Please note that this brochure contains information that may pertain to a specific category of students: students in exchange programs, or students with Swiss government scholarships, or international Master’s students. Check for the information that applies to you.

Contact:
International Relations Office
University of Zurich
Raemistr. 71
KOL E 17
8006 Zurich, Switzerland
+41 44 634 41 57
www.int.uzh.ch/index_en.html
international@int.uzh.ch
ERASMUS:
erasmus@int.uzh.ch
Bilateral agreements:
exchange@int.uzh.ch
International Master’s students:
mobility@int.uzh.ch
Students with Swiss government scholarships:
international@int.uzh.ch

Information counter hours:
Monday to Friday: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
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Dear Students,

Welcome to the University of Zurich! We are pleased that you have chosen to complete a part of your studies here. With your plan, you are taking on a special challenge: going to study in a foreign country and in a foreign city, and in a language that may still be foreign to you. That takes courage and a great deal of commitment! We will do our best to support you during your stay, for we want your experience in Zurich to be a positive one – both academically and personally.

The University of Zurich is the largest university in Switzerland and offers the broadest range of study programs. People from many countries study, teach, and work in the university’s seven faculties and more than 150 institutes. Approximately 17 percent of our 26,000 students and almost 50 percent of our professors are of foreign nationality. Many of our successful research projects are based on international collaboration. We see internationality as both a challenge and a mark of quality.

The International Relations Office is responsible for promoting international activities at the University of Zurich, especially student activities. This is a particularly important point for us, for as a student you, too, contribute towards the internationality of the university: You bring us your experiences from your university at home, and you take your experiences in Zurich back to your own country. And so I encourage you to make use of your time and opportunities in Zurich: Get to know people! Talk to people, ask questions, and exchange ideas with others! Don’t be afraid to enter into discussion with your
fellow students, or to explain your perspectives to your instructors. You will learn the most about us that way, and we will benefit from your showing us that in addition to the “Zurich way,” there are other ways, too.

On this note, I wish you all the best and a most interesting stay at our university, in the city of Zurich, and in Switzerland.

Prof. Dr. Andreas Fischer
President, University of Zurich (UZH)
Switzerland, Zurich, and the University of Zurich

The city of Zurich
With about 384'000 residents, Zurich is a manageable city. Thanks to its attractive location on the banks of the Lake of Zurich and the Limmat River and its proximity to recreation areas like the Üetliberg and the Swiss Alps, for years Zurich has ranked as one of cities worldwide with the highest quality of living (Mercer’s quality of living survey). Zurich is not only the economic but also a cultural center of Switzerland. The diversity of the city comes from the tolerant, cosmopolitan, and multicultural population and from its renowned cultural facilities and various alternative and smaller-scale cultural events. Zurich also stands out with its excellent public transportation system both locally and within the national system, and it is easily reached internationally by train or plane.

www.zuerich.com/en/welcome.cfm
University of Zurich (UZH)
Zurich is an education and research city. About 48’000 people study at the University of Zurich, at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), and at the universities of applied sciences located in Zurich. With 26’000 students, UZH is the largest university in Switzerland and was founded in 1833.

UZH has seven faculties: Theology; Law; Economics, Business Administration and Information Technology; Medicine; Vetsuisse; Arts; and Science. It offers the broadest range of study programs in Switzerland, a well-developed infrastructure, and an attractive location.

www.uzh.ch/index_en.html
www.uzh.ch/about/faculties_en.html

Switzerland: Facts and figures
Area: 41,284.5 sq km
Population: 7.7 million, of which 21% are foreign nationals
Capital: Bern
Languages: In Switzerland: 64% German, 20% French, 6.5% Italian, 0.5% Romansch, 9% other
In Zurich: mainly Swiss German/German
Political system: Switzerland is a direct democracy and a federal state; there are 26 cantons, each having its own constitution, parliament, and government. The highest executive authority of Switzerland is the seven-member Federal Council.
Religion: 42% Catholic, 35% Protestant, 23% other
Overview of UZH locations

UZH locations

The main building of UZH is located in the center of Zurich, at Raemistrasse 71. The main building and other nearby buildings house the Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Law, and a part of the Faculty of Medicine.

