

KFH

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STUDYING IN SWITZERLAND

UNIVERSITIES OF APPLIED SCIENCES AND ARTS

2013



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WHY STUDY IN SWITZERLAND?

Switzerland is an excellent location for living, studying, and working. Its cultural variety, beautiful landscape, and innovative environment offer first-class surroundings for both personal well-being and career advancement.

Switzerland is one of the most competitive countries in the world and widely recognised internationally as a centre of excellence in education, research, and innovation. Great emphasis is placed on ensuring the autonomy of Swiss universities and researchers, on fostering competition and quality, and on encouraging a broad-minded outlook.

Switzerland's high-quality education system and its multicultural society means that a large part of the population is fluent in several languages. English is widely spoken and used as a language of business, higher education, and research.

Switzerland's small size has favoured the emergence of well-developed research and development networks, whose expertise is continuously implemented in the economy and society. At the same time, Switzerland is part of the global community and maintains a worldwide network of cooperations and partnerships in education and science. It is an associate member of the European Union's Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Development and also of various EU education programmes.

Common to the country's richly diverse higher education system is a drive for uncompromising quality in teaching and research. Swiss universities play an active role in shaping the future with the necessary responsibility. So be a part of this quality! Welcome to Swiss universities!

FACTS AND FIGURES

Name: Switzerland (officially: Swiss Confederation)

Total area: 41,285 square kilometres. More than two thirds of the country's territory are occupied by the Alps.

Location: Switzerland is situated in the heart of Europe and borders on France, Germany, Austria, the Principality of Liechtenstein (FL), and Italy

Time zone: CET (UTC+1)

Currency: Swiss franc (CHF)

Population: 8 million (2012), including approximately 23% resident foreigners. More than two-thirds of the population live in urban areas.

Capital: Bern

Major cities: Zurich (377'000), Geneva (188'000), Basel (165'000), Bern (126'000), Lausanne (129'000)

Languages: 64% German (predominantly Swiss German), 20% French, 6.5% Italian, 0.5% Romansh, 9% other. English is widely spoken.

Education: 20% of a year group earn an academic baccalaureate (maturity certificate) and approximately 13% a vocational baccalaureate. The remaining two thirds as a rule complete their basic professional training with a federal certificate of proficiency.

Universities: 12 doctoral /research universities, 9 universities of applied sciences and arts, 14 universities of teacher education

Students: 213'000 (2011), including approximately 25% international students.

Expenditure on education as a percentage of GDP (2009): 5.5%

Political system: Switzerland is a federal, democratic state. Each of the 26 cantons has its own constitution, parliament, government, and judicial system.

Economy: The main sectors include microtechnology, high-tech, biotechnology and pharmaceuticals, banking and insurance, tourism and international organisations. The service sector employs the largest number of people. The country has a flexible job market and the unemployment rate is low.

International organisations: Switzerland is home to various international organisations, including the second largest UN office (ILO, UNCTAD, UNHCR, WHO, etc.), the World Trade Organisation, the Red Cross, the World Economic Forum, and the International Olympic Committee.

HIGHER EDUCATION IN SWITZERLAND

Switzerland is an internationally acclaimed centre of excellence for education and therefore an attractive location for studying and research. The country offers a large and diverse range of tertiary-level education.

SWISS UNIVERSITIES

The higher education system in Switzerland has evolved considerably in the last twenty years. For centuries, the cantonal universities were the only higher education institutions in Switzerland. They look back upon a long tradition of research and teaching. The Federal Polytechnic School Act laid the foundation for the ETH Zurich in 1855. The EPF Lausanne became a federal institute of technology in 1969. The foundation of the universities of applied sciences and arts in the 1990s added a new type of university, which has since become firmly established as an integral part of Switzerland's educational system within a relatively short period of time. The universities of teacher education were established in 2001, incorporating or replacing various previous forms of teacher training institutions in Switzerland. All institutions are largely publicly funded (80% on average). Academic and applied studies are offered at three types of tertiary-level-A institutions. Cooperation and permeability between the various higher education institutions are essential. A joint inter-university agreement enables students to continue their studies at another type of university under certain predefined conditions.

Swiss *doctoral / research universities* are the traditional tertiary-level-A institutions. These include the cantonal universities and the federal institutes of technology, which offer degree programmes firmly oriented toward scientific research. Doctoral or PhD programmes can be completed only at a doctoral/research university («Universität» / «Université» / «Università»).

Swiss *universities of applied sciences and arts (UAS)* provide science-based, practice-oriented education and prepare students for specific professions. They place greater emphasis on applied research and development. The universities of music, theatre, art and design are UAS-type institutions («Fachhochschulen» / «Hautes écoles spécialisées» / «Scuole Universitarie Professionali»)

Swiss *universities of teacher education (UTE)* are responsible for providing basic and continuing teacher education («Pädagogische Hochschulen» / «Hautes écoles pédagogiques» / «Alte scuole pedagogiche»)

In addition, many practice-oriented certificate and diploma courses and examinations are offered at tertiary-level-B colleges of higher vocational education and training.

Upper Secondary Education and University Access

Upper secondary education in Switzerland is subdivided into general education programmes and vocational education and training (VET) programmes:

General education programmes include general and specialised upper secondary schools. These programmes do not lead to professional qualifications, but prepare stu-

dents for tertiary education programmes. Graduates from general education programmes obtain a Swiss maturity certificate (2011 maturity attainment rate: 20%). The maturity certificate allows students to enter universities, universities of teacher education, and (subject to individual aptitude) art and design universities without sitting an entrance examination. Students may also access universities of applied sciences provided they have done a one-year work placement. The four-year specialised baccalaureate programme leads to a Swiss specialised baccalaureate, which qualifies students for certain UAS or teacher education programmes.

Vocational education and training programmes (VET), in which adolescents learn a profession, are mostly dual-track and combine a paid apprenticeship at a host company with VET classroom-based instruction. Upper-secondary VET graduates seeking admission to university must earn both a Federal VET Diploma and a Federal Vocational Baccalaureate (FVB) (2011 FVB attainment rate: 13.2%). FVB holders who pass the pathway examination at the end of their one-year, full-time programme may also enter university.

Degree levels

Since 2006, all Swiss universities offer their degree courses in accordance with the Bologna system. They have adopted the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS), which aims to foster student mobility by ensuring the recognition of credits obtained elsewhere. The nqf.ch-HS¹ qualifications framework defines and describes Swiss higher education levels and the qualifications offered with a view to enhancing national and international comparability.

