

Università  
della  
Svizzera  
italiana

International  
Relations  
and Study  
Abroad  
Service

# Partner with USI

The primary objective of this publication is to showcase Università della Svizzera italiana (USI) by emphasizing its strengths and unique qualities, which we believe could inspire you to consider a collaboration with US(I)



## Content

<b>Who we are</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Key figures</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Why USI</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>What we do</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Academic programmes</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Where we are</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>USI Campuses</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>International Relations and Study Abroad Service</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Other key services for exchange students</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Impressum</b>	<b>16</b>

**Università della Svizzera italiana (USI)** is one of the 12 certified public universities in the Swiss academic system, coordinated by swissuniversities. A total of 4'749 students and 1'591 professors, lecturers and researchers interact every day on its four campuses in Lugano (East and West), Mendrisio and Bellinzona, with 115 countries represented. Over 15'000 USI graduates are employed all over the globe. Established in 1996, USI is in constant evolution, always taking on new challenges while remaining true to its three guiding principles: quality, openness, and responsibility. It ranks respectively 9th in the world among small universities and 251-300 overall according to Times Higher Education.

- Academy of Architecture
- Faculty of Biomedical Sciences
- Faculty of Communication, Culture and Society
- Faculty of Economics
- Faculty of Informatics
- Faculty of Theology of Lugano

## Academic year 2025/2026

Faculties	<b>5+1</b>
Bachelor's	<b>9</b>
Master's	<b>28</b>
Doctoral programmes	<b>13</b>
Campuses	<b>4</b>
Students	<b>4'749</b>
Alumni	<b>15'000</b>
Nationalities	<b>115</b>
Teacher / student ratio	<b>1/7</b>
Job placement 1 year after graduation	<b>92,8 %</b>

## Why USI

### Reasons for choosing USI:

- Quality of the Swiss university system;
- International, dynamic and welcoming environment: small scale, broad reach;
- Wide selection of studies and courses in English;
- Teacher/student ratio of 1/7, allowing for a truly direct and open dialogue with faculty;
- Bologna Process (3+2) and ECTS grading system;
- Interdisciplinary, engaging and interactive approach;
- Rich variety of exchange options, from traditional study abroad and structured exchange programmes to double or joint degree programmes with leading universities worldwide.
- Living costs in Ticino are substantially lower than in the rest of Switzerland.

Dzmitry,  
Master in  
International  
Tourism  
graduate

**“USI is a very international university. In my class alone, there were students representing 19 different countries. The USI campus is equally modern and accommodating. The courses combine applied projects, often involving local businesses. This helps students obtain real-life experience in the business world.”**

## What we do

### Education

USI offers 9 undergraduate programmes (Bachelor's degrees), 28 graduate programmes (Master's degrees), 13 Post-graduate programmes (PhD) and 10 Advanced Studies programmes.

Lecturers with an international profile offer quality, dynamic and interdisciplinary teaching that leaves room for the practical application of theory through group work, case studies and field projects, often in collaboration with professional organizations.

Classes in the Bachelor's programmes are mostly taught in Italian, with the exception of courses in the Faculty of Informatics (taught entirely in English) and the first three semesters of the Bachelor in Economics (offered both in Italian and English). The majority of Master's programmes are taught in English.



<b>Bachelor's</b>		Architecture	Italian/English
		Lingua, letteratura e civiltà italiana	Italian
		Teologia	Italian
		Philosophy	Italian
		Comunicazione	Italian/English
		Economics	Italian or English
		Informatics	English
	Data Science	German	
	Medicine	German	
<b>Master's</b>	Humanities	Architecture	Italian/English
		Lingua, letteratura e civiltà italiana	Italian
		Philosophy	English
		History and Theory of Art and Architecture	Italian/English
		Teologia	Italian
		Scienza, filosofia e teologia delle religioni	Italian
		Interreligious Dialogue	English
	Diritto canonico ed ecclesiastico comparato	Italian	
	Finance	Finance	English
		European Studies in Investor Relations and Financial Communication	English
		Financial Technology and Computing	English
	Tourism	International Tourism	English
	Economics and Management	Economics and International Politics	Italian/English
		Economics Management	English
Public Management and Policy		Italian/English	
Communication, Marketing and Media	Marketing and Transformative Economy	English	
	Media Management	English	
	Digital Fashion Communication Corporate Communication	English English	
Health Studies	Health	English	
	Cognitive Psychology in Health Communication	English	
	Medicine	English	
Informatics	Informatics	English	
	Artificial Intelligence	English	
	Financial Technology and Computing	English	
	Management and Informatics	English	
	Software Engineering with AI	English	
Computational Science	Data Science	English	

Academic programmes:



USI has developed a strong network of relations with other Swiss universities as well as with numerous foreign institutions, establishing both institutional ties and scientific collaborations. These privileged agreements provide a favorable framework for the development of extended collaborations in teaching, research, and innovative projects.