The university’s Zurich Irchel campus is located just outside the center of the city. Here mainly institutes of the Faculty of Science, the Vetsuisse Faculty, and a part of the Faculty of Medicine are located.

The third university location is Zurich (North), where the social sciences, the Institut of Psychology and the Department of Informatics are located.

There is a direct connection by tram (tram 9 or 10) between UZH Center and UZH Irchel. Tram 10 also
provides a direct connection to the institutes at UZH North. There are free shuttle buses twice a day to and from UZH Center and UZH North.
www.uzh.ch/contact_en.html
www.plaene.uzh.ch
www.uzh.ch/studies/dates/shuttle_en.html

**Academic calendar**
The academic year at UZH is divided into two semesters. Classes are held from mid September (calender week 38) to the end of December (calender week 51), and from mid February (calender week 8) to the end of May (calender week 22).
www.uzh.ch/studies/dates_en.html

Classes are scheduled starting at 8 a.m. and last 45 minutes, with a 15-minute break between classes. There are longer breaks at 9:45 a.m. and at 3:45 p.m. to allow students to move between the university locations.

**Examinations**
Final examinations are scheduled by the faculties. Ask your course instructors for the exact dates and times. Please note that examinations may take place during the semester breaks!
General information for international students

International Relations Office
The International Relations Office (IRO) of UZH coordinates the university’s student exchange programs (ERASMUS and bilateral cooperation agreements with other universities) and provides information to international students.

For students in exchange programs, the IRO is the central advisory center for organizational and administrative matters.

For students with Swiss government scholarships and for international students in Master’s study programs, the IRO is point of contact for general questions concerning mainly entry into Switzerland and life in Zurich.

Entry and visa
Students from EU countries: You require a valid passport or identity card for entry into Switzerland. There are also special provisions in effect for Turkish nationals. Please consult the Swiss embassy or consulate in your country for the current entry requirements and contact the IRO as the need arises.

Exchange students from non-EU countries: The IRO will assist you in organizing your visa. Please contact the person responsible at the IRO.

Students with Swiss government scholarships and international students in Master’s study programs: You must contact the Swiss embassy or consulate in your country early (at least three months prior to your departure) and apply for your visa on your own. The IRO is happy to assist if problems arise.
For country-specific information on entry requirements:  

**Residence permit**

Within 8 days of arriving in Zurich, you must obtain a residence permit. To do so, you must register at the city district office, the “Kreisbüro,” in the district in which you are living (the city of Zurich is divided into twelve districts called “Kreise”). Find out where the Kreisbüro for your district is by asking your flatmates or your host or landlord. If you are living outside the city of Zurich, you must register at the administration office of the local municipality.

For registration you will need to present:
- Valid passport or identity card
- One passport photograph
- Proof of registration at the University of Zurich
- Rental contract, or Kreisbüro document signed by the legal owner or renter of your accommodations
- Visa, if visa required
- CHF 20.– registration fee

[www.stadt-zuerich.ch/pvd/de/index/bevoelkerungsamt/personenmeldeamt/Kontakte_und_Oeffnungszeiten.html](http://www.stadt-zuerich.ch/pvd/de/index/bevoelkerungsamt/personenmeldeamt/Kontakte_und_Oeffnungszeiten.html)
Work permit
As a student at the University of Zurich with a valid residence permit, you may seek employment for a maximum of 15 hours per week during the semester. During the semester breaks, you may work full-time. However, in every case, it is the employer that must apply for your work permit.

Citizens of non-EU countries may seek employment at the earliest after six months’ residence in Switzerland.

