Higher Education and Research in Switzerland

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs,
Education and Research EAER
State Secretariat for Education,
Research and Innovation SERI

Useful links

Education, research and innovation in Switzerland
Swiss National Science Foundation SNSF: www.snf.ch
Innosuisse – Swiss Innovation Agency: www.innosuisse.admin.ch
Swiss Conference of Cantonal Ministers of Education: www.edk.ch
Swiss Conference of Higher Education Institutions: www.shk.ch
swissuniversities: www.swissuniversities.ch
Swiss Agency for Accreditation and Quality Assurance: www.aaq.ch
ETH Domain: www.ethrat.ch
Research and Innovation in Switzerland: www.sbfi.admin.ch/report_r-i
Swissnex: www.swissnex.org
Swiss Federal Statistical Office: www.bfs.admin.ch
Swiss Coordination Office for Research in Education: www.skbf-csre.ch

Study and research in Switzerland
Studying in Switzerland (visa, admission requirements, exchange programmes, housing, etc):
www.studyinswitzerland.plus
Swiss government excellence scholarships: www.sbfi.admin.ch/scholarships_de
Exchange and mobility: www.movetia.ch
Platform for information about Swiss funding instruments for research and innovation: www.research.swiss
Portal for research and innovation: www.myscience.ch
Euresearch information network: www.euresearch.ch
Information for researchers: www.euraxess.ch
Information about university rankings: www.universityrankings.ch

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European Southern Observatory ESO

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At a glance

Switzerland is a small and yet highly diversified country: languages, cultures, economic sectors and landscapes vary within a very small area. But Switzerland is also a cosmopolitan country. Around a quarter of the population holds a foreign passport, the economy is strongly export-oriented and numerous international organisations are based in Switzerland.

The quality of the education system and the creativity of researchers are crucial to Switzerland's innovative strength and economic competitiveness. The public and private sectors continuously devote considerable resources to maintaining and expanding Switzerland's internationally successful position as a location for education and research in many different fields.

The Swiss economy is remarkably competitive on the international stage, with a high degree of specialisation and a strong service sector. Thanks to the very high standard of education of the population and the innovative capacity of the economy, the unemployment rate remains low even in economically difficult times. The Swiss economy derives its strength from its many small and medium-sized enterprises, which account for 99% of businesses and provide two-thirds of all jobs. However, the country is also home to many large Swiss and foreign multinational companies.

One of the reasons for the strong performance of the Swiss economy is the fact that Switzerland places great emphasis on education and research: Around 3.2% of gross domestic product is spent on research and development, with the private sector accounting for around two-thirds of this expenditure.

R&D expenditure (2019)

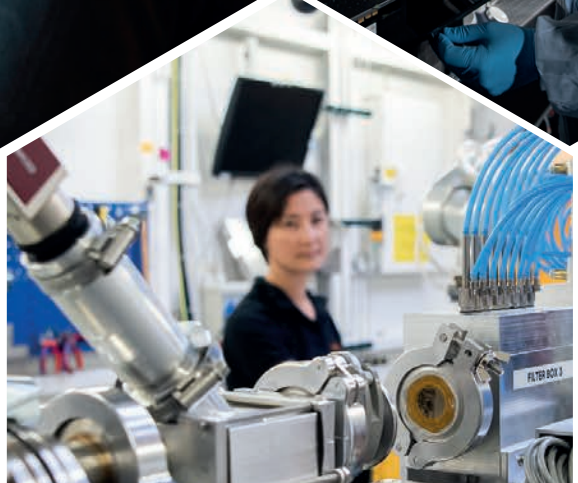
22.9 billion CHF

by sector:

- Private sector: 68%
- Higher education: 29%
- Private non-profit organisations: 3%
- Confederation: 1%

R&D expenditure in % of GDP (2019)

- Switzerland: 3.15 %
- Israel: 4.93%
- South Korea: 4.64%
- Sweden: 3.4%
- Germany: 3.18%
- USA: 3.07%
- European Union: 2.1%



R&D staff (2019)

85,853

Full-time equivalents

of which

56%

researchers

36% ♀

64% ♂

The Swiss higher education landscape

Switzerland attaches great importance to internationally competitive higher education institutions that cater to the needs of both individuals and national social needs. Such institutions ensure that Switzerland remains a key location for research and economic activities. The diversity of the Swiss higher education sector, which includes tier-one universities (T1), universities of applied sciences (UAS) and universities of teacher education (UTEs) developed over time. Put simply, it is based on the distinction between a purely academic focus of institutions and study programmes and one that is more centred on equipping students with the knowledge, skills and know-how to work in specific professions. This yields differences in terms of standard admission requirements, research orientation and standard qualifications awarded by T1, UAS and UTEs.

The sponsorship and funding of Swiss HEIs varies. The Confederation is responsible for federal institutes of technology; the cantons are responsible for cantonal universities and UAS; and both the Confederation and the cantons are responsible for UTEs.

Two federal institutes of technology, ten cantonal universities, ten universities of applied sciences (one of which is private) and fourteen universities of teacher education offer a comprehensive and complementary range of study programmes.

Study programmes and research activities at Swiss federal institutes of technology focus primarily on the natural sciences and engineering, mathematics and architecture. Roughly half of the cantonal universities are 'full-fledged universities' covering the entire spectrum of classical disciplines: theology, law, economics and social sciences, medicine, natural sciences, humanities and cultural studies. The remaining cantonal universities have a more specific profile and focus more on selected areas.

The range of courses offered by universities of applied sciences includes the following fields of study, although not every UAS covers all of them: engineering and information technologies, architecture, construction and planning, chemistry and life sciences, agriculture and forestry, business and services, design, health, social work, music, theatre and other arts, as well as applied psychology, applied linguistics and sports.

Finally, universities of teacher education train teachers for primary, lower-secondary and baccalaureate schools.

Key features:	**Federal institute of technology**	**Cantonal university**	**University of applied sciences**	**University of teacher education**
Orientation	Academic		Part-time	Part-time
Admission requirements	General baccalaureate		VET plus federal vocational baccalaureate	General baccalaureate
Research	Fundamental research		Applied research	Applied research
Qualification awarded	Master's degree		Bachelor's degree	Bachelor's / Master's
Sponsorship / funding	Confederation	Cantons Federal subsidies		Cantons

International competitiveness

6 out of every 10 students in Switzerland are enrolled in a top-200 university.

Broad portfolio of tasks

All higher education institutions in Switzerland actively pursue teaching, research, continuing education and training and third-party services.

ETH Domain, six institutions at the highest international level

The ETH Domain includes two federal institutes of technology (ETH Zurich and EPFL) as well as four research institutes: the Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI), Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL), Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology (EMPA) und Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (EAWAG). They conduct fundamental and applied research, develop technology and innovations to strengthen the Swiss economy and address social challenges both now and in the future.

Modelled after the structure of English-speaking universities

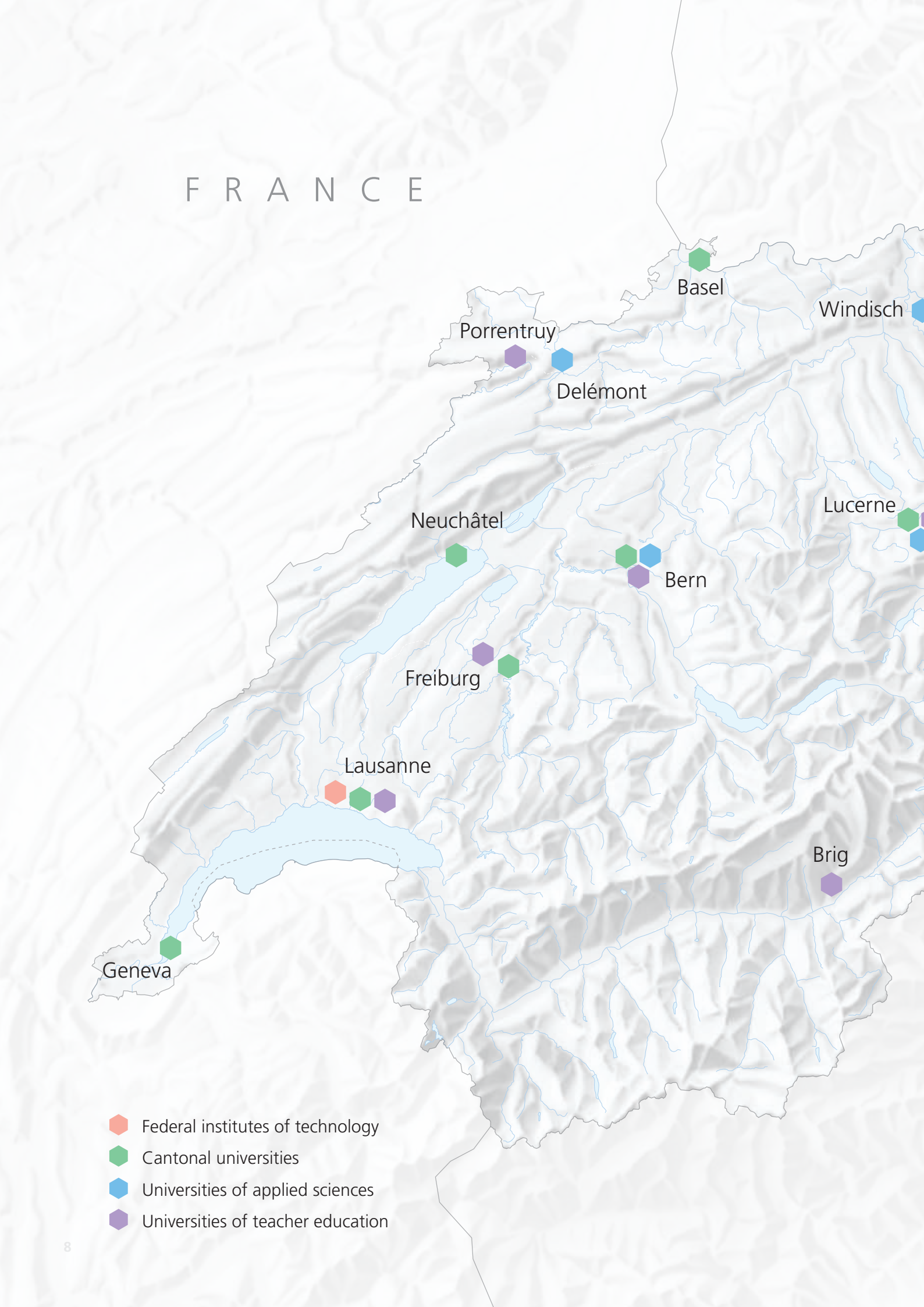
Study programmes at Swiss higher education institutions are based on the three-tiered Bachelor, Master and PhD model. PhD studies take place at federal institutes of technology and cantonal universities.

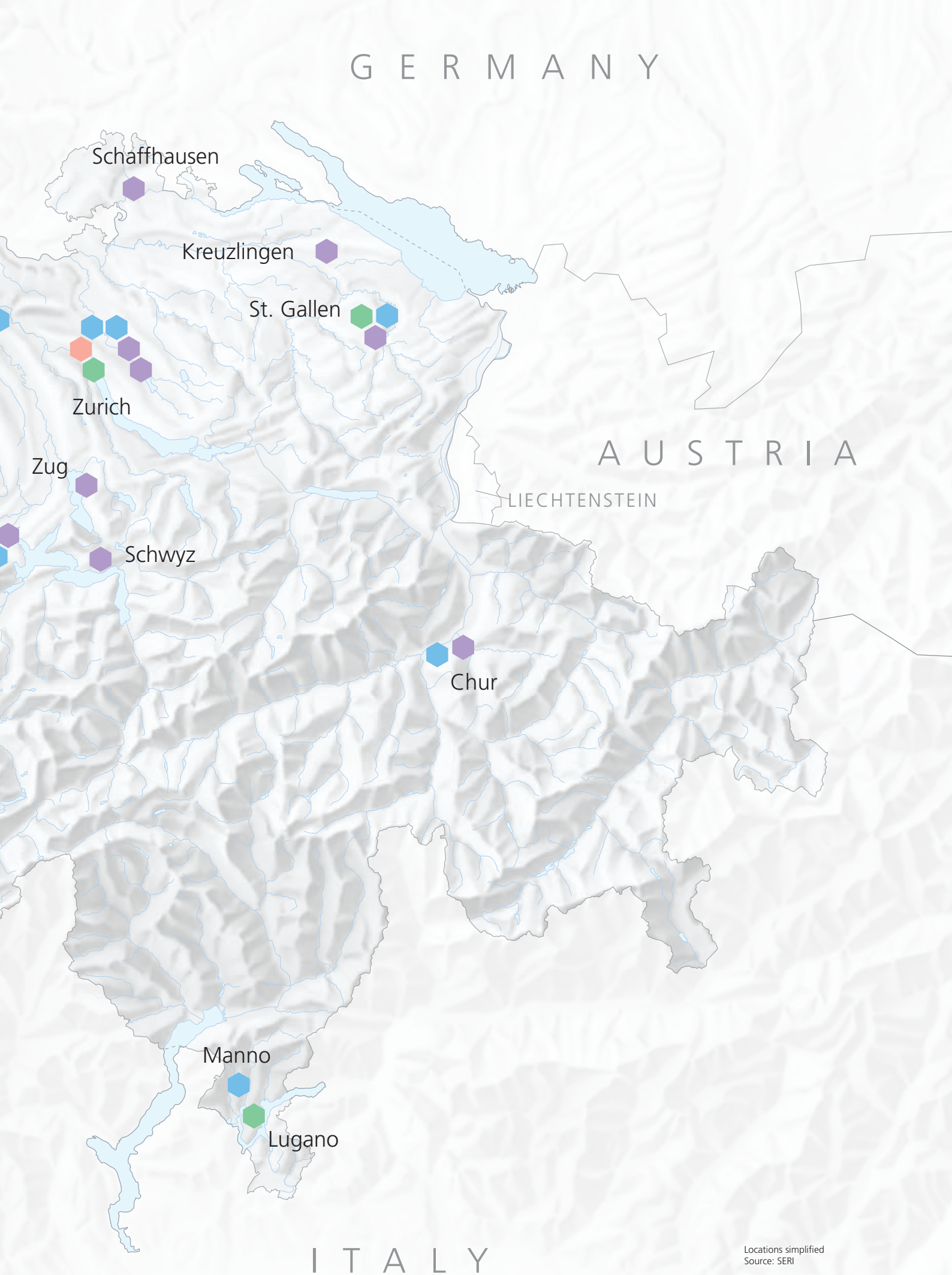
Higher education institutions founded from the 15th to the 21st century

