Fact Sheet - Lugano Campus

2024/2025

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Erasmus code
CHLUGANO01

International rankings
USI in the Times Higher Education (THE) and Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings (QS), which are amongst the world’s most popular and well-known global rankings - latest available data:

- QS World University Rankings 2024
  328th globally
  (out of 1500 universities considered).

- THE World University Rankings 2023
  Range 201-250
  (out of 1799 universities considered).

- THE World’s Best Small Universities 2023
  6th worldwide among small universities.

- THE Young University Rankings 2023
  32nd worldwide among 'young' universities (less than 50 years old).

- QS Top 50 Under 50 2021
  26th worldwide among 'young' universities (less than 50 years old).
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

Autumn Semester deadline
• Deadline for nomination (via Mobility Online): 1 May
• Deadline for online registration: 15 May

Spring Semester deadlines
• Deadline for nomination (via Mobility Online): 31 October
• Deadline for online registration: 15 November

Academic calendar
• Autumn Semester
  16 September – 20 December
  Exam session: mid January – beginning of February
• Spring Semester
  17 February – 30 May
  Exam session: beginning of June – beginning of July

Please refer to the calendars of each Faculty:
• Faculty of Communication, Culture and Society
• Faculty of Economics
• Faculty of Informatics
• Faculty of Theology of Lugano

Supplementary session
Beginning September – mid September
Students enrolled in the Autumn and Spring Semester who fail one or more exams may apply to retake the exams during the supplementary Autumn session.

Mid-Term Exam Session
Faculties of Communication, Culture and Society and Faculty of Economics:
in the Master's programmes, in addition to the winter and summer examination sessions, there are normally two mid-term examination sessions.
The decision on whether to hold a mid-term exam session is taken from one semester to the other and is communicated to students by e-mail with the dates and deadlines.

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

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 that lies entirely south of the Alps is known as “Italian” Switzerland. It comprises Canton Ticino and Grigioni italiano. Italian is the official language of this region.

Language of instruction
Bachelor courses at the Faculties of Communication, Culture and Society, Faculty of Economics and Faculty of Theology of Lugano are mainly taught in Italian. For non-native Italian speakers it is required to have a good knowledge of the Italian language (at least a B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages). Master courses at the Faculties of Communication, Culture and Society, Faculty of Economics and Faculty of Theology of Lugano are mainly taught in English, with few courses offered in Italian. Bachelor and Master courses at the Faculty of Informatics are entirely taught in English. For non-native English speakers it is required to have a good knowledge of the English language (at least a B2).

Study programmes
Bachelor
Bachelor in Communication and Philosophy are almost entirely held in Italian.
Courses of the first three semesters in the Bachelor of Economics are offered in both Italian and English.
Bachelor in Informatics is held entirely in English.

www.usi.ch/en/education/bachelor

Master
All Masters offered at USI are taught in English, with the exception of the “Master in Lingua, letteratura e civiltà italiana” and “Master in Economia e politiche internazionali” which are held in Italian, and “Master in Public Management and Policy” which is bilingual Italian/English.

Master's degrees are offered in the following subject areas:
• Humanities
• Finance
• Tourism
• Political economy
• Management and marketing
• Health studies
• Media and Communication
• Informatics
• Computational science

www.usi.ch/en/education/master

Course lists and descriptions
• Faculty of Communication, Culture and Society
• Faculty of Economics
• Faculty of Informatics
• Faculty of Theology of Lugano

Study outline
Guest/exchange students are free to attend a variety of classes, both at undergraduate and graduate levels. Although they are enrolled in a faculty, they are entitled to attend classes and sit examinations in the other faculties as well. Overlapping of classes and of final exams is likely in case the student chooses courses offered by different faculties and/or at different levels.
Exams can be taken only on the official dates and in the prescribed modalities. No special exam sessions will be organized and it is not possible to request rescheduling or extra-muros exams. Therefore, choosing courses offered by different programs, faculties and/or levels is strongly discouraged.
In general, USI doesn’t offer Bachelor’s or Master’s thesis exchange programmes. Students working on their project during the mobility are required to take at least one course. Neither ECTS credit points will be awarded for the thesis nor will the project appear in the transcript of records. Exception: at the Faculty of Informatics, during the second semester at USI and subject to approval from the home university coordinator. Exchange students are invited to contact us to find out whether the possibility is given. The Internship Programme for incoming students is not offered at USI. For exchange students a credit load of 20 ECTS per semester is recommended.

Approval of the study plan
The study plan must be approved by the relevant Faculty or Department of the home institution. All students must ensure that any examination taken during the exchange term is accepted and fulfills the requirements of the original degree programme.

