

STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMME (SEP)

Information for Students on Exchange

A. University	ETH Zurich (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology) http://www.ethz.ch/
B. Country	Switzerland
C. Academics	
i) Course Mapping & Credits Transfer	<p>Please ensure that your Study Plan is approved by the academics at your home faculty before the exchange.</p> <p>Courses approved in the past might not be offered by the host university or approved by your faculty when it is time for your exchange. Please check the latest course offerings at the host university while you are preparing your Study Plan.</p>
ii) Academic Calendar	<p>Semester 1: Mid-September to End December (excluding examinations) Semester 2: Mid-February to End May/Early June (excluding examinations)</p> <p>www.ethz.ch/semester-dates</p>
iii) Exchange Duration	<p>One semester</p> <p>For more student exchange information, please refer to: http://www.exchange.ethz.ch/</p>
iv) Examination	<p>Students are expected to attend the mandatory examination at the host university. For more information on the examinations, please refer to: http://www.ethz.ch/students/en/studies/performance-assessments.html</p> <p>If the exams overlap with the start of the new semester at NUS, you may request rescheduling or preponing certain exams under specific conditions. For more information on the preponement of exams, please refer to: https://ethz.ch/students/en/studies/performance-assessments/preponement-distance-examination.html</p>
v) Curriculum Structure	<p>Students need to obtain at least 20 ECTS per semester (excluding language courses). Two thirds (for example 14 out of 20 ECTS credits) must be acquired in the department of enrolment. Exceptions are possible for interdisciplinary study programmes such as Environmental Sciences, Earth Sciences, Health Sciences and Technology, etc. and must be approved by the department.</p> <p>If students plan to take more than 25 ECTS credits per semester, they should discuss this with their departmental exchange coordinator, because they may have problems with the workload. The academic pace at ETH</p>

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	<p>Zurich is high and students are expected to work a lot during the semester and for the exams. Taking more than 30 ECTS per semester is not recommendable.</p> <p>Online registration for courses closes 2 weeks after the semester commences.</p> <p>For more course information, please refer to their course catalogue.</p> <p>Detailed information on preparing a study plan: www.ethz.ch/en/studies/non-degree-courses/exchange/about-the-study-programmes/preparing-a-study-plan.html</p> <p>For SoC students: ETH will only accept students with CS as primary discipline with strong CS background and that in total amount to at least 2 years of full-time studies prior to entrance at ETH Zurich.</p> <p>Note also the conditions set by the departments: www.ethz.ch/en/studies/non-degree-courses/exchange/about-the-study-programmes/preparing-a-study-plan/conditions-by-departments.html</p>
vi) Entry Requirements	<p>(a) Registered as a full-time undergraduate student of NUS</p> <p>(b) Have successfully completed at least FOUR (4) semesters of study at NUS upon admission to the host university;</p> <p>(c) not eligible for exchange in the graduating year</p> <p>(d) a student of good standing at NUS with</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a minimum upper division second class honours or; a minimum B average grade or; a GPA of at least 3.0 (out of 5) for NUS students
vii) Language Proficiency Requirements	<p>Students must have sufficient knowledge of English. German would be a benefit for some (mainly undergraduate) courses. Information about the language of instruction of each course can be found in the course catalogue of ETH Zurich.</p> <p>As a rule:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bachelor programmes are mainly in German* - Master programmes are mainly in English** (exception: Architecture & Civil Engineering may offer very few courses in English only – if any – see course catalogue)

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	<p>*The undergraduate courses of the 1st and 2nd year Bachelor studies are normally taught in German at ETH Zurich, but many courses of the 3rd year are taught in English.</p> <p>**Undergraduate exchange students in their 3rd or 4th year of Bachelor studies are allowed to choose courses of Master programmes (taught in English, as a rule) if they fulfill the prerequisites.</p> <p>Students do not need to provide a language certificate, but we do require incoming students to have at least a B2 level in the teaching language(s), i.e. English and/or German, depending on their choice of courses. However, a C1 level is highly recommended.</p> <p>The joint Language Center of the University of Zurich and ETH Zurich offers intensive German courses (scheduled 2 weeks prior to semester start) and semester German courses (held during the semester, usually 2h/week). Detailed information on registration fees as well as access to the online application for courses can be found here: www.sprachenzentrum.uzh.ch/en.html</p>
viii) Faculties & Schools accepting exchange students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Agriculture and Food Sciences • Department of Architecture • Department of Civil, Environmental and Geomatic Engineering • Department of Biology • Department of Biosystems Science and Engineering • Department of Chemistry and Applied Biosciences • Department of Earth Sciences • Department of Computer Science • Department of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering • Department of Mathematics • Department of Materials Science • Department of Mechanical and Process Engineering • Department of Physics • Department of Environmental Sciences <p>Please note that Department of Humanities, Social and Political Science (D-GESS) is NOT open for exchange. No enrolment is possible in this department, incoming students may only take individual courses (max 1/3 of all courses/ECTS) as electives.</p>
ix) Course restrictions and pre-requisites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange students will be enrolled in one department as non-degree students, but they may pick and choose courses from different curriculum, departments and years. As a general rule, 2 thirds of the courses have to be taken in the department of enrolment. Exchange students are expected to acquire a minimum of 20 ECTS (not including the language course/s). The full workload for regular ETH