The first-level degree awarded is the *Bachelor's*. The standard duration of a full-time Bachelor's degree course is three years (180 ECTS credits).

The second-level degree awarded is the *Master's*. Students seeking admission to a Master's programme must hold a Bachelor's degree. Master's programmes deepen first-degree knowledge and enable students to either specialise in a particular field or acquire interdisciplinary training. A Master's programme usually lasts three to four semesters and is awarded 90 to 120 ECTS credits.

The *Doctorate* or PhD is the highest academic degree awarded under the Bologna system. Candidates seeking admission to doctoral studies must hold a Master's degree from a doctoral / research university. Admission to doctoral studies is decided on a case-by-case basis and on the basis of individual qualifications. In case of proven scientific qualifications, access is also possible with a Master's degree from other types of higher education institutions. Research doctorate degrees are generally awarded after 3–5 years of postgraduate research and the submission of a written thesis. Doctoral degrees are awarded by the 10 cantonal universities and the 2 federal institutes of technology.

Further education at Tertiary-Level-A: Swiss universities also offer Master of Advanced Studies (MAS) degrees (minimum 60 ECTS credits or one-year of full-time study). The MAS degree does not grant admission to doctoral degree programmes. Admission to MAS programmes usually requires a university-level degree (from a doctoral/research university, university of applied sciences and arts, or university of teacher education).

The legal framework

The Swiss education system reflects the country's federalist system and mirrors its diversity of languages, cultures, and history. In accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, the cantons and the Confederation work together in their respective areas of jurisdiction. Under the federal constitution, they are jointly responsible for coordinating and safeguarding the quality of the Swiss higher education system.

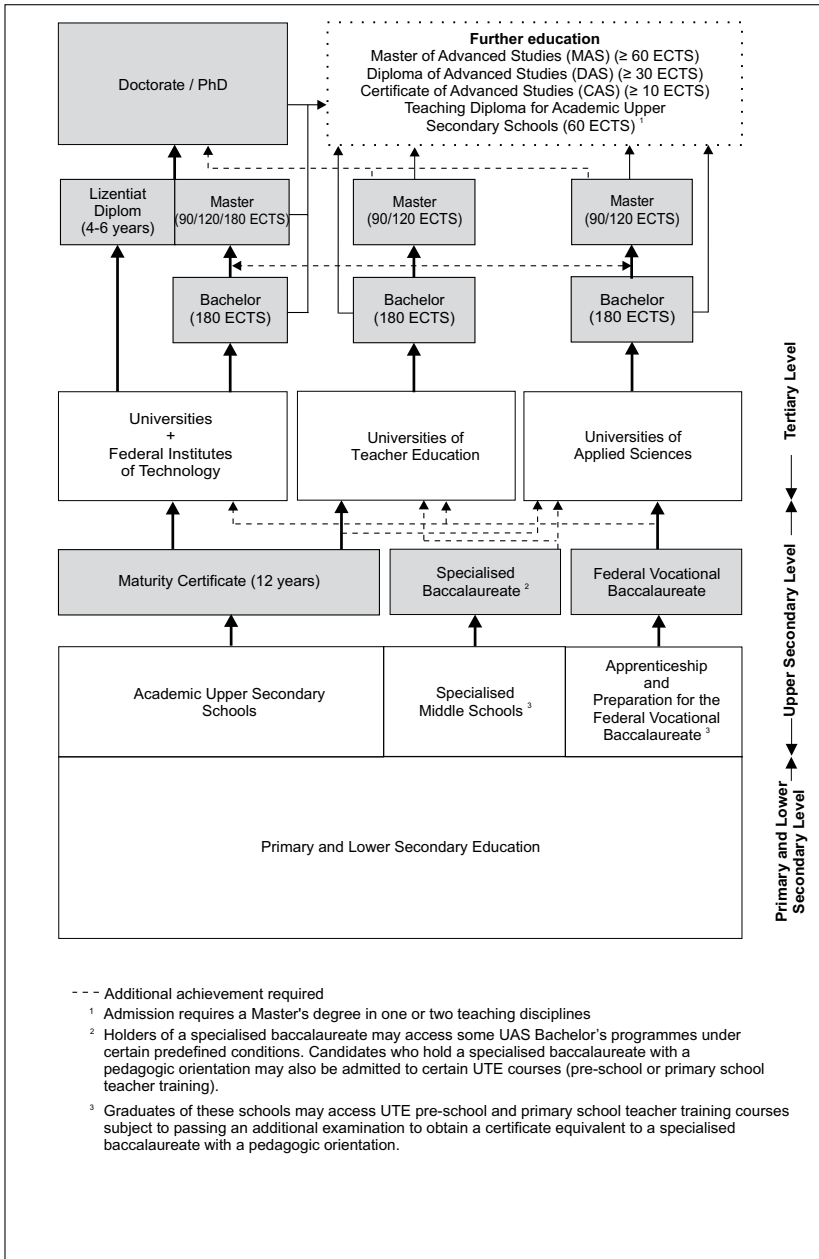
The cantons are responsible for their cantonal universities and are their main source of financial support. Cantonal universities also receive financial support from the Confederation and from those cantons which do not have their own university. The cantons and the federal government assume joint responsibility for governing the universities of applied sciences and arts (UAS). The federal government has jurisdiction over the two federal institutes of technology. In addition, it promotes research through the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) and the Commission for Technology and Innovation (CTI). The Confederation's tasks are performed by the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research EAER, through the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation SERI.

Currently, a new Federal Act on the Funding and Coordination of the Higher Education Sector (HFKG) is being developed to provide a uniform legal basis for the entire higher education sector. To be introduced in 2015, this new framework law aims to ensure the overall steering of the higher education system by joint bodies and by standard funding principles for all three types of institutions.


Accreditation and quality assurance

Switzerland has committed itself to introducing systematic accreditation and quality-assurance systems at all its universities. Accreditation, which is stipulated by the new law on higher education, aims to take into account both European quality standards and the characteristic features of Swiss tertiary education. Already now, all Swiss universities are obliged to ensure and enhance the quality of teaching and research. Quality assurance in Swiss higher education is based on both university-internal and external quality assurance schemes (the latter are provided by the responsible statutory bodies in the form of quality audits or accreditations undertaken by recognised accreditation institutes). All universities of applied sciences are accredited by the federal government.

