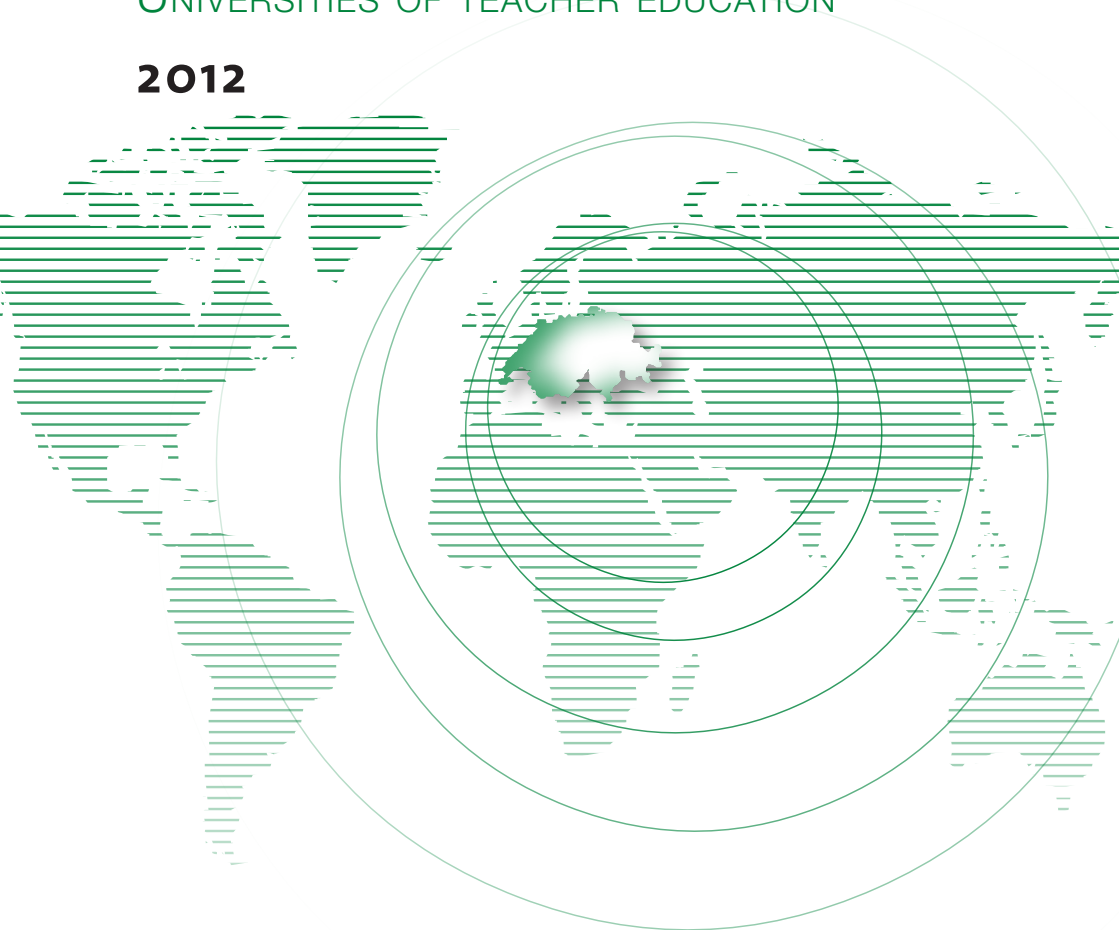


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Conferenza svizra da las rectoras e dals recturs da las scolas autas pedagogicas  
Swiss Conference of Rectors of Universities of Teacher Education

# **STUDYING IN SWITZERLAND** UNIVERSITIES OF TEACHER EDUCATION

**2012**



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## **STUDYING IN SWITZERLAND** UNIVERSITIES OF TEACHER EDUCATION

### **2012**





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# SWISS HIGHER EDUCATION

(by COHEP, CRUS, and KFH, Berne 2012)

## SWITZERLAND

### Country and People

Switzerland is a small country of 41 284 square kilometres situated in the heart of 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 territory. These mountain regions contrast with the Swiss plateau, which is home to a large majority of the country's nearly eight million people.

More than two-thirds of the population live in urban areas. Zurich is Switzerland's biggest city, with about 373 000 people. Four other cities have populations exceeding 100 000: Geneva, Basel, Berne and Lausanne. Zurich, Berne, and Geneva are all top-ranked with respect to quality of living, making them popular places of residence. Switzerland is home to many 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.

Geographically diverse, Switzerland is diverse also in terms of its spoken languages. Despite its small size, the country has 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 offers a wide variety of educational options ranging from vocational training and apprenticeships to university-level education, and produces 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 small size has favoured the emergence of 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 also equidistant from 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 500 million consumers. Around 4.5 million people work in Switzerland. The country has a flexible job market and the unemployment rate is very low. Last but not least, Switzerland has an 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 of 26 states, the so-called cantons. In 1848, Switzerland adopted a new constitution that consolidated the power of the central government while at the same time granting the cantons a relatively high degree of sovereignty. This constituted a decisive step towards modern democracy. It promoted centralisation without rejecting liberalism, in line with Swiss traditions. This federalist system is still in place today.

Endowed with their own constitutions, their own governments and their own laws, the cantons enjoy rather far-reaching power of legislation in many domains of political life, including education.

Direct democracy is entrenched firmly at each political level: the communes, the cantons, and the Confederation. Citizens elect the members not only of their parliaments, but also of their governments – with the exception of the Federal Councillors, who are elected by the national Parliament. Moreover, important questions are put to popular vote. This happens in the case of amendments to the Constitution and as a result of a popular initiative or referendum, two political instruments through which Swiss citizens can directly influence legislation. In Switzerland, Members of Parliament are not professionals; they fulfil their local or federal mandates alongside other jobs.

## THE EDUCATION SYSTEM IN SWITZERLAND

Switzerland's education system reflects the country's political structure. In accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, the communes, the cantons and the Confederation work together in their respective areas of responsibility to ensure high quality in the education system. The education system is strongly anchored in local areas, cantons and linguistic regions. The main responsibility for education lies with the cantons, who are responsible for the education system wherever the Federal Constitution does not stipulate that the Confederation is responsible. Each canton has its own legal regulations for education. Important key parameters are regulated uniformly, either at the federal level or on an intercantonal basis. There is no ministry of education at the federal level. The Confederation's tasks with regard to education are performed by the Federal Department for Home Affairs via the State Secretariat for Education and Research (SER) and by the Federal Department for Economics via the Federal Office for Professional Education and Technology (OPET).

Education has always been a top priority in Switzerland, a fact that is evidenced by the outstanding level of resources allocated to Swiss schools and different types of universities. The Swiss education and training system is characterised by a dual scheme that combines on-the-job practical training with theoretical courses. This combination of practice and theory provides for a uniquely broad range of educational options.

Pre-school education (kindergarten) and compulsory schooling (primary and lower secondary levels) are provided by the communes. The Confederation ensures that primary education satisfies certain standards of quality, and guarantees compliance with the principle of free education. At the upper secondary level, the Confederation is re-

sponsible for vocational training. Recognition of the relevant certificates – the Federal Certificate of Competence and the Professional Maturity Certificate (Professional Baccalaureate) – is a federal matter as well. General education at the upper secondary level, particularly in the gymnasia, is the responsibility of the cantons, who regulate the school-leaving examinations marking completion of these academically oriented secondary-school studies. The Confederation recognises the maturity certificates issued to graduates as long as they comply with the relevant standards. Maturity certificates attest that their holders have the required general knowledge and aptitudes to take university-level studies.

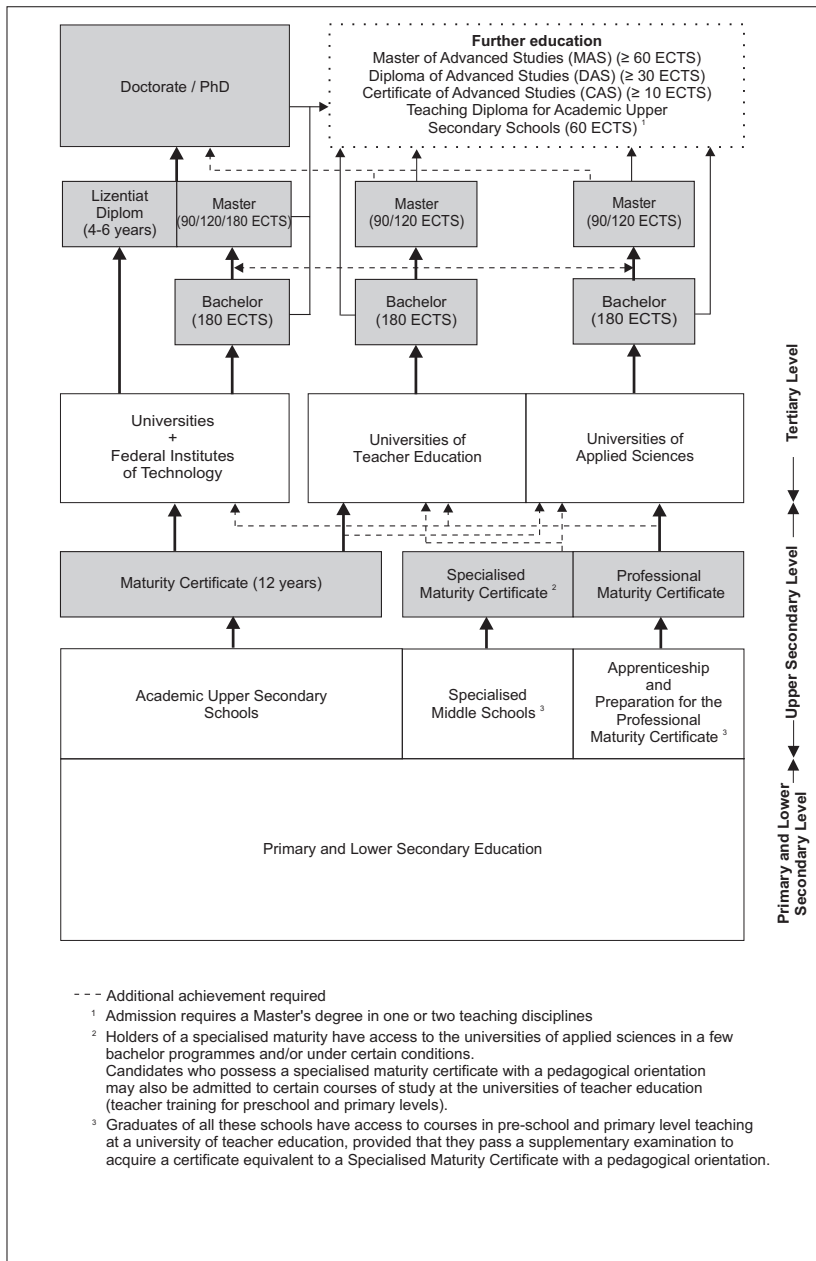
Higher education in Switzerland fits into the general dual system. The range from academic to applied studies is covered by three types of institutions with different training tasks. Twelve doctoral / research universities (ten cantonal universities and two federal institutes of technology) offer theoretically-oriented, scientific bachelor's, master's and doctoral programmes. Professionally-oriented studies are offered at the nine universities of applied sciences («Fachhochschulen» / «Hautes écoles spécialisées» / «Scuole Universitarie Professionali») and at the fourteen universities of teacher education («Pädagogische Hochschulen» / «Hautes écoles pédagogiques» / «Alte scuole pedagogiche»). All three types of universities have implemented the Bologna declaration.

