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# The path to university studies in Switzerland

University, university of applied sciences and university of teacher education: these are the three types of university in Switzerland. They all offer three-year bachelor's programmes and subsequent master's programmes. A brief summary of the most important facts.

## Three types of university

The **universities** offer studies in law and economics, in mathematics and natural sciences, and in humanities and social sciences, while the federal institutes of technology ETH (Zurich) and EPF (Lausanne) focus on engineering, mathematics and natural sciences. The **universities of applied sciences** focus on practical-oriented courses of study, particularly in the fields of health, social sciences, business administration, innovative technologies, music, and art. The **universities of teacher education** train students to become qualified teachers for the various school levels.

## Admission requirements

The requirement for admission to a bachelor's degree programme is a federally recognised Matura certificate or an equivalent foreign diploma. The universities set country-specific standards for

foreign diplomas. The current criteria can be viewed online: [revue.link/requirements](https://revue.link/requirements)

Admission to a university of applied sciences normally requires a vocational apprenticeship followed by a vocational baccalaureate or a maturity certificate from an upper secondary school – followed by an internship year. We recommend to clarify the admission requirements directly with the university of applied sciences of your interest.

At the universities of teacher education, the admission requirements vary depending on the degree programme.

## Required languages skills

Good language skills in at least one national language, depending on the language region in which you want to study, are usually essential. There are only a few bachelor's programmes that are lectured purely in English, whereas many master's programmes are in English.

## Application deadlines

Most bachelor's programmes start in September and the application deadline is 30 April with rare exceptions such as medicine or special programmes like sports science. Universities of applied sciences and universities of teacher education may have different application deadlines.

RUTH VON GUNTEN

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## Culture is the theme of the next congress

This year's Congress of the Swiss Abroad will take place from 18 to 20 August 2023 in St Gallen – and culture will be its overriding theme. Cultural dissemination and international cultural dialogue are key elements in promoting Swiss culture. Along with maintaining Switzerland's tangible and intangible heritage, these factors have a major influence on shaping our identity as well as on the way that Switzerland is viewed abroad.

The next Congress of the Swiss Abroad promises to see some lively debate around the question of culture. With its wealth of cultural treasures, St Gallen is a fitting venue for the stimulating discussions that await.

Visit [www.swisscommunity.org](http://www.swisscommunity.org) > Congress for continually updated, detailed information about the upcoming congress, which has become a useful and popular forum for the Swiss Abroad. A detailed schedule as well as registration forms will also be available on the website.

(MUL)

## Zürcher Kantonalbank offering Swiss Abroad a fairer deal

It is often a challenge for Swiss Abroad to maintain a bank account in Switzerland. The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) has been trying for years to make things easier in this regard. It has now entered into a new partnership with Zürcher Kantonalbank (ZKB) to deliver a range of attractive banking terms for Swiss Abroad, with effect from 1 January 2023. This is the OSA's second partnership with a bank, following the one it entered into with Banque Cantonale de Genève in 2017.

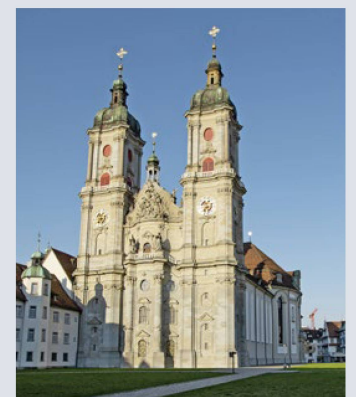
ZKB will offer Swiss Abroad similar banking services to those it offers Swiss who live in Switzerland. "We have already been assisting expatriate Swiss for years," says Reto Jäger, Regional Head Private Banking International at ZKB. "There is no mini-

mum amount to open an account, we offer a wide range of services and we have people with outstanding expertise." Jäger calls the partnership with the OSA a "milestone" and firmly believes that ZKB will be able to further its reputation among Swiss Abroad as a reliable partner.

FLORIAN BACCAUNAUD



ZKB offer for Swiss Abroad: [revue.link/zkb](https://revue.link/zkb)



Built in 1766, the baroque Collegiate Church of St Gallen dominates the city skyline. Photo provided

## Winter fun in unseasonably mild conditions

Our winter holiday camp for 8- to 14-year-olds in Valbella (canton of Grisons) was a complete success. The 40 children at the camp had lots of fun despite the unseasonably mild temperatures, our camp leaders ensuring that everyone got the most out of their time in Switzerland.



For ten days, the children were able to improve their skiing and snowboarding. Our camp leaders gave their all both on and off the piste – even going easy to let everyone win at least one Uno card game.

Besides going down the slopes, the children had the opportunity to do other activities like tobogganing and ice-skating. They also did handicrafts, wrote postcards, played board games – and made lots of friends. Overall, it was an unforgettable experience for all the children, and we made lots of memories to cherish.

Thank you for taking part, and we look forward to seeing you next year. We hope many of you will sign up for our next winter camp, which takes place in Valbella again. Registration for the camp begins on 6 September 2023.

DAVID REICHMUTH, FYSA

Stiftung für junge Auslandschweizer  
Fondation pour les enfants suisses à l'étranger  
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## A winter camp full of memories and highlights



Skiing and snowboarding all day long. A trip to Zermatt. Seeing in the new year, Swiss style. The 2022/23 winter camp of the Youth Service of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad was packed full of highlights.