The Swiss Higher Education System



DOCTORAL/RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES

Ten cantonal universities and two federal institutes of technology carry the  **swissuniversity.ch** label. These twelve institutions are the only research universities in Switzerland that are allowed to confer doctoral degrees.

The oldest Swiss university is the University of Basel (1460). Most other universities were founded in the nineteenth century. Several of them, however, have their roots in theological schools that go back several centuries. The two most recently founded universities – both established at the end of the twentieth century – are the University of Lugano, which is the only Italian-speaking university outside Italy, and the University of Lucerne in central Switzerland.

The majority of cantonal universities are comprehensive universities offering a broad range of academic degree programmes. The two federal institutes of technology focus on engineering, architecture, and the exact sciences.

The ten cantonal and the two federal universities are located in three of the country's four language regions: six are located in German-speaking Switzerland (Basel, Bern, Lucerne, St. Gallen, Zurich (2)), four in French-speaking Switzerland (Geneva, Lausanne (2), Neuchâtel), and one in Italian-speaking Switzerland (Lugano/Mendrisio). Based in a bilingual canton, the University of Fribourg offers academic programmes in both French and German.

In 2011, a total of 134'837 students were enrolled at universities in Switzerland, including 28% international students and 16% doctoral candidates. Swiss universities vary greatly with regard to their size. With over 26'000 students, the University of Zurich is by far the largest university. The smallest and also the youngest institution is the University of Lucerne with 2'582 students.

Switzerland's universities have an excellent reputation due to their outstanding research and teaching. In recent years, at least five Swiss universities have ranked consistently among the world's top 150 universities. Switzerland's universities offer potential students the unique possibility of choosing among high-quality courses offered at different universities across three cultural regions within reachable proximity.

Federal Institutes of Technology

The Swiss Confederation runs six institutions: two federal institutes of technology (ETH Zurich and EPF Lausanne) and four research institutes (Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI), the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL), Empa, and Eawag).

- Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETHZ): 16'747 students (2011)
Departments: Architecture; Civil, Environmental and Geomatic Engineering; Biosystems Science and Engineering; Computer Science; Information Technology and Electrical Engineering; Mechanical and Process Engineering; Materials Science; Biology; Chemistry and Applied Biosciences; Mathematics; Physics; Earth Sciences; Environmental

Systems Science; Health Sciences and Technology; Management, Technology and Economics; Humanities, Social and Political Sciences

- Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL): 8'684 students (2011)
Schools and Colleges: Basic Sciences; Engineering; Architecture, Civil and Environmental Engineering; Computer and Communication Sciences; Life Sciences; Management of Technology; Humanities

Cantonal Universities

- University of Basel: 12'604 students (2011)
Faculties: Theology; Law; Medicine; Humanities; Science; Business and Economics; Psychology
- University of Bern: 14'894 students (2011)
Faculties: Theology; Law; Business, Economics & Social Sciences; Medicine; Vetsuisse (veterinary medicine); Humanities; Human Sciences; Science
- University of Fribourg: 9'834 students (2011)
Faculties: Theology; Law; Economics and Social Sciences; Arts and Humanities; Science
- University of Geneva: 15'359 students (2011)
Faculties and Schools: Sciences; Medicine; Arts; Social Science and Economics; Law; Protestant Theology; Psychology and Educational Sciences; Translation and Interpretation
- University of Lausanne: 12'249 students (2011)
Faculties and Schools: Theology and Religious Studies; Law and Criminal Justice; Criminal Justice; Arts; French as a Foreign Language; Social and Political Sciences; Business and Economics; Geosciences and Environment; Biology and Medicine; Pharmacy
- University of Lucerne: 2'582 students (2011)
Faculties: Theology; Humanities and Social Sciences; Law
- University of Lugano (USI), 2'864 students (2011)
Faculties: Architecture; Communication Sciences; Economics; Informatics
- University of Neuchâtel: 4'372 students (2011)
Faculties: Humanities; Science; Law; Economics; Theology
- University of St. Gallen: 7'646 students (2011)
Schools: Management; Finance; Economics and Political Science; Law; Humanities and Social Sciences
- University of Zurich (UZH): 26'230 students (2011)
Faculties: Theology; Law; Economics, Business Administration and Information Technology; Medicine; Vetsuisse (veterinary medicine); Arts and Social Sciences; Science

In addition to the twelve doctoral/research universities, several smaller institutions offer a limited curriculum and confer academic degrees in association with one of the doctoral/research universities. Other fully recognised higher education institutions include the Graduate Institute for International and Development Studies (Institut de hautes études internationales et du développement, IHEID) in Geneva and the Swiss Graduate School of Public Administration (Institut de hautes études en administration publique, IDHEAP) in Lausanne. For more information, see www.swissuniversity.ch, www.crus.ch, and www.proff.ch. Specific information for doctoral candidates and researchers is available at www.euraxess.ch.

UNIVERSITIES OF APPLIED SCIENCES AND ARTS (UAS)



Since 1997, Switzerland has had seven publicly funded universities of applied sciences and arts and two state-recognised private universities of applied sciences (UAS). In 2011, a total of 64'000 students were enrolled at UASs and another 16'000 at universities of teacher education (UTE). One distinctive feature of the Swiss higher education system is that the country's arts universities (which offer taught programmes in music, drama, dance, design, and art) are part of the UAS system and award UAS degrees. UASs are organised regionally and all have several campuses.

UASs in German-speaking Switzerland:

- Bern University of Applied Sciences (BFH, Berner Fachhochschule), 6'483 students (2011)
- University of Applied Sciences Northwestern Switzerland (FHNW, Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz), 10'113 students
- University of Applied Sciences of Eastern Switzerland (FHO, Fachhochschule Ostschweiz), 5'228 students (2011)
- Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts (HSLU, Hochschule Luzern), 6'016 students (2011)
- University of Applied Sciences of Zurich (ZFH, Zürcher Fachhochschule), 17'418 students (2011)
- Kalaidos University of Applied Sciences Switzerland (FH KAL), 1'695 students (2011)

UASs in Italian-speaking Switzerland:

- University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland (SUPSI, Scuola Universitaria Professionale della Svizzera Italiana), 4'037 students (2011)

UASs in French-speaking Switzerland:

- University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland (HES-SO, Haute Ecole Spécialisée de la Suisse Occidentale), 17'268 students (2011)
- Les Roches Gruyère University of Applied Sciences (LRG), 264 students (2011)

Swiss UASs provide science-based and practice-oriented education, offer an excellent learning environment, and cater to the needs of both students and the labour market. More than 200 Bachelor's and almost 100 Master's degree programmes are available, along with a wide range of federally recognised continuing education courses (Master of Advanced Studies and Executive Master of Business Administration).