Holders of a maturity certificate (maturity quota 2010: 19.8 %) have access to doctoral / research universities and universities of teacher education. They also have the possibility to enrol in a university of applied sciences, provided that they have completed a one-year internship or work placement. Holders of a professional maturity certificate (professional maturity quota 2010: 13 %) 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. Holders of a specialised maturity certificate have access to the universities of applied sciences in a few bachelor programmes related to their orientation and /or under certain conditions. Candidates who possess a specialised maturity certificate with a pedagogical orientation may also be admitted to certain courses of study at the universities of teacher education (teacher training for preschool and primary levels).

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 semesters: Switzerland is the first and only country in Europe where all institutions of higher education start their courses in the same weeks every year. The autumn semester always begins in week 38 and the spring semester in week 8. Today, other European countries are discussing how they could follow Swiss example.

*The Swiss Higher Education System*



## DOCTORAL / RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES

Ten cantonal universities and two federal institutes of technology are labeled **swissuniversity.ch**. 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, having their roots in theological schools that go back several centuries. The two youngest universities – both established at the close 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 the cantonal universities are comprehensive universities offering a broad range of study programmes. The two federal institutes of technology focus on engineering, architecture, and the exact sciences.

The ten cantonal and the two federal universities are distributed across all three language-regions of Switzerland: six are located in the German-speaking part (Basel, Berne, Lucerne, St. Gallen, Zurich (2)), four in the French-speaking part (Geneva, Lausanne (2), Neuchâtel), and one in the Italian-speaking part (Lugano / Mendrisio). Being based in a bilingual canton, the University of Fribourg offers the academic curriculum both in French and German.

In 2010 a total of 131 524 students were enrolled at universities in Switzerland; of these 27 % were international students and 16 % studied at the doctoral level. The 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 youngest, institution is the University of Lucerne with 2450 students.

Switzerland's universities have an excellent reputation on account of their top-class research and teaching. In recent years at least five Swiss universities have consistently ranked among the 150 best universities of the world. Together, Switzerland's universities offer potential students the unique possibility of choosing among high-quality courses at different universities across the different cultural regions of Switzerland, yet within a reachable distance.

### Federal Institutes of Technology

The Confederation runs six institutions, the two federal institutes of technology in Zurich (ETHZ) and Lausanne (EPFL) and four research institutes, namely the Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI), the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL), the Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology (Empa), and the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (Eawag).

- Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETHZ): 15 984 students (2010)  
Departments: Architecture; Civil, Environmental and Geomatic Engineering; Bio-systems 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): 8009 students (2010)  
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: 12 367 students (2010)  
Faculties: Theology; Law; Medicine; Humanities; Science; Business and Economics; Psychology
- University of Bern: 14 442 students (2010)  
Faculties: Theology; Law; Business, Economics & Social Sciences; Medicine; Vetsuisse (veterinary medicine); Humanities; Human Sciences; Science
- University of Fribourg: 9651 students (2010)  
Faculties: Theology; Law; Economics and Social Sciences; Arts and Humanities; Science
- University of Geneva: 15 666 students (2010)  
Faculties and Schools: Sciences; Medicine; Arts; Social Science and Economics; Law; Protestant Theology; Psychology and Educational Sciences; Translation and Interpretation
- University of Lausanne: 12 066 students (2010)  
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: 2450 students (2010)  
Faculties: Theology; Humanities and Social Sciences; Law
- University of Lugano (USI), 2848 students (2010)  
Faculties: Architecture; Communication Sciences; Economics; Informatics
- University of Neuchâtel: 4215 students (2010)  
Faculties: Humanities; Science; Law; Economics; Theology
- University of St. Gallen: 6996 students (2010)  
Schools: Management; Finance; Economics and Political Science; Law; Humanities and Social Sciences
- University of Zurich (UZH): 26 134 students (2010)  
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 there are some smaller institutions that offer a limited curriculum and confer degrees in association with one of the doctoral / research universities. The following are 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 Swiss Graduate School of Public Administration (Institut de hautes études en administration publique, IDHEAP) in Lausanne. For more information, see [www.swissuniversity.ch](http://www.swissuniversity.ch), [www.crus.ch](http://www.crus.ch), and [www.proff.ch](http://www.proff.ch). Specific information for doctoral candidates and researchers is available at [www.euraxess.ch](http://www.euraxess.ch).

## UNIVERSITIES OF APPLIED SCIENCES



As of 1997 Switzerland has seven public-funded universities of applied sciences and two private universities of applied sciences that are recognised by the Swiss authorities. All of them offer practice-oriented university-level education.

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

Universities of applied sciences in the German-speaking part of Switzerland:

- Bern 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 (HSLU, Hochschule Luzern) with campuses in Lucerne and Horw
- 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 Berne, St. Gallen, Zurich, and Aarau

University of applied sciences in the Italian-speaking part of 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

Universities of applied sciences in the French-speaking part of 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

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

- Engineering and Information Technology (all UAS except FH KAL and LRG)
- Architecture, Building Engineering and Planning (all UAS except FH KAL and LRG)
- Agriculture and Forestry (BFH and HES-SO only)
- Chemistry and Life Sciences (all UAS except FHO, SUPSI, HSLU, FH KAL, and LRG)
- Design (all UAS except FHO, FH KAL and LRG)
- Social Work (all UAS except FH KAL and LRG)
- Health (all UAS except HSLU, FHNW and LRG)
- 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 that they comprise study programmes in the following creative disciplines:

- Theatre Arts (ZFH, BFH, HES-SO and SUPSI only)
- Music (all UAS except FHO, and LRG)
- Fine Arts (all UAS except FHO, FH KAL, and LRG).

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, an intimate atmosphere, a good learning infrastructure, well-equipped laboratories, a low 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 programmes, the UAS offer a wide range of federally recognised courses in continuing education (Master of Advanced Studies or MAS and Executive Master of Business Administration or EMBA) to facilitate lifelong learning among graduates. A flexible organisational design allows UAS to respond quickly to the needs of both students and the professional environment.

All departments of the UAS also conduct distinguished research aimed at solving problems related to their respective professional fields. This makes the UAS an important link in the innovation chain. Research at the UAS is also closely combined with instruction, enabling students to gain research expertise in their respective professional fields. In the creative disciplines, the main emphasis is on the development of students' artistic identity.

The fact that the education they receive is practice-oriented grants students graduating from UAS very good prospects on the job market. Recent studies have shown that 96% of all UAS students find employment in their professional field within twelve months of graduating. This confirms that 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 UAS are accredited by the federal government of Switzerland.

For more information see [www.kfh.ch](http://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, incorporating or replacing various previous forms of teacher training institutions in Switzerland. Based on the same principles as the universities of applied sciences in that they offer a practice-oriented education, most of the universities of teacher education are nonetheless independent institutions.

The vast majority of teachers at the different levels of the school system (initial and continuing education) are trained at the universities of teacher education, which are financed by the cantons. In some cases teachers are also trained at research / doctoral universities or other tertiary-level institutions.

Today, Switzerland has fourteen universities of teacher education. Eleven of them are independent establishments (Berne, Brig / St-Maurice, Chur, Fribourg, Kreuzlingen, Lausanne, Lucerne / Schwyz / Zug, Porrentruy / Bienne / La Chaux-de-Fonds, Schaffhausen, St. Gallen, and Zurich<sup>1</sup>); the other three form part of universities of applied sciences (in Basel / Brugg / Solothurn, Locarno, and Zurich). In some cantons, teachers are trained at the cantonal universities: the University of Geneva trains pre-school- and primary-level teachers and lower- and upper-secondary-level teachers (Institut Universitaire de Formation des Enseignants, IUFE), and the University of Fribourg offers training for lower- and upper-secondary-level teachers. In Zurich, training of teachers for the upper secondary level is provided by an institute that is 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 training and advanced training of teachers in vocational education and also offers a master's programme in vocational education and training. The Swiss Federal Institute of Sport Magglingen (SFISM) provides training in both practice and teaching of sports and physical activity.

The universities of teacher education award diplomas, bachelor's or master's degrees in the following domains: pre-primary education, primary education, secondary education, special needs education, speech and language therapy, psychomotor therapy, vocational training, sport, and subject specific didactics. In addition, they offer Master of Advanced Studies (MAS), Diploma of Advanced Studies (DAS) and Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) programmes. The universities of teacher education are responsible for training and advanced training of teachers, as well as applied research, development, and evaluation; they also provide other services such as counselling, introductions to the teaching profession and mobility support.

## **RELATIONS BETWEEN DOCTORAL / RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES, UNIVERSITIES OF APPLIED SCIENCES, AND UNIVERSITIES OF TEACHER EDUCATION**

Cooperation and permeability between the different types of institutions of higher education are essential. Switzerland's institutions of higher education are striving for a perfect balance between cooperation and 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 exchange programmes and work together readily.

An example of successful cooperation between the three rectors' conferences is a joint agreement concerning permeability between the different types of universities. This agreement enables students of one type of university to continue their studies at another type of university under certain defined conditions. A second example is the nqf.ch-HS<sup>1</sup> qualifications framework, which defines and describes levels of education and qualifications earned in Swiss higher education with a view to enhancing national and international comparability.

## INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY

Since 2011 Switzerland has been participating in the European programmes «Lifelong Learning» and «Youth in Action» as an associated country. Swiss citizens are thereby entitled to the same rights as EU citizens within all the activities of these programmes. Furthermore Swiss institutions are eligible to propose and coordinate projects. Switzerland can also help defining the strategic direction of these programmes in the responsible bodies. The ch Foundation in Solothurn is the responsible body for the implementation of the official participation in the education and youth programmes of the EU ([www.ch-go.ch](http://www.ch-go.ch)).<sup>2</sup>

The Erasmus office at CRUS currently only deals with matters of the previous indirect participation (exchange years 2009/10 and 2010/11).