Founded in 1460, the University of Basel is the oldest Swiss higher education institution; UAS Graubunden came into existence in its present form only in 2020.

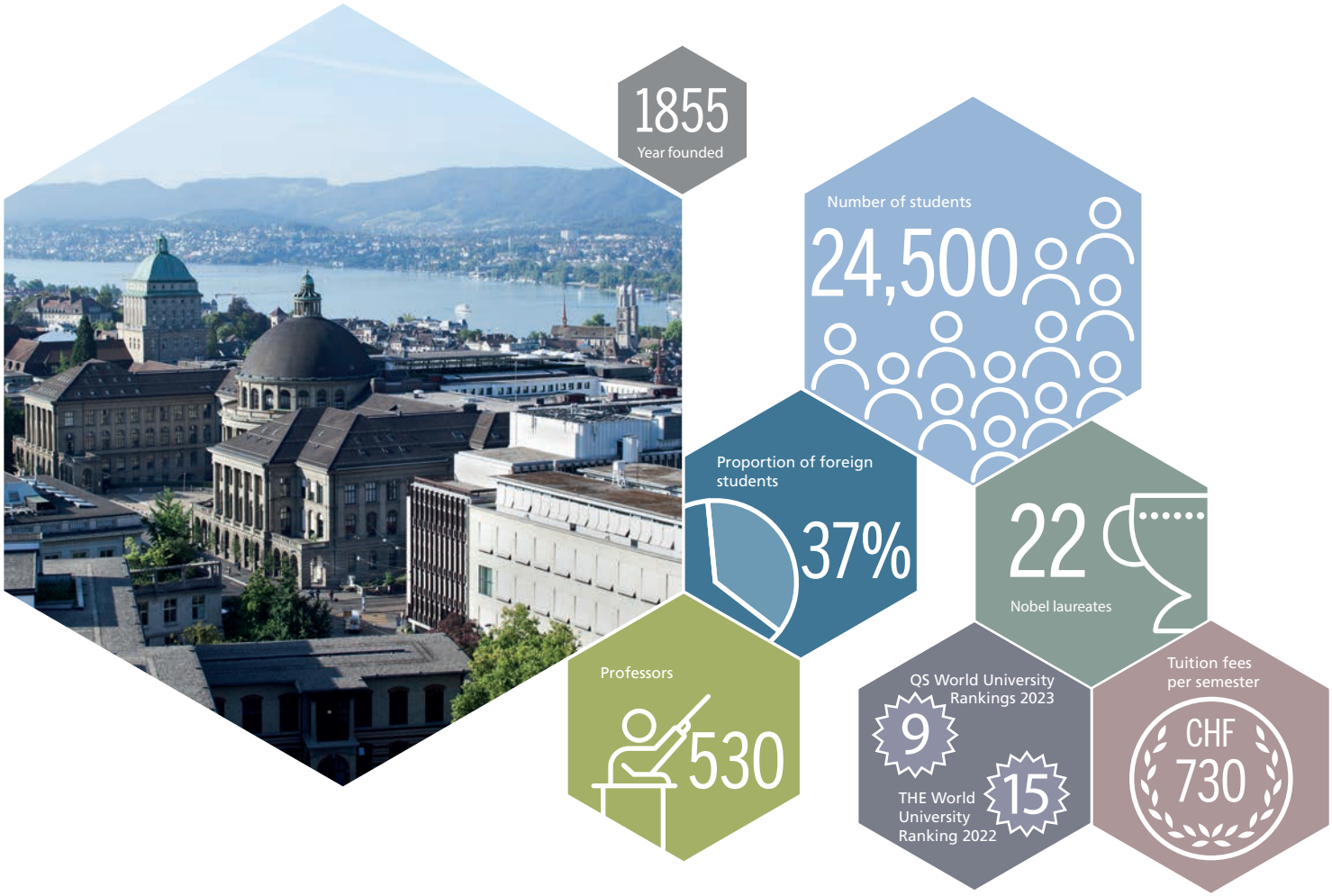
Albert Einstein & Co.

Albert Einstein, became a Swiss citizen in 1901 and worked in Switzerland for many years, awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1921. He is one of a long list of Swiss Nobel Prize laureates in the natural sciences that began with Emil Theodor Kocher (Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1909). To date, 25 scientists holding Swiss citizenship have received a Nobel Prize in the natural sciences. Measured in terms of population size, this is a world record.


FRANCE
Basel
Windisch
Porrentruy
Delémont
Neuchâtel
Lucerne
Bern
Freiburg
Lausanne
Brig
Geneva
Federal institutes of technology
Cantonal universities
Universities of applied sciences
Universities of teacher education



Locations simplified
Source: SERI



Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich

Highly regarded as one of continental Europe's top universities, Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich (ETH Zurich) has built a strong worldwide reputation for top-notch education, fundamental and applied research. ETH Zurich generates the scientific expertise needed to approach socially relevant issues arising today and in the future. Through interdisciplinarity and diversity, ETH Zurich fosters critical thinking and enthusiasm for STEM subjects among its student body. All degree programmes benefit from ETH Zurich's stringent research standards. This combined with its close ties with the business community, means that graduates are ideally positioned for future careers. All Bachelor's programmes are taught in German and all Master's and PhD programmes in English. Around two-thirds of professors are recruited from abroad. ETH Zurich offers an outstanding academic and technical infrastructure as well as a wide range of sports and extracurricular activities. The large number of multinational companies based in the greater Zurich area, Switzerland's economic powerhouse, also opens up numerous employment opportunities.

www.ethz.ch
info@ethz.ch

DEPARTMENTS

– Architecture (D-ARCH)
– Civil, Environmental and Geomatic Engineering (D-BAUG)
– Biosystems Science and Engineering (D-BSSE)
– Computer Science (D-INFK)
– Information Technology and Electrical Engineering (D-ITET)
– Mechanical and Process Engineering (D-MAVT)
– Materials (D-MATL)
– Biology (D-BIOL)
– Chemistry and Applied Biosciences (D-CHAB)
– Mathematics (D-MATH)
– Physics (D-PHYS)
– Earth Sciences (D-ERDW)
– Health Sciences and Technology (D-HEST)
– Environmental Systems Science (D-USYS)
– Management, Technology and Economics (D-MTEC)
– Humanities, Social and Political Sciences (D-GESS)

École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne

With its dynamic community of over 16,000 people, École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) has created a unique culture of inquisitiveness and open dialogue associated with its core activities – education, research and innovation. EPFL gives students solid technical skills while working on cross-disciplinary projects designed to help them to develop their imagination, creativity, and entrepreneurial spirit.

EPFL has several campuses, where its strong research community addresses critical areas such as data science, personalised medicine, biomedical engineering, energy, robotics and advanced manufacturing.

EPFL's Innovation Team is fully committed to serving as an interface between academia and industry, enabling EPFL's research findings to have a real impact by finding their way into society. EPFL is a key driver of innovation in Switzerland, providing solutions to such issues as climate change or demographic ageing – for the benefit of all humankind.

www.epfl.ch
presse@epfl.ch

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

– School of Architecture, Civil & Environmental Engineering (ENAC)
– School of Computer & Communication Sciences (IC)
– School of Basic Sciences (SB)
– School of Engineering (STI)
– School of Life Sciences (SV)
– College of Humanities (CDH)
– College of Management of Technology (CDM)

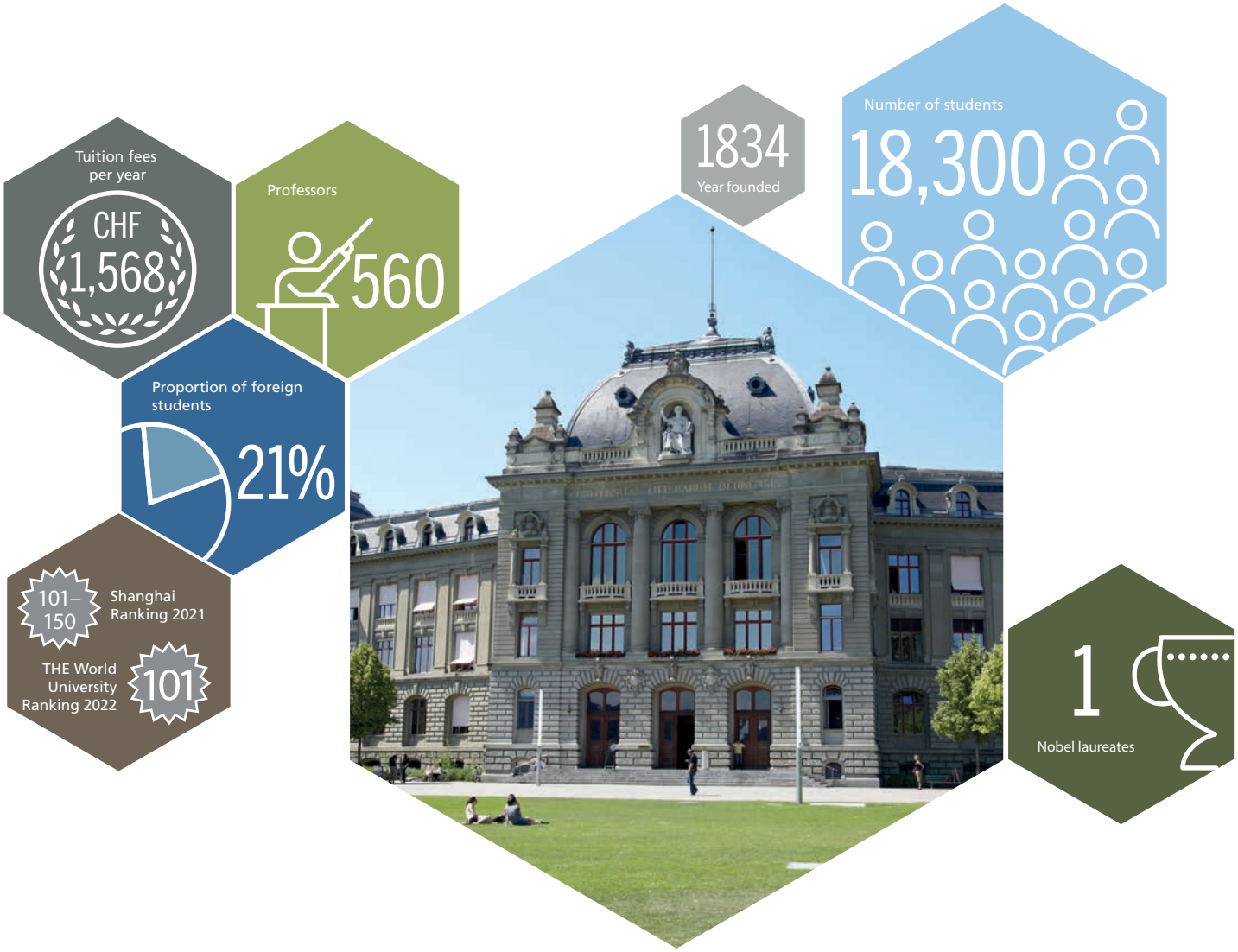
University of Basel

Founded in 1460, the University of Basel is Switzerland's oldest university. Once an important centre of the European humanist movement, it is now a highly research-oriented, internationally open institution with particular emphasis on life sciences and medicine. Situated at the triangular point where the borders of Switzerland, Germany and France meet, the University of Basel is home to most of Basel's research activities. UniBas offers the full range of academic disciplines, including a wide range of study programmes designed to equip students for challenging jobs in a changing world. The importance given to diversity and sustainability on campus also makes UniBas special. As a modern research university, it devotes considerable resources to knowledge and technology transfer and actively supports young academics and researchers. It also maintains strong partnerships and collaborative ties. UniBas has gained international recognition thanks to its strong academic performance. It ranks among the world's top 100 universities and among German-speaking countries, it is among the top ten.