Most Bachelor's degree programmes provide direct access to the labour market by qualifying graduates for specific professions. The consecutive Master's degree programmes provide students with more in-depth and specialised knowledge and lead to higher-level qualifications. UAS graduates have very good career prospects. UAS degrees also serve as an entry qualification for pursuing postgraduate studies in Switzerland and abroad.

UAS teaching and research areas:

- Agriculture and Forestry
- Applied Psychology
- Applied Linguistics
- Architecture, Building, Engineering, and Planning
- Business, Management and Services
- Chemistry and Life Sciences
- Design
- Engineering and Information Technology
- Health
- Music, Theatre, Fine Arts
- Social Work
- Sports
- Teacher Education (ZFH, FHNW, and SUPSI)

UAS departments and units undertake research aimed at solving problems related to their respective professional fields. Professors and teaching staff are actively involved in research and/or professional practice. UASs play a bridging role between science, business and industry, culture, and society. UAS research is also closely interrelated with teaching, enabling students to gain research expertise in their respective professional fields. In the creative disciplines, the main emphasis lies on developing individual artistic identity (auteurship).

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

UNIVERSITIES OF TEACHER EDUCATION (UTE)

The universities of teacher education (UTE) were established in 2001, incorporating or replacing various previous forms of teacher training institutions in Switzerland. Based on the same principles as the UASs, most UTEs are independent institutions offering practice-oriented training.

The vast majority of teachers at the different levels of the Swiss school system (basic, secondary, and continuing education) receive their training at cantonally-funded UTEs. In some cases, teachers are also trained at research/doctoral universities or at other tertiary-level institutions.

Today, Switzerland has fourteen UTEs. Eleven are independent (Bern, Brig/St-Maurice, Chur, Fribourg, Kreuzlingen, Lausanne, Lucerne/Schwyz/Zug, Porrentruy/Bienne/La Chaux-de-Fonds, Schaffhausen, St. Gallen, and Zurich¹); the other three training institutes are integrated into UASs (Basel/Brugg/Solothurn, Locarno, and Zurich). In some cantons, teachers are trained at cantonal universities: the University of Geneva trains pre-school- and primary-level teachers and lower- and upper secondary teachers (Institut

Universitaire de Formation des Enseignants, IUFE); the University of Fribourg offers training for lower- and upper secondary teachers. In Zurich, future upper secondary teachers train at an institute run jointly by the University of Zurich, the Federal Institute of Technology Zurich, and the Zurich University of Teacher Education.

The Swiss Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (SFIVET) is responsible for the basic and further training of vocational education teachers; the SFIVET also offers a Master's programme in vocational education and training. The Swiss Federal Institute of Sport Magglingen (SFISM) provides training in both the practice and teaching of sports and physical activity.

Swiss UTEs award diplomas, as well as Bachelor's and Master's degrees, in various subject areas: pre-primary education, primary education, secondary education I and II, special needs education, speech and language therapy, psychomotor therapy, vocational training, sports, and subject-specific didactics. In addition, UTEs offer Master of Advanced Studies (MAS), Diploma of Advanced Studies (DAS), and Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) programmes. UTEs undertake basic and further teacher training, applied research, development, and evaluation; other UTE services include student counselling, introductions to the teaching profession, and mobility support.

RELATIONS BETWEEN DOCTORAL/RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES, UNIVERSITIES OF APPLIED SCIENCES AND ARTS (UAS), AND UNIVERSITIES OF TEACHER EDUCATION (UTE)

Cooperation and permeability between the different higher education institutions are essential. Switzerland's higher education institutions strive for a perfect balance between cooperation and the division of tasks. Therefore, 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) encourage inter-university exchange programmes and maintain close working relationships.

One example of successful cooperation between the three rectors' conferences is a joint agreement enabling students of one type of university to continue their studies at another type of university under certain predefined conditions. A second example is the nqf.ch-HS¹ qualifications framework, which defines and describes higher education levels and qualifications with a view to enhancing national and international comparability.

RESEARCH IN SWITZERLAND²

Switzerland is an internationally acclaimed research centre. Both the Swiss state and the private sector are strongly committed to promoting science and technology. Swiss scien-

¹ <http://www.qualifikationsrahmen.ch/>

² Main source: <http://www.sbf.admin.ch/>

tists undertake groundbreaking research, partly in conjunction with international research partners, in fields ranging from nanotechnology to space research.

Switzerland's superior qualities and skills in education, science, and technology enjoy widespread international recognition. The competitiveness of the Swiss economy is due to considerable research investment. The percentage of the gross domestic product (GDP) spent on research and development is one of the highest worldwide. More than two-thirds of these resources come from the private sector, chiefly the chemical, pharmaceutical, and metallurgical industries, as well as the information and communications technology sector.

Federal legislation places the onus of promoting scientific research on the Swiss Confederation, which has created various instruments for accomplishing this task, including the Swiss National Science Foundation¹ and the Commission for Technology and Innovation CTI.² The *Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)* is the Confederation's most important instrument for promoting research and for fostering new generations of scientists. The SNSF supports scientific research at Swiss institutions of higher education and at independent research institutes. The main thrust of SNSF activity is to fund high-quality individual, including use-inspired, basic research in all disciplines. In 2011, the SNSF granted funding worth CHF 713 million in support of over 3,400 research projects. Young scientific talent is promoted through grants for junior and advanced researchers and through exchange programmes with various partner countries. The SNSF is also responsible for the so-called National Research Programmes (NRP) and the National Centres of Competence in Research (NCCR).

The *Commission for Technology and Innovation (CTI)* is the Confederation's instrument for fostering applied research and for developing economic interests. The CTI promotes the development and application of new technologies and methodologies by bringing together dynamic companies, institutions, and researchers at all types of universities and by supporting applied research and development cooperations. CTI services include action programmes in different areas of the economy, the public services, and cultural life aimed at establishing new firms and services. CTI tools are also available to small and medium-sized enterprises and to other institutions in need of new knowledge. In 2011, the CTI granted regular funding worth CHF 110 million.

