Regulations for limitation of Admission to Medical Studies at the Università della Svizzera Italiana

The University Council of the Università della Svizzera italiana in accordance with Article 11 of the Universities Act (Legge sull'Università della Svizzera italiana, sulla Scuola universitaria professionale della Svizzera italiana e sugli Istituti di ricerca, of 3.10.1995) and the admission regulations (Regolamento per le ammissioni e le immatricolazioni all'Università della Svizzera italiana, of 14.4.2000), decrees:

1. Generalities
   
   Art. 1 Scope of Application
   1. These regulations are applied to the study of medicine at the Università della Svizzera Italiana (hereinafter referred to as USI).
   2. This text regulates the ordering and implementation of admission restrictions as well as the allocation of study places to the Bachelor's and Master's programmes in medicine.
   3. Provisions on further conditions for admission to the study and on enrolment at USI remain reserved in all cases.

   Art. 2 Foreign Candidates (corresponds to the Recommendation of the University Council on the admission of foreign Candidates to medical studies in Switzerland of 27 February 2020) 1
   1. With regards to access to medical studies, the following Candidates are considered in the same way as Swiss nationals:
      a. nationals of the Principality of Liechtenstein;
      b. foreign nationals settled in Switzerland or the Principality of Liechtenstein;
      c. nationals of a Member State of the European Union, of Iceland and Norway, with a Swiss residence permit EU/EFTA with the remark "gainful employment" ("Erwerbstätigkeit"), who can prove a professional activity closely related to medical studies (according to the Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons (AFMP, SR 0.142.112.681) with the EU, Annex I, Art. 9, para. 3). A professional activity closely related to medical studies is defined as at least one year of gainful employment in Switzerland in one of the professions listed in the Art. 2 of the Federal Act on University Courses for Medical Professions [MedPA, SR 811.11];

---

1 The authoritative version of the Recommendation is the original German one.
d. children, regardless of their nationality, of nationals of a member state of the European Union, Iceland, Norway and the Principality of Liechtenstein, with a Swiss residence permit as a family member of an EU/EFTA citizen in Switzerland with the remark "Family reunification" ("Familiennachzug" according to AFMP, Annex I, Art. 3, para. 6);

e. foreign nationals resident in Switzerland in accordance with Articles 23 to 26 of the Swiss Civil Code [ZGB, SR 210]:

1. who have been in possession of a residence permit in Switzerland for at least five years without interruption with the main purpose of their stay being "gainful employment",


3. who hold one of the following certificates:
   - Swiss Federal Professional Matura ("Eidgenössisches Berufsmaturitätszeugnis")
   - Liechtenstein Professional Matura certificate ("Berufsmaturitätszeugnis") recognized by the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERFI)
   - Professional Matura certificate recognized throughout Switzerland

   In conjunction with the certificate of successful completion of the supplementary examination (in accordance with the Ordinance of 2 February 2011 on the Supplementary Examination for the Admission of Holders of a Federal Professional Maturity Certificate or a Professional Maturity Certificate recognized by the Universities throughout Switzerland, known as "Ergänzungsprüfung für die Zulassung von Inhaberinnen und Inhabern eines eidgenössischen Berufsmaturitätszeugnisses oder eines gesamtschweizerisch anerkannten Fachmaturitätszeugnisses zu den universitären Hochschulen", SR 413.14),

4. who are married to or are living 'in a registered partnership' a Swiss national,

5. whose spouse or registered partner is settled in Switzerland,

6. whose spouse or registered partner has been resident in Switzerland for at least five years without interruptions and have a residence permit with the main purpose of stay being "gainful employment";

f. foreign nationals who have been resident in Switzerland for at least two years in accordance with Articles 23 to 26 of the Swiss Civil Code,

1. whose parents are settled in Switzerland,

2. whose parents have been resident in Switzerland for at least five years and who have been in possession of a residence permit with the main purpose of stay being "gainful employment" without interruption;

g. children whose parents enjoy a diplomatic status in Switzerland. (FDFA Legitimation Card type "B", "C" and "D blue);

h. refugees recognized by Switzerland.
2. The following conditions apply:
   a. the cut-off date shall in each case be the date of the registration deadline for medical studies set by swissuniversities.
   b. foreign nationals under I lit. a to h must submit the documents proving their eligibility for admission no later than the day of the registration deadline. The certificate of medical training in accordance with I, letter e, points 2 and 3 may be submitted subsequently.
3. The general admission requirements of the university chosen by the candidates remain reserved.
4. The recommendation of the University Council of 19 November 2015 is revoked.