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	<p>students is 30 ECTS per semester. Study plans and selected courses are subject to approval by the departmental exchange coordinator of the department of enrolment at ETH Zurich.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Courses ending with –AAL and Courses from the Department of Management, Technology and Economics (D-MTEC) are not open to NUS exchange students. • Biology (D-BIOL): For block courses, there is an internal registration procedure and places are limited. Note that block courses are very difficult to combine with courses from other study programmes, they are intended only for combination with the Departments' concept courses. • Computer Science (D-INFK): Especially the Department of Computer Science has recently defined their admission criteria in a more specific but also somewhat more restrictive manner. • Humanities, Social and Political Sciences: No enrolment is possible in the Department of Humanities, Social and Political Sciences (D-GESS), incoming students may only take individual courses (max. 1/3 of all courses/ECTS) as electives. • Management, Technology and Economics: Students applying to the Department of management, technology and economics (D-MTEC) students must have completed their Bachelor degree in the field of mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, information technology, natural sciences or any other equivalent field of study. • In order to be accepted in the department of Mathematics (D-MATH) at ETH Zurich, a student must be enrolled for a degree in mathematics in his/her home university. • Please note that courses offered by the department of Mechanical and Process Engineering (D-MAVT) in the category Engineering Tools, Laboratory Practice, Focus Project and Workshop Floor are not allowed for incoming mobility students. In addition, all compulsory courses offered in the first two years (1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th semester) of Bachelor studies at D-MAVT are closed to incoming mobility students in general. • Enrollment is not possible in the department of Humanities, Social and Political Sciences (D-GESS) and students can only take the department's courses as electives (max. 1/3 of courses). • Please note that the department of Biosystems Science and Engineering (D-BSSE) is located in Basel, a city approximately 100 km away from Zurich, therefore the services of the Student Exchange Office might be slightly limited. <p>Please note that at ETH Zurich it is the individual departments deciding on the admission of exchange students. Their respective conditions for the admission of exchange students can be found here. Especially the</p>
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	<p>Department of Computer Science has recently defined their admission criteria in a more specific but also somewhat more restrictive manner.</p> <p>ETH Zurich reserves the right to reject NUS students that they feel will be unable to handle the rigours of the academic programmes at their institution.</p>
D. Application	
i) Procedures	<p>Students may apply for SEP one year in advance through their home faculty in NUS between September and June. Please look out for your faculty's announcement regarding the application period.</p> <p>Once you have been selected by your home faculty for SEP, your faculty will contact you and provide information regarding application with your host university. Please prepare the necessary documents before the start of the application period at your host university.</p>
ii) Deadlines	<p>All NUS students must abide by the internal application deadline set by their home faculty for exchange participation in the following academic year. After clearing the internal application and selection process, students have to take note of the application deadline set by the host university.</p> <p>Failure to submit a formal application to the host university will result one's exchange being forfeited even if he or she has been selected by NUS for the exchange.</p>
E. Accommodations	
i) University Accommodation	<p>Housing is not guaranteed, but so far ETH has usually been able to find accommodation for all overseas exchange students who registered with ETH's Housing Office within the set deadlines. After acceptance, students will receive information on registering for accommodation by email. They should read this information carefully and apply online within the set deadlines.</p> <p>Generally, rooms arranged by the Housing office are fully furnished, complete with internet connection and bed linen. Usually, rooms are for single occupancy while bathroom, kitchen, living room space and laundry facilities are shared with flat mates. Flat mates can be male or female. Cleaning and laundry service are not provided.</p> <p>Please note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students coming for research projects can only apply for housing if they are staying for the regular semester dates. Students coming outside of the regular semester dates need to find an accommodation on their own.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is only a very limited offer of student housing for students older than 28 years therefore we may not be able to accommodate such students in one of our dormitories. • Housing is only available if partner universities distribute students evenly on both semesters in the same academic year, unless otherwise agreed. Should partners wish to send more students in any of the semesters than agreed, housing cannot necessarily be provided to those students. Instead, they may have to find accommodation on their own, which can be very time-consuming, expensive and hard to find. • Should a student initially only apply for one semester of exchange and then later on wish to extend for another semester, we may not be able to provide an accommodation, i.e. the student may need to find something on his or her own. <p>For more information about accommodation, please refer to http://www.wohnen.ethz.ch/en.</p>
<h3>F. Visa</h3>	
<p>Consular/Visa Regulation</p>	<p>All visa applications are processed by ETH Zurich. (Exception: Students applying for D-BSSE in Basel who want to undertake a research project must apply for their visa on their own)</p> <p>Students will be informed after their acceptance about the further procedures.</p> <p>Refer to: https://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/representations-and-travel-advice.html for Swiss embassies.</p> <p>Everyone staying for more than 90 days (irrespective of whether they required a visa or not) is required to obtain a residence permit. Instructions on how to apply for it will be provided to students when they register in person at our helpdesk. Students need to follow the instructions and apply for their residence permit within 14 days after arrival.</p> <p>Important: The exact duration of the residence permit is calculated from the day of entrance to Switzerland and according to the duration of studies confirmed by ETH Zurich in the official confirmation of acceptance. Students should therefore <u>never enter Switzerland before the start date stated on their official confirmation of acceptance</u>. Otherwise, they risk their residence permit expiring before the last day of their planned mobility stay and not being able to write their final exams or finish their project/thesis work. In such case, they would have to apply for an extension of their residence permit at a charge. This applies to all non-EU/EFTA nationals, with</p>