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

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

## RESEARCH IN SWITZERLAND<sup>3</sup>

Switzerland's superior qualities and skills in education, science, and technology enjoy broad international recognition. The competitiveness of the Swiss economy is due to considerable investment into research. The percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) that Switzerland spends on research and development is one of the highest worldwide. 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 of promoting scientific research on the Confederation, which in turn has created various instruments to carry out this task, including, in particular, the Swiss National Science Foundation<sup>4</sup> and the the Commission for Technology and Innovation CTI<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> [www.crus.ch](http://www.crus.ch)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.sbf.admin.ch>

<sup>3</sup> Adapted from <http://www.sbf.admin.ch>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.snf.ch>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.kti.admin.ch>

The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) is the Confederation's most important instrument for promoting research and the development of new generations of scientists. Set up in 1952, the SNSF supports scientific research at Swiss institutions of higher education and at independent research institutes. The main thrust of the foundation's activity is the financial backing of high-quality individual projects of basic research in all disciplines. 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 National Centres of Competence in Research (NCCR). Moreover, through a special programme called DORE, the SNSF promotes research in the fields of the social sciences, the health sciences, school education, music, and the fine arts.

The Commission for Technology and Innovation CTI is the Confederation's instrument to foster applied research and the development of economic interest. It promotes the development and application of new technologies and methodologies by bringing together dynamic companies and institutions and researchers at all types of universities and 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 support for the establishment of new firms and services. The tools of the CTI are also available to small and medium-sized enterprises or other institutions in need of new knowledge.

Basic research in Switzerland is carried out mainly by the cantonal universities and the federal institutes of technology, whereas the universities of applied sciences concentrate on applied research and development and seek to establish and maintain close contacts between their research units and those in the private sector, especially in small and medium enterprises and the creative economy. Research is also conducted at the universities of teacher education, mainly in the context of subject-specific didactics and the master's programmes.

Efforts to integrate Swiss research activities into international research 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 major international research programmes (see below).

## KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

Cooperation and synergies on the cantonal, national, and international levels make Switzerland an ideal place for identifying ways to develop products to market maturity. Switzerland has a large number of institutions and tools to support and further research and promote exchanges between doctoral / research universities, universities of applied sciences, and businesses.

The cantonal universities, the federal institutes of technology and the four federal research institutes have either created technology transfer departments or designated officers responsible for relations with industry. The universities of applied sciences serve as a link

between research and industry. All of them have a technology transfer service in place, and cooperation between the UAS and the private sector has developed rapidly over the past ten years.

In addition to the activities of the CTI, the so-called 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 firms, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises. Switzerland's participation in these programmes is one of the most important priorities of Swiss international science policy.

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Internationality begins on campus, among students. The percentages of international students at Swiss doctoral / research universities and universities of applied sciences are among the highest in the world: in 2010 they amounted to 19 % and 15 %, respectively, at the bachelor level, and 30 % and 31 %, respectively, at the master level; as many as 49 % of all doctoral candidates came from abroad in 2010. Most of these international students come from other European countries.

Internationality means promoting student and researcher mobility, and hence depends on cooperation. Swiss institutions of higher education are reliable partners in European exchange and research programmes. Bilateral agreements ensure and facilitate cooperation between Swiss institutions and partner institutions in the European Union. Furthermore, from 2009 to 2016, CRUS is implementing a scientific exchange programme with the new member states of the EU (see [www.sciex.ch](http://www.sciex.ch)).

The individual institutions of higher education have numerous bilateral agreements with partner institutions around the world. The universities' international relations are generally managed by the rectorates and their international officers or by individual faculties, depending on the type of cooperation. In Switzerland's border regions, where thousands of people cross the border every morning to reach their workplaces, cooperation is particularly evident. In 1989, five universities located in the Swiss-French-German tri-border region founded EUCOR, the cross-border European Confederation of Upper Rhine Universities. Today, a joint EUCOR student card grants full mobility and access to all member universities. Joint programmes and courses, as well as joint research initiatives and staff exchanges have made internationality a matter of everyday life at the EUCOR universities. A similar programme has also been established among the universities of applied sciences of north-western Switzerland and homologous institutions of higher education in the bordering regions of France and Germany.

At the level of the three Swiss rectors' conferences, Switzerland takes active part in international activities through 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), as well as platforms such as the European Association for International Education (EAIE) and the Association Of International Educators (NAFSA), an organisation promoting international education and providing professional development opportunities to the field in the USA. These activities ensure Switzerland's integration in joint international efforts to promote the visibility and the quality of higher education.

In view of the growing importance of international exchange in the realm of science, the State Secretariat for Education and Research (SER) has placed particular emphasis on promoting Switzerland as a university and research location. Cooperation schemes conducive to the mobility of students, teaching staff, and researchers are sought not only with partners in Europe: increasing efforts are also made towards collaboration with suitable non-European partner countries and regions, most importantly with China, India, Russia, and South Africa.

Moreover, institutions of higher education cooperate closely with the science advisors at the Swiss embassies abroad and at 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 degrees. It has concluded bilateral agreements with Austria, Germany, Italy and France that regulate the recognition of degrees as a basis for further studies.

...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 so-called «Diploma Supplement», which is a description of the qualification to be attached to each diploma or degree awarded by a university, university of applied sciences or university of teacher education. Both the Lisbon Convention and the Bologna Declaration recommend the introduction of the Diploma Supplement.

## **REFORMS IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM**

Internationalisation, above all the implementation of the Bologna Declaration, is the major determinant of reforms 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 within the Bologna implementation process.

A structural reorganisation of the Swiss higher education system is being prepared containing the following issues:

- the concentration of the responsibility at the federal level in a single department;
- a framework law regulating the doctoral / research universities, universities of applied sciences, and universities of teacher education;
- uniform funding principles for all three types of institutions;
- an overall steering of the higher education system by joint bodies.

# UNIVERSITIES OF TEACHER EDUCATION

## GENERAL INFORMATION

The universities of teacher education in Switzerland have a mandate to train a sufficient number of qualified teachers for different levels. This mandate is four-fold: teaching, research, continuing education and training, as well as providing services (documentation centres, expertise, advice, etc.).

The institutional basis for the universities of teacher education varies. A majority of them are independent institutions, but universities of teacher education may also form part of a network operated by a university of applied sciences (in Basel / Brugg / Solothurn, Zurich and Locarno) or integrated into a university (Geneva, Fribourg). In the special case of vocational education, as well as the practice and teaching of sports, these are official entities of the Confederation.

### Study Programmes

The universities of teacher education and higher education institutions offer study courses in the following areas:

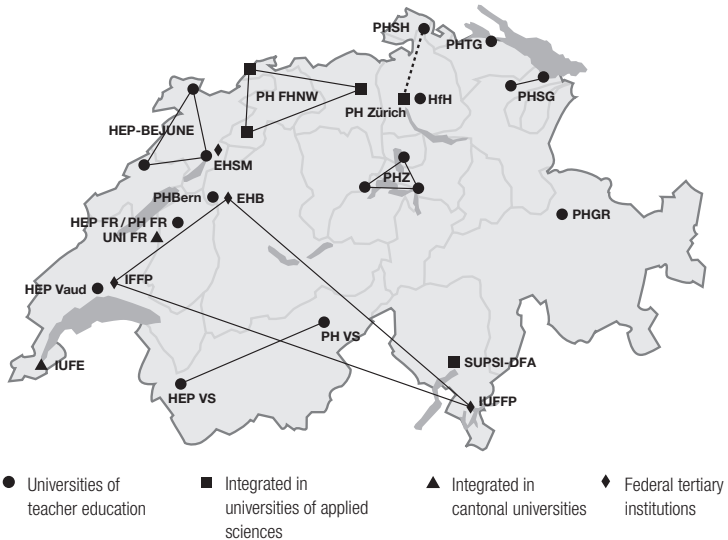
- teacher training programme for the pre-primary and primary level, secondary I and upper secondary teacher education (maturity schools);
- training programmes in special needs education with a focus on early remedial education and school remedial education, speech and language therapy and psychomotor therapy;
- master's study courses in subject-specific didactics in cooperation with the universities;
- study programmes for vocational training staff;
- practice and teaching of sports.

### Teaching Language

The vernacular language for teaching in these institutions is German, French, Italian or Romansh, depending on their geographical location. The Fribourg University of Teacher Education (Pädagogische Hochschule Freiburg / Haute école pédagogique Fribourg) offers the possibility of following a training course either on a bilingual basis or in German or French; the Valais University of Teacher Education (Pädagogische Hochschule Wallis / Haute école pédagogique du Valais), which is located at two different geographical sites, one German-speaking and the other French-speaking, requires students to spend two training semesters in the other teaching language. At the University of Teacher Education in the Canton of Graubünden (PHGR), it is possible to follow courses in three languages: Romansh, German and Italian. The Swiss Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training SFIVET (Eidgenössisches Hochschulinstitut für Berufsbildung / Institut fédéral des hautes études en formation professionnelle / Istituto universitario federale per la formazione professionale), the institution responsible for training vocational teachers,

is based in three different language sites (Zollikofen, Lausanne and Lugano). The Swiss Federal Institute of Sports Magglingen SFISM (Eidgenössische Hochschule für Sport Magglingen EHSM / Haute école fédérale de sport de Macolin HEFSM / Scuola universitaria federale dello sport di Macolin SUFSM) conducts courses in German and French.

*Geographical Chart of the Universities of Teacher Education*



## Regulation

Teacher education is essentially a matter for the cantons and is based on inter-cantonal law. At the national level, the Swiss Conference of Cantonal Ministers of Education (EDK)<sup>1</sup> is the body responsible for the recognition of the different study programmes throughout the country and for setting minimum training requirements (the universities of teacher education may impose further conditions). The Higher Education Council of the EDK is the supreme authority which determines such matters as the political framework for implementation of the Bologna Declaration, to ensure that the same standards are applied in the universities of teacher education as in the other universities of applied sciences and cantonal universities.

## **Websites**

### **COHEP**

The Swiss Conference of Rectors of Universities of Teacher Education has its own website: [www.cohep.ch](http://www.cohep.ch). This site describes the objectives and tasks of the Conference and provides a list of its members for public use. It lists all the universities of teacher education in Switzerland and all the study courses available under the rubric «Universities of Teacher Education». Under «Studying and Teaching in Switzerland» can be found very useful information designed primarily for students from abroad who wish to study to become a teacher, and to holders of foreign diplomas who wish to teach in Switzerland. COHEP puts a range of publications online, such as recommendations, agreements, annual reports, documents and press releases. The website also provides detailed information about committees, specialist groups, consortiums and projects and gives an overview of all the bodies involved in and the activities carried out by COHEP.

### **phschweiz / hepsuisse / aspsvizzera**

During 2009 the website [www.hepsuisse.ch](http://www.hepsuisse.ch) (French) / [www.phschweiz.ch](http://www.phschweiz.ch) (German) / [www.aspsvizzera.ch](http://www.aspsvizzera.ch) (Italian) was developed by COHEP. This new site contains general information on studying at a university of teacher education, on different study programmes and the diplomas which can be obtained, as well as on the universities of teacher education as institutions where teachers are trained. From a professional point of view, the site not only stresses the skills required for entering the teaching profession but also presents an overview of the range of professions available. The site also provides information on what motivates future teachers and highlights the difficulties which teachers can experience when carrying out their profession. Interviews with students and trainers now give a close insight into the professional world of the teacher.

