

Fact Sheet Mendrisio campus

2020/2021



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Erasmus code
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**International Relations
and Study Abroad website**

All relevant information for incoming students, including application instruction is available on the International Relations Service website:
www.usi.ch/en/academic-mobility-usi-incoming-students

Fall semester deadlines

Deadline for nomination (by e-mail): 30 April
Deadline for online registration: 15 May at the latest

Spring semester deadlines

Deadline for nomination (by e-mail): 15 October
Deadline for online registration: 1 November at the Latest

Academic calendar

www.desk.usi.ch/en/usi-academic-calendar

Fall semester

14 September–18 December 2020

Spring semester

22 February–4 June 2021

Holidays

Christmas
23 December 2020 till 12 February 2021
(exam period see page 2)
Easter
5 April 2021 till 9 April 2021

Switzerland and Canton Ticino

Despite its small population (8 million people), Switzerland has four national languages (German, French, Italian and Romansh). The part of the Swiss Confederation which lies entirely south of the Alps is known as "Italian" Switzerland. It comprises Canton Ticino and Grigioni italiano. Italian is the official language for this region.

Language of instruction

Courses at the Academy of Architecture are taught in Italian and English. For non-native Italian speakers it is not required to have an Italian language certificate.

Course lists and descriptions

The course catalogue 2020-21 will be updated around July 2020. The learning agreement should be prepared on the current version of the catalogue bearing in mind that changes may occur in 2020-21.

Study programs

<http://www.arc.usi.ch/en/didattica>

Study outline

Exchange students are free to attend a variety of classes, both at undergraduate and graduate levels. Exams can be taken only on the official dates. No special session for exams will be organized and it won't be possible to ask for rescheduling or extra-muros exams.

Approval of the study plan (learning agreement)

The study plan must be approved by the relevant Faculty or Department of the home institution. All students have to make sure that any examination taken during the exchange term will be accepted as fulfilling the requirements of the original degree programme.

Courses registration

Students must sign up for bachelor and master courses. Application with USI login and password:

<http://sv.arc.usi.ch>

Limited access to courses

Please note that some courses have a limited number of places. An early application is highly recommended.

Pre-selection of the studios

Information will be sent by the International Relations Service of the Academy of Architecture in July/August 2020 and in January/February 2021.

Selection of the studios

1st semester: from 4 till 7 September 2020

2nd semester: period still unknown

Class schedules

www.arc.usi.ch/en/node/2986

Italian language courses

In September the Italian intensive language course takes place at the Academy of Architecture whereas in February it only takes place at Lugano campus.

- Fall semester: from 31 August till 11 September 2020 in Mendrisio.
- Spring semester: from 8 February till 19 February 2021 in Lugano. Application: www.italiancourse.usi.ch
- Costs: Free for all exchange students.

During the academic year Italian courses at various levels run parallel to the semestral study program.

Tuition fees

Tuition fees are waived at USI Università della Svizzera italiana where a reciprocal exchange agreement has been signed, and students are formally nominated by their home university.

Extra fees: CHF 200.- as a deposit fee for school material. If no problem occurs, the deposit will be returned at the end of the stay.

SEMP scholarship

Switzerland will not participate as a programme country in Erasmus+ . As a consequence, Switzerland will pay the scholarships for students doing an exchange at a Swiss university. Grants are awarded to individual students if all the necessary conditions are met. Students will be informed about the procedure for obtaining the grant once arrived in Mendrisio. The precise monthly amount of the grant will be announced in due time, but it is likely to be similar to the one paid in the framework of the Erasmus+ programme. The grant is paid independently of the number of ECTS earned.

Registration procedure

Nominated students will need to register online:

<https://form.arc.usi.ch/form/view.php?id=12972>

The login and the password will be sent to the student after the nomination. Students will be asked to upload a passport picture as part of the online registration process, so we suggest to prepare an electronic version of it in advance (allowed files: .jpg, .jpeg, .gif, .png; size < 0.5MB). Please note that only passport- style pictures can be accepted, taken in full face view directly facing the camera. To finalize the application applicants are required to attach the following documents to the International Relations Service of the Academy of Architecture by May 15 (Fall semester / Whole academic year) or by November 1st (Spring semester):

1. most recent Transcript of records;
2. a photocopy of the ID or of the relevant pages of the passport;
3. a photocopy of the Health Insurance card;
4. a nomination letter of the home university (not for Mobilité Suisse students);
5. extra documents for students who need an entry visa for Switzerland for a stay more than 90 days:
 - a short CV (resumé) in Italian language;
 - a short motivation letter in Italian language.