Basic research in Switzerland is undertaken mainly by the cantonal universities and the federal institutes of technology. The country's universities of applied sciences concentrate on applied research and development and seek to establish and maintain close contacts between their research units and the private sector, especially small and medium-sized enterprises and the creative industries. Research is also conducted at universities of teacher education, primarily in the context of subject-specific didactics and taught Master's programmes.

¹ <http://www.snf.ch>

² <http://www.kti.admin.ch/>

Efforts to integrate Swiss research activities into international research began in the early 1950s; these efforts have since been consistently reinforced through Switzerland's membership in the most important international research organisations and through Swiss participation in major international research programmes.

Knowledge and Technology Transfer

Cooperation and synergies on the cantonal, national, and international levels make Switzerland an ideal place for identifying methods for developing products to market maturity. Switzerland has a large number of institutions and tools for supporting and furthering research and for promoting exchanges between doctoral / research universities, universities of applied sciences and arts, and private enterprise.

Switzerland's cantonal universities, federal institutes of technology, and federal research institutes have either created technology transfer departments or appointed designated officers responsible for maintaining close relations with industry. The universities of applied sciences (UAS) serve as a link between research and industry. Each UAS has a technology transfer service, and UAS-industry cooperation has developed rapidly over the past ten years.

In addition to CTI activities, the European Union Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Development are also an important instrument for creating synergies between the public and private sectors. These programmes encourage cooperation at the European level between universities and the private sector, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises. Switzerland's participation in these programmes is one of the most important priorities of Swiss international science policy.

Swiss Universities in an International Environment

Optimal research, teaching, and learning conditions – at comparatively low tuition fees – make Swiss universities highly attractive for international researchers, teaching staff, and students. In 2011, 49% of all university teaching staff were from abroad, compared to 20% at universities of applied sciences (UAS) and universities of teacher education (UTE). In the same year, 28% of all university students and 17% of all students enrolled at UASs and UTEs were from abroad.

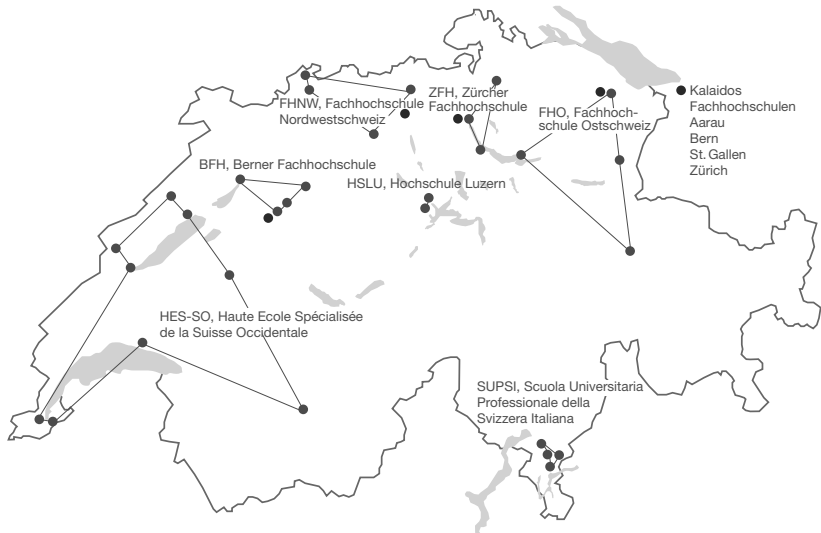
The number of degree programmes taught in English is increasing each year, which further reduces the language barrier for well-qualified international students. This is another reason for the above-average growth in the number of international students in Swiss higher education.

Traditionally, Switzerland maintains close ties and intensive contact with its neighbouring countries. Its bilateral mutual recognition agreements with Germany, Austria, France, and Italy attest to fruitful cooperation beyond national borders. On a European level, Switzerland has been involved in the ERASMUS exchange programme and its successor programme since the 1990s, initially as an «indirect partner» and since the beginning of 2011 as a full member of the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP), which also comprises the former ERASMUS programme. Since 1987, Switzerland has been a member of European Union Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Development, initially

having only restricted rights and obligations but since 1 January 2004 possessing fully accredited membership.

Along with countless bilateral agreements between Swiss universities and international partner institutions, Switzerland's membership in pan-European (EUA, ACA, and EAIE) and global institutions (NAFSA) adds to the dense network of international cooperations and relations. By actively contributing to a global network of science councils and education associations, the federal authorities demonstrate their determination to further advance university teaching, research, and innovation through international networking. Whereas approximately forty countries across the world offer Swiss students government scholarships, Swiss Federal Excellence Scholarships enable young international researchers and arts students to earn their doctoral, postdoctoral, and arts degrees at a Swiss university. The successful implementation of the Bologna process provides further evidence of Switzerland's successful integration into the European higher education system.

STUDYING AT UNIVERSITIES OF APPLIED SCIENCES AND ARTS (UAS)



UASs in German-speaking Switzerland:

- Bern University of Applied Sciences (BFH, Berner Fachhochschule) with campuses in Bern, Burgdorf, Biel, Zollikofen, and Magglingen
- University of Applied Sciences Northwestern Switzerland (FHNW, Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz) with campuses in Basel, Brugg-Windisch, Olten, 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 (HSLU, Hochschule Luzern) with campuses in Lucerne, Horw, and Zug
- University of Applied Sciences of Zurich (ZFH, Zürcher Fachhochschule) with campuses in Zurich, Winterthur, Wädenswil, and Dübendorf
- Kalaidos University of Applied Sciences Switzerland (FH KAL) with campuses in Bern, St. Gallen, Zurich, and Aarau

UASs in Italian-speaking Switzerland:

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

UASs in French-speaking Switzerland:

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

GENERAL INFORMATION

Academic calendar

The academic year is divided into two semesters. The autumn semester begins in week 38 and the spring semester in week 8.