**OVERVIEW OF UNIVERSITIES OF TEACHER EDUCATION**

Locations	Member Institutions of COHEP	Links
Berne	<b>PHBern</b> , deutschsprachige Pädagogische Hochschule	<a href="http://www.phbern.ch">www.phbern.ch</a>
Brig St-Maurice	<b>PH VS</b> Pädagogische Hochschule Wallis <b>HEP VS</b> Haute école pédagogique du Valais	<a href="http://www.phvs.ch">www.phvs.ch</a> <a href="http://www.hepvs.ch">www.hepvs.ch</a>
Brugg, Aarau, Basel, Liestal, Solothurn, Zofingen	<b>PH FHNW</b> Pädagogische Hochschule der Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz	<a href="http://www.fhnw.ch/ph">www.fhnw.ch/ph</a>
Chur	<b>PHGR</b> Pädagogische Hochschule Graubünden <b>ASPGR</b> Alta scuola pedagogica dei Grigioni <b>SAPGR</b> Scuola alta da pedagogia dal Grischun	<a href="http://www.phgr.ch">www.phgr.ch</a>
Fribourg	<b>PH FR</b> Pädagogische Hochschule Freiburg <b>HEP FR</b> Haute école pédagogique Fribourg	<a href="http://www.hepfr.ch">www.hepfr.ch</a> <a href="http://www.phfr.ch">www.phfr.ch</a>
	<b>UniFR</b> Universität Freiburg, Departement Erziehungswissenschaften / Département de la formation d'enseignantes et d'enseignants	<a href="http://www.unifr.ch/lb">www.unifr.ch/lb</a> <a href="http://www.unifr.ch/sfm">www.unifr.ch/sfm</a>
Geneva	<b>IUFE</b> Université de Genève, Institut universitaire de formation des enseignants	<a href="http://www.unige.ch/iufe/">www.unige.ch/iufe/</a>
Kreuzlingen	<b>PHTG</b> Pädagogische Hochschule Thurgau	<a href="http://www.phtg.ch">www.phtg.ch</a>
Lausanne	<b>HEP Vaud</b> Haute école pédagogique du canton de Vaud	<a href="http://www.hepl.ch">www.hepl.ch</a>
Locarno	<b>SUPSI-DFA</b> Dipartimento della formazione e dell'apprendimento	<a href="http://www.supsi.ch/dfa">www.supsi.ch/dfa</a>
Lucern, Schwyz, Zug	<b>PHZ</b> Pädagogische Hochschule Zentralschweiz	<a href="http://www.phz.ch">www.phz.ch</a>
Porrentruy, Bienne, La Chaux-de-Fonds	<b>HEP-BEJUNE</b> Haute école pédagogique – BEJUNE	<a href="http://www.hep-bejune.ch">www.hep-bejune.ch</a>
Schaffhausen	<b>PHSH</b> Pädagogische Hochschule Schaffhausen	<a href="http://www.phsh.ch">www.phsh.ch</a>
St. Gallen, Rorschach	<b>PHSG</b> Pädagogische Hochschule St. Gallen	<a href="http://www.phsg.ch">www.phsg.ch</a>
Zurich	<b>PH Zürich</b> Pädagogische Hochschule Zürich	<a href="http://www.phzh.ch">www.phzh.ch</a>
	<b>ZHSF</b> Zürcher Hochschulinstitut für Schulpädagogik und Fachdidaktik der Pädagogischen Hochschule, der Universität und ETH Zürich	<a href="http://www.zhsf-edu.ch">www.zhsf-edu.ch</a>
Zurich	<b>HfH</b> Interkantonale Hochschule für Heilpädagogik Zürich	<a href="http://www.hfh.ch">www.hfh.ch</a>

Locations	Associate member Institutions of COHEP	Links
Berne-Zollikofen, Lausanne, Lugano	<b>EHB</b> Eidgenössisches Hochschulinstitut für Berufsbildung / <b>IFFP</b> Institut fédéral des hautes études en formation professionnelle / <b>IUFPP</b> Istituto universitario federale per la formazione professionale / <b>SFIVET</b> Swiss Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training	<a href="http://www.ehb-schweiz.ch">www.ehb-schweiz.ch</a> <a href="http://www.iffp-suisse.ch">www.iffp-suisse.ch</a> <a href="http://www.iufpp-svizzera.ch">www.iufpp-svizzera.ch</a>
Magglingen / Macolin	<b>EHSM</b> Eidgenössische Hochschule für Sport Magglingen / <b>HEFSM</b> Haute école fédérale de sport de Macolin / <b>SUFSM</b> La Scuola universitaria federale dello sport di Macolin	<a href="http://www.ehsm.ch">www.ehsm.ch</a>

## ORGANISATION OF STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITIES OF TEACHER EDUCATION

### Academic Year

The academic year is divided into two semesters: the autumn semester begins in the 38<sup>th</sup> week and runs until the 51<sup>th</sup> week; the spring semester begins in the 8<sup>th</sup> week and runs until the 22<sup>th</sup> week of the annual calendar year. Practical training is generally included in the form of work experience which, depending on the institution or study programme, may be organised at the beginning, during or at the end of the training.

### General conditions for admission to universities of teacher education

In order to be accepted on a course of study at a university of teacher education, according to the regulations of the Swiss Conference of Cantonal Directors of Education (EDK) and depending on the chosen course of study, students are required to have passed the academic maturity examination, possess a teaching diploma recognised by the EDK or a degree from a university of applied sciences. Candidates who possess a specialised maturity certificate with a pedagogical orientation may also be admitted to certain courses of study (teacher training for preschool and primary levels).

To be accepted on a teacher training course to teach at upper secondary level students must have completed a recognised master's degree course in one or two teaching subjects. To be accepted onto a teacher training course in special needs education (focussing on early years or special needs) students must have a diploma for teaching standard classes or a degree in speech therapy or psychomotor therapy (at least at bachelor's level) or a bachelor's degree in an associated study area.

The EDK regulations on the recognition of diplomas provide information about minimum admission requirements. For all courses of study, the teacher education institutions may impose additional admission requirements. You will find more detailed information on admission requirements on the websites of the various universities of teacher education and on the COHEP website<sup>1</sup>. For all other study courses in the field of professional training, a master's in Subject-Specific Didactics and all other master's degrees, we recommend that you apply directly to the university of teacher education concerned.

### Admissions procedure for persons without the academic maturity certificate or without a specialised maturity certificate with a pedagogical orientation

Holders of the professional maturity qualification, a certificate awarded by a specialised middle school (Fachmittelschule, école de culture générale ECG), a diploma from a diploma middle school (Diplommittelschule / école du degré diplôme EDD) or a diploma from a higher commercial school (höhere Handelsschule / école supérieure de commerce ESC) may be admitted to a course of study if they can demonstrate that their level of knowledge is equivalent to that acquired for a specialised maturity certificate with

a pedagogical orientation or academic maturity qualification. During the admissions procedure it is determined whether or not the candidate has the level of general cultural knowledge required for the proposed course of study. Several universities of teacher education require candidates to sit an entrance examination and /or offer a preparatory course in order that they may acquire the necessary knowledge.

Furthermore, it is possible to enter the teaching profession having previously practised another profession. In general, the EDK rules regarding admission requirements must be met. To find out more about the admission procedures, we recommend that you contact directly the university of teacher education concerned.

We recommend that you find out the exact details regarding admission procedures from the universities of teacher education some time before applying.

### **Access for foreign students**

The universities of teacher education decide independently on their own admissions procedure; these must conform with the conditions of access to the universities of teacher education. Students must be fully competent in the language of instruction.

Foreign students who wish to attend a university of teacher education in Switzerland should apply directly to the institute of their choice, if possible a year before they wish to begin their studies. For students in possession of a foreign upper secondary school-leaving certificate, the official admissions list of the Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology and the cantonal universities of the Rector's Conference of the Swiss Universities CRUS<sup>1</sup> applies.

### **Standard Length of Studies**

The length of studies depends on the type of training course which is chosen. The standard length of studies to qualify as a pre-primary and /or primary teacher certified by a teaching diploma and a bachelor's degree is three years of full-time study (180 ECTS credits)<sup>2</sup>.

Studies to train teachers for secondary education require between 270 and 300 ECTS credits (master's degree level) gained during integrated or consecutive courses, depending on the number of disciplines involved.

Professional training for upper secondary education teachers corresponds to 60 ECTS credits and presupposes scientific training certified by a master's or equivalent diploma in one or two chosen teaching disciplines. Students generally train in two disciplines first and then go on to qualify as upper secondary school teachers. For students who have chosen one discipline only, integrated teacher education is possible.

<sup>1</sup> [www.crus.ch](http://www.crus.ch)

<sup>2</sup> The University of Geneva is an exception; since 2010, students first have had to follow the baccalaureate programme at the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences (FAPSE, specializing in primary education, 3 years, 180 ECTS), then do a fourth year at the University Institute for Teacher Training (l'Institut universitaire de formation des enseignants, IUFÉ, 60 ECTS) in order to obtain an additional certificate in primary teaching, which is required before applying for a job.

### **Initial Teacher Education**

The universities of teacher education provide initial teacher education courses for the different levels of teaching. Each university of teacher education provides training for a specific study programme or for a number of different study programmes, each corresponding to training for a particular level of teaching or for a particular type of teaching. Depending on the institution, students may train to become pre-primary (infant school) and/or primary (1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> year of primary education) teachers for certain levels or for all levels of primary schooling; to teach at secondary level (7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> years), at upper secondary level (maturity schools), or in special needs education, speech and language therapy or psychomotor therapy<sup>1</sup>.

### **Titles Awarded**

The fields of study at the universities of teacher education allow students to take teaching diplomas (for teaching at different levels) with an academic title (BA and MA).

The teaching diplomas awarded by a university of teacher education are recognised by the EDK provided that they meet the minimum requirements set by the EDK regulations for the different fields of study<sup>2</sup>. A teaching diploma recognised by the EDK entitles the holder to teach in the corresponding level school throughout Switzerland. However, it does not automatically guarantee a teaching post. The academic titles are regulated and certified under the Directives for the Coordinated Renewal of Teaching at University-Level Higher Education Institutions within the Framework of the Bologna Process of 5 December 2002 as long as the fields of academic study are completed by obtaining a bachelor's or master's.