www.unibas.ch
kommunikation@unibas.ch

FACULTIES

– Faculty of Science
– Faculty of Medicine
– Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
– Faculty of Psychology
– Faculty of Law
– Faculty of Business and Economics
– Faculty of Theology



University of Bern

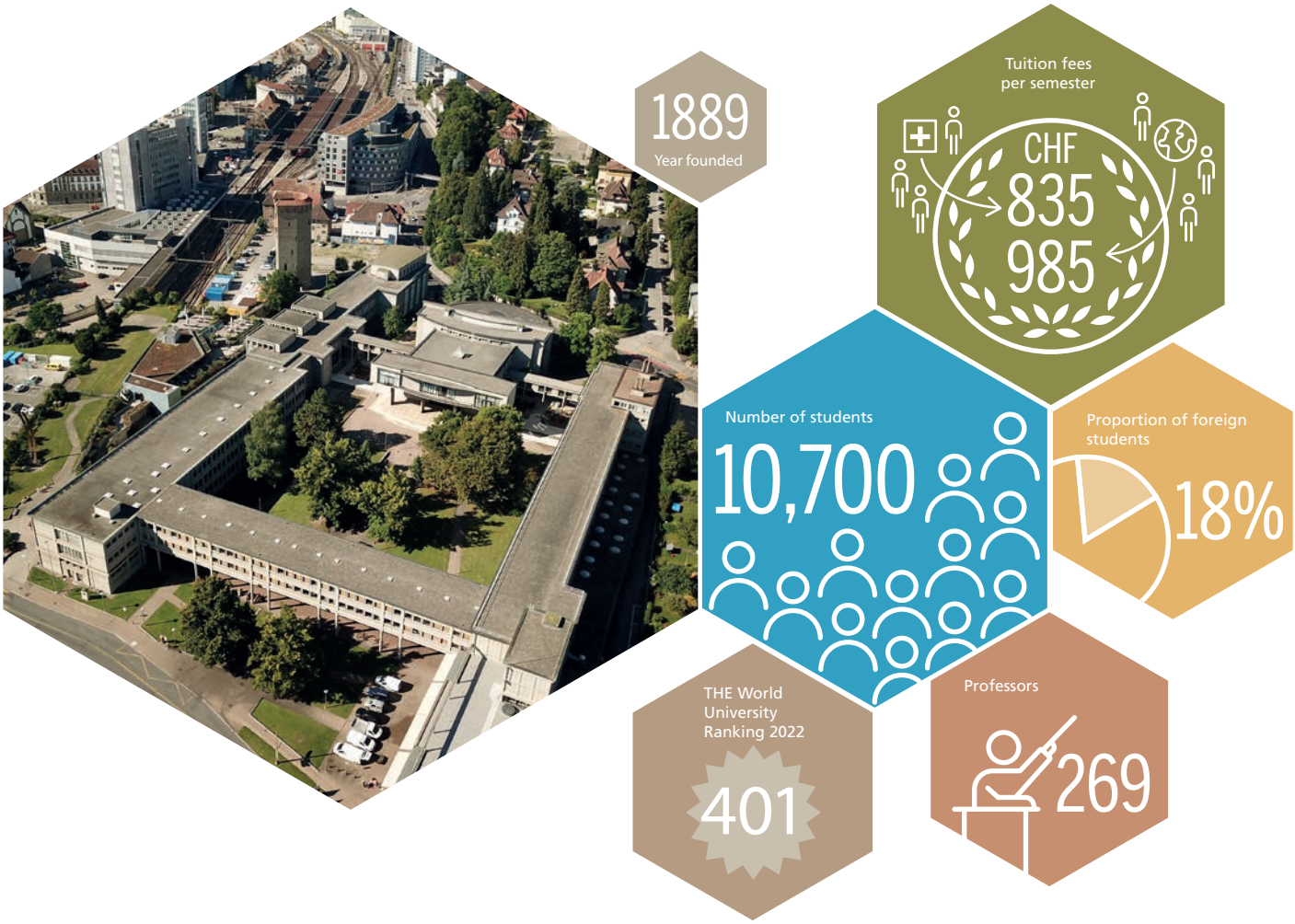
The University of Bern (UniBE) sees itself as a forward-looking and internationally open higher education institution that nevertheless maintains its local roots and social relevance. It offers world-class research, teaching, continuing education and services. The University of Bern also has an excellent international network, including for example ‚The Guild', an association of European universities pursuing extensive research activities. In addition, UniBE is a driving force for the social and economic development of the Canton of Bern and Switzerland. It generates solid scientific expertise and is committed to encouraging lifelong learning and the transfer of knowledge to the labour market and society as a whole.

UniBE graduates are optimally equipped for the future. Traditional forms of classroom instruction are combined with new forms of teaching and learning, with emphasis placed on inter- and transdisciplinary approaches. Finally, UniBE offers students ideal living and study conditions and is fully integrated into the social and economic life of Switzerland's capitol.

www.unibe.ch
kommunikation@unibe.ch

FACULTIES

– Faculty of Theology
– Faculty of Law
– Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Sciences
– Faculty of Medicine
– Vetsuisse Faculty
– Faculty of Humanities
– Faculty of Human Sciences
– Faculty of Science



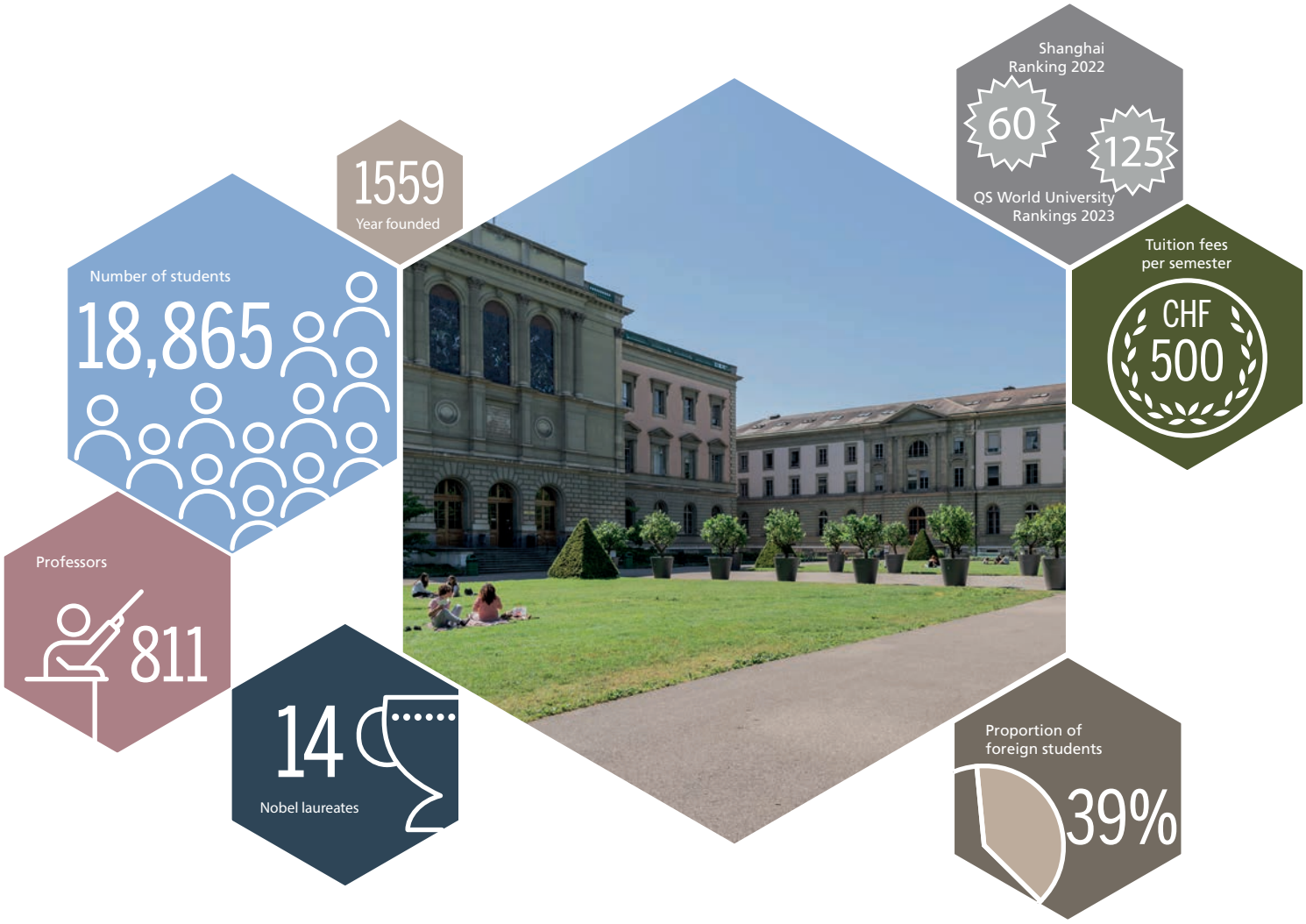
University of Fribourg

The University of Fribourg (UniFr) is an institution of higher education and research, an employer and serves as a venue for numerous events. As such, it is a place of innovation and an important driver of economic and cultural life in the region. Since it was founded in 1889, the University of Fribourg has drawn students and researchers from all over the world. It offers a full range of study programmes and disciplines and gives great importance to interdisciplinary research. With over 10,000 students for a total population of 40,000 inhabitants, it is not surprising that UniFr shapes local community life more than in any other Swiss town. In most cases, the language of instruction is French, German or both languages. Many courses are also taught in English, including all MSc programmes. The possibility of obtaining a bilingual university degree is unique in Europe. UniFr has over fifty study programmes in five different faculties. In addition, UniFr has numerous interdisciplinary institutes and competence centres, including a national centre of competence in research (NCCR) as well as several interdisciplinary research centres. UniFr offers an international environment in a medieval setting; it acts as a bridge between two linguistic cultures. Moreover, top-notch teaching quality is facilitated by very favourable professor-to-student ratio.