Class schedules
Class schedules or timetables are usually available a few weeks prior to the beginning of classes.
- Course schedules Bachelor
- Course schedules Master

Prerequisites and limited access to courses
- For courses held in the Master in Management, Master in Marketing and Transformative Economy and Master in Corporate Communication, students must refer to the courses descriptions to verify if prerequisites are needed and/or if there is a limitation on the number of participants. It is required to submit the study plan at the International Relations Service at least two weeks before the beginning of the Semester to check if attendance is possible and entry requirements are met.
- Master in International Tourism: no access to the tourism consultancy project and the study tour.
- Master in Finance: prerequisites apply to local USI students, yet they might provide an indication of the requested basic knowledge to properly follow a course and successfully sit the examination.
- Undergraduate students who wish to attend graduate courses must submit the study plan at the International Relations Service at least two weeks before the beginning of the Semester, in order to check if the attendance is possible (due to limited places) and entry requirements are met.

Italian language courses
USI offers intensive and semestral Italian language courses before or during the Autumn and Spring Semester. All non-Italian speaking students, researchers and professors are invited to participate free of charge.

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.

SEMP scholarship
Switzerland will not participate as a program country in Erasmus+ for the academic year 2024/2025. In order to ensure reciprocity, 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 upon arrival in Lugano. 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 regardless of the number of ECTS earned.

Please be aware that exchange students who intend to reside in their home university country during their exchange semester at USI are not eligible for the SEMP mobility programme.

Heyning-Roelli Foundation
The Heyning-Roelli Foundation provides scholarships to talented but financially underprivileged students for travel and subsistence expenses. Please note that these are external funds and do not affect scholarships already granted within SEMP. Information on the conditions and application process may be found at:

www.heyning-roelli-stiftung.ch

Registration procedure
Student mobility at USI is managed through Mobility Online. Nominated students will be informed about the registration procedure in due time.

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, on cultural and social aspects of USI, on housing and on Lugano. The reports are available on our Responsive portal, in the Exchange experience reports section.

https://application.mobility.usi.ch

Mandatory information session
Exchange students will be invited to an information session where they will receive a welcome package containing their personal USI badge and account, the necessary documents for registration at Migration Office and Punto Città, information about the health insurance as well as general information about Lugano and USI. Detailed information will be sent after the application deadline.

www.italiancourse.usi.ch

www.movetia.ch/en/programmes/international/swiss-programme-for-erasmus/higher-education/mobility

www.italiancourse.usi.ch

www.italiancourse.usi.ch

www.italiancourse.usi.ch
Course registration
Students will be asked to register at the beginning of the Semester, no advance registration is required. The International Relations Service will inform the students about the course registration procedures upon their arrival at USI.

Exam registration
Exam schedules are usually available one month after the beginning of classes. Information about exams schedules and registration will be communicated to students via e-mail by the faculties' dean offices. It is not possible to ask for rescheduling in case of overlapping and no special session for exams will be organized.

Transcript of records & credit transfer
At the end of the exchange term, the student will receive an official transcript of examination results: the certificate will show the full title of each course, the number of ECTS points value and the grade obtained.
Students are credited with ECTS points only after they have successfully completed a course and fulfilled all its evaluation requirements. In other words, students are not awarded credits simply by class attendance or by taking part in a study abroad period. All examinations and the Master's thesis are evaluated and graded on a scale of 1 (minimum) to 10 (maximum), including half points (0.5). 6 is the passing grade. Examination results are released approximately 6 weeks after the end of the exams. An official transcript will available for download from Mobility Online. 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 (Puntocittà) 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 Switzerland may be exempted from this obligation if they can prove they are covered by an equivalent insurance in their home country. To ask for an exemption, the student must make an official request using the appropriate form.

- Students coming from EU/EFTA countries who have a European Health Insurance Card.
- Students with private insurance in EU/EFTA counties 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 after their arrival in Ticino.

In order to provide students not eligible for exemption with an appropriate coverage at a more affordable price, USI has negotiated with a health insurance company.

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

Housing
Students are responsible for securing their own accommodation. USI operates the USI Home housing, 500 m away from the University Campus, which is mainly reserved for exchange students and is located in Via Lambertenghi 1, 6900 Lugano - a 5-min walk from USI.

USI Home has Wi-Fi access available with Eduroam with USI student access codes.
There is no parking space, neither for motor vehicles nor for bicycles. More information, rates and payment options available at:

www.desk.usi.ch/en/usi-home

If interested, students must apply via the online form

www.desk.usi.ch/en/usihome-request-form

Application will be processed in the order of receipt. Further information on housing is available on:

www.usi.ch/en/housing

Sport Service USI
Through its Sport Service, USI organizes a range of sporting activities which are open to all members of the university community.

www.sport.usi.ch

Living costs
Living costs for a student in Lugano are, on average, between CHF 1’300-1’900 per month (EUR 1’300-1’900).