

Information Sheet for Student Exchange 2022/23

Valid as of Oct. 2021

Contact Information	
Name of University	ETH Zurich – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich
Office dealing with study abroad/exchange matter	Student Exchange Office
Head of Office dealing with study abroad/exchange matter	Andrea Rothenbühler (Ms) Phone: +41 44 632 92 97, andrea.rothenbuehler@akd.ethz.ch
Exchange Coordinator (Inbound to your university)	For the time being: exchange@ethz.ch Tel.: +41 44 632 61 61
Exchange Coordinator (Outbound from our university)	For the time being: exchange@ethz.ch Tel.: +41 44 632 61 61
Postal Address	ETH Zürich Student Exchange Office Rämistrasse 101 HG F 22.4 8092 Zürich SWITZERLAND
Departmental Exchange Coordinators	Each department at ETH Zurich has one or more departmental exchange coordinators, who are the points of contact for all academic questions related to an exchange. For a complete list of all departmental exchange coordinators see www.ethz.ch/en/studies/non-degree-courses/exchange-and-visiting-studies/contact/departmental-exchange-coordinators.html For any academic questions or queries, faculty members of our partner universities are welcome to get in touch directly with the respective departmental exchange coordinators.
Website of University Website of our office	www.ethz.ch/en.html www.incoming.ethz.ch
Basic data	
Welcome Day (mandatory)	Autumn semester 2022: Mon, 19 Sep 2022 (classes start Tue, 20 Sep) Spring semester 2023: Fri, 17 Feb 2023 (classes start Mon, 20 Feb)
Semester Dates	Autumn semester 2022: 19 Sep 2022 – 23 Dec 2022 (not including examinations – see below) Spring semester 2023: 20 Feb 2023 – 02 June 2023 (not including examinations – see below)
Examination Dates	Autumn semester 2022: End-of-semester exams: 12 – 23 Dec 2022 and 09 – 20 Jan 2023 Examination session: 23 Jan – 17 Feb 2023 Spring semester 2023: End-of-semester exams: 22 May – 16 Jun 2023 Examination session: 07 Aug – 01 Sep 2023
Exam schedule and preponement of exams	Exams at ETH Zurich may overlap with the start of the semester at partner universities. Therefore it may be possible for incoming exchange students to

	<p>reschedule/prepone certain examinations under specific conditions. Further information on the preponement of examinations can be found at www.ethz.ch/students/en/studies/performance-assessments/exchange/preponement.html.</p> <p>The Student Exchange Office invites accepted exchange students to attend a special information event on the preponement of examinations at the beginning of each semester.</p> <p>Please note: If due to the time difference a distance examination takes place outside the local office opening hours, it would be possible to postpone the examination to the next morning. In such a case and in addition to the consent of the lecturer, students will also need the approval of the Examinations Office. Please note that local holidays (e.g. Chinese New Year) cannot be taken into account as a sufficient reason to postpone exams even further.</p> <p>At ETH Zurich, examinations also take place on Saturdays (morning). A corresponding distance examination would then also have to take place on that Saturday (or even Sunday, as per the time difference). A postponement to the following Monday is not possible.</p>
Repetition of failed Examinations	<p>If exchange students fail an exam, they will usually not be able to retake it, especially if it is a session exam. Repetitions are often only allowed during the next exam period (a semester or even a year later), and sometimes only after retaking the course unit. Students may only sit exams while they are still enrolled as exchange students at ETH Zurich.</p>
Academic calendar	http://www.ethz.ch/semester-dates
Application for Exchange Program	
<p>Requirements on English/German</p> <p>Should students plan to take related courses?</p>	<p>Students must have a sufficient knowledge of English. We expect students to have a level of:</p> <p>TOEFL IBT: 80 (spoken min. score 18) TOEIC: 780 CEFR: B2 Cambridge: FCE IELTS: 5.5</p> <p>Students don't need to hand in a language certificate.</p> <p>German would be a benefit. There is an offer by the language learning center for intensive German courses and semester German courses: www.sprachenzentrum.uzh.ch/en.html</p>
Online Application Process	<p>Partners are requested to announce the students nominated for an exchange to ETH Zurich before the deadlines below by email.</p> <p>We kindly request our partner universities to distribute the student flow as evenly as possible over both semesters, unless otherwise agreed. Any greater imbalance may get us into difficulties with housing.</p> <p>For agreements which include all fields of study (university-wide agreements): please distribute nominations among the different fields of study included in our exchange agreement. We usually do not set fixed quotas of students per field of study, but we try to work towards a fair distribution among the departments. At ETH Zurich, it is the individual departments deciding on the admission of exchange students.</p> <p>For departmental exchange agreements: please nominate students for the departments/fields of study as set out in the agreement, unless otherwise agreed.</p> <p>Students must apply online – find the link to the online application as well as detailed instructions at www.ethz.ch/en/studies/non-degree-courses/exchange-and-visiting-studies/programmes/exchange-programmes/worldwide-programmes.html</p> <p>Students can upload all the documents required in our online application.</p>