**Double Degree**

- COM, Double degree at bachelor level with University of Pisa
- COM, Double degree at master level in Digital Fashion Communication with Université Paris 1
- COM, Double degree at master level in Lingua, letteratura e civiltà italiana with University of Verona and University of Rome, La Sapienza
- ECO, Double degree at master level in International Tourism/ Food Industry Management with The University of Gastronomic Sciences, Pollenzo
- ECO, Double degree at master's level in International Economics and Policies with Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan
- ECO, Double degree at master's level in Economics with Università degli Studi Federico II, Napoli
- INF, Double degree at master level in Data Science with Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg/ Lappeenranta-Lathi University/Università degli Studi di Bologna
- INF, Double degree at master level in Informatics with Università degli Studi di Milano Bicocca
- INF, Double degree at master's level in Software and Data Engineering with Università degli Studi di Milano Bicocca/ Università degli Studi del Molise, Campobasso

**Joint Degrees**

- MED, Joint degree in Cognitive Psychology and Health Communication with Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele, Milan
- ECO, Joint degree at master level in European Studies in Investor Relations and Financial Communication with Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan
- ECO, Joint degree at master level in Public Management and Policy with Lausanne University and Bern University

**Accelerated Master Programme**

This innovative type of agreement allows students enrolled in a four-year bachelor's program at their home university to spend one semester at USI, attending selected courses from a specific master's program. They then return to their home university to complete their bachelor's degree. Thanks to this agreement, they can subsequently apply to the full master's program at USI and complete it in one year (two semesters) instead of two, as the courses taken during their mobility will be recognized. Partner university: Tecnológico de Monterrey (Mexico)

**Student exchange partnerships**

In addition to the above, USI has signed more than 110 traditional mobility agreements, enabling student and faculty exchanges. These can be consulted in the portal for partner universities.

**Location**

USI is located in Ticino, in the Italian speaking region of Switzerland, benefitting from a unique position (1 hour away from Milan, 2 hours away from Zurich by train). It is therefore both decentralized and at the crossroads between Northern Europe and the Mediterranean, where swissness meets Italian style.

Nestled in a region where nature thrives, Ticino's mountains, lakes and rivers are the perfect setting for many outdoor activities, satisfying every wish. Throughout the year, a vibrant cultural life enriches the experience, drawing visitors to its many treasures, including four UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The rhythm of life is punctuated by a variety of seasonal festivals and events, each providing a unique opportunity to immerse oneself in the local traditions and customs.



Carlos Alberto,  
Universidade de  
São Paulo, Brazil,  
exchange student

**“Lugano is a city with a very strong cultural life. Every month I went out several times to watch a movie or go to an exhibition. During summer and the beginning of the autumn, hiking is also a good call, since the landscape in Switzerland is beautiful.”**



Montebello Castle, Bellinzona.  
UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Lavertezzo, Verzasca Valley



Locarno Film Festival

## USI Campuses

- West Campus Lugano - main centre
- East Campus Lugano
- Mendrisio Campus
- Bellinzona Campus



West Campus Lugano



Mendrisio Campus



East Campus Lugano



Bellinzona Campus

## International Relations and Study Abroad Service

### Academic mobility at USI for incoming students

Here are the exchange programmes available at USI:

- Swiss mobility programme, for students matriculated in other Swiss universities to study at USI one or two semesters.
- SEMP programme (Swiss-European Mobility Programme, former Erasmus), for students coming from partner institutions to study at USI for one or two semesters. At present, USI has over 100 bilateral agreements with universities all over Europe.
- International agreement programme, for students coming from partner institutions outside of Europe with whom USI has established bilateral agreements for one or two semesters. At present, USI has twelve international agreements.
- Free-mover programme, for students whose home university does not have a bilateral agreement with USI (Lugano campus only).

### For detailed information

- Lugano Campus  
Fact Sheet Lugano Campus
- Mendrisio Campus  
Fact Sheet Mendrisio Campus



Callum,  
Glasgow School of  
Art, Scotland,  
exchange student

**“The International Relations and Study Abroad Service was exceptional in ensuring that the arrival process was smooth and stress-free, it always felt like a very professional and organised system. All of the staff were very helpful.”**

## Other key services for exchange students

### Language courses

USI Laboratory of Modern Languages organises Italian, French, German and English language courses for students enrolled in the academic programmes offered by USI, for exchange students, and for employees and academic staff. The courses are offered free of charge and cover all levels.

[www.desk.usi.ch/en/language-courses-and-certificates](http://www.desk.usi.ch/en/language-courses-and-certificates)

### Housing

USI manages two student houses (USI Home in Lugano and Casa dell'Accademia in Mendrisio). The housing service provides free personalised advice and guidance to students seeking accommodation. [www.usi.ch/en/housing](http://www.usi.ch/en/housing)

### Sport Service

The USI Sport Service organises regular sports activities, free or at convenient prices and open to all members of the university community. As member of the Swiss Confederation of University Sports, it collaborates with the sports services of other universities and promotes national and international student sporting events. [www.sport.usi.ch/en](http://www.sport.usi.ch/en)

Raya,  
Universität Zürich,  
Switzerland,  
exchange student

**“The offered activities are really helpful to get to know other students and also organised and communicated very well. I felt very welcome!”**



Generalità ↗

Arte →

Filosofia ↗

Arte →

Urbanistica ↗

Architettura ↗

7 L

**Impressum**

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## Photos

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