

N.20 – 07.2018

WHY THIS NEWSLETTER

“Come and go” is the International Relations and Study abroad newsletter which aims at keeping our readers up-to-date on the latest news and events related to our activities. It is published 4 times per year and reaches approx. 4,000 readers, in particular USI students, faculty and staff, incoming students and staff from our many partner universities and other collaborators. We do hope you will enjoy reading it!



Ilaria Juon (middle) getting her certificate with Wessel Meijer (Head of IO, right) and Rob van Leeuwen (left). Courtesy of IRO Radboud University.

“Successful initiatives come with strong collaboration with your colleagues. This, for me, was the most important take-away of the week.”

INTERVIEW WITH ILARIA JUON, WHO PARTICIPATED IN A STAFF TRAINING WEEK AT RADOUD UNIVERSITY, NIJMEGEN (NL).

Hi Ilaria, thank you for your time. Please tell us something about yourself and your current position at USI

“At the moment I “wear two different hats”: the International Relations and Study Abroad Service one, where I collaborate with my colleagues Arianna and Maurizia on new projects and initiatives, and the Master of Advanced Studies in Humanitarian Logistics and Management hat, where I act as program manager substituting a colleague during her maternity leave. It is a very exciting and busy period, full of new opportunities and possibilities to see new areas of the university.”

Why did you decide to participate in the staff mobility programme at Radboud University Nijmegen?

“In Autumn 2017, my colleagues and I decided it was about time to write the strategy for the Service, covering the period 2018-2021. As part of it, we have created proposals for new programs and initiatives to be presented to the Faculty. When I saw the invitation for the Staff Training Week, I thought this would be a great opportunity to hear not only about the best practices of Radboud University, but also to share and discuss ideas, concerns and issues with fellow colleagues from around the world, and get inspired by what other people do! This training week therefore came at the perfect time: since we were setting the stage for a change, it was the right moment to go and explore what is happening outside of USI.”

What are the main take-aways of this week?

“Successful initiatives come with strong collaboration with your colleagues. This, for me, was the most important take-away of the week, and that was perfectly reflected in how the training week was set up. An awesome bunch of people who worked closely together to make sure that we would have the greatest time!”

Overall, would you recommend such an experience abroad to your colleagues? Why?

“ABSOLUTELY! I can only see great advantages in participating in such training weeks: you get to know a bunch of fun people from different parts of the world, you establish new friendships and bonds and, why not, maybe new partnerships, and have the great privilege to share, discuss and confront yourself with colleagues who operate in the same or similar sector. You gain new ideas and perspectives and, last but not least, it is a lot of fun!”

“JUST DO IT!”

I therefore strongly encourage my USI colleagues to keep an eye on our website, where the invitations for the Staff Training Weeks are regularly posted, and make use of it if they have a chance!”

NEW BILATERAL AGREEMENTS

We are pleased to announce that USI can now offer new destinations inside the European boundaries.

Faculty of Communication Sciences

- Università degli Studi di Pisa, field:
Humanities, Bachelor, Master and PhD level;
- Universität Augsburg, field:
Journalism and Information, Bachelor and Master level;

The complete list of bilateral agreements is available at our website:
<https://www.usi.ch/en/partner-universities-academic-mobility>.

DISCOVER TICINO: LAKES AND RIVERS

Classes and examinations are over and the summer months offer the opportunity to take a break and enjoy more time outdoors.



The Ticino river. (Courtesy of Ticino Turismo)

Ticino generally has a milder climate than the rest of Switzerland, characterized by a central European climate type; this difference is largely determined by the Alps that act as a barrier for the bad weather. That is the reason why it may happen to hear the nickname *Sonnenstube* (sun lounged) referred to Ticino in the German-speaking part of Switzerland.

Its Mediterranean climate, combined with its role as a rail and road axis between North and South, helped Ticino become a popular tourist destination nestled between central Europe and the Mediterranean area.

The summer season in Ticino offers a mix of cultural events, open-air music festivals and cinematographic events, concerts and, in addition to that, more than 160 km of shoreline and much sunshine.

Water-related leisure activities range from the organized and well-equipped lakeside Lidos to the wilder and quieter riverfronts, immersed in nature where one can enjoy beautiful waterfalls and refreshing swims in natural pools, and from extreme water sports to water activities for every level.