FACULTIES

– Faculty of Law
– Faculty of Humanities
– Faculty of Science and Medicine
– Faculty of Management, Economics and Social Sciences
– Faculty of Theology

www.unifr.ch
international@unifr.ch



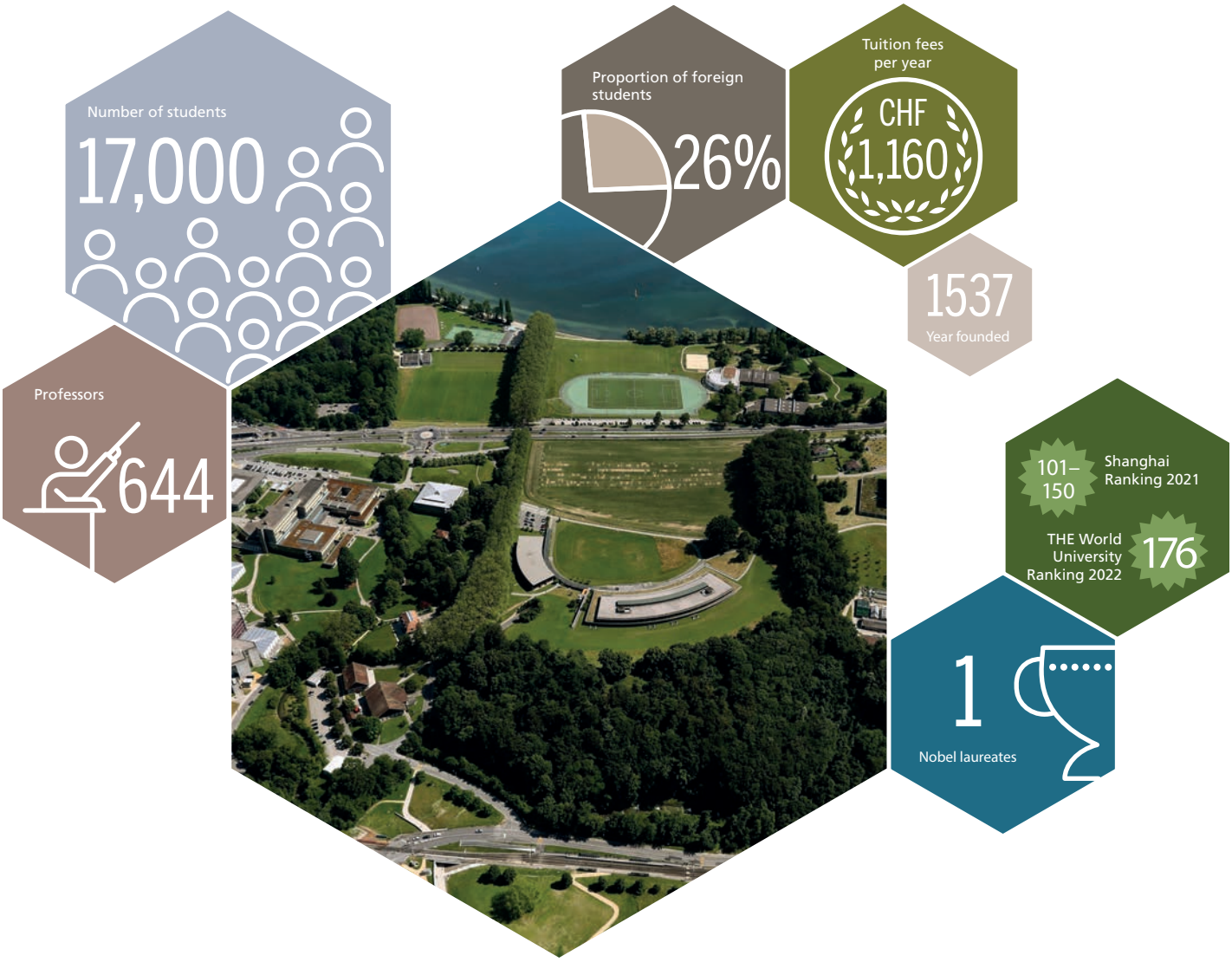
University of Geneva

The University of Geneva (UNIGE) was founded in 1559, at the initiative of Jean Calvin and Theodore de Beze. Today, it is Switzerland's third largest university and is ranked among the world's top 100 universities. As one of Calvin's crowning achievements, the University of Geneva has a privileged international reputation, both for the quality of its teaching and its research. It is also renowned for its commitment to cultivating international openness. UNIGE accommodates nearly 19,000 students each year in its 9 faculties and 13 interfaculty centres. UNIGE pursues three missions: teaching, research and service to the community. Among other things, UNIGE is a member of the League of European Research Universities (LERU), which brings together the 23 most prestigious research institutions in Europe. UNIGE is constantly developing its ties with international and non-governmental organisations based in Geneva, one of the world capitals of multilateralism.

www.unige.ch
communication@unige.ch

FACULTIES
– Faculty of Science
– Faculty of Medicine
– Faculty of Humanities
– Faculty of Law
– Faculty of Protestant Theology
– Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences
– Faculty of Translation and Interpreting
– Geneva School of Economics and Management
– Geneva School of Social Sciences

INTERFACULTY CENTRES AND INSTITUTES
A total of thirteen, including:
– Computer Science Centre (CUI)
– Global Studies Institute
– Institute for Environmental Sciences (ISE)
– University Institute of Teacher Education (IUTE)



University of Lausanne

Founded in 1537, the University of Lausanne (UNIL) is comprised of seven faculties and has positioned itself as a sustainable, interdisciplinary higher education institution. In 2017, Professor Jacques Dubochet was awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry. UNIL has over 17,000 students from around 130 countries. Focusing on the humanities, social sciences, life sciences and environmental sciences, UNIL awards the full range of academic degrees and associated qualifications (e.g. continuing education and training). UNIL stands at the forefront of technological and pedagogical progress, offering highly developed digital platforms for teaching and learning. In recent years, UNIL has intensified its partnerships and created major interdisciplinary centres devoted to topics such as cancer research, sustainability, mountains, sports, life paths and vulnerabilities, and ethics.

www.unil.ch
international@unil.ch

FACULTIES

– Faculty of Biology and Medicine
– Faculty of Business and Economics
– Faculty of Social and Political Sciences
– Faculty of Geosciences and Environment
– Faculty of Arts
– Faculty of Law, Criminal Justice and Public Administration
– Faculty of Theology and Sciences of Religions

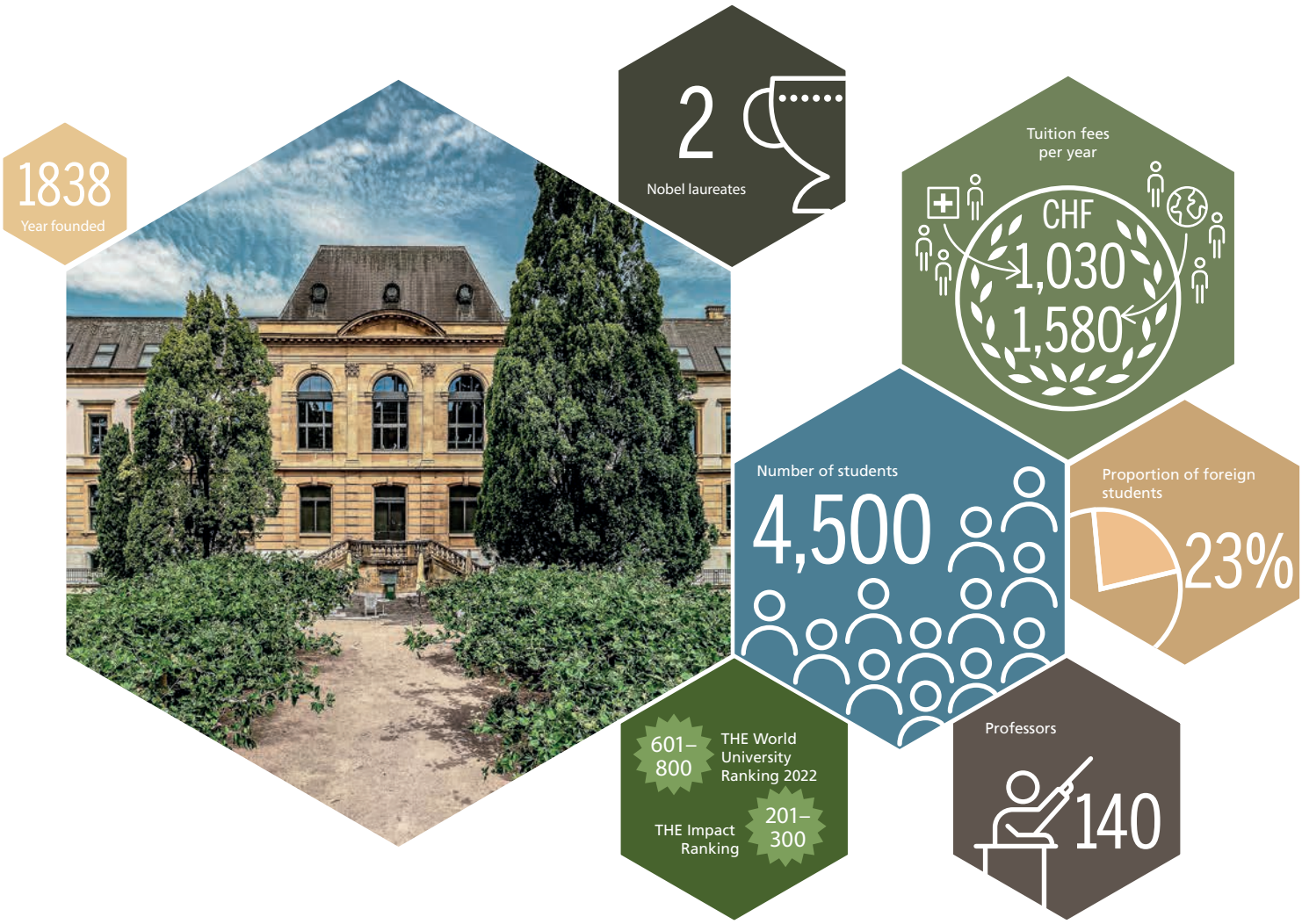
University of Lucerne

Research and teaching at the University of Lucerne (UniLu) focus on topics relating to people and society. At the same time, It offers a full range of disciplines, including cultural and social sciences, law, economics, health and medicine, and theology. Thanks to the personal atmosphere and direct contact with lecturers, the University of Lucerne offers its 3,200 students optimal learning and studying opportunities. All courses take place in the university building in a unique location directly on Lake Lucerne. Partnership agreements with over 70 European universities and around 30 universities outside Europe give students plenty of opportunities to spend a semester abroad. Graduates of UniLu have good employment prospects. Alumni from Switzerland's youngest university currently hold management positions in the private sector, the public sector and in non-profit organisations.

www.unilu.ch
info@unilu.ch

FACULTIES AND DEPARTMENTS

– Faculty of Theology
– Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
– Faculty of Law
– Faculty of Economics and Management
– Department of Health Sciences and Medicine



University of Neuchatel

Located in the French-speaking region of Switzerland, halfway between Geneva and Zurich, the University of Neuchâtel (UniNE) is an ideal location to pursue academic studies (Bachelor's degree, Master's degree, PhD) or to conduct advanced research in a remarkable setting, in the heart of the town, between Lake Neuchatel and the hillside. The University of Neuchatel encourages four areas of development: dialogue, digitalisation, diversity and sustainability. These areas are expressed in all teaching and research activities as well as in UniNE's policies and its role as an employer. This human-sized higher education institution also gives importance to proximity, interdisciplinary approaches and innovation. Both professors and students come from many different countries. Although teaching is mainly done in French, UniNE offers several Master's degree programmes in English. The Institute of French language and culture (ILCF) specialises in the teaching of French as a foreign language.

www.unine.ch
contact@unine.ch

FACULTIES
– Faculty of Humanities
– Faculty of Science
– Faculty of Economics and Business
– Faculty of Law