<p>The following documents are necessary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transcript of records with full details of previous and current third level education, including grading key/legend explaining the grading system of their home university • Photocopy of passport (must be valid for at least three months beyond the official end of the semester, including session examinations) • Photograph (JPG) • List of course units planned until the exchange (template provided) • CV • Motivation letter • In case of a research project: confirmations of thesis/research project supervisors at ETH Zurich and at the home university <p>Details can be found in our application guidelines at www.ethz.ch/content/dam/ethz/main/education/non-degree/mobilitaet/PDF_englisch/Worldwide_Incomings_application_guidelines.pdf</p>
<p>When does the application window open, i.e. from when are applications possible?</p>	<p>Autumn semester: beginning of February Spring semester: beginning of July Note however that there is no rolling admission, i.e. applications will only be processed after the application deadline</p>
<p>Application deadlines</p>	<p>Fall semester: 1. April Spring semester: 1. September For projects/theses: min. 4 months before the planned start. Note that students coming outside the regular semester dates need to find an accommodation on their own. The minimal duration for a research project is 8 weeks.</p>
<p>When will students be notified about the outcome of their application?</p>	<p>Autumn Semester: until around middle of June Spring Semester: until around end of October</p>
<p>Course selection</p>	
<p>Is it possible for undergraduate exchange student to choose courses of graduate programs?</p>	<p>Third year bachelor students can take graduate courses if they fulfil the prerequisites of the courses.</p>
<p>What should the academic background of the students be?</p>	<p>Nominated students must have successfully completed at least two years/four semesters of study on university level in a relevant field of study upon starting their exchange at ETH Zurich.</p> <p>In order to make sure our departmental exchange coordinator are able to get a clear idea about an applicant's academic background we prefer applications from students with sufficient proof of performance at your University. We reserve the right to decline applications from students who have only very recently started their studies with you and not yet been able to establish a solid academic track record with you (applicable mainly for Master/Graduate level students)..</p> <p>All students should pursue a degree in science or engineering to be enrolled as exchange student at ETH Zurich. Students from other programs (e.g. social sciences, human medicine etc.) will not be accepted.</p> <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 Department of Computer Science has recently defined their admission criteria in a more specific but also somewhat more restrictive manner.</p>
<p>What is the minimum and maximum number of courses exchange student can take?</p>	<p>Students need to obtain at least 20 ECTS per semester (excluding language courses). Two thirds (for example 16 out of 24 ECTS credits) must be acquired in the department of enrolment. Exceptions are possible for interdisciplinary study programmes such as Environmental Sciences, Earth Sciences, Health</p>