The two major lakes, Verbano or Lago Maggiore (Locarno Lake) and Ceresio (Lugano Lake) are surrounded by kilometers of sandy beaches.



The Lido in Lugano and its sandy beach.

The most popular lakeside cities, Lugano, Locarno and Ascona, offer well-equipped and organized lidos where to enjoy the beauty of the lake and the majestic mountains surrounding it without straying too far from the comfort of the city, much appreciated from local families and tourists of all ages. The Lido di Lugano offers a sandy beach and is equipped with swimming pools, a diving pool with trampolines, and a pool with water games suitable for children, a beach volley court and a football pitch. The Lido di Locarno is open throughout the year and in all weather conditions, and is equipped with numerous indoor and outdoor swimming pools, a play pool as well as thermal pools, water slides, SPA and fitness center: it is a modern and complete water park.

The Lido di Ascona offers one of the largest beaches in Switzerland, 40,000 square meters of park shaded by ancient trees and a sandy beach as well as sports facilities providing plenty of opportunity for fun or relaxation.

In addition to these, there are many others smaller but beautiful beaches and Lidos offering various services, water sports and swimming opportunities and functional structures located at appealing and natural spots on the shores of the lakes: in the Lugano area, we can find Lido San Domenico, along the “olive path” that connects Lugano to Gandria; Lido di Melide, Lido di Bissone, Lido Golfo del Sole in Agno, Lido Riva San Vitale. In the Locarno area, the Beach of Brissago, Lido di Tenero and the public beach in Tenero, Magadino and Vira Gambarogno.

However, the two major lakes are not the only opportunity to cool off and enjoy the summer season: out of the comfort lakeshore areas the clear and fresh waters of the rivers are a popular destination and offer a wide selection of opportunity for swimmer, sunbathing lovers and for waters sports enthusiasts.

The usually calm waters of the Ticino River, flowing from San Gottardo through Lago Maggiore before entering Italy, offer the chance to everyone, experts as well as amateur, to practice rafting or kayak and enjoy memorable experiences.



Lavertezzo, Valle Verzasca, and its clear waters.

The Verzasca River flows through the namesake Verzasca Valley, a narrow and suggestive valley in the region of Locarno, named after its clear green emerald waters. It is an appreciated and famous destination for tourists, swimmers and hikers, and offers breathtaking canyoning and kayaking experiences as well as underwater diving opportunities. The natural riverside, numerous waterfalls and the natural pools carved into the rocks offer an idyllic and suggestive view.

The Valle Maggia in the Locarno region is again a popular destination for sunbathing, swimming and water sports such as canyoning and scuba diving. Along the river, and immersed in the green forest, nature lovers will find sandy beaches and rocks naturally smoothed by the water and a great variety of clear natural pools.

Far from being exhaustive, we hope that this is a starting point for discovering the region during the hot summer days.

For further information:

www.ticino.ch/en/travel-inspirations/beaches.html

EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE ONLINE SURVEY: SUMMARY OF THE RESULTS

About the survey

Since last year, students who have been studying at USI as part of a study abroad programme are asked to evaluate their experience. This year we decided to extend the survey by including both incoming students at the Mendrisio Campus and outgoing students. This increased the significance of the results and gave us a complete overview on our activities. The main purpose of the survey is to measure students' satisfaction towards the host university, the administration, the services, the courses and the study abroad experience in general. The results will help us implement improvements in order to maintain and develop the offer of exchange programmes. The data gathering took place twice: in December and in May both for the Mendrisio and the Lugano Campus.

INCOMING STUDENTS

The response rate was good: 67 respondents out of 89 incoming students, representing 75,2% of the total number. One possible explanation for the missing submissions could be that SEMP students are required to fill in the report in order to receive the last installment of the scholarship, whereas incoming students participating in another mobility programme are not.



“We are pleased to observe that guest students assessed their study experience at USI in a very positive way.”

Demographics

The majority of the students (55) came to USI in the framework of the SEMP programme and the three most represented countries are Italy, Germany and Singapore.

Approximately 52% of the exchange students were males. The distribution among the USI faculties are as following:

26 studied at the Faculty of Economics, 16 at the Faculty of Communication Sciences, 9 at the Faculty of Informatics and 16 at the Academy of Architecture.

Why USI?

The survey suggested 8 options as reasons that motivated students to come to USI. The most chosen options are:

1. to live an international experience;
2. the willingness to live in a foreign country and to know a new culture;
3. the courses offered at USI.

