbon Convention Nr. 165
- Credential evaluation of qualifications obtained abroad (only non-regulated university qualifications; for all other qualifications the name and address of the responsible Swiss authority can be given)

Address:

Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities
Recognition Information Centre / Swiss ENIC
Sennweg 2, CH-3012 Berne, Switzerland

Phone numbers:

Christine Gehrig, head	+41 (0)31 306 60 32
Eva Grob, credential evaluator	+41 (0)31 306 60 38
Pascal Haltiner, secretariat	+41 (0)31 306 60 41
Carole Bourret, secretariat	+41 (0)31 306 60 42

Fax: +41 (0)31 306 60 20

E-mail: family.name@crus.ch

Office hours: 8.30 – 11.30; 14.00 – 16.30

INTER-UNIVERSITY CO-OPERATION AND INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY

By Urs Nufer, attorney-at-law, lic. rer. pol., Information and Coordination ERASMUS Switzerland, Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities, March 2009

THE INTERNATIONAL ASPECT OF THE SWISS HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

Switzerland is not a member of the European Union, but its higher education system is highly internationalised. Until now the Swiss universities have signed numerous agreements for exchange and co-operation with other universities in the entire world, and they participate in a number of bilateral and multilateral mobility and co-operation programmes.

If you as an institution are interested to sign a mobility agreement with a Swiss institution or if you as an individual would like to study in Switzerland, we advise you to directly contact the institution of your interest (please see addresses, page 35). Before you decide on a specific institution you have to make up your mind on the possible language: German, French or Italian (see pages 16/18).

INTER-UNIVERSITY CO-OPERATION AND INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY BETWEEN SWITZERLAND AND THE COUNTRIES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Introduction

Close relationships regarding academic exchange have always existed between Switzerland and its European neighbours. Since the beginning of the 1990s they have been intensified even further because of the education programmes of the European Union. At the moment Switzerland is neither a member of the EU nor of the EEA. This means that if it is to participate in EU education and training programmes a bilateral agreement must be concluded between the EU and Switzerland.

In order to be able to continue the inter-university co-operation which was built up during the period of official participation, the State Secretariat for Education and Research SER allocated resources to permit Swiss education and training bodies to take part at least as an «indirect partner» after 1995/96. Thanks to these transitional or alternative measures, the exchange programme was able to continue and even expand during those years. The Swiss measures follow as closely as possible the rules of the programmes of the European Union.

Student Grants

A national agency, the Information and Coordination ERASMUS Switzerland (ICES), is responsible for awarding mobility grants to exchange students from both partners. These include grants for students both going from and coming to Switzerland. The Swiss universities inform the ICES of their exchange figures in April for the following academic year, and the latter then proceeds with its calculation of grants. So far it has been possible to provide visiting students from EU countries with grants of about CHF 250.– (~ € 160.–) per month. Grants for students going from Switzerland were the same. As from 2002 these grants are paid for exchanges with all participating countries.

Potential Swiss Partner Institutions for International Mobility

Today, in addition to the 12 traditional universities 8 universities of applied sciences («Fachhochschulen», «Hautes écoles spécialisées») and 14 universities of teacher education («Pädagogische Hochschulen», «Hautes écoles pédagogiques») are interested in international co-operation and exchange. Furthermore, some other higher education institutions in fields not covered yet by the «Fachhochschulen» participate or want to participate.

Higher education institutions which are interested in co-operating with Swiss institutions are asked to contact these directly. Addresses can be obtained at the:

Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities
Information and Coordination ERASMUS Switzerland (ICES)
Sennweg 2 / Postfach 607
CH-3000 Berne 9
Switzerland
E-mail: urs.nufer@crus.ch
<http://www.crus.ch>

ADDRESSES

SWISS UNIVERSITIES

BASEL

Universität Basel

Studiensekretariat

Petersplatz 1

CH-4003 Basel

E-mail: admission@unibas.ch

Phone +41 (0)61 267 30 23

Fax +41 (0)61 267 30 35

<http://www.unibas.ch>

BERNE

Universität Bern

Immatrikulationsdienste

Hochschulstrasse 4

CH-3012 Berne

E-mail: info@imd.unibe.ch

Phone +41 (0)31 631 39 11

Fax +41 (0)31 631 80 08

<http://www.unibe.ch>

FRIBOURG

Université de Fribourg / Universität Freiburg

Admission et inscription / Zulassung und Einschreibung / Admissions and Registration