The 26 young Swiss Abroad attending the winter camp in Grächen (canton of Valais) from 28 December 2022 to 6 January 2023 came from 14 different countries. Participants were able to specify in advance whether they wanted to ski or snowboard. Two of the skiers and one of the snowboarders were absolute beginners. The three of them received expert tuition and plenty of encouragement from our qualified camp leaders.

We not only celebrated New Year's Eve together, but also the birthday of one of the camp participants on 1 January – double reason to party. After a good sleep and delicious brunch, we took advantage of the beautiful New Year's Day weather and trav-

elled to Zermatt to catch a glimpse of the Matterhorn.

We spent the rest of the week on the piste again. Our camp participants decided to mix things up on the final day and switched from snowboarding to skiing or vice versa, enjoying an even broader winter sports experience as a result.

FABIENNE STOCKER, YOUTH SERVICE

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## Discussion: chestnuts are a little piece of Switzerland

Of the various things we miss when living outside Switzerland, some are really quite unremarkable. Think, for example, of those quaint wooden huts selling sweet-scented chestnuts (with a laugh and a joke) on our city side streets. It is no wonder that our article about this little piece of cultural heritage in the previous edition of “Swiss Review” prompted a big reader response.



### Chestnuts – part of Switzerland’s cultural heritage

#### SUSANNE BOOTS-NOEBEL, NEW ZEALAND

The article about chestnuts and their cultural significance took me back to the days of my youth. In both my childhood and teenage years, the chestnut stands in Zurich typified autumn. Every so often, our parents would buy us a bag of these aromatic treats. I have been living happily in New Zealand for decades, but to read articles like this from Switzerland warms my heart and makes me want to catch the whiff of hot chestnuts in the air again and eat a whole bag of them.

#### LOUIS KRÄHENBÜHL, MEXICO

As a boy growing up in Basel, I can well remember the chestnut sellers, all of whom were Italian. A bag – or a “Gugge” in Basel dialect – cost around 40 centimes back then, and we would laugh at the man shouting “aissi Marroni!” in his Italian accent.

#### DANIEL GILLIÉRON, CHENGDU, CHINA

In polycultures, chestnut trees like to be in the vicinity of hazels, oaks, black alders, ferns, heather, gorse, honeysuckle, horseradish, ivy, peanuts and mushrooms. Preserving chestnut groves is important for our (aesthetic) enjoyment of the countryside. Chestnut growing could conceivably shift

further north as a result of climate change. With the harvest period lasting from August to December, chestnuts can be an additional source of income for farmers.

### Switzerland is laying the groundwork for solar power plants in the Alps

#### HEINZ MANHART, PHILIPPINES

Another wrong decision. Leaving the aesthetics aside: who is going to keep the solar panels free of snow and ice? How much energy will we lose distributing it around the country? Instead of spending money on these Alpine eyesores, subsidising private solar installations would make more sense, as energy would then be produced where it is actually needed. By the way, I have solar panels on my own roof.

#### JACK BRUNNER, AUSTRALIA

That will destroy the beauty of Switzerland. What happens with the waste from the solar panels when they have to be replaced? I am in Australia and totally self-sufficient with solar. All my panels are on my roof. No destruction of natural beauty and free power! Nuclear power would have been a much safer and cheaper solution. But now Switzerland is importing power made from France.

#### ERICH SUTTER, USA/SWITZERLAND

The article failed to mention how we store solar energy. The sun only shines during the day. Storing large quantities of energy in batteries or as hydrogen is an issue we still haven’t resolved.

### The 2023 elections: how the main political parties approach the “Fifth Switzerland”

#### MICHEL GUIGNARD, FRANCE

Congratulations on producing this informative summary. It’s an issue that “Swiss Review” needs to continue following closely!

#### WOLFGANG WITTENBURG, CANADA

I have been living in Canada for more than 50 years. Although I was originally happy at the prospect of being able to exercise my political voice as an expat, I eventually decided not to. It is not that I am indifferent to what is happening in the country in which I was born and grew up. And I am able to keep informed thanks to relatives, the media and occasional visits. However, never having to experience the consequences of voting from afar because I live permanently in Canada would not sit well with me. I know that Swiss citizens should all have the same rights, so those who wish to exercise their right to vote while abroad can and should do so. At the end of the day, the decision on whether to vote is a personal one. Just as it is for those who live in Switzerland.

Visit the online edition of “Swiss Review” at [www.revue.ch](http://www.revue.ch). Read the latest comments on our articles and join the conversation yourself. You can also share your opinions on the community discussion forum of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA).

Link to the SwissCommunity discussion forum: [members.swisscommunity.org/forum](http://members.swisscommunity.org/forum)



Translation of the Romansh text on page 19 (see “The breakneck language” article) – Daniel Telli did the original Romansh translation from German.

“The work that we do at Lia Rumantscha is anything but highbrow. It is important that users can interact directly with the Pledari Grond and play their part in evolving our language. This reinforces the sense that Romansh belongs to everyone who uses it. Romansh must never become an artificial language but should live and breathe to reflect the changing times.”