



N.2 – 08.2013

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!

AUTUMN TERM 2013: QUICK FACTS

For the International Relations and Study-abroad office, summer does not mean relax and holiday. During the break, while corridors of the university are empty and students are finally on vacation after the exam session, the IR staff is fully involved in the preparation of the new academic year.

From the point of view of USI students, the result of the selection process (that took place in the month of March) is the following: 86 USI students will spend a period abroad in the framework of the various exchange programmes during next Autumn Term. In details, 65 will be hosted by partner (Erasmus and international) universities, 17 will profit of the Swiss mobility programme and 4 students will travel abroad to two non-partner universities, namely the Universidade de Belgrano (Argentina) and the National Research University Higher School of Economics of Moscow (Russia). In these months, we assisted these students in the organization of their stay.

At the same time, the activities of the IR focus on the organization of the welcome of the new incoming exchange students. In the month of June the new Exchange students' handbook has been published ([exchange-students-handbook.pdf](#)) and welcome letters have been sent to the 73 students who will spend the Autumn Term or the entire year at a faculty of USI. The months of July and August are mainly devoted to the setting up of the welcome programme and the preparation of the relevant documents, in order to make the start of the stay as pleasant and successful as possible.



View from Lee Wee Nam Library at NTU, Singapore

VISIT OF NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

On April 16, 2013, the coordinator of the International Relations and Study-abroad office Ilaria Juon, had the chance to visit the Nanyang Technological University in Singapore where she met with the International Relations Office team.

Nanyang is a partner university in the framework of the international agreements for the field of Communication Sciences since 2008. With the current agreement, 6 students per year have the opportunity to spend a semester in Singapore, one of the most innovative cities in Asia, and to experience the Asian way of life. At the same time, 6 students from NTU are welcomed in Lugano during the Spring term. The agreement is particularly suitable for USI undergraduate students at the Faculty of Communication Sciences, given the course offer at the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information.

With a focus on science and engineering and five different colleges, NTU hosts more than 33'500 undergraduate and postgraduate students and over 3'800 teaching and research staff members from all over the world, bringing international perspectives to Singapore.

Through its five-year strategic plan, NTU aims at becoming a great global university with emphasis on five different areas, among whose New Media (with the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information – a top journalism and media school in Asia) and Business, the latter an already consolidated topic within the Nanyang School of Business.

At present, 1 out of 2 undergraduate students at NTU has at least one experience abroad in one of the partner University, including USI Università della Svizzera italiana. We do hope to continue this fruitful collaboration, giving our students the possibility to experience a very different yet very dynamic and innovative environment.



Tommaso Elia,
USI master student in Banking and Finance

TESTIMONIAL

Hi Tommaso, please tell us something about yourself.

“I am a master student in Banking and Finance at USI, graduating in October. I spent the fall semester 2012 at the Católica Lisbon School of Business and Economics in Portugal. I like to travel, visit new countries and meet different people.”

Why you did you decide to go on Erasmus?

“I think that live in a new place with people from different backgrounds and cultures is always exciting. The Erasmus programme allows you to combine these things with your studies. It's an opportunity you will not miss.”

Why did you choose to go to Portugal and to UCP in particular?

“Lisbon is one the most beautiful cities in the world, an international framework built up on the Atlantic Ocean, with strong traditions and culture.

“Tommaso Elia, USI master student in Banking and Finance, shares with us his experience at Universidade Católica Portuguesa (UCP).”

UCP has students from all around the world with a great education, being the leading University in Portugal. It is the perfect context where you can have fun and study.“

What about the Portuguese education system? Could you tell us which are the main differences that you have found?

“The Portuguese method is very similar to the one used at USI, but for all the courses you have to do some assignments or a paper in addition to the final exam. Each semester is divided in two quarters and you have to register to the courses you want to attend at the beginning of the quarter.”

What do you remember the most about this experience?

“Memories are too much to write in a few lines. However, you can make friends from different countries, study with them during the week and in the weekend or holidays go out and organize trips together. It’s nice that these relationships continue also after Erasmus.”