The importance of this last aspect is also underlined by the answer given to the question: “How many ECTS credits did you foresee in your Learning agreement?” The average is 23.48 ECTS, which is close to a full-time semester of 30 ECTS. We are pleased to observe that guest students assessed their study experience at USI in a very positive way: from the quality of the teaching staff (4.16/5), to the quality of the courses (3.84/5) and the quality of the study material (3.82/5). Overall, the academic outcomes are rated 4.04 on a 5-point scale.

International Relations and Study Abroad Service

The International Relations and Study Abroad Service is committed to helping incoming exchange students make the most out of their stay: a series of tailored services and activities are offered in the beginning of the semester, and students can count on our support throughout their stay. 94% of the respondents evaluated as Excellent or Very Satisfactory the support provided by the International Relations Service. The information materials provided and other specific aspects as the availability, the e-mail response time and the clarity of the answers were rated very positive as well.

OUTGOING STUDENTS

The number of outgoing students was 97. Of those, 86 answered the survey, representing 88.6% of the total number.

Demographics

The USI Faculty with the highest number of outgoing students is the Faculty of Economics, followed by the Academy of Architecture, the Faculty of Communication Sciences and then the Faculty of Informatics.

The most popular exchange programme is SEMP with 44 participants in total, but the main chosen country destination remains Switzerland (29 students). As a matter of facts, a framework agreement signed by all Swiss universities guarantees full mutual recognition of study semesters, curricula and related validation of credits obtained from course assessment work and examinations passed in the hosting institution.

Host university

Both from an academic and a personal point of view USI students are generally very satisfied with their exchange experience. This was well reflected in the survey: these two aspects were rated with a mean of respectively 4.05 and 4.27 points on a 5-point scale (with 5 being excellent).

To go more into details, the positive evaluation includes the quality of the professors, of the courses and of the study material. Moreover, the support of the International Relations offices of the host universities was highly appreciated: this confirms the importance of welcome events helping exchange students in being acquainted with the new university and the new city.

“The most popular exchange programme is SEMP with 44 participants in total, but the main chosen country of destination remains Switzerland.”

USI International Relations and Study Abroad Service

The same questions concerning the activities of the International Relations Service have been asked to the USI outgoing students. 70% of respondents evaluated as Excellent or Very Satisfactory the support provided by the International Relations Service. The information materials and other specific aspects as the availability, the e-mail response time and the clarity of the answers were rated very positive as well.

CONCLUSIONS

We can affirm with satisfaction that both incoming and outgoing students consistently had positive mobility experiences.

The two target groups also agreed in terms of room for improvement. In fact, on one hand, incoming students expressed the desire to have a clear list of the available courses earlier than it is usually the case (two weeks before the beginning of the semester) and on the other hand, USI students leaving felt they needed more detailed information about the offer of the host universities.

Unfortunately, these two aspects are not directly managed by our service. Nevertheless we will act as a sounding board and efforts will be made in order to reduce the lack of information. For instance, on the USI website it is now possible, for the first time, to look for courses by selecting the language of instruction.

As for the USI students, we will try to improve the available sources of information (the experience reports written by USI students who spent a period of study abroad, the Study Abroad Guide, the Information sessions set each year in October/November, the personal meetings). In particular, we have decided to list the partner universities (available at: <https://www.usi.ch/en/partner-universities-academic-mobility>) in a different way, taking into consideration the relevance for the different study programmes.

To conclude, we consider this survey as an additional tool to establish quality control in our work and we would like to repeat it regularly, namely each semester.

COME AND GO PARTY FOR EXCHANGE STUDENTS

The academic year has ended and exchange students hosted at USI are returning to their home countries after having spent a semester in Lugano, while future USI outgoing students are getting ready for their experience abroad.

To bid farewell the International Relations team organized a “Come and Go Apero” on the shores of the Lugano lake.

The event took place on May 28th and was a great opportunity for students to share stories and experiences, meet other exchange students and ask some practical questions to the International Relations team as well as fellow students. It was also the opportunity to become part of a network of students sharing the same experience.

During the aperitif, participants were invited to join forces on a multilingual quiz about the Lugano region, that combined different language skills and knowledge about the region, and wanted to facilitate discussions and learning from one another.

The International Relations team wishes all USI exchange students the best in their future endeavors!