Academic titles

UASs confer the following federally recognised academic titles:

- Bachelor / Master of Arts (B A / M A)
- Bachelor / Master of Science (B Sc / M Sc)
- Master of Advanced Studies MAS, Executive Master of Business Administration EMBA

Shorter continuing education programmes are also available and lead to a Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) or a Diploma of Advanced Studies (DAS). These qualifications are not federally recognised. Course structure and duration are aligned with the recommendations issued by the Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities of Applied Sciences (KFH).

Admission

Admission decisions are taken by the individual institutions.

Bachelor's degree programmes are generally open to upper secondary school-leavers. Candidates seeking admission to universities of applied sciences and arts (UAS) must hold either a Swiss federal vocational baccalaureate or an equivalent upper secondary school-leaving certificate.

- Holders of a Swiss maturity certificate or an equivalent foreign certificate are eligible for UAS admission if they have gained at least one year's work experience relevant to the chosen area of study.
- Holders of a specialised baccalaureate may enter Bachelor programmes related to their particular orientation and/or under certain predefined conditions.
- Admission to programmes in music, theatre, and the arts requires no work experience but the positive assessment of individual artistic aptitude.
- Additional admission requirements may apply to certain programmes.

Candidates seeking admission to a *Master's degree programme* must hold a Bachelor's degree. Each university reserves the right to consider valid a foreign Bachelor's degree

or not for admission to its Master's programmes and to stipulate admission requirements (entrance examinations, further requirements).

To be eligible for a *PhD programme* at a doctoral university, applicants must hold a Master's degree or an equivalent qualification from a formally recognised or accredited university. As conditions vary between universities, prospective students are advised to check the admission requirements of their chosen university prior to application.

Detailed information about general and country-specific admission requirements is available on the university websites, the CRUS/Swiss ENIC website, and the website of the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation.

Application

Switzerland has no national university admission system. Admission requirements and closing dates for application vary significantly between the UASs. Prospective students are therefore advised to make the necessary admission enquiries in good time at their preferred university. Prospective students are required to submit their upper secondary school-leaving certificate (the original or a notarized copy) and a current passport photograph. Almost all degree programmes are open to students fulfilling the formal admission requirements. Prospective students may be required to sit an entrance examination depending on their envisaged field of study (especially arts programmes) and the number of applicants.

Costs

Studying in Switzerland is relatively inexpensive since education – including higher education – is largely publicly funded. Living expenses in Switzerland amount to between CHF 20 000 and CHF 30 000 a year (depending on the location and personal needs).

UAS tuition fees per year (2013, in CHF)

	BFH	FHNW	FHO	HES-SO	HSLU	FH KAL	SUPSI	ZFH
Swiss students	1500	1400	1400–1920	1000	1600	7200–10 800	1500–2000	1440
Foreign students	1500	min. 10 000	1600–20 000	1000	1600	7200–10 800	1600–3200	2440
Remarks	Sport: 1800	Music: 1600/2000		Ecole hôtelière 20 000				

ECTS

Students attending Swiss UASs are awarded European Credit Transfer System points (ECTS). This makes degree programmes comparable and facilitates access to degree programmes at home and abroad. Courses and lectures are awarded a certain number of points. ECTS points are accredited to students subject to adequate attendance and performance.

Grants and scholarships

To find out whether a Swiss university offers scholarships to international students, candidates are advised to consult the respective university website.

The Swiss Government awards university scholarships to foreign students holding a recognised university degree and, to a limited extent, to applicants holding a degree from a university of applied sciences and arts. Detailed information about scholarship application requirements, the relevant countries, and application procedures is available from the Federal Commission for Scholarships for Foreign Students (FCS).

Health Insurance

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

Language

All Swiss universities require a good knowledge of the language of tuition. Bachelor's programmes are usually taught in a national language (German, French or Italian; some bilingual). Several universities offer specific programmes in English. Prospective Master's students are advised to have a good working knowledge of English since such degree programmes are being taught increasingly in English. Students who do not hold fully recognised degrees qualifying them for unconditional admission will be required to sit an entrance examination.

Recognition of Academic Degrees

Information about the recognition of foreign academic degrees is available from the universities of applied sciences and arts, the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation SERI, the Swiss Conference of Cantonal Ministers of Education (EDK), and from the Swiss Information Centre for Academic Recognition Matters (SWISS ENIC). Switzerland has entered into bilateral agreements with Austria, Germany, Italy, and France that govern the recognition of academic degrees as a basis for further studies. Furthermore, Switzerland acceded to the university conventions of the Council of Europe and UNESCO in 1991 and ratified the Lisbon Convention in 1998.

Visa and residence permits

Different visa and residence permit requirements are applicable to EU/EFTA citizens and citizens of other countries.

Students from EU/EFTA countries must register with the local Resident Registration Office within 14 days of arrival in Switzerland and are required to apply for a residence permit. It is not necessary to apply for a visa in advance. The following documents are required: completed residence permit application, valid passport or identity card, proof of enrollment at the university, evidence of sufficient funds (bank certificate or certified document), proof of address at place of residence, and 2 passport photographs.

Students from all other countries must contact the Swiss embassy or consulate in their home country (<http://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/rebs.html>) and apply for a visa prior to entering Switzerland. If the responsible immigration or police authorities approve the application, applicants are deemed to have satisfied the requirements for entry into Switzerland and for taking up residence for the purpose of study. Foreign nationals who are not EU/EFTA citizens and who do not require a visa should consult the Swiss embassy or consulate in their home country about current entry and residence requirements and formalities.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Information about studying in Switzerland is generally available from the following sources:

In your home country

- The Swiss diplomatic missions abroad (embassies, consulates) provide general information about study opportunities and the relevant entry formalities and conditions.