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	<p>and without a visa requirement, even if the visa authorisation or the issued visa theoretically allows an earlier entry to Switzerland!</p> <p>Visa and residence permit fees usually amount to approx. CHF 400.</p>
G. Safety, Health & Medical Insurance	
i) Health/Medical Insurance	<p>All registered NUS students are covered under the university health insurance and the blanket travel insurance. For more information on the university health insurance coverage, please refer to http://www.nus.edu.sg/uhc/general-health/billing-insurance/insurance-matters</p> <p>For more information on the blanket travel insurance, please refer to https://myportal.nus.edu.sg/studentportal/student-insurance/all/</p> <p>Basic health insurance is mandatory for all persons living in Switzerland. If the insurer is acknowledged by the Swiss authorities, students may be exempted from having to take out compulsory health insurance in Switzerland. However according to our experience, it is very unlikely to be exempt by the cantonal health insurance authorities. In this case, some insurance companies offer special packages for foreign students.</p> <p>Please note: We do help students to fulfill the requirements of the Swiss health insurance authorities (finding insurance, filling out contracts etc.) but we will no longer be able to help students who want to be exempted from the mandatory health insurance, as we cannot recommend this procedure.</p> <p>The Student Exchange Office invites accepted exchange students to attend a special information event on health insurance in the first two weeks of the semester start.</p> <p>Personal Liability Insurance: ETH Zurich is insured against material and property damage, though with a high franchise (amount retained from one's own account). Should instruments and equipment belonging to ETH be damaged by students through negligence (e.g. in practical courses, during semester projects or a thesis), ETH Zurich can make the persons involved accountable for the damage costs. ETH Zurich therefore highly recommends its students to take out a personal liability insurance to cover any unforeseen risks. Such an insurance also covers risks outside of ETH Zurich where expensive damage may occur, e.g. in rented rooms or flats, involvement in accidental bodily injury, etc. Likewise recommendable is a householder's comprehensive insurance including theft/burglary, e.g. for laptops, bicycles, etc.</p> <p>ETH Zurich therefore highly recommends its students to take out a personal liability insurance to cover unintentional damages caused to third parties</p>

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	<p>both inside and outside ETH Zurich Not having personal liability insurance may result in considerable expenses, e.g. damage to property in rented rooms or flats, injury or other damage to a person's health, etc.).</p> <p>For more information on health insurance, please refer to http://www.ethz.ch/health-insurance-for-students</p>														
ii) Emergency Number at host university	<p>https://ethz.ch/en/campus/getting-to-know/learning-and-working/emergency-desk.html</p> <p>From external connections / mobile phones: +41 44 342 11 88</p>														
H. Cost of Living															
i) Estimated Monthly Living Expenses	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Breakdown of Costs</th><th>Cost</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Accommodation</td><td>CHF 600 – CHF 900</td></tr> <tr> <td>Food (if using ETH facilities)</td><td>CHF 500</td></tr> <tr> <td>Transport</td><td>CHF 60 – CHF 90</td></tr> <tr> <td>Insurance</td><td>CHF 70 – CHF 200</td></tr> <tr> <td>Others (Entertainment, clothes)</td><td>CHF 425</td></tr> <tr> <td>Monthly Estimate</td><td>CHF 1,750</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>Students should budget approximately CHF 1750 per month (requirement of migration authorities).</i></p> <p>For more details about living expenses, please refer to https://ethz.ch/en/studies/non-degree-courses/exchange/preparation.html#cost-of-living</p>	Breakdown of Costs	Cost	Accommodation	CHF 600 – CHF 900	Food (if using ETH facilities)	CHF 500	Transport	CHF 60 – CHF 90	Insurance	CHF 70 – CHF 200	Others (Entertainment, clothes)	CHF 425	Monthly Estimate	CHF 1,750
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I. Useful reference															
Guide for Exchange Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.ethz.ch/en/studies/non-degree-courses/exchange/faq.html • www.ethz.ch/en/studies/non-degree-courses/exchange/living-in-switzerland.html • www.ethz.ch/en/studies/non-degree-courses/exchange/about-the-study-programmes.html 														

Last updated: August 2023

Note: All information is subjected to change.