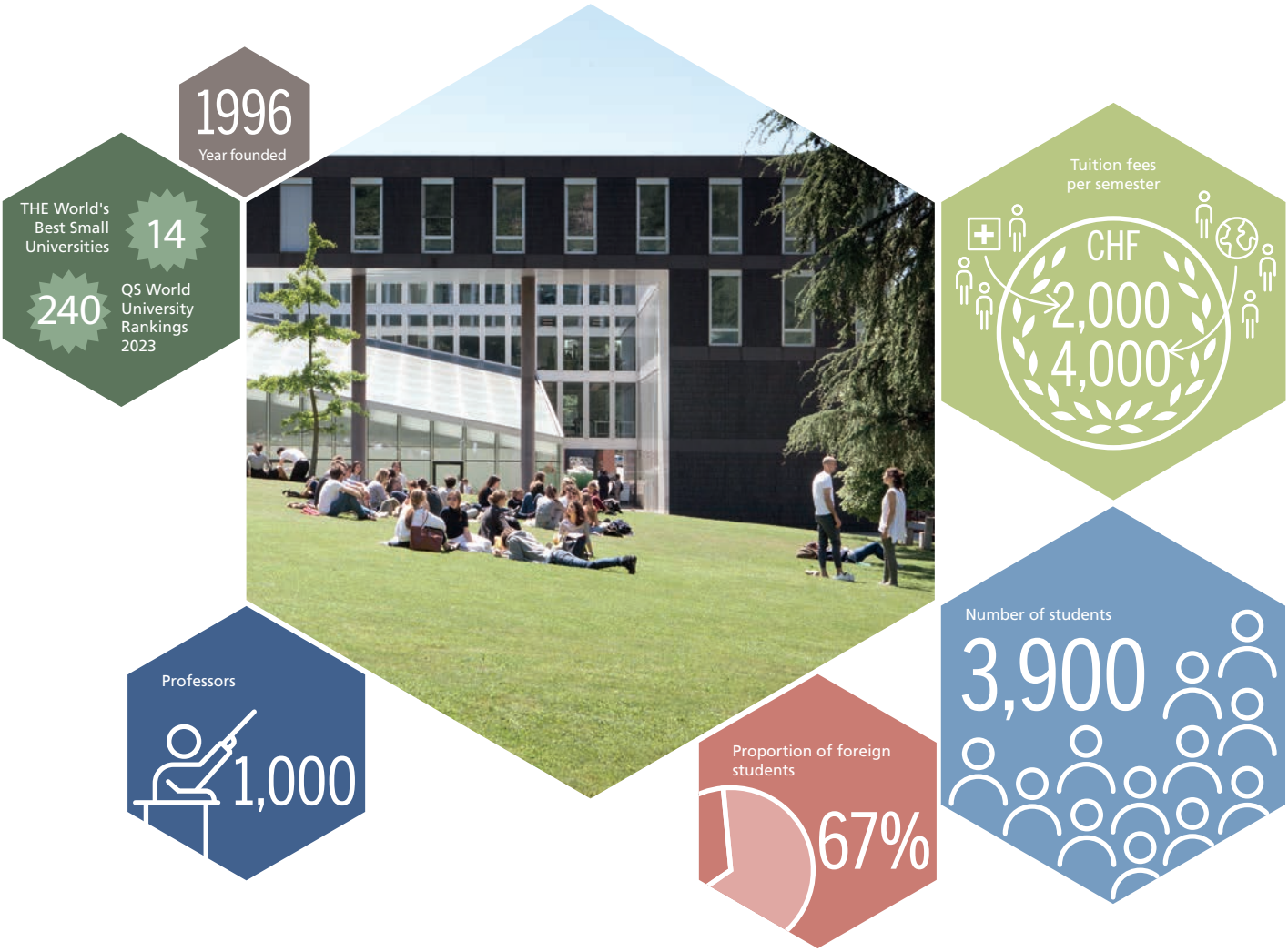
University of St. Gallen

The University of St. Gallen (HSG) has over 9,000 students and more than 3,000 employees. It is one of the ten largest employers in the Canton of St. Gallen and is among the top business schools in Europe. Today, students from around 90 countries are enrolled in business administration, economics, law and social sciences, international relations and information technology. Since its inception in 1898, HSG has stood out for its internationalism, practical relevance and integrative approach to education. Students are involved in around 130 different associations and initiatives and work on projects with international partners. In addition, its 33,000 strong alumni network contributes to the spirit of research and innovation at HSG.

www.unisg.ch
info@unisg.ch

FACULTIES

– Management and economics
– Law and social science
– International relations and computer science
– Around 40 institutes, research institutes and centres, 6 schools and 3 global centres



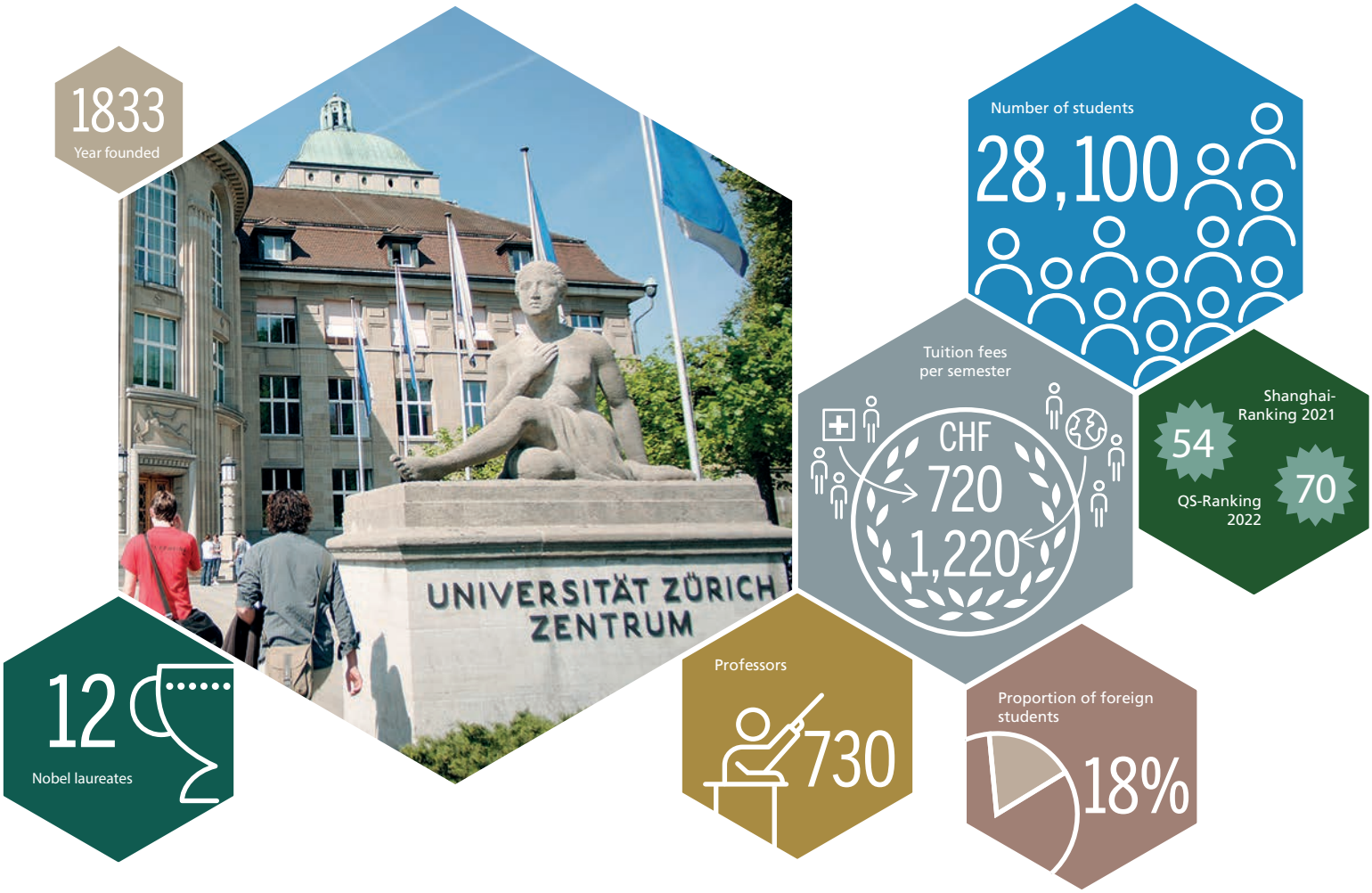
Università della Svizzera italiana

The Università della Svizzera italiana (USI) is an international, people-friendly university where everyone is given the opportunity for self-discovery and self-expression, cultivating one's own personal talents and uniqueness. USI benefits from its unique location, both decentralised and at the crossroads between Northern Europe and the Mediterranean, where Swissness meets Italian culture. Every day on its campuses in Lugano, Mendrisio and Bellinzona, 3,900 students and 1,000 professors, lecturers and researchers from over 100 different countries meet and interact with one another. USI offers its students highly engaging and interdisciplinary studies. It gives its researchers a privileged space where they enjoy autonomy and can take personal initiative. USI has over 11,000 graduates worldwide and is listed among the world's top 350 universities in major international ranking lists. Young and agile, USI offers a world of opportunities. It is personal, original and unconventional, allowing people find their own path.

www.usi.ch
press@usi.ch

FACULTIES AND INSTITUTES

– Academy of Architecture
– Faculty of Biomedical Sciences
– Faculty of Communication, Culture and Society
– Faculty of Economics
– Faculty of Informatics
– Faculty of Theology (affiliated)



University of Zurich

As a member of the League of European Research Universities and the global university network Universitas 21, the University of Zurich (UZH) is one of Europe's leading research universities. It conducts world-class research in the fields of medicine, economics and a selected range of natural sciences. With around 28,000 students, UZH is Switzerland's largest university. It offers the most comprehensive range of courses covering around 100 disciplines. With roughly 6,500 people engaged in teaching and research at 130 institutes in seven faculties, UZH actively supports the next generation of academics and researchers. Its professors are committed to inspirational, research-based teaching and give students the freedom to reflect, think outside the box and experiment. UZH also encourages the transfer of knowledge between science and business. Many of the spin-off and start-up companies that have come from UZH have contributed to the innovative and flourishing economy of the Greater Zurich Area. Moreover, UZH shares its expertise on social issues through numerous partnerships, NCCRs and competence centres.

www.uzh.ch
kommunikation@uzh.ch

FACULTIES

– Faculty of Arts and Sciences
– Faculty of Science
– Faculty of Business, Economics and Informatics
– Faculty of Medicine
– Faculty of Law
– Vetsuisse Faculty
– Faculty of Theology

Bern University of Applied Sciences

The Bern University of Applied Sciences (BFH) is a vibrant higher education institution located in the Canton of Bern, the heart of Switzerland's political and economic life. Teaching and research activities are conducted in a practical and inquisitive manner, enabling both students and university staff to carefully shape the transition to a sustainable, digitally mature, health-conscious and generation-friendly society. BFH offers a combination of artistic, natural and social science approaches, cross-disciplinary collaboration as well as fresh perspectives on complex challenges in teaching and research.

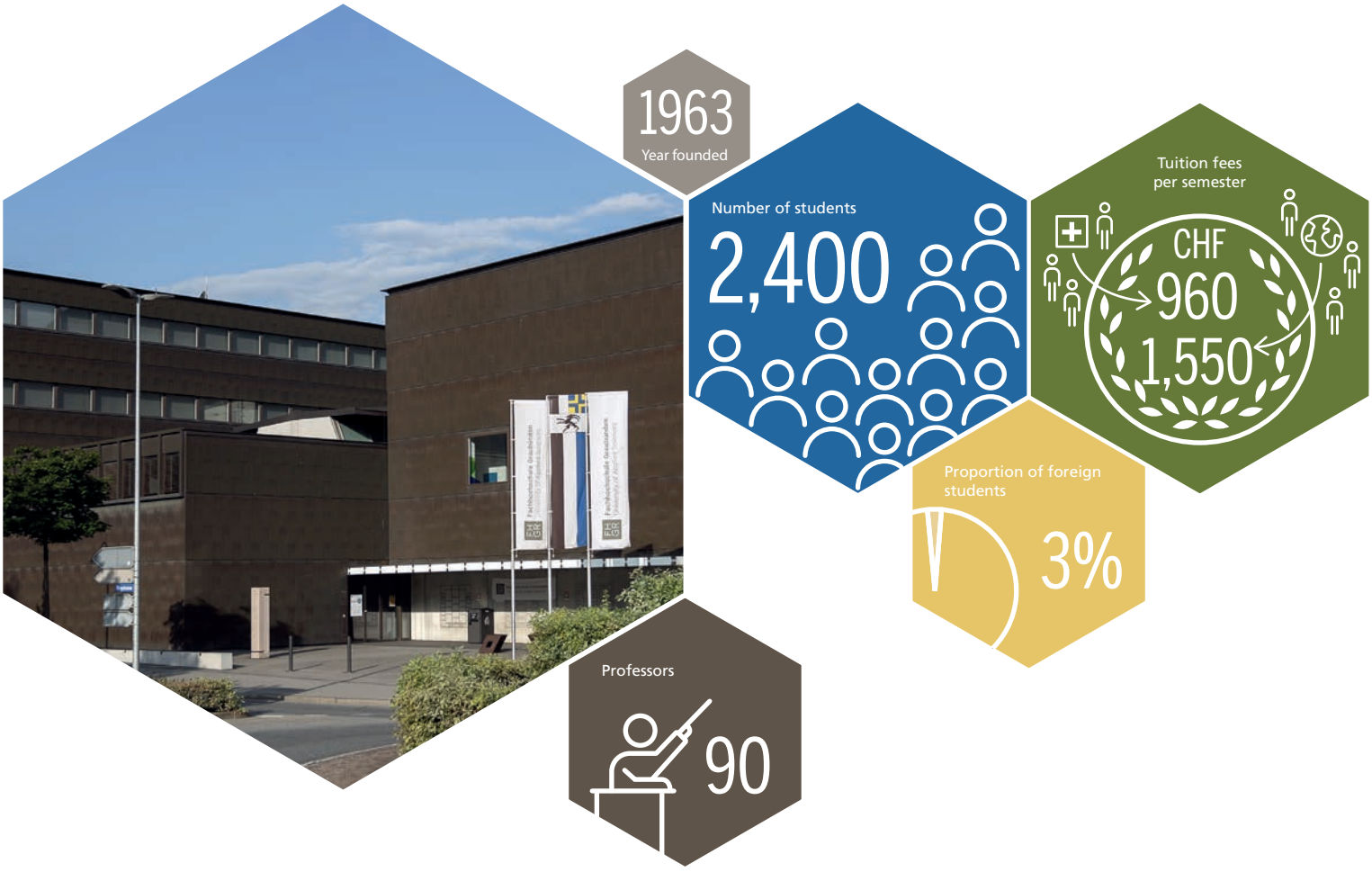
31 Bachelor's and 27 Master's degree programmes equip BFH graduates with the skills needed to face future challenges in a dynamic, ever-changing working environment. BFH encourages transnational and intercultural competence and cooperation among its students and staff. It maintains an extensive network of foreign partner universities and welcomes students from all over the world.

www.bfh.ch
office@bfh.ch

SCHOOLS

– School of Architecture, Wood and Civil Engineering
– School of Health Professions
– School of Social Work
– School of Engineering and Computer Science
– Business School
– School of Agriculture, Forest and Food Sciences (HAFL)
– Bern Academy of the Arts (HKB)

The Swiss Federal Institute of Sport Magglingen (SFISM) is an associated partner of BFH.