### **Postgraduate Studies and Continuing Education**

The various establishments which train teachers offer a great many services in the field of continuing education, leading up to a range of different certificates. Some continuing education programmes lead to recognised diplomas of the Master of Advanced Studies (MAS), Diploma of Advanced Studies (DAS) or Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) type, while other postgraduate or continuing education courses lead to other types of certification or attestation<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> See Chapter entitled «Study programmes offered at the universities of teacher education» (below)

<sup>2</sup> See: [www.edk.ch](http://www.edk.ch)

<sup>3</sup> See Chapter entitled «Master of Advanced Studies (MAS), Diploma of Advanced Studies (DAS) and Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS)» (below)

# STUDY PROGRAMMES OFFERED AT THE UNIVERSITIES OF TEACHER EDUCATION

## STUDY PROGRAMMES IN TEACHER EDUCATION

### Pre-Primary and / or Primary Teacher Education

The teacher training programme for the pre-primary and / or primary level gives students the skills they need in everyday situations to be able to understand and further the individual requirements of children, correctly evaluate the learning behaviour of children, support their socialisation, work together with other teachers, school administrators, officials and parents, and to plan and develop lessons within the framework of the school's curriculum while considering interdisciplinary aspects.

A teacher training programme for the pre-primary and / or primary level ends with a bachelor's degree, at a minimum<sup>1</sup>. According to the EDK's regulations on the recognition of university degrees for teachers at the pre-primary and / or primary level<sup>2</sup>, at least 180 ECTS credits are necessary for graduation. A full-time study programme takes six semesters or three years (including teaching practice).

Graduates of the teacher training programme for the pre-primary and / or primary level receive a «Teaching Diploma for the Pre-Primary and / or Primary Level» and the academic title of «Bachelor of Arts in Pre-Primary and / or Primary Education».

In Geneva, primary teacher training now involves four years of study. The first year is spent studying for the university baccalaureate in Education Sciences, then two years are spent specialising in primary education as part of this baccalaureate course. At the end of the final year at the University Institute for Teacher Training (Institut universitaire de formation des enseignants, IUFE), an additional certificate is awarded. To be accepted onto the baccalaureate course, candidates must meet the general matriculation conditions of the University of Geneva<sup>3</sup>.

There are different, distinct course cycles for those working towards a teaching diploma for the pre-primary and primary levels:

- Teaching diploma for pre-primary level (BA in Pre-Primary Education -2/-1)
- Teaching diploma for pre-primary and primary (BA in Pre-Primary and Primary Education -2/+2, -2/+3).
- Teaching diploma for classes at the -2 level (first year at pre-primary level) to +6 (sixth year of primary school) (BA in Pre-Primary and Primary Education -2/+6, -2/+5);
- Teaching diploma for primary level (BA in Primary Education +1/+6);

Candidates should contact the university of teacher education concerned directly for further information about the admission procedure (see addresses at the end of this brochure).

<sup>1</sup> Cf. EDK degree title regulations on the website: [www.edk.ch](http://www.edk.ch)

<sup>2</sup> In German «Reglement über die Anerkennung von Hochschuldiplomen für Lehrkräfte der Vorschulstufe und der Primarstufe» [www.edk.ch](http://www.edk.ch)

<sup>3</sup> For more information, please apply to the IUFE Geneva (see addresses at the end of this brochure)

### **Secondary Teacher Education (Secondary I)**

As part of an education programme for secondary education teachers, students gain the skills that make it possible for them to plan and design lessons based on the current curricula while taking interdisciplinary aspects into consideration. The programme teaches them to advise pupils on decisions that need to be made with regard to their school and professional career possibilities, assess their abilities and performance, work with other teachers, school administrators, officials and parents, and collaborate in devising and implementing education projects. Secondary education school teachers receive a master's degree upon graduation<sup>1</sup>. According to the EDK's regulations on the recognition of university degrees for teachers at secondary education level<sup>2</sup> the study programmes require 270 to 300 ECTS credits for graduation.

Graduates of the teacher training programme for secondary education receive a «Teaching Diploma for the Secondary I Level» and the academic title of «Master of Arts in Secondary Education».

Candidates should contact the university of teacher education concerned directly for further information about the admission procedure (see addresses at the end of this brochure).

### **Upper Secondary Teacher Education (Secondary II)**

An education programme for teachers at upper secondary level gives students the skills to plan and design lessons based on the current curricula while taking interdisciplinary aspects into consideration. At the same time it provides pupils with the basic knowledge and skills needed for university studies, assesses their independence and performance and furthers their self-evaluation and team skills.

According to the regulations on the recognition of teacher's certificates for maturity schools<sup>3</sup> issued by the EDK<sup>4</sup>, the teaching methodology, educational science and professional practice course work consists of 60 ECTS credits. For admission, a student must have completed a master's in one or two teaching disciplines<sup>5</sup>.

Graduates of the teacher training programme for upper secondary level receive a «Teaching Diploma for Matura Schools».

Candidates should contact the university of teacher education concerned directly for further information about the admission procedure (see addresses at the end of this brochure).

### **Training to Become a Teacher in Special Needs Education**

The special needs education programme allows students to gain the knowledge, operational abilities and personal skills which qualify them in the field of early remedial

<sup>1</sup> cf. EDK degree title regulations on the website: [www.edk.ch](http://www.edk.ch)

<sup>2</sup> In German: «Reglement über die Anerkennung von Hochschuldiplomen für Lehrkräfte der Sekundarstufe I»: [www.edk.ch](http://www.edk.ch)

<sup>3</sup> In German: «Reglement über die Anerkennung der Lehrdiplome für Maturitätsschulen»: [www.edk.ch](http://www.edk.ch)

<sup>4</sup> cf. EDK degree title regulations on the website: [www.edk.ch](http://www.edk.ch)

<sup>5</sup> The list of disciplines will be found in the EDK regulation on the recognition of maturity schools certificates «Reglement der EDK über die Anerkennung von gymnasiale Maturitätsausweisen (MAR)»: [www.edk.ch](http://www.edk.ch)

education for preventive and instructional support of children whose development is endangered, disrupted or hindered. It also trains students in appropriate family intervention and in the field of school remedial education for instruction and educational work with pupils who have special educational needs.

Special needs education studies correspond to a master's degree with a focus on the field of early remedial education or in the field of school remedial education, or both.

According to the EDK's regulations on the recognition of university degrees in special needs education (in the field of early remedial education and in the field of school remedial education<sup>1</sup>), a special needs education study programme corresponds to a master's degree programme<sup>2</sup>. Graduates of the teacher training programme for special needs education receive a «Special Needs Teaching Certificate» and a reference to their chosen area of specialisation as well as the academic title of "Master of Arts in Special Needs Education".

Candidates should contact the university of teacher education concerned directly for further information about the admission procedure (see addresses at the end of this brochure).

### **Training in Speech and Language Therapy and Psychomotor Therapy**

Training in speech and language therapy helps students gain the skills to test for and diagnose language and communication disorders as well as to plan, conduct and evaluate an appropriate course of therapy with appropriate measures. Training in psychomotor therapy trains students how to test and diagnose psychomotor development disorders and their related disabilities as well as to plan, conduct and evaluate appropriate therapeutic measures to deal with these. Furthermore, both programmes teach students the skills needed to prepare reports, conduct consultations and work together with other professionals, parents and authorities. 180 ECTS credits are necessary for graduation from the programme according to the EDK's regulations on the recognition of university degrees in Speech and Language Therapy Education and university degrees in Psychomotor Therapy<sup>3</sup>, which corresponds to a three-year, full-time study programme, at the end of which a bachelor's degree is awarded<sup>4</sup>. A teacher training internship is an integral component of the programme and takes the form of practical training.

Candidates should contact the university of teacher education concerned directly for further information about the admission procedure (see addresses at the end of this brochure).

### **Master's in Subject-Specific Didactics**

In order to meet the need for qualified personnel at universities of teacher education, the universities of teacher education and cantonal universities jointly run master's courses in Subject-Specific Didactics. The Swiss Conference of Cantonal Ministers of Education (EDK) supports the creation of didactics centres in Switzerland. The task of

<sup>1</sup> In German: «Reglement über die Anerkennung der Diplome im Bereich Sonderpädagogik» [www.edk.ch](http://www.edk.ch)

<sup>2</sup> cf. EDK degree title regulations on the website: [www.edk.ch](http://www.edk.ch)

<sup>3</sup> In German: «Reglement über die Anerkennung der Hochschuldiplome in Logopädie und der Hochschuldiplome in Psychomotoriktherapie»: [www.edk.ch](http://www.edk.ch)

<sup>4</sup> cf. EDK degree title regulations on the website: [www.edk.ch](http://www.edk.ch)

these centres is to establish didactics as a discipline and to train specialists in research and practice-oriented didactics in specific subject areas.

The master's courses in Subject-Specific Didactics gives students the opportunity to qualify as lecturers in a specific field of didactics. To be accepted on this master's degree course, applicants should have a relevant bachelor's degree from a university or a university of teacher education. The course gives students in-depth theoretical and practical training in their chosen specialist field. The master's corresponds to 120 ECTS credits, depending on previous study experience, and there may also be additional requirements.

The following master's courses in Didactics are offered:

- Master's in Subject-Specific Didactics of Foreign Languages<sup>1</sup>
- Master's in Subject-Specific Didactics of Mathematics<sup>2</sup>
- Master's in Subject-Specific Didactics of Teaching German<sup>3</sup>
- Master's in Subject-Specific Didactics of Science Education<sup>4</sup>

Master's courses in Subject-Specific Didactics of French and Master's in Subject-Specific Didactics of Italian are being planned.

The «Table of Study Programmes offered by Universities of Teacher Education: Study programmes for bachelor's and master's» (below) provides an overview of the courses on offer at the different universities of teacher education.

Candidates should contact the university of teacher education concerned directly for further information about the admission procedure (see addresses at the end of this brochure).

### **Training to Teach in Vocational Schools**

Study programmes for vocational training staff vary according to the level taught and degree of employment (full or part-time). There are also varying admission requirements for the different study programmes. In principle, the following study programmes are recognised by the Swiss Confederation (Federal Office for Professional Education and Technology OPET).

The Vocational Teaching at Vocational Colleges programme is designed to equip teachers with the necessary skills required for teaching teenagers and young adults at vocational colleges, namely: planning and delivering lessons, leading classes, designing learning environments and accompanying students during the learning process. Depending on the degree of employment intended, this study course corresponds to 10 ECTS credits for part-time and 60 ECTS credits for full-time.

The General Teaching in Vocational Schools study programme familiarises future teachers with the task of vocational colleges within the Swiss vocational training system. It equips students with the fundamental skills required to plan, deliver and assess the framework curriculum study areas «Society» and «Language and Communication».

<sup>1</sup> <http://lettres.unifr.ch/fr/langues-litteratures/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://paedagogik.unibas.ch/home/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://paedagogik.unibas.ch/home/> and [http://www.phzh.ch/de/Ausbildung/Sekundarstufe\\_II/Fachdidaktik\\_Master\\_Schulsprache\\_Deutsch/](http://www.phzh.ch/de/Ausbildung/Sekundarstufe_II/Fachdidaktik_Master_Schulsprache_Deutsch/)

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.phzh.ch/de/Ausbildung/Sekundarstufe\\_II/Fachdidaktik\\_Master\\_Naturwissenschaften/](http://www.phzh.ch/de/Ausbildung/Sekundarstufe_II/Fachdidaktik_Master_Naturwissenschaften/)

The Higher Professional College Teaching Staff study programme equips lecturers with the skills to experience learning as an interactive process, to plan and deliver teaching modules in a way which is context-related and reflects professional practice, and to reflect upon their own work. This study programme corresponds to a total of 60 ECTS credits and is open to persons in part- or full-time employment.