The Come and Go farewell apero at Lido Lugano.

INTERNATIONAL CAREERS @ USI

Starting with an internship abroad

During their studies at USI, students have the opportunity to live a unique experience by doing an internship abroad. Each year, more than 90 USI students out of 269 decide to do their curricular internship abroad. This experience has proven to be very important for the professional future career of every student, because not only it allows them to acquire professional experience in their field of career interest, but also learn new cultures and languages, and work in a new challenging professional environment, thus broadening their personal and professional horizons.

Get a scholarship for your international internship

The Career Service is not only proud to support the research of international internships (in the academic year 2016/2017, out of the 595 internship offers that the Career Service posted online, 42.5% were outside of Switzerland), but also to grant three different scholarships for everyone who decides to take this opportunity.

First, the SEMP Scholarship (funded by the Swiss Confederation) which is granted to USI Bachelor's and Master's students who are doing their internship abroad in an Erasmus+ participating country;

secondly, the International Placement Scholarship (funded directly by the Career Service) which is granted to Master's students carrying out an internship in a non-EU country;

thirdly, the Career Service scholarships for AIESEC Lugano, (funded by the Career Service) which is granted to Bachelor' and Masters students who carry out either a professional or a volunteering internship through AIESEC Lugano.

In the academic year 2016/17, 85 students received – a scholarship to carry out their internship in 14 different countries (Europe, USA and Ecuador).

In the academic year, 2017/2018, the Career Service already granted 78 scholarships for internships carried out in Europe, UAE and China.

USI alumni in the world building an international network

The Alumni Community reflects USI's international character, both in terms of countries of origin and of destination for employment. About 36% of the 8500 USI Alumni work around the world in 70 different countries: 91% in Europe, 5% in America, 3% in Asia and 1% in Africa.

Find out where Alumni work: the Career Stories

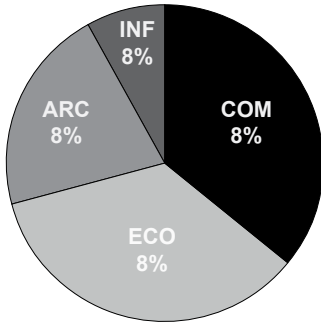
The USI community is spreading and growing professionally, making the network of contacts increasingly interesting for current students and for all the alumni. The career service regularly posts alumni career stories online on the alumni website. More than 200 career testimonials (Career Stories) of USI graduates are already available on line, showing the type of careers are potentially waiting for USI students, and strengthening the professional network of USI alumni. In this issue, you will find some examples of international careers of our alumni:

[Dana Pavalan](#), BIM Architect, Morph Estudio, Madrid
USI Degree: Master in Architecture, 2003 (in Italian)

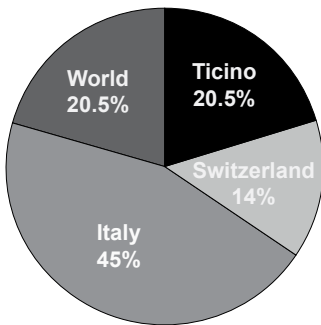
[Dmitry Stavitskiy](#), Growth Marketing Lead - Marketing Technology, Airbnb, San Francisco
USI Degree: Master in Marketing, 2013

[Loredana Padurean](#), Associate Dean, Asia School of Business in collaboration with MIT Sloan, Kuala Lumpur
USI Degree: Master in International Tourism, 2007, PhD in Economics, 2010

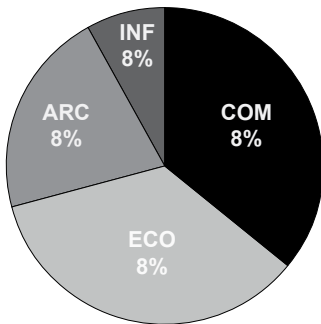
[Jurij Fridkins](#), Global Process and Tool Leader, GE Power, Manchester
USI Degree: Master in Embedded Systems Design, 2007



USI Alumni by Faculty: 3013 Communication 36%, 992 Economics 35%, 1812 Architecture 21%, 657 Informatics 8%.



USI Alumni by Country of Origin. Today USI has more than 8500 Alumni, 65,6% from abroad.



USI Alumni by Workplace. About 36% of the USI Alumni work around the world: 91% in Europe, 5% in America, 3% in Asia and 1% in Africa.