University of Applied Sciences of the Grisons

As an agile higher education institution, the University of Applied Sciences of the Grisons (FHGR) focuses on dynamic thinking and proactive behaviour. With this mindset, it is helping to shape a more sustainable future. Studies and research activities at FHGR are interdisciplinary and focused on practical economic and social challenges. Over 2,400 students are taught to become highly skilled and responsible individuals. FHGR offers degree programmes and continuing education and training courses in architecture, civil engineering, computational and data science, digital supply chain management, information science, management, mobile robotics, multimedia production, photonics, service innovation and design, and tourism. FHGR's research activities are focussed on applied future technologies, development in the Alpine region and entrepreneurship. FHGR also works with partner laboratories. The active involvement of all university staff members helps to develop FHGR further and continuously improve quality.

www.fhgr.ch
info@fhgr.ch

DEPARTMENTS

Applied Future Technologies
– Institute for Multimedia Production (IMP)
– Institute for Photonics and Robotics (IPR)
– Swiss Institute for Information Science (SII)

Alpine Region Development
– Institute for Construction in Alpine Regions (IBAR)
– Institute for Tourism and Leisure (ITF)
– Centre for Economic Policy Research (ZWF)

Entrepreneurial Management
– Institute for Management and Further Education (IMW)
– Swiss Institute for Entrepreneurship (SIFE)
– Centre for Business Administration (ZBW)
– Centre for Public Management (ZVM)

Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts

The Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts (HSLU) serves the six cantons of central Switzerland. It is both the oldest and largest university in the region. Over 8,300 students attend courses in six different departments. HSLU offers 41 Bachelor's and 20 Master's degree programmes, which are designed to optimally prepare students for working life. New study programmes have been introduced to address the challenges posed by digitalisation or climate change. HSLU also offers a range of continuing education and training courses, where 12,000 professionals attend one of over 550 courses on offer. The course catalogue ranges from individual courses on data protection to the Master of Advanced Studies in Construction Economics. This course catalogue is constantly adapted in response to new needs.

HSLU is also an attractive partner for R&D and highly specialised services. Partners and clients include companies, government agencies and EU institutions. The digitalisation of working life and the resource-friendly development of living space are the main focus of HSLU's two interdisciplinary NCCRs.

www.hslu.ch
info@hslu.ch

DEPARTMENTS

– Engineering and Architecture
– Business
– Computer Science and Information Technology
– Social Work
– Art and Design
– Music

University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland

The University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Northwestern Switzerland (FHNW) is a regionally based institution for higher education and research that maintains a strong national and international network. It is comprised of nine schools. FHNW's campuses are located in the four sponsor cantons of Aargau, Basel-Landschaft, Basel-Stadt and Solothurn. FHNW has around 13,400 students and employs 1,350 lecturers who impart real-world knowledge and skills tailored to the needs of the labour market. FHNW offers 30 Bachelor's and 20 Master's degree programmes in addition to continuing education and training courses. FHNW alumni are highly sought-after professionals. In addition to professionally relevant study programmes and further education, considerable importance is also given to applied research and knowledge transfer to companies and institutions. FHNW works with regional, national and international partners from industrial, business and cultural spheres as well as with government agencies and public institutions. It also conducts research aimed at developing innovative capacity and improving society. A further aim is to generate evidence-based findings for use in teaching.

SCHOOLS

– School of Applied Psychology
– School of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geomatics
– Academy of Art and Design
– School of Life Sciences
– Academy of Music
– School of Education
– School of Social Work
– School of Engineering
– School of Business

www.fhnw.ch
info@fhnw.ch

Ostschweizer Fachhochschule

The Ostschweizer Fachhochschule (OST) serves the eastern cantons of Switzerland as well as the Principality of Liechtenstein. It brings together the former colleges FHS St.Gallen, HSR Rapperswil and NTB Buchs and builds on their many years of experience in research and education. OST offers a wide range of study programmes, continuing education and training courses and provides third-party services in the fields of architecture, construction and planning, health, social work, engineering, information technology and business. It is one of Switzerland's top institutions for applied research and is a highly valued partner at regional, national and international level.

www.ost.ch
info@ost.ch

SCHOOLS

– School of Architecture, Civil Engineering, Landscape Architecture, Spatial Planning
– School of Health Professions
– School of Computer Science
– School of Social Work
– School of Technology
– School of Management

University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland

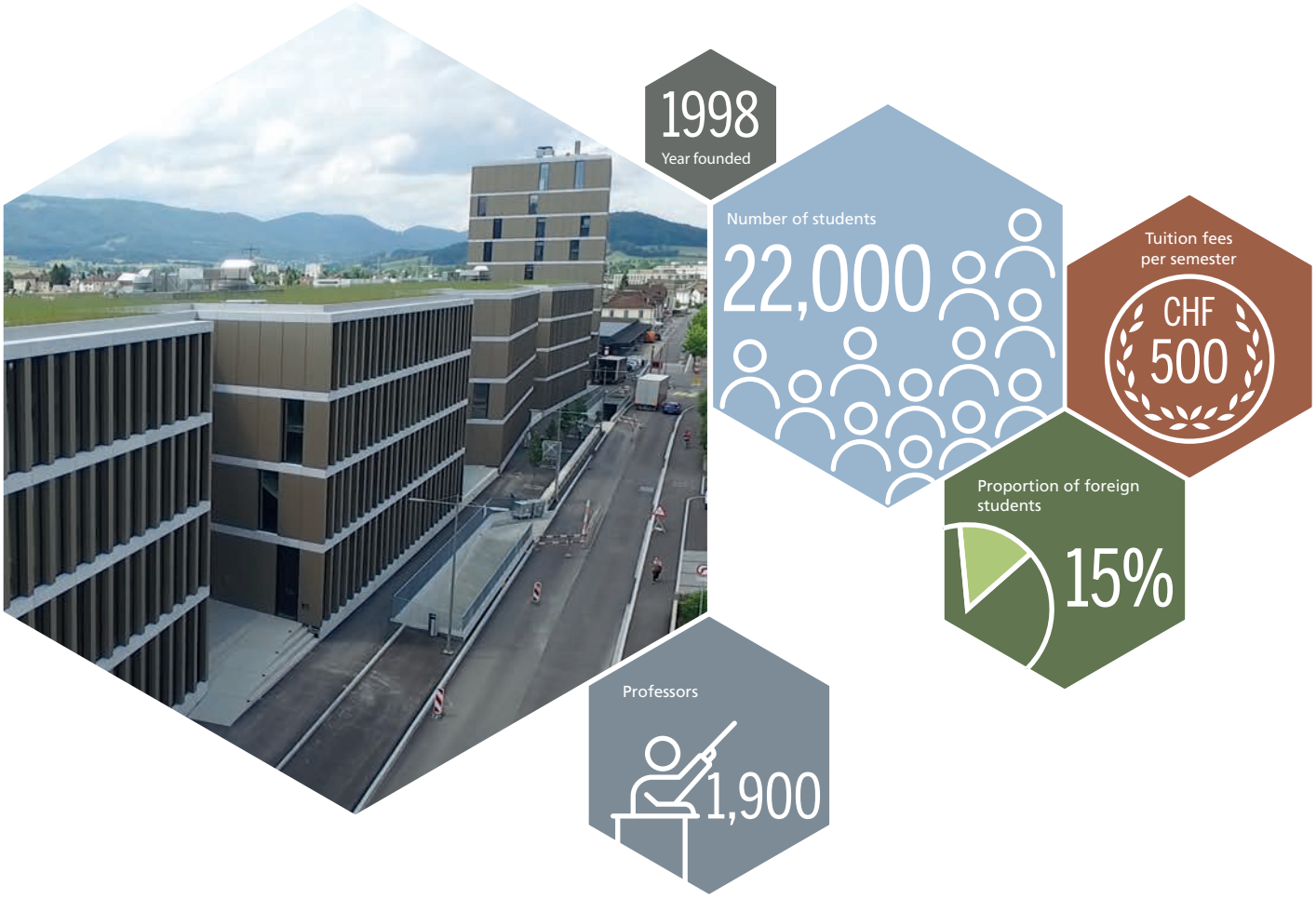
The University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland (SUPSI) is an independent institution under public law with its own legal status. Founded in 1997, it offers over 30 Bachelor's, Master's and Diploma programmes. SUPSI is characterised by modern teaching methods that combine conventional theoretical-scientific study with the acquisition of real-world skills for specific professions.

A great deal of emphasis is placed on research conducted in key sectors. The various projects receive competitively awarded funding from major European and national agencies or from companies and institutions under third-party mandates. In addition to its focus on work-oriented teaching, SUPSI carries out four core activities: Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes; continuing education and training; applied research; and space industry services. It has four departments (DFA, DACD, DEASS, DTI) and three affiliated schools (ATD, CSI-SUM, FFHS). While the latter are part of SUPSI's academic offering, they nonetheless maintain administrative and managerial autonomy.

www.supsi.ch
segreteria@supsi.ch

DEPARTMENTS AND ASSOCIATED SCHOOLS

– Department of Education and Learning (DFA)
– Department of Environment Constructions and Design (DACD)
– Department of Business Economics, Health and Social Care (DEASS)
– Department of Innovative Technologies (DTI)
– Associated schools: Accademia Teatro Dimitri (ATD) / Scuola Universitaria di Musica del Conservatorio della Svizzera italiana (CSI-SUM) / Fernfachhochschule Schweiz (FFHS)



University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland

With 22,000 students, University of Applied Sciences of Western Switzerland (HES-SO) is the largest institution of its type in Switzerland. It offers study programmes that are closely aligned with the needs of specific sectors and professions. Its 28 schools are spread across the seven cantons of Western Switzerland (Bern, Fribourg, Geneva, Jura, Neuchâtel, Valais, Vaud). Through these schools, HES-SO offers 74 Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes and over 250 continuing education and training courses in six disciplines: Art & Design; Engineering and Architecture; Business, Management and Services; Music and Performing Arts; Social Work; and Health Sciences. HES-SO also conducts applied research aimed at addressing social needs and challenges. This research is focused on practical applications, innovation and creativity. At international level, HES-SO works closely with other university-level institutions and higher education alliance networks. In particular, it is an associate member of the European university Unitas Montium (UNITA).

SCHOOLS
– Art & Design
– Engineering and Architecture
– Business, Management and Services
– Music and Performing Arts
– Social Work
– Health Sciences

www.hes-so.ch
info@hes-so.ch

Zürcher Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften

Zürcher Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften (ZHAW) is one of Switzerland's leading higher education institutions. It engages in practical and evidence-based teaching, research, continuing education and training. It also provides services to third parties. Its research and development activities focus on key societal challenges, including energy and social integration. With its expertise in sustainable development and the digital transformation, ZHAW imparts future-oriented knowledge and skills and actively contributes to digital and environmental change. With campuses in Winterthur, Zurich and Wädenswil, it maintains a regional presence and works with a large number of international partners.

