
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 (in accordance with the *Recommendation of the Higher Education Council dated November 19th, 2015, concerning the admission of foreign candidates to medical studies in Switzerland- status 18.11.16*)

1. Foreign candidates can be admitted to medical studies only if they belong to one of the following categories:
 - a. Citizens of the Principality of Liechtenstein.
 - b. Settled foreign nationals established in Switzerland or in the Principality of Liechtenstein.
 - c. Citizens of a State of the European Union, Iceland and Norway, who have an EU/EFTA residence permit in Switzerland with the «gainful employment» rule and can attest a professional activity directly related to the study of medicine. (Art. 9 para. 3 Annex I *Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons - AFMP*)
 - d. Children, regardless of their nationality, of citizens of a Member State of the European Union, Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein, holding a Swiss residence permit as a family member of an EU/EFTA citizen (Art. 3 para. 6 of Annex I of the *Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons - AFMP*)
 - e. Foreign citizens resident in Switzerland whose parents are settled in Switzerland.

- f. Foreign citizens resident in Switzerland who are married to a Swiss citizen or whose marriage partners are settled foreign nationals established in Switzerland for at least five years or have held a Swiss work permit for at least five years (= actual beginning of employment from the reference date back without interruption for five years).
 - g. Foreign citizens resident in Switzerland who have been in possession of a Swiss work permit for at least five years (= actual beginning of employment from the reference date back without interruption for five years), or foreigners resident in Switzerland whose parents have been in possession of a Swiss work permit for at least five years (= actual beginning of employment from the reference date back without interruption for five years).
 - h. Foreign citizens resident in Switzerland who are holding a National or Cantonal, Swiss recognized Matura certificate (in accordance with the Regulations on the recognition of diplomas of the *Verordnung vom 15. Februar 1995 über die Anerkennung von gymnasialen Maturitätsausweisen* and of the *Reglement der EDK vom 16. Januar 1995 über die Anerkennung von gymnasialen Maturitätsausweisen*) or a federal professional Matura certificate together with the certificate of successful completion of supplementary examinations (as per the *Verordnung vom 19. Dezember 2003 über die Anerkennung von Berufsmaturitätsausweisen für die Zulassung zu den universitären Hochschulen*)
 - i. Children whose parents enjoy a diplomatic special status in Switzerland.
 - j. Foreign citizens being recognized refugees by Switzerland.
2. The foreign citizens represented in para.1 letters a-i must be in possession of the documents on which their entitlement to study medicine is based no later than the day of the registration deadline for medical studies set by Swiss universities (15.2.). The pre-medical education certificate may be submitted subsequently.
 3. The refugees represented in para.1 letter j must have submitted an application for the asylum in Switzerland no later than the day of the registration deadline set by Swiss universities for the study of medicine (15.02.), which must have been recognised no later than the day of the registration deadline of the university in which they have been allocated for a place of study

Art. 3 Registration Deadline

The registration deadline for medical studies is the 15.02 of every calendar year. Late registrations will not be considered. (Bachelor)

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 (*Reolamento 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

Pre-registered candidates willing to obtain a study place for a Bachelor degree in medicine must, subject to the introduction of limitations on the candidates admission number, undergo an aptitude test for medical studies to determine their suitability for such a study programme.

Art. 8 Admission to the aptitude test

The aptitude test is open to anyone who:

1. can fulfil 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)

1. **Art. 9 Organisation and implementation**

2. 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.
3. 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

4. Candidates must contribute to the costs of the test with an amount defined by the competent authority.
5. 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.
6. 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 for medical studies 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

Art. 16 Change of university

Students of medical courses at other universities who have been admitted on the basis of an aptitude test carried out in accordance with this regulation can be admitted to the Bachelor degree in medicine at USI from the second year of study, provided that places are available.

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 MEBEKO, 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, which allows unconditional admission to the fourth year of medical studies, can be considered as an equivalent.
5. Candidates holding a Master degree in medicine from a foreign university, who have a MEBEKO 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.

5. Administration of justice and final provision

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 University Council on 28.06.2019) and shall take effect immediately.