The Swiss Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (SFIVET) cooperates with several universities of teacher education in offering additional training for teachers at upper academic secondary schools which equips them to prepare pupils for the Federal Vocational Baccalaureate. This additional training represents 10 ECTS credits and successful students receive a federally recognised certificate.

The SFIVET is entrusted by the Swiss Confederation with the task of providing undergraduate training and continuing education for vocational teaching staff. In this context, the SFIVET offers a master's in Vocational Education and Training which qualifies students for a wide range of activities in research, development and evaluation and enables them to recognise and react to current developments in vocational education. In order to be admitted to the master's in Vocational Education and Training, students must hold a bachelors degree or equivalent qualification. The degree programme corresponds to 90 -120 ECTS credits and students are awarded the title «Master of Science in Vocational Education and Training» upon successfully completing the programme.

Further information can be found in the Overview of Study Programmes or on the website of the university concerned.

### **Theory and Practice of Sports**

The Swiss Federal Institute of Sport Magglingen (SFISM) provides instruction in the knowledge and skills for practising and teaching sports and physical activities.

A course of studies leading to a Bachelor of Science degree lasts three years. Students are prepared for professions in the field of sports. They may choose among the following majors: physical education, health and adapted physical exercise (APA), competition sports and sports management.

Upon completion, graduates are awarded a Bachelor of Science. The academic diploma includes the selected major, which is an internationally recognised professional title. 180 ECTS credits are necessary for graduation. Graduates with a Bachelor of Science may seek employment straightaway or continue studies for a master's from the SFISM or at another institution of higher learning.

For admission to a study programmes leading to a bachelor's degree, students must have completed a vocational maturity, maturity, or the equivalent.

The Swiss Federal Institute of Sport Magglingen (SFISM) offers a programme leading to master's in Science in Sports. This degree is normally taken directly after the completion of a Bachelor of Science degree but may also begin later. The course of studies normally takes three semesters.

Further information can be found in the Overview of Study Programmes or on the website of the university concerned.

## TABLE OF STUDY PROGRAMMES OFFERED BY UNIVERSITIES OF TEACHER EDUCATION:

### Study programmes for Bachelor's and Master's

Study programmes Universities of Teacher Education	BA in Pre-Primary Education (-2/(-1)	BA in Pre-Primary and Primary Education (-2/+2 <sup>1</sup> -2/+3 <sup>2</sup> )	BA in Primary Education (+1/+6)	BA in Pre-Primary and Primary Education (-2/+6)	MA in Secondary Education (BA included)	Diploma in Upper Secondary Education (MA preconditioned)	Diploma in Secondary Education and Upper Secondary Education (MA preconditioned)	MA in Special Needs Education (BA preconditioned)	BA/MA in Speech and Language Therapy	BA in Psychomotor Therapy	Other BA and MA <sup>1</sup>	MA in Subject-Specific Didactics
	PHBern	X <sup>A</sup>		X	X	X <sup>2</sup>			X			
PH VS / HEP VS			X	X	X	X	X					
PH FHNW	X <sup>A</sup>	X		X	X			X	X		X	X <sup>3</sup>
PHGR / ASPGR / SAPGR	X		X								X	
PH FR / HEP FR			X									X <sup>4</sup>
UH FR (LLB)				X	X							
IUFE			X			X	X <sup>5</sup>				X	X <sup>6</sup>
PHTG	X		X	X	X						X	
HEP Vaud			X	X	X			X			X	
SUPSI-DFA	X		X	X	X							X <sup>6</sup>
PHZ	X <sup>A</sup>	X		X	X <sup>7</sup>			X				
HEP-BEJUNE			X	X	X	X	X					
PHSH	X		X	X <sup>8</sup>							X	
PHSG		X <sup>B</sup>	X	X							X	
PH Zürich	X	X <sup>B</sup>	X	X								X <sup>9</sup>
ZHSF					X							
HfH								X	X	X		
EHB / IFFP / IUFFP / SFIVET											X	
EHSM / HEFSM / SUFSM											X	

Status: March 2012

- PH FHNW:** Master's in Multilingualism (with Universities of Basel, Mulhouse, Strasbourg and PH Karlsruhe, Freiburg im Breisgau) / Master's in Educational Sciences (with the University of Basel) **PHGR / PHTG / PHSH / PHSG:** Master's in School Development (under general direction of PH Weingarten and with the PH Vorarlberg) **IUFE:** Master's in Primary Teacher Education (opening in autumn 2012) **HEP Vaud:** Master's in Sciences and Practices of Education (in collaboration with the University of Lausanne) **PHTG:** Master's in Early Childhood Education (in collaboration with the University of Constance) **PHSG:** Master's in Early Childhood Education (in cooperation with the University Education Weingarten) **EHB / IFFP / IUFFP / SFIVET:** Master of Science in Vocational Education and Training **EHSM / HEFSM / SUFSM:** Master of Science in Sports, specialising in Elite Sports / Master of Science in Sports, specialising in Physical Education (in collaboration with the University of Fribourg) / Master's in Sport and general teaching in Vocational Schools (in collaboration with the Swiss Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training EHB / IFFP / IUFFP / SFIVET)
- Master of Arts in Art Education with integrated teaching diploma in Creative Design in collaboration with the Bern University of Applied Sciences
- Master's in Subject-Specific Didactics of Mathematics in collaboration with the University of Basel / Master's in Subject-Specific Didactics of German in collaboration with the University of Basel
- Master's in Subject-Specific Didactics of Foreign Languages in collaboration with the PHBern, the University of Bern and the University of Fribourg
- To be offered in collaboration with the HEP Vaud
- Being planned
- Maturity level teacher training in Music and Creative Design at Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts and Religious Studies at the University of Lucerne, both in collaboration with the PHZ Lucerne
- Under the direction of the PH Zurich
- Master of Arts in Science Education in collaboration with the University of Zurich and ETH Zurich / Master of Arts in Teaching German in collaboration with the University of Zurich

## Study programmes for vocational training

Universities of Teacher Education	Study programmes	Staff responsible for vocational interdisciplinary courses and in other learning centres (full and part-time)	Vocational teaching in vocational schools (full and part-time)	General teaching in vocational schools	Teacher at a higher education institution (full and part-time)	Vocational training for teaching staff at vocational maturity schools; additional training for maturity school teachers
PHBern						X <sup>1</sup>
PH VS / HEP VS						
PH FHNW						
PHGR / ASPGR / SAPGR						
PH FR / HEP FR						
UH FR (LLB)						X <sup>1</sup>
IUFE						
PHTG						X <sup>1</sup>
HEP Vaud						X <sup>1</sup>
SUPSI-DFA						
PHZ		X		X		
HEP-BEJUNE						X <sup>1</sup>
PHSH						
PHSG		X	X	X		
PH Zürich		X <sup>2</sup>	X <sup>2</sup>	X <sup>2</sup>	X <sup>2</sup>	X <sup>2</sup>
ZHSF		X <sup>2</sup>	X <sup>2</sup>	X <sup>2</sup>	X <sup>2</sup>	X <sup>2</sup>
HfH						
EHB / IFFP / IUFFP / SFIVET	X	X	X	X	X	X
EHSM / HEFSM / SUFSM			X <sup>1</sup>		X <sup>1</sup>	

Status: March 2012

<sup>1</sup> Offered in collaboration with the Swiss Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training EHB/IFFP/IUFFP/SFIVET

<sup>2</sup> Offered by PH Zurich at ZHSF with University of Zurich and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich

## OTHER STUDY PROGRAMMES AT THE UNIVERSITIES OF TEACHER EDUCATION

### Bachelor's (BA)<sup>1</sup>: List of other study programmes offered in Teacher Education

Universities of Teacher Education	Bachelor studies (180 ECTS)
Eidgenössische Hochschule für Sport Magglingen (EHSM) / Haute école fédérale de sport de Macolin (HEFSM) / Scuola universitaria federale dello sport di Macolin (SUFSM)	Bachelor of Science with a specialisation in the following areas (incl. vocational education <sup>2</sup> ): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical Education and Sports</li> <li>• Health and Adapted Physical Exercise (APA)</li> <li>• Competition Sports</li> <li>• Sports Management</li> </ul>

### Master's (MA)<sup>3</sup>: List of other study programmes offered in Teacher Education

Universities of Teacher Education	Master studies (90–120 ECTS)
Pädagogische Hochschule der Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz (PH FHNW)	Master of Arts of Multilingualism
	Master of Arts in Educational Sciences
	Master of Arts in Special Needs Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extension Programme Inclusive and Special Education</li> <li>• Extension Programme Early Childhood Special Needs Education</li> </ul>
Pädagogische Hochschule Graubünden (PHGR) Alta scuola pedagogica dei Grigioni (ASPGR) Scola auta da pedagogia dal Grischun (SAPGR)	Master's in School Development <sup>4</sup>
Université de Genève, Institut Universitaire de Formation des Enseignants (IUFE)	Master in Primary Teacher Education (opening in September 2012)
Haute école pédagogique du canton de Vaud (HEP Vaud)	Master's in Sciences and Practices of Education <sup>5</sup>
Pädagogische Hochschule Thurgau (PHTG)	Master of Arts in Early Childhood Education <sup>6</sup>
	Master's in School Development <sup>4</sup>
Pädagogische Hochschule Schaffhausen (PHSH)	Master's in School Development <sup>4</sup>
Pädagogische Hochschule St. Gallen (PHSG)	Master's in School Development <sup>4</sup>
	Master of Arts in Early Childhood Studies (joint degree EU) <sup>7</sup>
Pädagogische Hochschule Zürich (PH Zürich)	Master's in School Development <sup>4</sup>
Eidgenössisches Hochschulinstitut für Berufsbildung (EHB) / Institut fédéral des hautes études en formation professionnelle (IFFP) / Istituto universitario federale per la formazione professionale (IUFP) / Swiss Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (SFIVET)	Master of Science in Vocational Education and Training
Eidgenössische Hochschule für Sport Magglingen (EHSM) / Haute école fédérale de sport de Macolin (HEFSM) / Scuola universitaria federale dello sport di Macolin (SUFSM)	Master of Science in Sports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orientation Elite Sports</li> <li>• Orientation Sportsmanagement</li> </ul>
	Master of Science in Sports, specialising in Physical Education <sup>8</sup>
	Master of Science in Sports, orientation Sport Education and General Teaching in Vocational Schools <sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Courses on the BA degree course are given in the school's language of instruction

<sup>2</sup> In collaboration with the Swiss Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training EHB / IFFP / IUFP / SFIVET

<sup>3</sup> Courses on the MA degree course are given in the school's language of instruction

<sup>4</sup> A joint project of the universities of teacher education of Weingarten (D), Vorarlberg (A), Graubünden (CH) Schaffhausen (CH), St. Gallen (CH), Thurgau (CH) und Zurich (CH)

<sup>5</sup> In collaboration with the University of Lausanne

<sup>6</sup> In collaboration with the University of Constance, Germany

<sup>7</sup> In collaboration with the University of Education Weingarten

<sup>8</sup> In collaboration with the University of Fribourg

<sup>9</sup> In collaboration with the Swiss Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training SFIVET

## MASTER OF ADVANCED STUDIES (MAS), DIPLOMA OF ADVANCED STUDIES (DAS), AND CERTIFICATE OF ADVANCED STUDIES (CAS)

All the Swiss universities of teacher education offer a vast selection of continuing education courses. These range from a few hours to several semesters of employment training certified by a straightforward attestation from the training establishment in question or by certification corresponding to a number of ECTS credits and therefore eligible for recognition by other establishments in Switzerland and abroad.