www.zhaw.ch
info@zhaw.ch

SCHOOLS

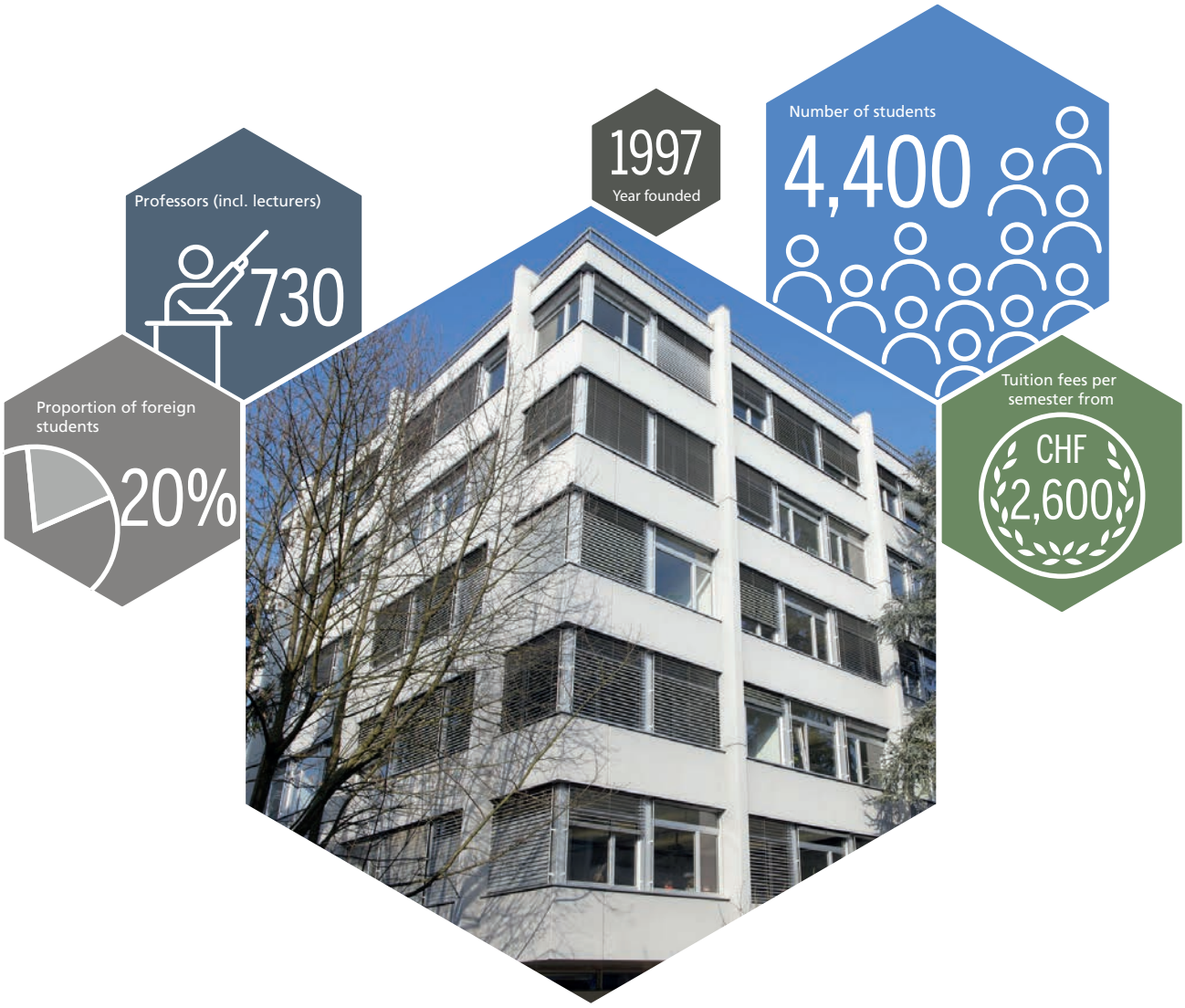
– School of Applied Linguistics
– School of Applied Psychology
– School of Architecture, Design and Civil Engineering
– School of Health Sciences
– School of Life Sciences und Facility Management
– School of Engineering
– School of Management and Law
– School of Social Work

Zurich University of the Arts

With around 2,100 Bachelor's and Master's degree students and 650 lecturers, the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK) is one of Europe's leading art schools. Studies and research activities cover the fields of art education, design, film, fine arts, music, dance, theatre and transdisciplinarity. ZHdK offers its students a range of studies that cannot be found elsewhere in Europe. Moreover, each study programme has its own set of interdisciplinary options. From the autumn semester 2023/24 onwards, students will be able to create their own educational profile. If they wish, they can deepen the knowledge and skills acquired in their major with content from several newly created minors. Alternatively, they may broaden their scope to include other disciplines. The major-minor concept is being introduced in stages. Bachelor's degree programmes will start in autumn 2023; Master's degree programmes will follow in 2024; and minors will be available from 2024 onwards. ZHdK has numerous exhibition and performance venues where the results of training are made public. In addition, ZHdK runs a whole range of preparatory and continuing education and training courses. It also offers PhD programmes in cooperation with other Swiss universities and foreign art schools.

DEPARTMENTS
– Performing Arts and Cinema
– Design
– Fine Arts
– Cultural Analysis and Education
– Music

www.zhdk.ch
info.admin@zhdk.ch



Kalaidos Fachhochschule Schweiz

Kalaidos has over 4,400 students pursuing one of over 100 available Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes in five departments: Business, Law, Health Sciences, Applied Psychology and Music. Kalaidos also offers a range of continuing education and training courses. The courses are practical, part-time and evidence-based. Specific issues from everyday professional life are directly integrated into study programmes and courses. Experienced lecturers from the field address these issues, drawing from the latest knowledge and research findings. As a higher education institution catering to employed persons, Kalaidos has an extensive network of companies whose employees study here. This network also includes trade associations and professional bodies. This enables Kalaidos to establish a bridge between applied research and daily practice. As the only private university of applied sciences in Switzerland, Kalaidos is a member of the umbrella organisation swissuniversities.

DEPARTMENTS
– Business
– Law
– Health Sciences
– Applied Psychology
– Music

www.kalaidos-fh.ch
info@kalaidos-fh.ch

Universities of teacher education

Universities of teacher education (UTEs) and other teacher training institutions train qualified teachers for all levels of education. UTEs fall under cantonal jurisdiction and are therefore subject to cantonal and intercantonal regulations. In addition to teaching, research and development, UTEs also offer continuing education and advanced training. Alongside their academic title (Bachelor's or Master's degree), UTE graduates also receive a professional diploma, i.e. a teaching credentials for the respective level of education or a professional diploma in special needs education.

These cantonal or cantonally recognised teaching credentials (pre-school level, primary level, lower secondary level, baccalaureate schools) or professional diplomas are recognised by the Swiss Conference of Cantonal Ministers of Education (EDK). This means that qualification holders are licensed to practise the teaching profession at the respective school level in the whole of Switzerland. Today, all study programmes at the pre-school and primary level automatically recognised by EDK throughout Switzerland. This recognition ensures the national and international mobility of teachers.

There are currently 14 legally independent cantonal or intercantonal universities of teacher education in Switzerland. In addition, two universities of teacher education are integrated as part of a university of applied sciences.

- UTE Bern: www.phbern.ch
- UTE Valais: www.hepvs.ch
- UTE Graubunden: www.phgr.ch
- UTE Fribourg: www.phfr.ch
- UTE Thurgau: www.phtg.ch
- UTE Vaud: www.hepl.ch
- UTE Lucerne: www.phlu.ch
- UTE Zug: www.phzg.ch
- UTE Schwyz: www.phsz.ch
- UTE Bern, Jura and Neuchatel: www.hep-bejune.ch
- UTE Schaffhausen: www.phsh.ch
- UTE St. Gallen: www.phsg.ch
- UTE Zurich: www.phzh.ch
- UTE Special Needs Zurich: www.hfh.ch
- UTE FHNW: www.fhnw.ch/ph
- UTE SUPSI: www.supsi.ch/dfa

There are two private university institutes that are also worth mentioning: IVP NMS Bern (from 1 February 2023: NMS Bern Teachers College), which trains kindergarten and primary school teachers; and the Rorschach School of Speech Therapy (SHLR). Both institutions are institutionally accredited by the respective canton (Bern and St.Gallen) and receive subsidies under the Intercantonal Agreement on Universities of Applied Sciences

Swiss Federal University for Vocational Education and Training

The Swiss Federal University for Vocational Education and Training (SFUVET) was accredited as a university of teacher education in 2022. It contributes to the development of vocational education and training in Switzerland through teaching, research and third-party services.
www.ehb.swiss

Tier-one colleges and UAS colleges

Tier-one colleges und UAS colleges offer teaching, research and third-party services, but differ from tier-one universities or universities of applied sciences in that they have a narrower focus – either in terms of subjects/disciplines or in terms of the levels of study offered.

Among tier-one colleges, UniDistance and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID) stand out in particular as both are funded by the cantons and the Confederation. The Swiss Federal Institute of Sport Magglingen (SFISM) is funded exclusively by the Confederation.

- Located in Brig, UniDistance offers distance learning Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes as well as continuing education and training courses in the fields of law, economics, history, artificial intelligence, mathematics and psychology. This tier-one college has over 2,300 students.
  www.unidistance.ch/en

- Based in Geneva, the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID) focuses on international relations, development issues, global challenges and governance. It offers Master's degree and PhD programmes as well as continuing education and training courses in international history and politics, international economics, international law, international relations and political science, and development studies. It has just under 1,000 students.
  www.graduateinstitute.ch

- The Swiss Federal Institute of Sport Magglingen (SFISM) plays an important role in the Confederation's commitment to promoting sports and physical activity. It offers Bachelor's, Master's and advanced studies programmes (CAS and MAS). It also provides coaching in junior and elite sports. The SFISM's applied research activities and third-party services cover the general promotion of sports and exercise, education and competitive sports. This UAS college is associated with the Bern University of Applied Sciences (BFH) and has around 250 students.
  www.ehsm.admin.ch

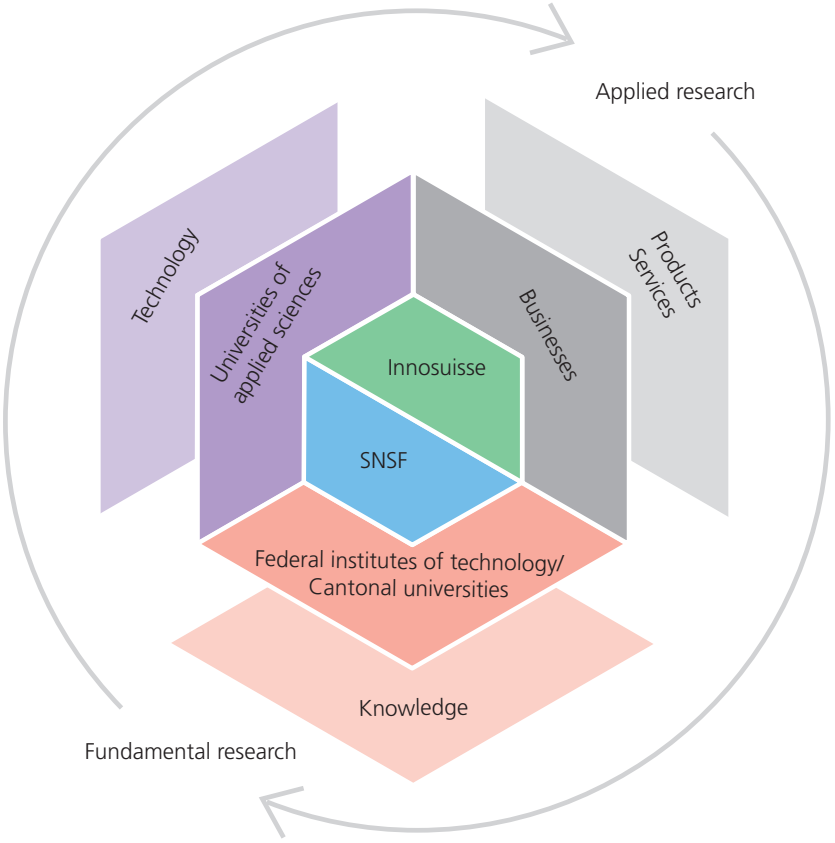
All higher education institutions accredited under the Higher Education Act (HEdA), i.e. including those that are exclusively privately funded, are listed on the website of the Swiss Accreditation Council:
www.akkreditierungsrat.ch

Switzerland as a location for research and innovation

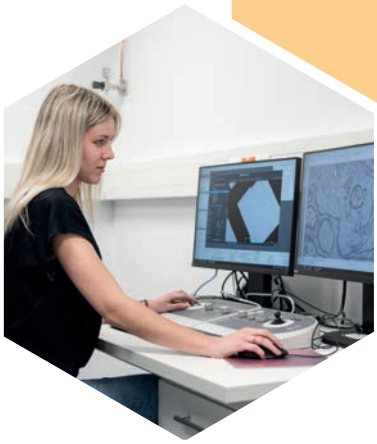
Switzerland is very competitive in the area of research and innovation. However, with expenditure on research and development (R&D) amounting to almost 3.2% of its gross domestic product (OECD average: 2.7%), it also invests heavily in this area. Success in Switzerland as a location for research and innovation also depends to a large extent on the perfect match between the private sector, which accounts for two-thirds of all R&D expenditure, and the publicly funded research institutes within the ETH Domain as well as with Swiss cantonal universities and universities of applied sciences. The distribution of responsibilities has evolved over time: fundamental research takes place mostly in the ETH Domain and at cantonal universities. In contrast, applied research, as well as the creation of marketable innovations, is primarily the domain of universities of applied sciences and, of course, the private sector. The two federal research funding institutions are structured accordingly: The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) mainly supports fundamental research in all scientific disciplines, and Innosuisse specifically bridges the gap between science and the market by supporting innovation projects, networking, training and coaching.