Av. de l'Europe 20, Bureau 1222

CH-1700 Fribourg

E-mail: www.unifr.ch/admission/en/contact/

Phone +41 (0)26 300 70 20

Fax +41 (0)26 300 97 90

<http://www.unifr.ch>

GENEVA

Université de Genève

Espace administratif des étudiants

Uni-Dufour, bureau 222

Rue du Général-Dufour 24

CH-1211 Genève 4

E-mail: futursetudiants@unige.ch

Phone +41 (0)22 379 71 11

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LAUSANNE

Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne

Service aux étudiants / Student services

AA-DAF BP 1229 (Bâtiment BP)

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Segreteria generale

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Fax +41 (0)58 666 46 19

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LUCERNE

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Studiendienste / Universitätskanzlei

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Postfach 7979

CH-6000 Luzern 7

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ST. GALLEN

Universität St. Gallen

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Zulassungsstelle

HG F 21.3

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CH-8092 Zürich

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<http://www.ethz.ch>

Universität Zürich

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Abteilung Studierende
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CH-8006 Zürich
E-mail: admission@uzh.ch

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Fax +41 (0)44 634 45 01
<http://www.uzh.ch>

EDUCATIONAL BODIES

State Secretariat for Education and Research SER

Staatssekretariat für Bildung und Forschung SBF
Secrétariat d'Etat à l'éducation et à la recherche SER
Hallwylstrasse 4
CH-3003 Berne
E-mail: info@sbf.admin.ch

Phone +41 (0)31 322 96 91
Fax +41 (0)31 322 78 54
<http://www.sbf.admin.ch>

Swiss Science and Technology Council SSTC

Schweizerischer Wissenschafts- und Technologierat SWTR
Conseil suisse de la science et de la technologie CSST
Inselgasse 1
CH-3003 Berne
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Phone +41 (0)31 323 00 48
Fax +41 (0)31 323 95 47
<http://www.swtr.ch>

Swiss University Conference SUC

Schweizerische Universitätskonferenz SUK
Conférence Universitaire Suisse CUS
Sennweg 2 – Postfach 576
CH-3000 Berne 9
E-mail: cus@cus.ch

Phone +41 (0)31 306 60 60
Fax +41 (0)31 306 60 70
<http://www.cus.ch>

Swiss Conference of Cantonal Ministers of Education EDK/CDIP

Schweizerische Konferenz der kantonalen Erziehungsdirektoren EDK
Conférence suisse des directeurs cantonaux de l'instruction publique CDIP
Zähringerstrasse 25
Postfach 5975
CH-3001 Berne
E-mail: edk@edk.ch

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Swiss National Science Foundation SNF/FNS

Schweizerischer Nationalfonds SNF

Fonds national suisse FNS

Wildhainweg 3

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Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities CRUS

Rektorenkonferenz der Schweizer Universitäten CRUS

Conférence des recteurs des universités suisses CRUS

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Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities of Applied Sciences KFH

Rektorenkonferenz der Fachhochschulen der Schweiz KFH

Conférence des Recteurs des Hautes Ecoles Spécialisées Suisses KFH

Falkenplatz 9

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CH-3000 Berne 9

E-mail: office@kfh.ch

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Fax +41 (0)31 300 70 19

<http://www.kfh.ch>

Swiss Conference of Rectors of Universities of Teacher Education COHEP

Schweizerische Konferenz der Rektorinnen und Rektoren

der Pädagogischen Hochschulen COHEP

Conférence suisse des rectrices et recteurs des hautes écoles pédagogiques COHEP

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3005 Berne

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Center of Accreditation and Quality Assurance of the Swiss Universities OAQ

Organ für Akkreditierung und Qualitätssicherung der Schweizerischen Hochschulen OAQ

Organe d'accréditation et d'assurance qualité des hautes écoles suisses OAQ

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RECTORS' CONFERENCE OF THE SWISS UNIVERSITIES CRUS

The CRUS aims to provide a platform for the common interests and matters of concern of the Swiss Universities, to support the co-ordination and the co-operation of teaching, research and service, the exchange of information and the co-operation between all universities as well as between universities and public authorities, national bodies in science and research, international organisations, etc.

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