In addition to the cantonal regulations on continuing education and certification procedures, the certificates to which the complementary programmes lead are also regulated at national level by the EDK<sup>1</sup>. Further training courses offered by universities of teacher education may take the form of a Master of Advanced Studies MAS (requires at least 60 ECTS credits), a Diploma of Advanced Studies DAS (requires a minimum of 30 ECTS credits) and a Certificate of Advanced Studies CAS (requires at least 10 ECTS credits).

At the universities of teacher education, continuing education studies leading to the title of MAS, of DAS or of CAS in the field of education are regulated by the EDK but remain closely linked to the field of specialisation of the training establishment which runs these courses.

In general, a teacher who attends continuing education is able to acquire in-depth professional knowledge in a particular field. This enables him or her to perform, within the educational establishment, specific tasks which contribute to some extent to the development of the school.

Continuing education courses are normally modular and include the requirement to write a professional memorandum. In addition to the basic admission requirements (teacher's diploma with at least two years' professional experience), there may be further conditions of admission, depending on the particular training course.

The courses offered by the universities of teacher education cover with a range of different topics relating to training and education. The list of subjects below is not comprehensive. Please do not hesitate to consult the websites of the universities of teacher education and to contact them to find out more about the opportunities available in continuing education.

The following topics are studied for the Master of Advanced Studies (MAS, 60 ECTS): School Development, Change Management, Technology, Innovation, Measures for Promoting Integration, Basic Concepts and Techniques for Home Economics Education, Basic Concepts and Techniques for Creative Arts Education, Leadership of Educational Institution and Educational Politics, Adult and Professional Education, Communicating Arts, Sport Management, Special Needs Educational Management...

There is an equally wide range of subjects that can be studied for the Diploma of Advanced Studies (DAS, 30 ECTS). These include: School Administration and Management, Basic Concepts for Home Economics Education or for Creative Arts Education, Culture,

<sup>1</sup> «Reglement über die Anerkennung der Abschlüsse von Zusatzausbildungen für den Lehrberuf» dated 17 June 2004, amended on 1 March 2007: [www.edk.ch](http://www.edk.ch)

Sport Management, Trainer in Professional Studies, Special needs Education, Measures for Promoting Integration...

The Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS, 10 or 15 ECTS) completes the palette. There is a considerable choice of topics, including: ICT and E-Learning, School Development and Management, Quality Management, Language Development, Speech and Language Therapy, Introduction to Home Economics Education, Introduction to Creative Arts Education, Diversity Management, Innovation, Measures for Promoting Integration, Culture, Health Promotion, Quality Management, Counselling in the Integrative School, Sport Management, Sport Psychology, Specialist in Practical Vocational Education and Training, Coaching, Music & Drama, German as a Second Language...

## COURSES TAUGHT IN ENGLISH

In order to attract both foreign and local students and to encourage student mobility, certain universities of teacher education offer education courses in English. These courses enable students to acquire specialised intercultural skills and knowledge and expose them to new experiences which may prove to be of value in their teaching career. Students who choose to study abroad as part of this programme take the opportunity of getting to know a new country, a new culture and a different education system. Students interested in taking up this opportunity should consult the website of the university of teacher education concerned (see addresses at the end of this brochure).

### List of courses taught in English offered at the Universities of Teacher Education

Universities of Teacher Education	Courses in English
PHBern, deutschsprachige Pädagogische Hochschule	Language Competence: Euro Standard Level C1 + C2
	Culture Topics
	English Today
	School Literature
	Selected Literature
	Current Issues in Teaching
	Speaking Skills
	Writing Skills
	Points of Grammar
	Teaching English to Young Learners
	Language and Society
	English Second Language Acquisition
	Bilingual Teaching / CLIL
Pädagogische Hochschule der Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz (PH FHNW)	Teaching English at Primary School (Subject-Specific Didactics 1 and 2)
	Courses «Testing and Assessment» and «Cultures of the English-Speaking World»
Pädagogische Hochschule Freiburg (PH FR) Haute école pédagogique Fribourg (HEP FR)	Language Competence: Euro Standard Level C1 + C2
	Teaching English at Primary School (Subject-Specific Didactics)

Universities of Teacher Education	Courses in English
Pädagogische Hochschule Thurgau (PHTG) <sup>1</sup>	The Background of Foreign Language Teaching Methodology for Teaching English as a Foreign Language Approaches to Modern Foreign Language Teaching Philosophy for children World Beliefs and Ethics Science experiments for Children Time Journey into the Bronze Age (1 week off campus) Global Education Teaching Placement (3 weeks) (international and / or Swiss public schools) Rhythm & Shape (a hands-on arts project week) Various Arts & Crafts Courses (various on offer) English language courses (levels C1 & C2)
Pädagogische Hochschule Zentralschweiz (PHZ)	Basis for scientific methodology Physics: Electricity and Magnetism Biology: Genetics and Reproduction Language and Culture A: a critical discourse about English as the universal language Language and Culture B: Identity and the Other Language and Culture C: Analysis of Literature History of Literature Theory and Methodology of Teaching a Foreign Language: learning environments and bilingual teaching Group Supervision and Mentorship for Classroom Experience: learning and interaction strategies A Mentorship for Classroom Experience: reflection of theory and practice A Mentorship for Subject Didactics: reflection on theory and practice for future English teachers Classroom Experience in Swiss Public Schools and / or International Schools in Central Switzerland CAS Human Rights Education German / English CAS Bilingual Teaching German / English / French Games (sports module)
Pädagogische Hochschule St.Gallen (PHSG)	International Class during spring semester
Pädagogische Hochschule Zürich (PH Zürich)	Switzerland – Nature, Culture and Society Teaching practice (one day per week or in a block of several weeks) Teaching English at the Primary School I / II ELT Methodology for Secondary I Education I / II English Literature I / II English Linguistics I / II CAE and CPE exam training courses Kids, Teens and Popular Culture (Autumn)

Universities of Teacher Education	Courses in English
Pädagogische Hochschule Zürich (PH Zürich)	Lessons from Across the Pond – Assessment for Learning in North America and English Context (Autumn)
	The Teachers' Guide to the World of Learning Strategies (Spring)
	Multilingualism (Spring)
	Language Change (Spring)
	Heroes and Losers (Spring)
	Love Poetry (Spring)
	Courses / Workshops with individual coaching in English (Visual Arts, Crafts & Textiles, Music & Dance, Physical Education)
	Research assignment / Project

## RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE UNIVERSITIES OF TEACHER EDUCATION

The universities of teacher education have established a goal of placing an emphasis on relevant areas of research.

The universities of teacher education conduct research and development in the following areas<sup>1</sup>:

- **School and society:** This field is focused at the macro level and deals with issues relating to education policy, the relationship of education institutions to the general public and the function of education in society, which also includes political education and reform efforts in education policy.
- **Schools as institutions or organisations:** The aspects researched at this intermediate level relate to school organisation, school development and school expansion, monitoring schools and the curriculum, the implementation of reforms in schools and team development.
- **Learning and teaching:** This micro level researches didactics, interaction in the classroom, the relationship of learning in school and away from school, the learning setting, learning requirements and learning strategies.
- **Development and socialisation:** This level examines the perspectives of children and young people, the development of skills among pupils, the transition from school to profession, career issues among pupils, intercultural education, social origins and questions relating to starting school at an early age.
- **Profession and professionalisation:** how to adapt to the profession, developing didactic skills, an introduction to the profession and continuing professional education for teachers, and also career prospects and professional identity are examined by analysis from the teacher's perspective.

<sup>1</sup> For further information about research and development at the universities of teacher education consult our brochure «Einblicke in die Aktuelle Forschung» / «Regards sur la recherche actuelle» / «Squardi sulla ricerca attuale» on our website at [www.cohep.ch](http://www.cohep.ch)

# MOBILITY AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

## INTERCANTONAL STUDENT MOBILITY

From the third study semester and sometimes after successfully sitting an intermediate examination, students have the possibility of attending one or two study semesters in a different Swiss establishment of higher education. They may also complete a course of practical training in a different canton.

An application must be made to the original institution attended by the student. He or she must present an application form accompanied by a letter of motivation before 1 November if the application relates to the next summer semester and before 1 May in the case of an application for mobility studies in the autumn semester. The main criterion is a good knowledge of the teaching language of the host canton<sup>1</sup>.

## INTERCANTONAL RECOGNITION OF TEACHING DIPLOMAS

The EDK regulates the recognition of diplomas granted after study programmes at national level. Reference should be made to the list of diplomas recognised by the EDK in the field of education and special needs education published on the website [www.edk.ch](http://www.edk.ch).

## INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY OF STUDENTS

A range of exchange opportunities are available to students at teacher education establishments in Europe:

- **Comenius Assistantships:** Future teachers in all subject areas and persons holding a teaching qualification without having been employed as a teacher who are interested in developing their language skills, enhancing their knowledge of European education systems and improving their teaching skills can apply for an assistantship at the ch foundation ([www.ch-go.ch](http://www.ch-go.ch)). A stay abroad can last from 13 to 45 weeks. Swiss schools can also apply in order to receive the support of an assistant from a European country. For more information see <http://www.ch-go.ch/programme/comenius/mobilitaet>.
- **Language Assistant Programme (LAP):** In language teaching, practice is paramount. Swiss upper secondary level academic and vocational high schools can recruit language assistants from abroad. These assistants are students and graduates of universities and teacher training colleges. The language assistant programme enables the participants to spend around one year attending a school in Switzerland, teaching their mother tongue. In so doing, as well as becoming familiar with a different school-

<sup>1</sup> Further information can be obtained from the different teacher education establishments: see «Addresses» at the end of this brochure

ing system, language assistants also develop their intercultural competencies as well as the language skills of their pupils. For more information see <http://www.ch-go.ch/programme/sap>.

