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Official Communications

University Education in Switzerland

(Continuation)

After arrival in Switzerland, students must apply to the local authorities for a resident's permit, if proposing to stay more than three months in Switzerland. The Swiss National Tourist Office (Talacker 42, CH-8023 Zurich) publishes a list of accommodation facilities in Swiss university towns. The Swiss Universities Central Office (Gloriastrasse 59, CH-8044 Zurich) will provide information on study conditions and syllabuses at individual universities. The academic year is divided in winter semester (mid-October to early March) and summer semester (mid-April to mid-July). The start in the winter semester is recommended; at the Federal Institutes of Technology, the St. Gall School of Economics and for medical studies, this is compulsory.

Minimum age for admission is 18. Those wishing to enrol must produce a state recognized Swiss matriculation certificate or a foreign certificate of equivalent value. All Swiss university-level institutions are autonomous in the recognition of foreign secondary school-leaving certificates. The principle is that foreign certificates entitling the holder to enter a state-recognized university-level institution in the relevant country without further examination will also be recognized by Swiss universities. Candidates not holding a certificate equivalent to Swiss matriculation can sit for one of the entrance examinations held twice yearly in Fribourg by the Swiss universities.

The faculties still reserve the right of grant of admission. For instance, in certain courses of study (particularly medicine, pharmacy, chemistry and more recently psy-

chology) only a limited number of "foreigners" can be accepted. In all cases, adequate knowledge of the language of instruction is a prerequisite for admission. Most universities therefore hold a language examination for those with a foreign mother tongue.

The Federal Institutes of Technology at Zurich and Lausanne only grant examination-free enrolment when the recognized foreign certificate has been obtained with high marks. Normally, foreign candidates must sit for an entrance examination. At the St. Gall College of Economics the entrance examination is compulsory.

The total duration of a course up to the first academic examination possible in each case is from 6 to 8 semesters, or 13 semesters in the case of the medical sciences. In practice, the actual period of study is longer, depending on the course and the degree aimed at.

The study fees at Swiss universities range between SFr 300.— and 800.— per annum. These do not include examination fees and special laboratory fees.

The approximate annual budget shown below could apply to an unmarried student:

Accommodation	SFr 2200.—
Board	SFr 3200.—
Clothing, etc.	SFr 700.—
Miscellaneous	SFr 2000.—
i.e.	<u>SFr 8100.—</u>
(January 1973)	

In 1460, Pope Pius II founded the first Swiss University in Basle

(photo Tschopp)



Applicants for scholarships may obtain information from any Swiss diplomatic and consular representative.

Geneva, Lausanne and Neuchâtel Universities hold regular holiday courses — divided into beginner and advanced classes — in French language, literature and culture from mid-July to end October. Geneva University also has a three-week course on the international institutions, lectures being in French with simultaneous trans-

lation into German, English, Italian and Spanish. The St. Gall College, in collaboration with the St. Gall city and cantonal authorities, sponsors German courses at the "Institut auf dem Rosenberg", St. Gall. The Fribourg University Institute of Education holds summer courses every two years. At the start of each year, the Swiss National Tourist Office publishes

a list of all holiday courses to be held at universities and public and private schools in Switzerland.

This article is an extract from the brochure "The Swiss Universities" published in 1973 by the Swiss National Tourist Office in collaboration with the Central Office of the Swiss Universities (free on request).

Switzerland and Cooperation for Development

The Service of the Delegate for Technical Cooperation (Federal Political Department) has just published a brochure entitled: "Switzerland and Cooperation for Development: answers to a number of questions." In about 50 pages, with original illustrations, it deals with such questions as: "We Swiss have achieved economic success without assistance. Why should the countries of the third world not do the same?" Or again: "Isn't Swiss cooperation for development merely a drop in the ocean?" But the spirit and aims of this publication are best illustrated by this preface by the Delegate for Technical Cooperation:

"This brochure does not claim to answer all the questions that every citizen of our country may – I might even go so far as to say must – ask about the justification, the aims and the methods of cooperation for development. Nor does it attempt to deal exhaustively with all the problems raised. That would take a whole row of fat volumes.

Nevertheless, I think that this publication, modest though it is, fulfils a two-fold need: yours, which is to be informed, and ours, which is to be understood.

First of all, let us talk about you. Some of the questions that are put to us direct, some of the telephone calls, letters and even press cuttings that we receive, show just how tenacious myths can be. I shall not pretend that they do not, in isolated instances, have some foundation in fact. What I deplore, however, is that they are used for purposes of generalization in order to discredit in the eyes of the public both cooperation for development and those who carry it out. We have therefore assembled the points most often mentioned, with a view to presenting what we consider to be the true state of affairs.

We have also endeavoured to reply to another category of questions, often touching on problems so serious that great lucidity and humility are required to answer them. In doing this we have carefully weighed the pros and cons each time, trying not to pass over anything of importance in spite of the comparative brevity of the texts. However, our purpose is not to give you ready-made, definitive answers. We would much rather provide you with a basis for reflection, with the elements of a discussion which we consider necessary. Above all, we want you



Training of mechanic apprentices
(photo CIRIC)

to be informed, as is your right, of the principles and motives that inspire and justify our work.

And now it is time to say a few words about ourselves. In our complete dedication to this task called cooperation for development we sincerely feel that we are serving our country in the widest sense of the word. But we ought not to rely solely on our own judgment; a government office isolated from the people is like a watch without a spring. Your understanding, therefore, is not only useful to us, it is indispensable."

The brochure can be obtained free of charge, in French or German, from the Coopération technique, Service de l'information, Département politique fédéral, CH - 3003 Berne.

Military Service Exemption Tax

The Federal Council has put into force, with retroactive effect as from 1st January, 1974, the Federal Act of 14th December, 1973, re the Military Service Exemption Tax levied on Swiss abroad.