Insurances
All persons living in Switzerland for more than three months must have basic health insurance coverage. After you have registered at the Kreisbüro (or administration office of the local municipality), you will receive a letter from the municipal health authority with the request to provide proof of health insurance coverage. The regulations differ depending on whether you are nationally or privately insured in an EU or non-EU country.

Further information and advice is provided by the “KraBe“ health insurance section of the Students’ Legal Advisory Service “Rebeko” in Zurich. Please consult the information in the downloadable guidelines to “exemption from compulsory health insurance” available at the Rebeko Web site. If your own health insurance coverage is found to be insufficient, you must purchase health insurance from a Swiss health insurance company.

Also, we recommend that before you depart for Switzerland you take out private personal liability insurance covering claims brought against you for damage or injury to other persons or property.

www.uzh.ch/rebeko/krabe
STUDYING AT UZH

Student ID card (Legi)

Students in exchange programs (ERASMUS and other university exchange programs) receive the UZH student ID card (Legi) at Registration Day (matriculation). All other international students receive the Legi by mail after successful application to the Admissions Office. The Legi entitles students to discounts at the university restaurants, student stores, and the Zurich Academic Sport Association (ASVZ). Many theaters, museums, and cinemas also offer student discounts. In many libraries, the Legi also serves as a library card.

Applying for admission and registration

The following information differs depending on your student category. Please take note of the information that applies to your own group.

For students that come to UZH through an exchange program, it is their home universities that must first forward the application for admission to the IRO. If you are accepted as an exchange student, you will receive the registration, Legi, and a UniAccess account and login data from the IRO.
International Master’s students must apply for admission to the Admissions Office. If you are accepted for admission, registration takes place through the Admissions Office.

Students who wish to apply for a Swiss government scholarship get information at the Web site of the Federal Commission for Scholarships for Foreign Students (FCS www.sbf.admin.ch/htm/themen/bildung/stipendien/eskas_en.html). An overview of the application procedures for all mobility programs is available at the IRO Web site.

Student Services
Admissions Office
Raemistrasse 71
Office KOL F 107
Information counter hours:
Mo-Fr, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
www.uzh.ch/intstudents_en.html

Language of instruction and language courses
The language of instruction at UZH is German. International students can take German language courses at the Language Center of the University and the ETH Zurich. The Language Center offers pre-semester intensive courses designed to prepare students for beginning their studies. During the semester the Language Center offers language courses at all levels. For courses, online registration at the Language Center Web site is mandatory. The Web site also provides the exact course dates. As the courses fill up very quickly, you should register online as early as possible.
www.sprachenzentrum.uzh.ch/index.en.php
Study programs
You will find information on the study programs, credits, and study achievements and grading in documents called “Studienordnungen” (study rules) and “Rahmenordnungen” (framework rules) published by the faculties.
You will find specific information on the study program in a given field of study in the guidelines published by the faculty or institute. If you have questions, contact the student advisor in your field of study or the ERASMUS departmental coordinator.

The European Credit Transfer System – ECTS
At UZH student achievements are awarded credit points: 1 ECTS credit corresponds to 30 hours of study. The credits are based on the total time required for achieving the learning goals; this includes attending class, self-study, preparing for and taking examinations, and presentations and written papers. Credits are awarded only for courses for which the student receives a passing grade.
The scope of one semester is 30 credits.
Student achievements are assessed for quality and graded on a scale from 6 (highest grade) to 1 (lowest grade). Half grades are also given (for example, 5.5). Grades from 4 to 6 are passing grades.
Course catalogue and courses held in English
There is an online course catalogue that is searchable by academic degree program in the field of study. You can also search for courses held in English.
Most of the institutes publish annotated course catalogues. They are available at the institutes or on the institutes’ Web sites.

www.vorlesungen.uzh.ch

Module booking
Module booking is mandatory for all students enrolled in a Bachelor’s or Master’s degree program in any faculty of the University of Zurich. “Module booking” means signing up online for courses and course modules.
To log on to the system to use the module booking services, you need your personal UniAccess login data (see the section on computer facilities and Internet).
There are binding deadlines for booking and cancelling modules. These vary from department to department.
Before booking modules, we recommend that you make a list of the courses that you want to take in the semester and discuss your list with the student advisory or with the ERASMUS departmental coordinator.