Reports of former exchange students

Students are invited to read the experience reports written by former exchange students. These reports give precious information on courses, as well as on cultural and social aspects of USI, on the residence and on Mendrisio. The reports can only be accessed with the USI login and password, that will be sent to exchange students after having successfully completed the online application.

www.usi.ch/en/end-study-reports

Welcome meeting

Exchange students will be invited to an orientation meeting where they will receive a welcome package containing their personal USI badge and account, the necessary documents for registration at Migration Office and the City of Mendrisio, information about the health insurance as well as general information. We strongly recommend to be present on that day. Detailed information will be sent after the application deadline.

Exams

Exam periods:

- 1st semester
- 25 January till 6 February 2021
- 2nd semester
- 28 June 2021 till 10 July 2021
- General session
- 30 August 2021 till 11 September 2021

Exams can be taken only on the official dates. Exchange students are not authorized to schedule their exams individually with their professors. Students should make their travel arrangements in accordance with the examination periods.

Transcript of records & credit transfer

Examination results are released approximately 6 weeks after the end of the exams. An official transcript will be sent to the student's personal address and to the home university's exchange office by ordinary mail. The credits transfer is under the responsibility of the home institution.

Living in Switzerland

Students from Non-EU/EFTA country bound by a Visa requirement must request a Visa to the Swiss Embassy or Consulate in their home country before entering Switzerland. Within 14 days of the arrival in Switzerland students from EU/EFTA and Non-EU/EFTA countries must apply for a residence permit "L" for educational purposes. All students must register to the town population office within 8 days of arrival in Switzerland. The International Relations Service will assist exchange students with the procedure.

Health insurance

All Swiss residents, including foreign students holding a residence permit valid for more than three months, are obliged by law to be insured with a recognised Swiss health insurance company, providing basic coverage when in need of medical care in case of illness or accident. Foreign students living in Switzer-

land may be exempted from this obligation if they can prove they are covered by an equivalent insurance in their home country. To ask for exemption, the student must make an official request using the appropriate form.

www.desk.usi.ch/en/health-insurance-students

Who can apply for exemption from the Swiss health insurance obligation?

Students coming from EU/EFTA countries who have a Health Insurance Card.

Students with private insurance in EU/EFTA countries who can prove that it complies with Swiss standards, i.e. that it is unlimited.

Students from Non-EU/EFTA countries who can prove that such insurance complies with Swiss standards, i.e. that it is unlimited.

The International Relations Service staff will assist exchange students with the procedure.

In order to provide students not eligible for exemption with an appropriate coverage at a more affordable price, USI has negotiated an extremely convenient collective insurance policy for students. Ask the Relation Service staff for information.

<https://www.desk.usi.ch/en/health-insurance-students>

Housing

The Academy of Architecture has a students' home, a residential complex which houses up to 72 students. Application by 1 June 2020 or by 7 January 2021. Information:

<http://www.arc.usi.ch/en/l-accademia/campus/casa-dell-accademia>

Application at:

<http://form.arc.usi.ch/form/view.php?id=24369>

Other source of information on housing:

<https://www.facebook.com/usialloggimendrisio>

<http://www.client.alloggi.usi.ch/default.aspx>

Further information on housing is available on:

www.usi.ch/en/housing

Sport Service USI/SUPSI

The Service for Sport and Leisure promotes joint sporting activities between the Università della Svizzera italiana and the University of Applied Sciences of Southern Switzerland (SUPSI) and coordinates local members' participation in national and international university sports events.

The Service organises regular sports activities, free or at preferred rates.

www.sport.usi.ch

Living costs

The minimum cost of living for a student is approximately CHF 1500/month (EUR 1300).