What would you say to the other USI students wishing to experience this adventure?

“I would say that they are making the best choice. Do not consider the programme as a holiday, but enjoy the exchange from each point of view. Getting involved in all the activities they will learn a lot from the experience. There are only positive things for Erasmus and Lisbon is one of the most beautiful destinations.”



“ERASMUS+” THE NEW EUROPEAN UNION PROGRAMME FOR EDUCATION

In 2014, the new European Union programme for education, training, youth and sport will be kicked off with the new name “Erasmus+”. While the main aim will not change, the programme will be completed with new elements and regrouped in one single and simplified structure. The new program, replacing "Lifelong Learning" and "Youth in Action" schemes, should last until year 2020.

For more information, please visit:

ch-go.ch/erasmusplus

europa.eu/erasmus-for-all

ch-go.ch/veranstaltungen

The core component of Erasmus+ is the mobility of students, school pupils, trainees and young people, but also of teachers and staff in educational institutions and youth programmes. In 2011 alone, the current generation of programmes enabled over 6,000 Swiss people to study, train or work elsewhere in Europe.

Erasmus+ also organises partnerships between educational institutions, authorities, social partners and youth institutions. In addition, it provides funding for international education reforms and projects. There will be three types of actions: learning mobility, cooperation projects and support for political processes. Switzerland is concluding a new agreement with the EU to cover its participation in "Erasmus +". Negotiations will begin as soon as the EU has adopted the final version of the programme.

MENDRISIO MEETS GLASGOW

During the critiques for diploma students, June 10th -14th, the Stage 5 Leader at the Mackintosh School of Architecture at the Glasgow School of Art, Mr. Robert Mantho, came to visit the USI Accademia di Architettura in Mendrisio. This visit was a great opportunity to familiarize with our methods of evaluation and a chance for cultural exchange.

The Glasgow School of Art (www.gsa.ac.uk) with which we cooperate since 2000, is internationally recognized as one of Europe's foremost university-level institutions for creative education and research in fine art, design and architecture.

At present, USI Accademia di Architettura is exchanging two undergraduate students through the LLP -Lifelong Learning Programme (Erasmus) agreement. We are confident that our cooperation will continue to be successful and that students can take advantage of this prospect of innovation and development.

NEWS IN BRIEF

New intern at IRO service

We are pleased to announce that Mr. Stefano Nussbaumer has joined our service on 5th August. Stefano will do a 10-month internship and will mainly be in charge of the organisation of welcome and social activities for incoming exchange students. He will work both at the Lugano and Mendrisio campus while finishing his bachelor degree at the Faculty of Communication Sciences.

USI and SUPSI will host IELTS test

Thanks to an agreement between British Council and USI&SUPSI, from September 2013 it will be possible to sit IELTS (International English Language Testing System) test in Ticino. The first test session will take place on November 16th and will be held at the SUPSI Manno Campus. The application for USI and SUPSI students will be online and the deadline is September 28th. Since the agreement is brand-new details will be discussed in the next few weeks. USI&SUPSI community will be officially informed in the beginning of September.

Erasmus Teaching Exchange Program

Kozminski University in Warsaw invites interested USI lecturers to take part in Erasmus Teaching Exchange Programme in the Autumn Term 2013/2014. Any topics, within business studies field, are welcome.

The classes will be conducted for the 1-st year BBA students (30 students). To register or for further questions, please contact Ms. Valentyna Guminska, Director of the International Relations Office, at yguminska@alk.edu.pl.