Module booking tool:
www.students.uzh.ch/booking_en.html
Booking deadlines:
www.students.uzh.ch/booking/fristen_en.html
Support for module booking:
www.students.uzh.ch/support_en.html
Student advisory
For questions on module booking, course of study, and credits in the specific field of study, ERASMUS students should consult the ERASMUS departmental coordinator; all other students should consult the student advisory of the faculties.

ERASMUS departmental coordinators:
www.int.uzh.ch/in/programme/erasmus/koord_en.html

Advisory centers of the faculties:
www.uzh.ch/studies/catalogue/information/advisorycenters_en.html

UZH advisory services
A list of all advisory services offered to students at UZH is available on the Internet.
www.uzh.ch/studies/studentlife/advice.html
Life on campus

Computer facilities and Internet
All students at UZH are given a personal UniAccess account including an e-mail address and access to the network of the University of Zurich (NUZ). Your access data allow you to access the university network and the Internet. You need your UniAccess account for booking your courses (see above, module booking). You can log into the network at any of the many computer workstations or on your own laptop via wireless LAN. In addition, UZH students that have WLAN-capable laptops, a UniAccess account, and the UZH VPN client can use the public wireless LAN (PWLAN).

Computer workstations with printers are located in the main building of the university at Raemistrasse 74 and at UZH Irchel.

IT Services of UZH: www.id.uzh.ch

Libraries
There are over 450 libraries and ten million titles in the information association of German-speaking Switzerland (IDS).

All of the university libraries are equipped with reading rooms, study spaces, computer access, and photocopy machines.

You need to register as a user to borrow, reserve, or order documents. You can register using the online form of any IDS library. Some of the libraries have forms also in French or English. After that, you can activate your student ID card at the circulation desk of the library or
obtain a separate library card. Once you are registered, you have access to all of the IDS libraries.

The Zentralbibliothek (ZB) is the largest library in Zurich, and for many students it is the first stop. The ZB conducts tours of the library including an introduction to literature searching and use of the library every Wednesday evening from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

www.informationsverbund.ch/5.0.html
www.zb.uzh.ch

Student stores, photocopying and printing
The student stores carry reasonably priced lecture scripts, books, computers, copy cards, paper and office supplies, and much more. Information on the locations of the student stores, photocopy machines, and printers can be found at the Web site of the “Zentralstelle der Studentenschaft.” The photocopy machines at most locations at UZH operate using the copy cards that are sold at the student stores. Some institutes have their own copy cards, which you can buy at the institutes.

www.zsuz.ch
Zurich Academic Sports Association (ASVZ)

At four sports centers the ASVZ offers a variety of over 70 sports. As a student at UZH you are automatically a member of ASVZ and may participate in everything that the ASVZ has to offer: training classes (no registration necessary), courses, trips/camps (for a fee, registration required), and individual use of the facilities (no instructors).

At all of the four ASVZ sports centers there are counters where you can obtain information and register for courses and camps. The counters are open at lunchtime. You will usually be asked to show your student ID card at the entrance to the sports centers, so remember to have your Legi with you at all times!

www.asvz.ch
Student restaurants and cafeterias
There are many student restaurants ("Mensa") and cafeterias at UZH and ETH Zurich; they serve good and reasonably priced meals. Pay using your student ID card, which gives you a reduced price.

www.mensa.uzh.ch
www.gastro.ethz.ch/index_EN

Student organizations at UZH
There are many student organizations at UZH. You will find a list on the UZH Web site. Joining an organization is an excellent way to meet people.