Salient features of public funding of research and innovation

- Streamlined funding system with only two complementary state-funded institutions: the Swiss National Science Foundation and Innosuisse.
- Both funding institutions are fully autonomous and allocate their funds competitively on the basis of qualitative criteria.
- Great importance is given to researcher initiative and institutional autonomy.
- Thematic proposals for research are submitted bottom-up, with the federal government setting top-down priorities only in certain areas.
- International mobility and openness are encouraged.



Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)



Innosuisse – Swiss Innovation Agency

Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences

National research and innovation funding instruments and institutions

Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)

The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) is a federally funded institution that supports scientific research and young researchers in Switzerland. To ensure independent research, the SNSF is structured as a private foundation. Researchers from all scientific disciplines have access to SNSF funding. The SNSF has a wide range of funding instruments at its disposal. Roughly half of its funding allocated to support projects where researchers are free to decide both the research topic and scope. The SNSF also gives great importance to helping young researchers. It also encourages international activities as a means of supporting and optimising global scientific cooperation and interaction.

On behalf of the Confederation, it runs national research programmes (NRPs) and national centres of competence in research (NCCRs):

- NCCRs help to better structure the Swiss research landscape by establishing competence centres in key areas of expertise.
- NRPs address current and pressing challenges of national importance. Their focus is on problem-solving and thus a lot of the work entails applied research and interdisciplinary approaches.

Innosuisse – Swiss Innovation Agency

Innosuisse, the Swiss Innovation Agency, supports research-based innovations that benefit the economy and society. As a federal public-law institution, Innosuisse has its own legal personality and budget. Innosuisse's funding instruments encourage the transfer of knowledge and technology between the research community and industry. Innosuisse's core mission is to support innovation projects in all scientific disciplines and potential areas of business. Emphasis is placed on developing new products, processes, services and business models. Innovation projects are usually carried out as a collaborative endeavour between implementation partners from industry and researchers from universities or research institutions. Another Innosuisse funding instrument is the Flagship Initiative, where Innosuisse establishes specific but broadly defined thematic areas. Innosuisse also encourages international and cross-border cooperation projects through the Eureka intergovernmental initiative, through European programmes and through bilateral agreements with partner countries. This international project support helps to improve the competitiveness and integration of Swiss companies in global value chains.

Federal policy research

Swiss Innovation Park

Programme to support national activities in space

Research institutions of national importance

Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences
The Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences is an umbrella organisation of the four Swiss institutions: the Swiss Academy of Natural Sciences (SCNAT), the Swiss Academy of Human and Social Sciences (SAHS), the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences (SAMS) and the Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences (SATW). In addition to these four academies, it also includes the Centre of Excellence for Technology Assessment (TA-Swiss) and Science et Cite, a foundation to encourage dialogue between science and society.

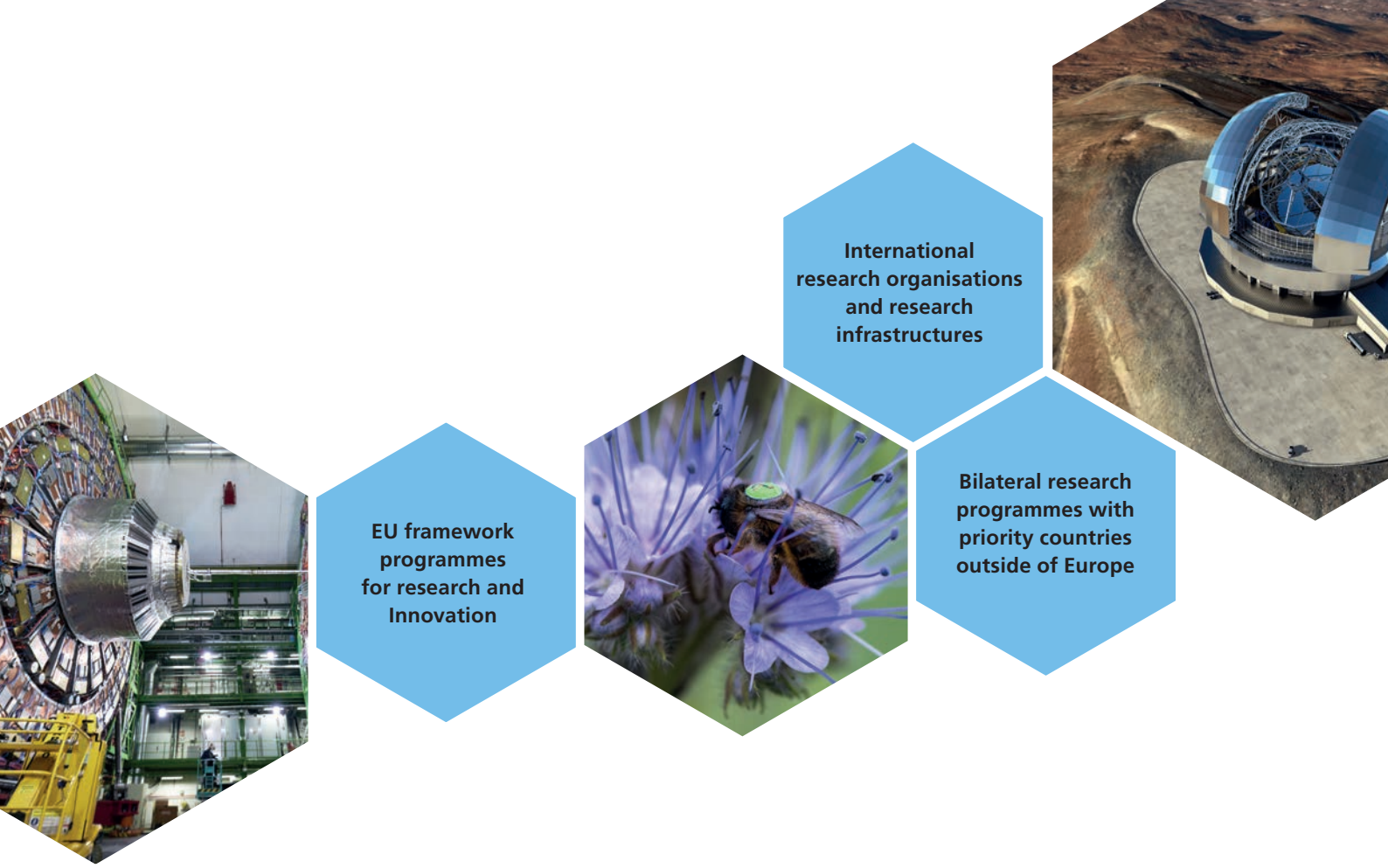
Acting under a federal mandate, Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences foster cooperation within and between all scientific disciplines. At the same time, they promote greater awareness of science in society. They also recognise and draw attention to socially relevant topics early on relating to research and innovation. In addition, they are committed to ethical responsibility in research and teaching and shape dialogue between science and society in order to promote mutual understanding.

Research institutions of national importance
Over thirty federally funded research institutions of national importance help to generate scientific expertise in a wide range of fields and disciplines. They complement the research activities and infrastructures of cantonal universities and the ETH Domain. Basic funding is provided by public institutions, cantonal universities and, to some extent, the private sector. Funding from the Confederation is subsidiary in nature and a distinction is drawn between three types of institution: Research infrastructures, research institutes and centres of technological excellence.

Federal policy research
The Federal Administration initiates and supports policy research to obtain the information that it needs to perform its tasks. Policy research covers a wide variety of areas ranging from fundamental and applied research to more commercial developments, such as engineering of pilot and demonstration plants.

Swiss Innovation Park
The Swiss Innovation Park is a nationally important collaborative venture involving the Confederation, the cantons, the scientific community and the private sector. It encourages the interaction between science and business and thus reinforces the transfer of knowledge and technology. The Swiss Innovation Park helps to enhance Switzerland's appeal as a competitive location for research and innovation. It is currently comprised of six main sites.

Programme to support national activities in space
Switzerland is a member of the European Space Agency (ESA). With its programme to support national activities in space, the Confederation assists Swiss institutions that work with the ESA. The aim is to help these institutions prepare funding applications for European programmes and to enable them to bring Swiss scientific instruments into service on space missions.



Research and innovation funding instruments and institutions

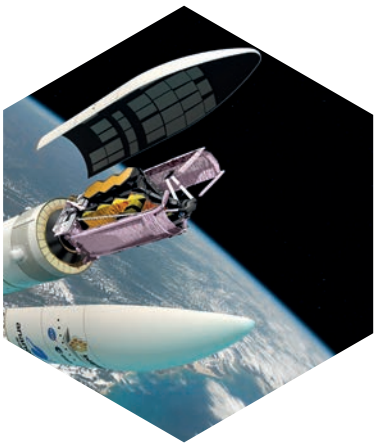
EU framework programmes for research and Innovation
Programmes for Research and Innovation (FP) in various capacities since 1987. Researchers and innovators in Switzerland work in international projects with researchers from Europe and other parts of the world. This brings substantial benefits to Switzerland. The 9th framework programme, called Horizon Europe, will run from 2021 to 2027. This successor to Horizon 2020 (2014-2020) is the most ambitious framework programme to date in EU history. It is also the world's largest research and innovation funding programme.

International research organisations and research infrastructures
International research organisations build and operate the world's most powerful research infrastructures. They provide the momentum for major scientific and technological developments. For this reason, the Confederation signs international agreements on Swiss participation in international research organisations, thereby ensuring that Swiss researchers can take part in international cooperation initiatives. Switzerland is a member of ten international research organisations, most of which operate world-class research infrastructures in their respective scientific fields. This enables unique experiments to be conducted. A striking example of this Geneva-based CERN, which operates world-class particle physics research infrastructures on the border between Switzerland and France.

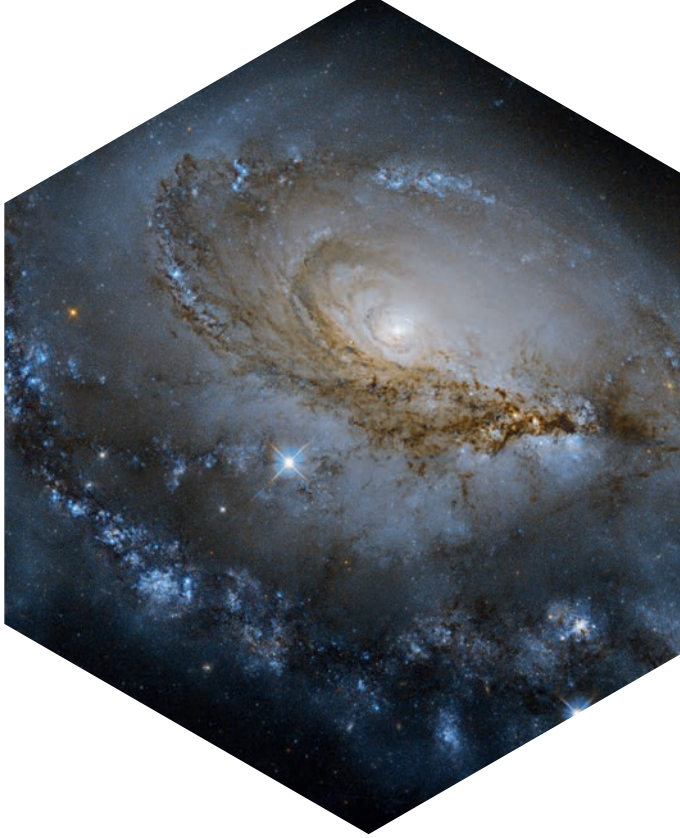
Bilateral research programmes with priority countries outside of Europe
Bilateral programmes reinforce ERI cooperation with non-European partners. Switzerland actively pursues more extensive research and innovation cooperation with regions offering scientific and technological development potential. Bilateral programmes consist of two complementary instruments: joint research projects with countries such as China, India, Japan or South Korea; and exploratory projects where Leading Houses at Swiss universities work with partner institutions in promising regions across the globe.

Membership in the European Space Agency (ESA)
Swiss research and industrial stakeholders in the space sector can look back on a successful history spanning more than 60 years. They are globally competitive and, with their partly unique capabilities, play a key role in reinforcing international prosperity and security. These stakeholders pursue their activities mainly within the context of European Space Agency, of which Switzerland is a founding member. ESA programmes include not only manned and unmanned exploration and research of the solar system and the universe, but also research and development in the areas of space transport, Earth observation, telecommunications and navigation.

Swissnex



Membership in the European Space Agency (ESA)



Swissnex

Swissnex is a global network for education, research and innovation. mission it supports the outreach and active engagement of its partners in the international exchange of knowledge, ideas and talents. The six swissnex locations can be found in the world's most innovative regions. In cooperation with 20 science counsellors at Swiss embassies, Swissnex offices help to position Switzerland as a an innovation hotspot.