

Fact Sheet: Student Exchange 2025/26



University Information	
University	Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW) Website: www.zhaw.ch/en/university/
Business School	School of Management and Law (SML) Website: www.zhaw.ch/en/sml/




Exchange Contact Information	
International Relations	
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International Office	
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Address of International Office	ZHAW School of Management and Law International Office St.-Georgen-Platz 2 8401 Winterthur-Zurich Switzerland Website: www.zhaw.ch/en/sml/study/international E-mail: international.sml@zhaw.ch
Emergency phone number	+41 (0)58 934 70 70
Accessibility	The SML is wheelchair-accessible
Promotional Videos	Watch what our Incomings have to say



Academic Calendar and Application Procedure		
Structure of Academic Year	<p>Fall Semester 2025/26 (compulsory)</p> <p>Orientation Week: 8 - 12 September Start of Instruction: 15 September Exam preparation: 20 December - 11 January Exam period: 12 January - 31 January Publication of Grades: End of February</p> <p>Spring Semester 2026 (compulsory, dates are subject to change)</p> <p>Orientation Week: 9 - 13 February Start of Instruction: 16 February Exam preparation: 25 May - 7 June Exam period: 8 June - 27 June Publication of Grades: End of July</p>	
Nomination and Application	<p>Students need to be nominated by their home institution through our nomination and application platform, Mobility-Online. Email nominations are no longer accepted.</p> <p>The link to the platform changes each academic year and will be provided to all partner institutions. Should you not receive the nomination link, or have any related inquiries, please contact the ZHAW SML International Office at incoming.area1.sml@zhaw.ch.</p> <p>Once nominated and approved, students will receive a welcome email containing a link to complete their application on Mobility-Online.</p> <p>Please ensure that the completed application is submitted by the deadlines below.</p>	
Deadlines	Nomination deadline	Fall Semester: 15 May / Spring Semester: 15 October
	Application deadline	Fall Semester: 31 May / Spring Semester: 20 October
	<i>Late nominations for students not requiring a visa might be accepted after consulting with the International Office.</i>	
Language Requirements (English and/or German)	<p>The expected language proficiency level is B2+ (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages). While a B2+ level is sufficient for admission, a C1 level for modules taught in German is strongly recommended. Applicants must provide official certification of their English or German language skills.</p> <p>The ZHAW SML accepts <u>only</u> the following certificates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TOEFL iBT 83 and iBT Home (valid for 2 years) Cambridge First (FCE) Cambridge Advanced (CAE) Cambridge Business (BEC) Cambridge Linguaskill (min B2) Duolingo min. 115 (valid for 2 years) IELTS 5.5 (valid for 2 years) TOEIC Listening and Reading (combined score 450) Official confirmation letter of language proficiency from home institution Successfully completed International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma in English 	
Further Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A minimum of two completed semesters prior to the start of the exchange (at bachelor's level) No minimum GPA required 	
Module Registration	<p>Students should independently review the academic year's module offerings and check the syllabi to ensure their preferred modules meet the home institution's requirements. The module registration is finalized during the Orientation Week, with the opportunity to modify the selection during the add and drop period at the start of the first week of classes. Module placements cannot be confirmed before the final module registration.</p> <p>➔ The module offer for the current academic year can be accessed here</p>	

Academic Information																	
Languages of Instruction	English (German speakers may also choose from modules taught in German)																
Bachelor's Degree Programs	<div> Business Administration with majors (specializations) in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Banking and Finance – Behavioral Design – Financial Management – General Management – Marketing – Politics and Management – Insurance Management </div> <div> International Management Business Information Technology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Business Information Systems – Data Science Business Law Applied Law </div>																
Master's Degree Programs	<div> Business Administration with majors (specializations) in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Innovation and Entrepreneurship – Marketing – Public Management – Enterprise Development </div> <div> Accounting and Controlling Banking and Finance Circular Economy Management International Business Management and Law Business Information Technology </div>																
Module Offer for Incoming Students	Incoming students can choose from over 100 modules taught in English. In addition, some modules in English are offered exclusively to incoming students, including two language modules (German Beginner and German Intermediate).																
Credit System	ECTS (European Credit Transfer System)																
Grading System	<p>Parallel grading system: Swiss grades and ECTS grades.</p> <p>A passing grade of 4.0 in the Swiss system is required to receive ECTS credits.</p> <table> <thead> <tr> <th>Swiss Grade</th><th>ECTS Grade</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>6.0 Excellent</td><td>A</td></tr> <tr> <td>5.5 Very good</td><td>B</td></tr> <tr> <td>5.0 Good</td><td>C</td></tr> <tr> <td>4.5 Fair</td><td>D</td></tr> <tr> <td>4.0 Pass</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr> <td><4.0 Fail</td><td>FX Fail: more work required</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>F Fail: much more work required</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Swiss Grade	ECTS Grade	6.0 Excellent	A	5.5 Very good	B	5.0 Good	C	4.5 Fair	D	4.0 Pass	E	<4.0 Fail	FX Fail: more work required		F Fail: much more work required
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Study Load per Semester for Full-Time Students	30 ECTS																
Minimum Study Load for Incoming Students	15 ECTS (incl. German language modules, see below)																
Maximum Study Load for Incoming Students	45 ECTS																
German Language Training* *Free of charge for incoming students	Intensive language module in Orientation Week (2 ECTS) German modules of different levels during the semester (3 ECTS)																
Transcript of Records	The transcript will be sent directly to the home institution approximately one month after the end of the final exam period. However, all grades will be available online during the third week of February (fall semester) and the fourth week of July (spring semester).																