Merger: Uppsala University and Gotland University

On July 1st 2013, our partner Uppsala University merged with Gotland University. Gotland is not only Sweden's largest island, but also the largest in the Baltic Sea. With its pristine beaches and warm summer months, Gotland is one of Sweden's favorite holiday destinations. Uppsala University's Campus Gotland is located in Visby, the island's main town. Visby is a medieval town that has been marked as a historical site by the UNESCO World Heritage program. The new campus will be called Uppsala University Campus Gotland. Campus Gotland will offer two one-year master programs in English in 2013/2014, "Wind Power Project Management" and "Sustainable Management" and there will be courses given in English in subject such as Archaeology and Game Design. The course offering in English is somewhat limited at the moment but is likely to grow in the years to come. More information about exchange programme possibilities on Campus Gotland will follow in late Autumn during the information day at USI.

You will be able to find all you need to know about the new campus on the joint website www.uu.se.

IRUS meeting – next one hosted at USI

IRUS, the International Relations Offices of Swiss Universities network, meets twice a year to discuss topics and concerns related to mobility programmes. The next IRUS meeting will take place at USI Università della Svizzera italiana on October 21, 2013. We look forward to welcoming our colleagues for a fruitful and enjoyable meeting.

Franklin, USI and SUPSI Kick-off Language TANDEM Programme

Starting in September, Franklin College (an American liberal arts institution located in Sorengo with a broad offer of Bachelor of Arts, and fully accredited in the US and in Switzerland) offers its third edition of Language Tandem programme in collaboration with USI and SUPSI. Tandem programmes support language practice outside of the classroom in a more natural and informal way, allowing participants to better integrate in their local community and giving them the freedom to organize their meetings based on mutual agreement.

The programme matches native speakers of two different languages, who help each other with the practice and improvement of the foreign language they study. In addition to Italian, this year the program also offers exchanges in all other modern languages spoken at Franklin, USI and SUPSI including French and German.

More information and a brief guide to working in tandem available at:

fc.edu/franklin-usi-suspi-kick-off-tandem-program



Albagnò Cabin



Hiking to the top



Reaching Mornera with the cablecar

DISCOVER TICINO: CAPANNA ALBAGNO

Ticino has a very broad choice of hiking paths, ranging from mild relaxing itineraries to demanding peaks for trained mountain lovers. It also has a number of cabins where hikers can rest for a meal or stay overnight when facing long excursions. Most cabins are reachable both in summer and in wintertime, when snowshoes or ski mountaineering equipment (along with good physical condition) are needed.

Today we would like to present a cabin in the mountains near Bellinzona: the Albagnò Cabin. A small construction made of typical Ticinese stone, located on the edge of Gorduno Valley and Magadino Valley. Particularly appreciated by locals, the place has a very charming atmosphere at sunset, when hikers enjoy the lights of the Piano di Magadino.

A hike also suitable for families or people with no particular training will bring you through woods up to the cabin. From the top, you can also hike across peaks due to the high number of cabins located in the same area. The region is also ideal for climbers, with interesting cliffs in the Gorduno Valley.

On the week-ends of September 7-8, 14-15 and again October 12-13 and 19-20, it is worth mentioning that the Albagnò Cabin will be guarded by Simone Keller and Migena Tafilica, two graduates from USI Università della Svizzera italiana who enjoy our mountains in their free time off work. They will be happy to welcome you and let you enjoy a typical Ticinese lunch and relax in the sun.

In order to reach the cabin from Lugano, this is the easiest way: Train from Lugano to Bellinzona Main Station. From the station, catch bus 311 to Monte Carasso Posta (approx. CHF 20 round trip with Arcobaleno or ½ tax card). From the bus station, walk to the cablecar “Monte Carasso-Mornera”. Catch the cablecar to Mornera (CHF 9 with student card): from there you will have a beautiful hike of about 1.5 hrs in the woods.

Useful links:

Train timetables ffs.ch

Full list of mountain cabin: capanneti.ch

Albagnò Cabin: capanneti.ch/Albagnò-Cabin

Cablecar Monte Carasso-Mornera: mornera.ch

CONTACT

International Relations and Study-abroad Office

USI Università della Svizzera italiana

Via Buffi 13

CH - 6900 Lugano

e-mail relint@usi.ch

URL <http://www.relint.usi.ch>

phone +41 58 666 46 26

fax +41 58 666 46 47