Art. 3 Registration Deadline
1. With regards to the Bachelor of Medicine, the registration deadline for medical studies is set by Swissuniversities and corresponds yearly to the 15.02 (for starting in the autumn semester of the same year). Late registrations will not be considered.
2. With regards to the Master of Medicine, the application deadline is set by USI and corresponds yearly to the 30.04 (for starting in the autumn semester of the same year). Late applications will be considered depending on availability.

Art. 4 Admission capacity
1. In accordance with the Art.16 para. 2 letter L of the statutes of the Università della Svizzera Italiana, the University Council shall determine the admission capacity (maximum number of study places) for the first year of the Bachelor degree in human medicine and for the first year of the Master degree in medicine on an annual basis in accordance with the proposal of the Faculty of Biomedicine.
2. The admission capacity will be set by taking into account the maximum teaching capacity of the Faculty of Medicine in terms of staff, premises, financial resources and infrastructure, as well as the number of patients and health infrastructures' capacity.

Art. 5 Admission regulations of the Università della Svizzera Italiana
The regulations on admission and enrolment of the USI (Reolgamento per le ammissioni e le immatricolazioni all’USI) is additionally applied.
2. Bachelor of Medicine

2.1. Pre-enrollment

Art. 6 Restrictions on admission
Restrictions on admission shall be imposed if the number of pre-enrollments for the first year of the Bachelor programme exceeds the admission capacity defined in Art. 4, para. 1., despite the redirection of candidates to other Swiss universities and taking into account an average withdrawal rate.

2.2. Aptitude Test

Art. 7 Purpose of the aptitude test
Candidates willing to start a Bachelor degree in medicine must undergo, subject to the introduction of limitations on admission, the aptitude test for medical studies.

Art. 8 Admission to the aptitude test
The aptitude test is open to anyone who:
1. can fulfill all admission requirements for the Bachelor degree in medicine by the start of the study programme.
2. can provide evidence of all special requirements which, according to the admission guidelines in force, must already be fulfilled at the time of application (15.02)

Art. 9 Organisation and implementation
1. The General Secretariat of the Swiss University Conference (Schweizerische Hochschulkonferenz - SHK), or another authority designated in agreement with the other academic cantons, shall be responsible for organising and conducting the aptitude test and pursue the subsequent allocation procedure.
2. The organisation and conduction of the aptitude test and the subsequent allocation procedure shall be coordinated with the other academic cantons in which an aptitude test is also conducted.

Art. 10 Costs
1. Candidates must contribute to the costs of the test with an amount defined by the competent authority.
2. The amount shall be paid to the competent authority 45 days before the day of the test at the latest. Candidates not having paid the amount within this deadline shall not be admitted to the test. The corresponding application is considered as withdrawn.
3. To Candidates willing to be evaluated by using their previous year test results, in accordance with Art. 14, para. 2, no contribution fee will be asked.

Art. 11 Disruption of the examination and unfair behaviour
1. Candidates interfering with the correct course of the test shall be excluded by the supervisor from completing the test. The candidate's test result shall be the result obtained in the completion of the test up to the time of exclusion.
2. Candidates trying to dishonestly influence the test result shall be excluded by the supervisor from completing the test. In particular, dishonest acts or procedures include the use of unauthorized aids and the completion of a section of the test outside of the time allocated and allowed for this purpose.
3. If a candidate is excluded from further participation in the test due to dishonest acts or procedures, or if these are discovered after completion of the test, the test will be evaluated with a result of zero points.

4. This provision shall apply to all applicants who have chosen USI as their first-choice study location, regardless of city in which they sit the test.

5. Candidates who do not agree with the measure taken may request an additional instruction from the responsible university according to Art. 13.

### 2.3. Allocation

**Art. 12 Allocation**

1. Allocation of study places to candidates

   a. The competent authority (swissuniversities) shall distribute the candidates with a sufficient test result among the universities involved in the aptitude test procedure.

   b. In allocating places of study, the competent body shall, as far as possible, comply with the wishes of the candidates. It shall take into account the place of residence, the test result and, in exceptional cases, personal circumstances.

