

# Fact Sheet - Lugano Campus

## 2024/2025



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**Erasmus code**  
CHLUGAN001

**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 2022  
15th 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](http://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 at the latest

### Spring Semester deadlines

- Deadline for nomination (via Mobility Online): 31 October
- Deadline for online registration: 15 November at the latest

### Academic calendar

- Autumn Semester  
18 September – 22 December  
Exam session: mid January – beginning of February
- Spring Semester  
19 February – 31 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 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](http://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 which 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, Economics and
- Philosophy almost entirely held in Italian;  
Bachelor in Informatics entirely held in English.

[www.usi.ch/en/education/bachelor](http://www.usi.ch/en/education/bachelor)

### Master

All Masters offered at USI are held 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](http://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 too. Overlapping of classes and of final exams is highly possible in case the student chooses courses offered by different faculties and/or at different levels. Exams can be taken only on the official dates. No special session for exams will be organized and it is not possible to ask for rescheduling or extra-muros exams. Therefore, we strongly discourage you from choosing courses offered by different programmes, faculties and/or at different levels.



In general, USI doesn't offer Bachelor's or Master's thesis exchange programmes. Students working on their project during the mobility are requested to take at minimum one course. Neither ECTS credit points will be awarded for the thesis nor the project will appear in the transcript of records.

Exception: at the Faculty of Informatics, during the second semester at USI and after approval of 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 have to make sure 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.

[www.italiancourse.usi.ch](http://www.italiancourse.usi.ch)

#### 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.

[www.movetia.ch/en/programmes/international/swiss-programme-for-erasmus/higher-education/mobility](http://www.movetia.ch/en/programmes/international/swiss-programme-for-erasmus/higher-education/mobility)

#### 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](http://www.heyning-roelli-stiftung.ch)

#### Registration procedure

USI is currently implementing 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 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](http://www.usi.ch/en/end-study-reports)

#### 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.



### 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 be sent to the student's personal address and to the home university's exchange office by e-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 (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 exemption, the student must make an official request using the appropriate form.

- 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 with a health insurance company.

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[www.desk.usi.ch/en/health-insurance-students](http://www.desk.usi.ch/en/health-insurance-students)

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### Housing

Students are responsible for securing their own accommodation. USI operates the USIHOME 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.

USIHOME 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:

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[www.desk.usi.ch/en/usi-home](http://www.desk.usi.ch/en/usi-home)

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If interested, students must send an e-mail to [usihome@usi.ch](mailto:usihome@usi.ch) with the following information:

- Preference for the single or double room;
- Length of the rent.

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

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[www.usi.ch/en/housing](http://www.usi.ch/en/housing)

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### Sport Service USI

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

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[www.sport.usi.ch](http://www.sport.usi.ch)

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### Living costs

Living costs for a student in Lugano are, on average, between CHF 1300-1900 per month (EUR 1200-1750).