General Information																										
Housing (only off-campus)	<div></div> <div><p><u>Option 1: Student Residence AXA Camp</u></p><p>A number of single, furnished rooms are reserved for our incoming students at AXA Camp, a student residence in Winterthur. How to reserve one of these rooms will be communicated after the application process has been finalized.</p><p>Further options are available through WOKO, an organization offering student accommodations. Details, such as room types, rents, and location, can be found at:</p><ul style="list-style-type: none">- WOKO<p>Early application is strongly recommended.</p><p><u>Option 2: Private Housing</u></p><p>Listings of other accommodation options available in Winterthur and Zurich can be found at:</p><ul style="list-style-type: none">- Livit- www.wgzimmer.ch- www.homegate.ch- www.students.ch- www.ums.ch<p><u>Option 3: Subletting or Homestay</u></p><p>Some outgoing Swiss students sublet their rooms or apartments for the period of their exchange. In addition, a limited number of rooms offered by host families are sometimes available. Information about this platform will be sent out after the application process has been completed.</p></div>																									
Approximate costs per month in Swiss Francs		<table><tr><th></th><th>From (CHF)</th><th>Up to (CHF)</th></tr><tr><td>Rent / Utilities</td><td>600</td><td>750</td></tr><tr><td>Food / Meals</td><td>400</td><td>500</td></tr><tr><td>Transportation</td><td>40</td><td>100</td></tr><tr><td>Leisure Activities</td><td>200</td><td>300</td></tr><tr><td>Module Materials</td><td>40</td><td>50</td></tr><tr><td>Other Expenses</td><td>100</td><td>150</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>1380</td><td>1850</td></tr></table>		From (CHF)	Up to (CHF)	Rent / Utilities	600	750	Food / Meals	400	500	Transportation	40	100	Leisure Activities	200	300	Module Materials	40	50	Other Expenses	100	150	Total	1380	1850
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Financial Aid (SEMP)	The Swiss Federal Council provides financial support to students from European partner institutions. Depending on the home institution's country, students can receive a grant of either CHF 1900 or CHF 2200 per semester.																									
Arrival Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Zurich Airport (Kloten): 15 minutes by train to Winterthur main station- Basel Airport (EuroAirport): 2 hours by bus and train to Winterthur main station- Geneva Airport: 3.5 hours by train to Winterthur main station <p>➔ The ZHAW SML is just a 5-minute walk from the Winterthur main station</p>																									
Student Support	<p>Buddy Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- A local student will be assigned to each incoming student- Whenever possible, the incoming student will be welcomed at the arrival location (Zurich/ Winterthur area) and assisted with transportation to their accommodation- International Officer (local student supporting the International Office)- Support and social events organized by ESN (Erasmus Student Network)																									

Visa and Health Insurance	
Visa and Residence Permit	<p>Non-EU citizens need a student visa and must apply early (immediately after receiving their letter of acceptance).</p> <p>Students from Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Malaysia, Singapore, and the United Kingdom do <u>not</u> need a visa, but they must apply for an assurance of residence permit (called “<i>Zusicherung der Aufenthaltsbewilligung</i>”) through the SML International Office.</p> <p>All exchange students must apply for a residence permit (L-Permit) upon arrival.</p> <p>Applications for both the visa and residence permit require proof of financial means (minimum of CHF 1,750 monthly).</p> <p>The International Office will provide detailed guidance on the visa or residence permit once the application process is finalized.</p>
Health Insurance	<p>Basic health insurance is mandatory by law in Switzerland and can be obtained after the student’s arrival. Detailed information will be provided during Orientation Week.</p> <p>Non-EU residents must purchase Swiss health insurance (plans starting as low as CHF 61 per month); international health insurance obtained in the student’s home country is usually not sufficient.</p> <p>EU residents with EHIC cards or UK residents with GHIC cards are exempt from this obligation. They need to submit a waiver to the Swiss Healthcare Organization.</p>