Of particular interest to international students is the ERASMUS Student Network (ESN). ESN is a student organization networked across Europe that aims to help exchange students feel at home in their new environments. ESN organizes trips, sports outings, parties, and regular get-togethers. ESN is a good way to exchange information, meet people, and also receive direct help through the ESN mentor program. Already prior to arriving in Switzerland you can request a mentor, a local student who will meet you upon arrival, show you around, and be helpful generally.

www.esn.ethz.ch
www.uzh.ch/studies/studentlife/organizations_en.html
Life in Zurich

Housing
The Housing Office of the University and ETH Zurich offers a limited number of rooms for international students. In addition, the Housing Office publishes an online housing bulletin board for students. Apartments and rooms in shared apartments in the city of Zurich are in great demand. Therefore we recommend to look for a place to live as early as possible.

www.uzh.ch/studies/studentlife/accomodation_en.html
www.wohnen.ethz.ch/index_EN
www.woko.ch
www.youthhostel.ch/zuerich
www.city-backpacker.ch
www.martahaus.ch
Online bulletin boards:
www.wgzimmer.ch, www.marktplatz.uzh.ch,
www.students.ch/wohnen
Transport

The city of Zurich has an excellent public transportation network run by a company called VBZ ("Verkehrsbetriebe Zürich"). The SBB (Swiss Federal Railways) provides connections to destinations within Switzerland and to international destinations.

Single fare tickets for the VBZ can be purchased at all tram and bus stops and train stations. Multiple fare tickets and monthly travel cards are on sale at the train stations and larger tram stations. If you are under 25, you can purchase a monthly travel card at a special reduction (CHF 56.– to CHF 163.– /month, depending on travel area). You can get information at the VBZ Ticketeria located in Shopville below the main train station in Zurich or at larger tram stations such as Central or Paradeplatz.

The SBB provide a large part of public means of transport in Switzerland (train, bus, post bus, boat). If you use the SBB system frequently, you can purchase a half-fare card (CHF 165.–/year) that entitles you to buy most of the tickets at half price. In addition, young people aged 16 to 25 can purchase a "Gleis-7" card that entitles you to take any train in the SBB network for free between the hours of 7 p.m. and 5 a.m. (CHF 165.– for the half-fare card plus CHF 99.–/year). A good place to obtain information on all that the SBB has to offer is the SBB information counter in the entry hall of the main train station in Zurich.
Bicycles are a practical and inexpensive way to get around Zurich. Bicycle liability insurance covering you for damages and liability in case of accident is mandatory. It is sold inexpensively as a sticker (Vignette) for your bicycle, available at post offices, Migros and Coop stores, at ticket offices for public transport, and at bicycle shops. In the summer time, you can find inexpensive bicycles at second-hand bike sales in the city. And from May to October, the train stations in the city lend out bicycles and other means of transportation for a day for free.

www.vbz.ch
www.sbb.ch/en/index.htm
www.provelozuerich.ch/index.html

**Post offices**

Post offices are open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. There is one post office that is open 365 days a year from early in the morning until late at night: the Sihlpost next to the main train station in Zurich. In addition to postal services, the post offices offer banking, telephone, and fax services.

www.post.ch/en/index.htm

**Money matters**

Switzerland’s currency is the Swiss franc (Fr., CHF, or SFr.). There are 100 cents (Rappen) in one franc (1 franc = 100 Rappen).

The fastest and easiest way to obtain Swiss francs is to withdraw money from the many post office and bank ATMs using a debit card. Most Swiss ATM machines
are also equipped to accept credit cards such as Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and cash cards such as Cirrus, or Maestro.

If you would like to open a bank account or post office account, it is best to obtain advice locally. For international students it is the easiest to open a post office account.

**Approximate living costs in Zurich (in CHF per month):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost (CHF)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rent incl. heat</td>
<td>550.–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities (telephone, Internet, TV, radio)</td>
<td>200.–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health insurance, insurance</td>
<td>250.–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food, household</td>
<td>400.–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>80.–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothes, laundry, toiletries</td>
<td>70.–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>150.–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1'700.–</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The tuition fee at UZH is about CHF 690.– per semester (+ CHF 100.– fee for international students). There are no tuition fees for students in exchange programs or for students with Swiss government scholarships.