2. Allocation of vacant study places after a first allocation round

   a. Vacant study places after an initial round shall be allocated by the competent authority (swissuniversities) after consultation with the concerned universities.

   b. The allocation procedure shall be deemed completed 10 days before the start of the courses.

**Art. 13 Decision on a place at the USI**

The faculty will issue a decision on admission or non-admission to candidates having indicated the USI as their first preferred study location and to those who have been allocated a place of study at the USI.

**Art. 14 Repeated registration with aptitude test**

1. Candidates not having been assigned to a place of study because of the test result can pre-register again later on and repeat the test. These candidates will be treated in the same way as candidates who are enrolled for the first time. Only the last test result obtained counts.

2. Candidates re-registering within one year from the test, can waive the repetition of the test. If requested so, the test result obtained in the previous year is converted to a scale equivalent to the one of the current year. This calculated value is conclusive.

### 2.4. Admission

**Art. 15 Confirmation of the place of study**

1. Admitted candidates must, within 10 days of receipt of the decision, confirm to the USI that will start the medical studies on the indicated date.

2. If the admission requirements of the USI are met, the USI decides the admission to the study programme.

3. If the confirmation from the candidate is not received, the admissions decision is deemed to have been revoked and the study place is freely available.
2.5. Change of University or of field of studies

Art. 16 Change of university or of field of studies
1. Medical students who have been admitted to another university on the basis of the Swiss aptitude test, can be admitted to the Bachelor of Medicine from the second year of study, provided that seats are available.

2. Shall a dentistry student from a Swiss university be willing to change to human medicine, the following conditions apply:
   - the request can be considered only if seats are available
   - the admission is possible only to the 3rd year of the Bachelor of Medicine
   - the candidate must have completed the Bachelor of Dentistry in a Swiss university
   - the aptitude test result obtained for the previous dentistry studies must be ranked among the valid results allowing the access to studies in human medicine in the same year.

3. Master of Medicine

Art. 17 Registration and admission
1. Students already enrolled at the USI submit their application for admission to the Master programme in medicine with their autumn semester enrollment.

2. Students at the partner universities (ETH and UZH) with which the USI has concluded an agreement submit the application for admission to the Master programme in Medicine via online registration.

3. Other candidates apply for admission by online registration.

4. The study programme can only be started in the autumn semester.

Art. 18 Allocation of study places in the Master's Programme in Medicine
1. Candidates holding a Bachelor's degree in medicine from USI are granted a place of study for the Master degree courses in medicine at USI. This, if transition from Bachelor to Master courses is pursued without interruptions.

2. Candidates holding a Bachelor degree in medicine from a partner university with which USI has concluded an agreement (ETH and UZH) will receive a place of study for the Master degree course in medicine at USI, within the agreed number, if transition from Bachelor to Master courses is pursued without interruptions.

3. Students enrolled in the Master's programme at USI who have to repeat the year due to insufficient results.

Art. 19 Allocation of free study places
Assuming that there will still be free places after the allocation as per Art. 18, the remaining study places will be allocated by the USI according to the following order of priority:

1. Candidates holding a Bachelor degree in medicine from the USI or a partner university (ETH and UZH), who did not begin the Master programme directly after the Bachelor degree.

2. Candidates holding a Bachelor degree in medicine from a Swiss university who take part in the qualifying aptitude test examination.

3. Candidates holding a Bachelor degree in medicine from a Swiss university who do not take part in the qualifying aptitude test examination.
4. Candidates holding a Bachelor degree in medicine from a foreign university recognised by MEBKO, if this diploma entitles students to follow the Master in human medicine study programme in that country. For countries where no division between Bachelor and Master is established, the progress in the course of studies will be considered.

5. Candidates holding a Master degree in medicine from a foreign university, who have a MEBKO decision and still have to complete courses in a Master programme in order to be admitted to the federal examination.

Within the respective priority group (paras. 1 - 5), the allocation is made by taking into account the Bachelor degree evaluation or the average mark of the Transcript, respectively; language skills, place of residence and in exceptional cases also personal circumstances.

4. **Administration of justice and final provisions**

**Art. 20 Provisions and recourses**
The provisions of the University Law Art. 18 *Legge Universitaria (Luni)* and the provisions of the USI Statutes in Art. 51 apply to recourses.

**Art. 21 Final provision**
These regulations were approved by the University Council on 02.12.2016 (last amendments approved by the Faculty Council on 06.09.2021) and shall take effect immediately.