Alumni chapters in the world: an international network

In order to keep in touch with the USI Alumni community all over the world, the Alumni Service created the USI Alumni Chapters – Point of Contact (PoC), the local contact for all USI Alumni living and working in the same area, wishing to get together and stay in touch with USI. The PoC are alumni leaders who are committed to supporting the University and connecting alumni with each other by volunteering time, energy and talent. Every USI Alumnus visiting, moving to or interested in a specific geographical area/city, as well as professors in sabbatical or travelling to a conference and students who are doing an internship are very welcome to get connected with the local PoC.

As of today, 22 graduates have already volunteered as PoC in 4 different continents and several meetings have been already organized (New York, Beijing, San Francisco, Tokyo, Bangalore, Madrid, Singapore) and more will take place in the next months (Milan, Berlin, London, ...). Check out the existing chapters on: <https://www.usi.ch/en/alumni-chapters>.

Open project fund

Form, duration, structure, and type of activity are completely open. Projects involving different field and levels are also possible.

Application deadlines are respectively May 31, and June 22, 2018.

More information on the programmes and procedures are available on the site of the national agency movetia:

<https://www.movetia.ch/it/programmi/programma-di-mobilita-internazionale-extraeuropea/>

Call for Young Researchers' Exchange between Japan and Switzerland

In its function as the Swiss Leading House for Asia, ETH Zurich is happy to announce the launch of a new call for the exchange of young researchers (PhD students, young postdocs and master students in exceptional cases) between Japan and Switzerland together with the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS). The grants allow Swiss young scientists to spend 3-6 months of research in a Japanese partner laboratory or, vice-versa, Japanese scientists to perform 3-6 months of research in Switzerland; grants cover international travel and living allowance. The respective guidelines and application form can be found on the website:

<https://www.ethz.ch/en/the-eth-zurich/global/funding-opportunities/swiss-bilateral-programmes/Mobility.html>.

The call is open to all scientific disciplines including social sciences and humanities and to researchers from all Swiss universities, universities of applied sciences and research institutes.

Please observe that Japanese candidates will have to apply to JSPS.

Deadline for applications is 20 May 2018.

Government scholarships for the academic year 2018-2020

The Scholarship Service of swissuniversities has the pleasure to inform that the call for applications for Government scholarships offered by more than 30 countries for the period 2018/2020 has been published on the website

<https://www.swissuniversities.ch/en/services/scholarships-for-study-abroad/>

The type, duration and amount of a scholarship varies greatly from country to country. Scholarships are awarded for studies, research, specializations, teaching, art or language courses; the duration can last from few weeks to several years. Normally, a government scholarship covers the cost of living and studying in the host country. Information about the application procedure can be found in the call for applications of the host country in question. Among these opportunities, it is worth mentioning the Fulbright Program, the leading international educational exchange program funded by the U.S. Government for students, researchers and professors who wish to take part in projects of high international relevance.

Are you interested in participating to any of these events around the world? Let us know where you are: USI students, professors, alumni and staff are most welcome to join.

For further information about this project or to become a PoC, please contact the USI Alumni Service at alumni@usi.ch.

Chapter	City	Date	Event Information
Italy	Milan	6 September 2018	Alumni in Milan, LinkedIn
India	Bangalore	15 June 2018	Alumni in Bangalore; LinkedIn
Japan	Tokyo	1 June 2018	Alumni in Tokyo; LinkedIn
Spain	Madrid	24 May 2018	LinkedIn
Singapore	Singapore	8 May 2018	LinkedIn
Germany	Berlin	September 2018	
Uk	London	Autumn 2018	LinkedIn
Switzerland	Zurich	Autumn 2018	
China	Beijing	13 July 2018 19 May 2018 15 March 2018 14 December 2017	Alumni in Beijing 4Th Gathering Alumni in Beijing Picnic Alumni in Beijing 2Nd Gathering Alumni in Beijing 1St Gathering LinkedIn
Usa	New York	22 June 2017	Alumni in New York
Usa	San Francisco	26 April 2017	Alumni in San Francisco



SUMMER BREAK

The International Relations Study Abroad service team wishes a great summer to everyone and gives appointment to the EAIE Conference 2018 in Geneva, an important edition since it marks the 30th anniversary of the Conference. We will be available at the stand F27, “Study in Switzerland”. Do not hesitate to contact us (relint@usi.ch) to set an appointment.

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