The cost of textbooks ranges from CHF 50.– to CHF 150.– per month, depending on field of study.

Post office: [www.postfinance.ch/pf/content/en.html](http://www.postfinance.ch/pf/content/en.html)

Banks:

[www.zkb.ch/de/center_world/englishwindow.html](http://www.zkb.ch/de/center_world/englishwindow.html)
[www.ubs.com](http://www.ubs.com)
Telephone service and cell phones
All apartments in Switzerland are equipped with telephone landlines. For service, you have to sign a contract with one of the telephone companies. Ask the different telephone companies about the service agreement conditions.

Cell phones are always a good means of communicating. Here again it is a good idea to compare the cell phone plans offered by the different companies. For contracts, foreign nationals are required to show their residence permits. By buying an ESN Card (CHF 6.–) you get a SIM card with a credit of CHF 5.–

Telephone companies:
www.swisscom-mobile.ch
www.sunrise.ch
www.orange.ch
www.m-budget-mobile.ch
www.coop.ch/coopmobile
ESN Card:

Shopping
Migros and Coop are the best-known grocers/retailers and can be found at many locations throughout Switzerland. Both Migros and Coop offer a large selection of good-quality products at reasonable prices. In the city center and in larger shopping malls, shops are open until 8 p.m. on weeknights and until 5 p.m. on Saturday. At larger train stations, the shops are open on Sunday as well.
Leisure time and culture

With its location in the heart of Switzerland, directly on the Lake of Zurich, and near the Alps, Zurich offers unparalleled options for excursions and trips.

Zurich is a cultural center with rich cultural offerings. In addition to exhibitions, concerts, and productions at the world renowned art museum (Kunsthaus), concert hall (Tonhalle), Opera House, and theater (Schauspielhaus), there are countless smaller-scaled art, theater, music, and sports events and festivals as well as many museums and galleries.

Zurich’s film offerings will delight film fans. There are more than 60 cinemas showing both blockbusters and studio films, usually shown in their original versions with German and French subtitles. Every Monday all the cinemas in Zurich offer reduced price tickets (CHF 13.–). Every Tuesday, the film committee of the student association shows a good program of weekly movies.
There is a large selection of bars, restaurants, discos, and clubs across the city. The most popular sections of the city for nightlife are Niederdorf, Oberdorf, and city districts 4 and 5. You will find information on concerts, parties, and other events in newspapers and on the Internet. If you stay out late, it is a good idea to have a bicycle with you or to take the night bus or night train. In Zurich the night bus and train run on the half hour on Fridays and Saturdays between 1 and 4 a.m. and cost an extra 5 francs night surcharge.

The Tourist Service at Zurich’s main train station and on the Web provides general information on leisure and cultural offerings in Zurich. “Züri Tipp” is a weekly magazine listing current cultural events and things to do.

In addition to the ASVZ, there are over 600 sports clubs in Zurich offering a variety of sports options. The “Zürcher Stadtverband für Sport” maintains a very good database on sports and sports clubs in the area. Further information, especially on sports facilities and sports clubs in Zurich, is provided by the Sports Office of the city of Zurich.

www.usgang.ch
www.zueritipp.ch
www.cineman.ch/kinoprogramm
www.filmstelle.ch
www.zss.ch/content/sportangebote.php
www.sportamt.stzh.ch
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Telephone information, national and international (for a fee):</td>
<td>1811</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire department</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambulance</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toxicological Center Zurich</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(poisoning emergency)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rega (rescue helicopter service)</td>
<td>1414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support to persons in distress or at risk of suicide (Die Dargebotene Hand)</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s emergency helpline</td>
<td>044 291 46 46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency medical services</td>
<td>044 421 21 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lost and found office Zurich</td>
<td>044 412 25 50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>