

FAQ for exchange students

COVID-19



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Accommodation	<p>I'm staying at USI Home and have a semester contract. Can I cancel it early?</p> <p>If you are considering leaving USI to go back to the home country without planning to continue your exchange (cancellation), please note that you are not subject to the lease fee until the termination of the contract, but at the same time, the deposit will be withheld by USI.</p> <p>If you are leaving USI to go back to your home country and you continue your exchange (even remotely), please note that housing contracts are issued for the whole duration of the exchange semester and from a legal point of view, the housing contract cannot be cancelled. The housing providers are therefore obliged to collect the rents for the entire semester. Alternatively, you may decide not to pay rent, in that case the deposit is withheld by USI.</p> <p>What is the moving out procedure?</p> <p>Please send an email to usihome@usi.ch for information.</p> <p>I'm staying in a private residence. How do I cancel it and what are the moving out procedures?</p> <p>Please contact your rental agency or landlord.</p>
Residence permit	<p>I am permanently leaving Switzerland. Do I need to deregister at the relevant authorities?</p> <p>Yes, this is very important. Contact the Puntocittà (or Controllo abitanti) and the Regional Migration office where you initially registered.</p> <p>I had to leave urgently and was not able to deregister at the relevant authorities. What shall I do?</p> <p>It is very important that you still deregister, and you can do so remotely.</p> <p>Write an email to Puntocittà: puntocitta@lugano.ch (or Controllo abitanti) and the Regional Migration Office (di-sp.migrazione@ti.ch) with the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reason why you were not able to deregister in person • Desired deregistration date (date of your departure) • Date of rental lease cancellation <p>Attach a scan of the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of your Swiss residence permit • Copy of your passport/ID <p>My residence permit expires while I am temporarily abroad, but I plan to return to USI. What shall I do?</p> <p>Please clarify your individual situation directly with the immigration authorities of your desired residence place in Switzerland.</p> <p>On the website of the State Secretariat for Migration you will find regular updates regarding travel restrictions. https://www.sem.admin.ch/sem/en/home/aktuell/aktuell/faq-einreiseverweigerung.html</p>
Health Insurance	<p>Since I have only stayed in Switzerland for less than 90 days, is it possible to cancel my health insurance for the entire period?</p> <p>The health and accident insurance in Switzerland is mandatory for the entire duration of your stay.</p> <p>In order to cancel your insurance, you need to de-register at the Puntocittà/Controllo abitanti and at the Regional Migration Office and send a copy of the confirmation of your de-registration to the insurance company you have chosen.</p> <p>The insurance company will then cancel your policy and, if necessary, make the adjustments of your premiums invoice (depending on the situation, either refund the overpaid premiums or issue a new invoice covering a shorter period of time).</p> <p>I have a EU card and have applied for an exemption. I have not received any answer yet. Can I leave?</p> <p>You may leave provided that you inform the Istituto delle assicurazioni sociali that you are exiting the country. You will need to attach the confirmation of your de-registration of residence and state the date of departure. Please send your message to: malattia@ias.ti.ch.</p>
Enrollment	<p>I am continuing my courses/project remotely. What about my enrollment?</p> <p>Your enrollment is valid until the end of the semester.</p>
Scholarship	<p>I am continuing my courses remotely. What about my scholarship?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEMP: the grant will remain active, provided students continue to follow the courses online (regardless of where they are located). <p>The principle of "force majeure" can be applied to every mobility: the form and the manner in which this clause can be invoked will be later communicated.</p>
Exams	<p>I am continuing courses at USI remotely (online). What about my exams, will they take place and if so, how and when?</p> <p>The exams scheduled for the summer session of the academic year 2019-20 will be held digitally: this was established by a decision of the USI Management Committee that has been ratified on Friday, 17 April, 2020 by the Academic Senate. For additional information: https://www.usi.ch/en/feeds/13250</p>

Future exchange students**Will my exchange/mobility during the next academic year take place?**

Currently, it is not possible to predict when the Coronavirus crisis will come to an end and allow to proceed with "normal" semesters. For the time being we proceed under the assumption that we're back on track by next academic semester. You should submit your application but keep a flexible mindset.

We will contact you around the beginning of June with updates regarding your planned student exchange.

Will application deadlines for a stay in the autumn semester 2020 be extended?

For the time being, application deadlines and procedures for exchanges in the autumn semester 2020 remain unchanged. Please refer to our websites for details.

Students who require a visa

Check the website of the State Secretariat for Migration and of the Swiss Representations abroad regularly for further updates on visa issuing.

<https://www.sem.admin.ch/sem/en/home/aktuell/aktuell/faq-einreiseverweigerung.html>

<https://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/fdfa/fdfa/kontakt/social-media/vertretungen-im-ausland.html>

General questions**I have questions directly related to my mobility period.**

Check the slots available on <https://doodle.com/poll/td5ymiyxv7cgag5z> doodle or send us an email to fix a virtual appointment!

I have questions not directly related to my mobility period, where can I find it?

See the general information and FAQ here: <https://www.usi.ch/en/feeds/12867>

The whole situation arises several doubts, who can I talk to?

We advise you to address your requests to the respective Dean's offices.

Residence permit	<p>I am a non-Swiss citizen and my residence permit for Switzerland expires while I am abroad, can I still return to Switzerland? Please clarify your individual situation directly with the immigration authorities of your place of residence in Switzerland. https://www.sem.admin.ch/sem/en/home/ueberuns/kontakt/kantonale_behoerden/adressen_kantone</p>
Exams	<p>Can I take courses and exams at USI this semester if I return to Switzerland? In principle, we will do whatever is possible to support you in your academic activities. However, there might be specific problems due to special courses' arrangements. We advise you to address requests to the respective Dean's offices.</p> <p>I am continuing courses at my host institution remotely (online). What about my exams, will they take place and if so, how and when? Please enquire at your host institution about the examination modalities they will offer.</p>
Future exchange	<p>Will my exchange during next academic year take place? For the time being we proceed under the assumption that we're back on track by next academic semester and you should proceed with your application as planned, keeping a flexible mindset.</p>
Scholarship	<p>I am continuing with the courses at my host institution remotely. What about my SEMP scholarship? The grant will remain active, provided students continue to follow the courses online (regardless of where they are located). The principle of "force majeure" can be applied to every mobility: the form and the manner in which this clause can be invoked will be later communicated.</p> <p>I am continuing my internship remotely. What about my SEMP scholarship? Should you continue and complete your internship in smart working or blended working, following your employer's indications, nothing will change and your grant is confirmed. Please have a look at our website for every question you have about scholarship for internship abroad: https://www.usi.ch/en/university/info/career/students-and-graduates/grants</p>
General questions	<p>I have questions directly related to my mobility period. Check the slots available on https://doodle.com/poll/td5ymiyxv7cgag5z doodle or send us an email to fix a virtual appointment!</p> <p>I have questions not directly related to my mobility period, where can I find it? See the general information and FAQ here: https://www.usi.ch/en/feeds/12867</p> <p>The whole situation arises several doubts, who can I talk to? We advise you to address requests to the respective Dean's offices.</p>