In Switzerland

- Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities of Applied Sciences (KFH),
Falkenplatz 9, CH-3012 Bern, Switzerland
www.kfh.ch
- Swiss ENIC-NARIC
Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities (CRUS),
Sennweg 2, CH-3012 Bern, Switzerland
www.crus.ch
- Swiss Conference of Rectors of Universities of Teacher Education (SCTE),
Thunstrasse 43 a, CH-3005 Bern
www.cohep.ch
- GO – The Swiss Competence Centre for Exchange and Mobility
ch Foundation for federal co-operation
Dornacherstrasse 28A, PO Box 246, CH-4501 Solothurn
www.ch-go.ch/programme/erasmus
- Swiss Conference of Cantonal Ministers of Education EDK/CDIP
Haus der Kantone, Speichergasse 6, PO Box 660, CH-3000 Bern 7
www.edk.ch
- State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation SERI
Contact point for the recognition of foreign qualifications
Effingerstrasse 27, CH-3003 Bern
www.sbfli.admin.ch

STUDY PROGRAMMES OFFERED AT SWISS UNIVERSITIES OF APPLIED SCIENCES AND ARTS

ABBREVIATIONS OF THE UNIVERSITIES OF APPLIED SCIENCES AND ARTS IN SWITZERLAND

Universities of applied sciences and arts

BFH	Berner Fachhochschule, www.bfh.ch
FH KAL	Kalaisdos Fachhochschule Schweiz, www.kalaisdos-fh.ch
FHNW	Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz, www.fhnw.ch
FHO	Fachhochschule Ostschweiz, www.fho.ch
HES-SO	Haute Ecole Spécialisée de Suisse occidentale, www.hes-so.ch
HSLU	Hochschule Luzern, www.hslu.ch
SUPSI	Scuola Universitaria Professionale della Svizzera Italiana, www.supsi.ch
ZFH	Zürcher Fachhochschule, www.zfh.ch

Key to the Study Programmes

B	Bachelor's degree
M	Master's degree
e	english
f	french
g	german
i	italian
sp	spanish

AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

Degree courses	BFH	FH KAL	FHNW	FHO	HES-SO	HSLU	SUPSI	ZFH
Agriculture	B g/f/(e)							
Forestry	B g/f/(e)							
Landscape Architecture					B f			

APPLIED LINGUISTICS

Degree courses	BFH	FH KAL	FHNW	FHO	HES-SO	HSLU	SUPSI	ZFH
Journalism / Organisational Communication								B g
Multilingual Communication / Multimodal Communication / Technical Communication								B g/f/i

APPLIED LINGUISTICS (CONT.)

Degree courses	BFH	FH KAL	FHNW	FHO	HES-SO	HSLU	SUPSI	ZFH
Professional Translation/ Conference Interpreting/ Organisational Communication								M g/f/ i/e/sp

APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY

Degree courses	BFH	FH KAL	FHNW	FHO	HES-SO	HSLU	SUPSI	ZFH
Applied Psychology			B g					B g
Applied Psychology			M g					M g

ARCHITECTURE, BUILDING, ENGINEERING, AND PLANNING

Degree courses	BFH	FH KAL	FHNW	FHO	HES-SO	HSLU	SUPSI	ZFH
Architecture	B g/(e)		B g		B f	B g	B i	B g
Architecture	M g/f/e		M g		M f/e/g	M g/e		M g
Civil Engineering	B g		B g	B g	B f	B g	B i	B g
Civil Engineering			M ² g					M g
Civil and Structural Engineering						M g		
Engineering	M g/f/(e)		M g/e	M g				
Energy and Building Technology					B ¹ f			
Geomatics			B g		B f			

BUSINESS, MANAGEMENT AND SERVICES

Degree courses	BFH	FH KAL	FHNW	FHO	HES-SO	HSLU	SUPSI	ZFH
Accounting, Controlling, Auditing								B g/(e)
Banking and Finance								B g/(e)
Banking and Finance						M g/e		M g/(e)
Business Administration	B g/e	B g/(e)	B g	B g/e	B f/g	B g	B i/g	B g/e
Business Administration	M g/e			M g/e	M f/e	M g/e	M i/g/(e)	M g/e
Business Administration (International Management)			B e			B e		

1 Subject to formal accreditation

2 Trinationale HS Karlsruhe

BUSINESS, MANAGEMENT AND SERVICES (CONT.)

Degree courses	BFH		FH KAL		FHNW		FHO		HES-SO		HSLU		SUPSI		ZFH	
Business Information Systems					M	e										
Business Information Technology	B	g/e	B	g	B	g/e			B	f/g	B	g	B	g	B	g
Business Information Technology	M	g/e					M	g							M	g
Doctor of Business Administration			PhD ³	e												
Business Law									B	f					B	g/f/(e)
Communication															B	g
Economics and Politics															B	g
Facility Management															B	g
Facility Management															M	e
Hospitality Management									B	f/e						
Information Science							B	g	B	f						
Information Science							M	g	M	f						
International Business Management					B	g/f/e			B	e						
International Management					M	e									B	e
Risk and Insurance															B	g/(e)
Tourism							B	g/e	B	f/g	B	g				
Tourism											M	e				

CHEMISTRY AND LIFE SCIENCES

Degree courses	BFH		FH KAL		FHNW		FHO		HES-SO		HSLU		SUPSI		ZFH	
Agronomy									B	f						
Biotechnology															B	g
Chemistry									B	f or f/g					B	g
Environmental Engineering									B	f					B	g
Food Technology	B	g/f/(e)													B	g
Life Sciences	M	e/(g)/(f)			M	e			M	f/g/e					M	g/e
Life Science Technologies					B	g										

CHEMISTRY AND LIFE SCIENCES (CONT.)

Degree courses	BFH	FH KAL	FHNW	FHO	HES-SO	HSLU	SUPSI	ZFH
Life Technologies					B f/g			
Molecular Life Science			B g					
Oenology					B f			

DESIGN

Degree courses	BFH	FH KAL	FHNW	FHO	HES-SO	HSLU	SUPSI	ZFH
Communication Design	M g/e/f							
Conservation	B g				B f		B i	
Conservation-Restoration	M g/e/f/i				M f		M i(f/g/e)	
Design					M f/e	M g		M g
Design / Master Studio			M g					
Fine Arts	B g/f		B g		B f	B g		
Fine Arts			M g/e		M f	M g		
Interior Design			B g		B f	B g	B i	
Product and Industrial Design			B g		B f	B g/e		B g
Teaching Art and Design	B g		B g			B g		
Teaching Art and Design	M g		M g					
Visual Communication	B g		B g		B f	B g	B i	B g
Visual Communication and Iconic Research			M g/e					

ENGINEERING AND IT

Degree courses	BFH	FH KAL	FHNW	FHO	HES-SO	HSLU	SUPSI	ZFH
Automobile Engineering	B g/f							
Aviation								B g/(e)
Biomedical Engineering	M e/(g)							
Business Engineering			B g			B g		
Business Engineering and Sustainable Energy Systems						B e		

ENGINEERING AND IT (CONT.)