- **Erasmus semesters or placements abroad:** The Erasmus programme enables students to spend between three and twelve months abroad. They can either study at another higher education institution or do a placement in an enterprise or an organisation in a country participating in Erasmus. Students interested in Erasmus can apply to the international office of their higher education institution. For more information see <http://www.ch-go.ch/programme/erasmus>
- **Leonardo da Vinci work placements:** After the completion of studies, a work placement in an enterprise or a training institution abroad lasting between two and 26 weeks may be attended under the Leonardo programme. Individual participants will receive their grants within a mobility project (Leonardo PLM) organised by a coordinating organisation. They cannot directly apply for a grant to National Agencies. For more information see <http://www.ch-go.ch/programme/leonardo/mobilitaet>.
- **Other possibilities** for international mobility studies can also be organised at the initiative of the students themselves.

## INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF TEACHING DIPLOMAS

The entry into force of the bilateral agreements between Switzerland and the European Union on 1 June 2001 guaranteed the mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications.

Teaching diplomas lead to professions which are regulated by each individual state. Specific agreements exist between some countries. The Swiss Conference of Cantonal Ministers of Education (EDK) is the body authorised to examine teaching diplomas in Switzerland. The following teaching diplomas are considered:

- foreign teaching diplomas for pre-primary and primary, secondary education and maturity schools;
- foreign teaching diplomas for special needs education, and
- foreign university degrees from speech and language therapy and psychomotor institutions of higher learning.

The EDK examines the foreign teacher diplomas, taking into account not only the initial teacher education but also all continuing education and all professional experience already acquired. Compensatory measures are proposed if essential differences exist between training courses.

Applications for the recognition of foreign teaching diplomas must be sent directly to the EDK for review<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> For further information about the procedures for the recognition of foreign diplomas in the field of education, please consult the EDK website: [www.edk.ch](http://www.edk.ch)

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS

All foreign students planning to study at a Swiss university of teacher education should contact the chosen institution directly, preferably a year before they plan to begin their studies.

When you have received confirmation of acceptance by a university of teacher education, please contact the Swiss embassy in your country for information on entry formalities for Switzerland. You will have to show proof that you have adequate financial means to support yourself during your studies.

### Study Costs and Enrolment

Tuition fees vary from one university of teacher education to another; they range from around CHF 350.– to CHF 800.– per semester. Foreign students have to pay more at certain schools. Moreover, enrolment fees and examination fees must also be paid at several universities of teacher education. Because of these variations, interested candidates are advised to obtain information directly from the university of teacher education that they may wish to attend.

Living expenses in Switzerland amount to between approximately CHF 18 000.– and CHF 28 000.– a year (depending on the campus site and personal needs).

The deadlines for enrolment vary from one university of teacher education to another. Sometimes enrolment is required as early as in January or February to begin a training course in September<sup>1</sup>.

### Residence Permit

After your arrival in Switzerland, you will have to apply to the police department dealing with foreign nationals to obtain a residence permit. You will have to present the following documents:

- a valid passport, if necessary with a visa
- confirmation that you have been accepted by a Swiss university of teacher education
- a guarantee of sufficient financial means to support yourself during your studies (e.g. bank statement)
- a statement of address in Switzerland.

The residence permit will only be issued if your financial means are guaranteed. In addition, you will have to renew the residence permit annually. It is almost impossible for foreign students to obtain a work permit in Switzerland, other than in exceptional cases during holidays.

<sup>1</sup> For further details, please apply directly to the university of teacher education concerned. See Chapter «Addresses» (below)

## Information Services

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

in your home country:

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

in Switzerland:

- Universities of teacher education (Pädagogische Hochschulen / Hautes écoles pédagogiques / Alte Scuole Pedagogiche)
- Swiss Federal Office for Professional Education and Technology (OPET)
- Swiss Conference of Cantonal Ministers of Education (EDK)
- Swiss Conference of Rectors of Universities of Teacher Education (COHEP)
- Conference of Swiss Universities of Applied Sciences (KFH)
- Rector's Conference of the Swiss Universities, Information and Documentation Service (CRUS)

Applicants wishing to come to Switzerland on an exchange programme (e.g. Socrates / Erasmus) can obtain information from the international adviser at their own institution or at their chosen university of teacher education in Switzerland. Additional information about exchange programmes is also available from the ch Foundation, on the website [www.ch-go.ch](http://www.ch-go.ch).

Information on academic recognition is available from the universities of teacher education, the Swiss Conference of Cantonal Ministers of Education (EDK) or, in some cases, from the Swiss Information Centre for Academic Recognition Matters (SWISS ENIC).

## SWISS CONFERENCE OF RECTORS OF UNIVERSITIES OF TEACHER EDUCATION (COHEP)

The Swiss Conference of Rectors of Universities of Teacher Education (COHEP) groups together the Rectors of Universities of Teacher Education and other tertiary level establishments with a similar mission. Among other tasks, the COHEP defends the interests of teacher education towards the political authorities, organisations and public opinion. It supports cooperation, coordination and development of universities of teacher education at the cantonal level and promotes their integration into the higher education system. It is a national platform for the exchange of information and experience between the university rectors and assures cooperation in the field of quality development.

# ADDRESSES

## UNIVERSITIES OF TEACHER EDUCATION

### **PHBern, deutschsprachige Pädagogische Hochschule**

Fabrikstrasse 2, CH-3012 Berne

T +41 (0)31 309 21 15

F +41 (0)31 309 21 99

studierende@phbern.ch

www.phbern.ch

### **Pädagogische Hochschule Wallis (PH VS)**

#### **Haute école pédagogique du Valais (HEP VS)**

Alte Simplonstrasse 33, CH-3900 Brig

T +41 (0)27 606 96 50

F +41 (0)27 606 90 51

brig@phvs.ch

www.phvs.ch

Avenue du Simplon 13, CH-1890 St-Maurice

T +41 (0)27 606 96 00

F +41 (0)27 606 96 04

st-maurice@hepvs.ch

www.hepvs.ch

### **Pädagogische Hochschule der Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz (PH FHNW)**

Baslerstrasse 43, CH-5201 Brugg

T +41 (0)84 801 22 10

F +41 (0)56 460 06 09

info.ph@fhnw.ch

www.fhnw.ch/ph

### **Pädagogische Hochschule Graubünden (PHGR)**

#### **Alta scuola pedagogica dei Grigioni (ASPGR)**

#### **Scola auta da pedagogia dal Grischun (SAPGR)**

Scalärastrasse 17, CH-7000 Chur

T +41 (0)81 354 03 02

F +41 (0)81 354 03 07

info@phgr.ch

www.phgr.ch

**Pädagogische Hochschule Freiburg (PH FR)**

**Haute école pédagogique Fribourg (HEP FR)**

Rue de Morat 36, CH-1700 Fribourg

T +41 (0)26 305 71 11

F +41 (0)26 305 71 19

info@hepfr.ch

www.hepfr.ch

www.phfr.ch

**Universität Freiburg, Departement Erziehungswissenschaften / Université de Fribourg, département de la formation d'enseignantes et d'enseignants**

Rue P.-A. de Faucigny 2, CH-1700 Fribourg

German section:

Sek I T +41 (0)26 300 75 90

Sek I F +41 (0)26 300 97 11

lds1@unifr.ch

Sek II T +41 (0)26 300 75 76

Sek II F +41 (0)26 300 97 11

lds2@unifr.ch

www.unifr.ch/lb

French section:

Sek I + II T +41 (0)26 300 76 00

Sek I + II F +41 (0)26 300 97 48

cerf@unifr.ch

lettres.unifr.ch/fr/centres/cerf/

**Institut Universitaire de Formation des Enseignants (IUFÉ)**

Pavillon Mail, Bd. du Pont-d'Arve 40, 1211 Genève 4

T +41 (0)22 379 04 01

iufe@unige.ch

www.unige.ch/iufe

**Pädagogische Hochschule Thurgau (PHTG)**

Unterer Schulweg 3, CH-8280 Kreuzlingen 2

T +41 (0)71 678 56 56

F +41 (0)71 678 56 57

office@phtg.ch

www.phtg.ch

**Haute école pédagogique du canton de Vaud (HEP Vaud)**

Avenue de Cour 33, CH-1014 Lausanne

T +41 (0)21 316 92 70

F +41 (0)21 316 33 97

accueil@hepl.ch

www.hepl.ch

**Scuola Universitaria Professionale della Svizzera Italiana, dipartimento della  
Formazione e dell' Apprendimento (SUPSI-DFA)**

Piazza San-Francesco 19, CH-6600 Locarno

T +41(0)58 666 68 00

F +41(0)58 666 68 19

dfa@supsi.ch

www.supsi.ch/dfa

**Pädagogische Hochschule Zentralschweiz (PHZ)**

Zentralstrasse 18, CH-6003 Luzern

T +41 (0)41 227 30 00

F +41 (0)41 227 30 01

info@phz.ch

www.phz.ch

**Haute école pédagogique – BEJUNE (HEP-BEJUNE)**

Rue du Banné 23, CH-2900 Porrentruy

T +41 (0)84 488 69 96

rectorat@hep-bejune.ch

www.hep-bejune.ch

**Pädagogische Hochschule Schaffhausen (PHSH)**

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T +41 (0)43 305 49 00

F +41 (0)43 305 49 50

sekretariat@phsh.ch

www.phsh.ch

**Pädagogische Hochschule St. Gallen (PHSG)**

Notkerstrasse 27, CH-9000 St. Gallen

T +41 (0)71 243 94 00

F +41 (0)71 243 94 96

info@phsg.ch

www.phsg.ch

**Pädagogische Hochschule Zürich (PH Zürich)**

Rämistrasse 59 (since September 2012: Lagerstrasse 2), CH-8090 Zürich

T +41 (0)43 305 55 55

F +41 (0)43 305 55 56

info@phzh.ch

www.phzh.ch

**Interkantonale Hochschule für Heilpädagogik Zürich (HfH)**

Schaffhauserstrasse 239, Postfach 5850

CH-8050 Zürich

T +41 (0)44 317 11 11

F +41 (0)44 317 11 10

kontaktinfo@hfh.ch

www.hfh.ch

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T +41 (0)31 910 37 00

F +41 (0)31 910 37 01

info@ehb-schweiz.ch

www.ehb-schweiz.ch

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T +41 (0)32 327 62 26

F +41 (0)32 327 63 56

ehsm@baspo.admin.ch

www.ehsm.ch

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www.crus.ch

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www.kfh.ch

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edk@edk.ch

www.edk.ch

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F +41 (0)31 322 78 54

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www.sbf.admin.ch

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T +41 (0)31 322 21 29

F +41 (0)31 324 96 15

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www.bbt.admin.ch

**ch Foundation**

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T +41 (0)32 346 18 00

F +41 (0)32 346 18 02

info@ch-go.ch

www.ch-go.ch

**Recognition Information Centre / Swiss ENIC**

Sennweg 2, Postfach 607, CH-3000 Berne 9

T +41 (0)31 306 60 41/42

F +41 (0)31 306 60 20

iud@crus.ch

www.crus.ch





**Edited by:**

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