Degree courses	BFH	FH KAL	FHNW	FHO	HES-SO	HSLU	SUPSI	ZFH
Building Technology						B g		
Computer Science	B g/f		B g	B g	B f	B g	B i/g	B g
Electrical Engineering	B g/f			B g	B f/g	B g	B i	B g
Electrical and Information Technology			B g					
Engineering	M g/f/(e)		M g/e	M g	M f	M g	M e/(g)/(f)	M g/f/(e)
Engineering and Management					B f		B i/g/(e)	B g
Information Technology Engineering					B f			
Environmental Engineering			B ⁵ g					
Energy and Environmental Technology								B g
Geomatics, Land Management, and Civil Engineering MIT (Ingénierie du territoire)					M f			
Industrial Design Engineering					B f			
Information Technology						B g		
Informatics							M ⁴ e	
Mechanical Engineering	B g		B g	B g	B f/g	B g	B i	B g
Mechatronics trinational			B g/f					
Media Engineering				B g	B f			
Medical Informatics	B g/(f)							
Microengineering	B g/f				B f			
Optometry			B g					
Renewable Energies and Environmental Engineering				B g	B f			

4 SUPSI/USI

5 Subject to formal accreditation

ENGINEERING AND IT (CONT.)

Degree courses	BFH	FH KAL	FHNW	FHO	HES-SO	HSLU	SUPSI	ZFH
Systems Engineering			B g	B g	B f/g			B g
Telecommunications					B f			
Transportation Systems								B g

HEALTH

Degree courses	BFH	FH KAL	FHNW	FHO	HES-SO	HSLU	SUPSI	ZFH
Radiology Medical Imaging Technology					B f			
Midwifery	B g				B f			B g
Nursing	B g	B g		B g	B f/g		B i	B g
Nursing	M g/(e)	M ⁶ g		M g	M ⁷ f/e			M g/e
Nutrition and Dietetics	B g				B f			
Occupational Therapy					B f		B i	B g
Occupational Therapy								M e
Physiotherapy	B g				B f		B i/g	B g
Physiotherapy	M g/(e)				M f/g			M g/e
Psychomotor Therapy					B f			

MUSIC, THEATRE AND FINE ARTS

Degree courses	BFH	FH KAL	FHNW	FHO	HES-SO	HSLU	SUPSI	ZFH
Art and Design Communication								B g
Art Education	B g		B g					B g
Art Education	M g/e/f		M g					M g
Cinema					M f/g/e			
Film								B g
Film								M g
Fine Arts	B g/f		B g		B f			B g
Fine Arts			M g/e		M f	M g		M g
Fine Arts and Art Education						M g		
Fine Arts/ Contemporary Arts Practice	M g/f							

6 Subject to formal accreditation

7 HES-SO/UNIL

MUSIC, THEATRE AND FINE ARTS (CONT.)

Degree courses	BFH	FH KAL	FHNW	FHO	HES-SO	HSLU	SUPSI	ZFH
Literary Writing	B g/f							
Media & Art								B g
Multimedia / Transdisciplinary Studies								M g
Music	B g/f	B g/f/i	B g		B f	B g	B i(g/f/e)	B g
Music / Church Music						B g		
Music / Church Music						M g		
Music / Classical Music						M g		
Music / Composition and Theory	M g/f/e		M g		M f	M g	M i/g/f/e	M g
Music / Conducting						M g		
Music / Contemporary Music						M g		
Music and Movement	B g/f		B g/f		B f	B g	B i(g/f/e)	B g
Music Pedagogy	M g/f		M g		M f/g	M g	M i(g/f/e)	M g
Music / Jazz Performance						M g		
Music Performance	M g/f/e		M g		M f/g		M i/g/f/e	M g
Specialized Music Performance	M g/f/e		M g		M f/g		M i/g/f/e	M g
Dance								VET ^B
Theatre	B g				B f		B i	B g
Theatre	M g/e				M f		M i/e	M g

SOCIAL WORK

Degree courses	BFH	FH KAL	FHNW	FHO	HES-SO	HSLU	SUPSI	ZFH
Social Work	B g/(e)		B g/(e)	B g	B f/g	B g	B i	B g
Social Work	M g/(e)		M g/(e)	M g	M f/(e)	M g	M f/(e/i)	M g

SPORTS

Degree courses	BFH	FH KAL	FHNW	FHO	HES-SO	HSLU	SUPSI	ZFH
Sports	B g/f							
Sports	M g/(e/f)							
Sport Sciences	M f/g/(e)							

TEACHER EDUCATION

Degree courses	BFH	FH KAL	FHNW	FHO	HES-SO	HSLU	SUPSI	ZFH
Early Childhood Education								M g
Educational Sciences			M g					
Multilingualism			M g/f					
Pre-Primary and Primary Education			B g					B g
Pre-Primary Education							B i	B g
Primary Education			B g				B i	B g
Psychomotoric Therapy								B g
Secondary I Education			B g					
Secondary I Education			M g				M i	M g
Secondary II Education			Diplom g				M i	M g
Special Needs Education			M g					M g
Speech and Language Therapy			B g					B g

ADDRESSES

UNIVERSITIES OF APPLIED SCIENCES AND ARTS

**Berner Fachhochschule
Bern University of Applied Sciences**

BFH
Berner Fachhochschule
Falkenplatz 24
CH-3012 Bern
www.bfh.ch

**Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz
University of Applied Sciences and Arts
Northwestern Switzerland**

FHNW
Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz
Schulthess-Allee 1
CH-5201 Brugg
www.fhnw.ch

**Fachhochschule Ostschweiz
University of Applied Sciences
Eastern Switzerland**

FHO
Fachhochschule Ostschweiz
Bogenstrasse 7
CH-9000 St. Gallen
www.fho.ch

**Haute Ecole Spécialisée de Suisse
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University of Applied Sciences and Arts
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Haute Ecole Spécialisée de Suisse
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Rue de la Jeunesse 1
Case postale 452
CH-2800 Delémont 1
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**Hochschule Luzern
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Scuola Universitaria Professionale della Svizzera Italiana University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland	SUPSI Scuola Universitaria Professionale della Svizzera Italiana Direzione Le Gerre CH-6928 Manno www.supsi.ch
Zürcher Fachhochschule Zurich University of Applied Sciences and Arts	ZFH Zürcher Fachhochschule Walcheplatz 2 Postfach CH-8090 Zürich www.zfh.ch