	<p>Sciences and Technology etc. and must be approved by the Departmental Exchange Coordinator.</p> <p>The academic pace at ETH Zurich is high and students are expected to work a lot during the semester and for the exams. We recommend taking between 20-26 ECTS per semester. If students wish to take more than 30 ECTS - which is not recommendable – they should discuss this with their Departmental Exchange Coordinator.</p>
<p>Are there any courses that charge additional tuition fees to exchange program? If yes please specify.</p>	<p>Registration fees apply for language courses – see the website of the language center for details.</p>
<p>Are there any courses that are offered in English and available to exchange student?</p>	<p>Undergraduate courses are normally not taught in English at ETH Zurich. Due to this fact, also undergraduate exchange students are allowed to choose courses of graduate programs if they fulfil the prerequisites of the courses.</p>
<p>Is there a website that contains course list available to exchange students?</p> <p>Detailed information on preparing a study plan</p>	<p>www.courses.ethz.ch</p> <p>www.ethz.ch/en/studies/non-degree-courses/exchange-and-visiting-studies/about-the-study-programmes/preparing-a-study-plan.html</p>
<h2 style="margin: 0;">Living and Costs</h2>	
<p>Will housing be provided by the host university?</p>	<p>www.wohnen.ethz.ch/en</p> <p>Housing is not guaranteed, but we have usually been able to find accommodation for all overseas exchange students who registered with our Housing Office. Along with the acceptance letter, students will receive information on registering for accommodation. They should read this information carefully and apply online within the set deadlines.</p> <p>Generally, rooms arranged by the Housing Office of the University of Zurich/ETH Zurich 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 of any gender. Cleaning and laundry service are not provided. Rental prices for single rooms range from CHF 450 to about CHF 850 per month.</p> <p>Please note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rental periods are fixed: Spring semester: 1st of February - 31st of August Autumn semester: 1st of September - 31st of January • Housing for students coming in the autumn semester is only available until 31 January and therefore not for the entire duration of the session examinations. Students staying for the full duration of the session examinations and having examinations in February would need to find alternative housing on their own for those 2-3 weeks. We may only be able to offer some partial financial support (subject to availability), yet this may not cover the full additional costs. • 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. • 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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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>Will exchange students pay for local accommodations? If yes, how much will they pay approximately /monthly?</p>	<p>Yes, ca. 450 to 850 CHF or more (for the dormitory)</p>
<p>What are approximately the living costs (except for accommodation) for a semester?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General ETH fees: none for exchange students • Study materials (books, chemicals, ...): CHF 50 to CHF 100, depending on field of study • Excursions: up to approx. CHF 50 • Room rent: CHF 450 to CHF 850, or more • Food (if using ETH facilities): approx. CHF 500 • Public transport (buses, tramways within the city of Zurich): approx. CHF 60 to 80, depending on age • Health insurance: roughly between CHF 70 and CHF 200 only applicable in case of special student offers. Monthly fees with regular insurance plans may otherwise amount up to CHF 400 per month. Students older than 45 years need to obtain a regular insurance plan. See www.ethz.ch/health-insurance-for-students for more information. <p>Individual expenses, such as clothes, leisure, travel, telephone, etc., are not included.</p> <p>Students should budget approximately CHF 1750 a month <i>which corresponds to the requirement of migration authorities</i>), see also section ‘expenses per month’.</p>
<p>Is there a scholarship opportunity for Incoming students?</p>	<p>Exchange students coming to ETH Zurich can apply for scholarships offered by the Heyning-Roelli Foundation: http://www.heyning-roelli-stiftung.ch/index_en.html</p> <p>The foundation supports students from our partner universities who have been accepted for one or two exchange semesters. They should be able to show that they are especially qualified for the chosen studies and that they would not be otherwise able to afford such a study trip without assistance. Financial aid is not automatically granted; each application is carefully assessed.</p> <p>Any questions regarding the scholarships should be addressed directly to the foundation.</p>
<p>Do students need a health insurance plan?</p>	<p>HEALTH INSURANCE:</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. If students are not exempted, which will most likely be the case, some insurance companies offer special packages for foreign students.</p> <p>Please note: We do help students to fulfil 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>Further information on health insurance for students can be found here: www.ethz.ch/health-insurance-for-students</p> <p>The Student Exchange Office invites accepted exchange students to attend a special information event on the health insurance at the beginning of each semester.</p>
Do students need any other insurance?	<p>Personal Liability Insurance: Although with a high franchise (amount paid by the person involved), ETH Zurich is insured against material and property damage. If students damage instruments and equipment belonging to ETH through negligence (e.g. in practical courses, during semester projects/conducting thesis work), ETH Zurich has the right to make the persons involved accountable for the damage costs.</p> <p>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>
Additional Information	
Academic structure	<p>Bachelor's degree = 3 years (6 semesters) Master's degree = 1.5 – 2 years (3-4 semesters, including final Master thesis which usually takes 6 months)</p>
Credit system	<p>ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) Workload of a full-time student:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 30 ECTS per semester 2. 60 ECTS per academic year <p>Exchange students should earn a minimum of 20 ECTS per semester. Two thirds of the courses and ETH credits (14 out of 20) have to be earned at the department of enrolment. www.ethz.ch/en/studies/legal-principles-degrees.html</p>
Grading system	<p>www.ethz.ch/content/dam/ethz/main/education/rechtliches-abschluesse/grading.pdf</p>
Visa requirements	<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). Students will be informed after their acceptance about the further procedures. See https://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/representations-and-travel-advice.html for Swiss embassies. The student's passport must be valid for at least three months beyond the official end of the semester, including session examinations.</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 never enter Switzerland before the start date stated on their official confirmation of acceptance. 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 and without a visa requirement, even if the visa authorisation or the issued visa theoretically allows an earlier entry to Switzerland! Visa and residence permit fees usually amount to approx. CHF 400.</p>

<p>When will the official transcripts of records be ready?</p>	<p>Approx. 2 weeks after the examination session</p> <p>Note: Transcripts of records are not sent automatically but are only issued upon request, see www.ethz.ch/content/dam/ethz/main/education/non-degree/mobilitaet/PDF_englisch/Requesting-the-Transcript.pdf for details.</p> <p>Students must actively request an official transcript at the Student Administration Office ("Studiensekretariat") in their department of enrolment prior to leaving ETH Zurich (the Student Exchange Office does not issue any transcripts). Students must let the Student Administration Office know in time about their address and the number of transcripts they need. If they need transcripts to be sent directly to the International Office at their home university, they must indicate the address of the latter and explicitly request the transcripts to be sent there.</p>
--	---

Useful information

<p>Are there any related handbooks, useful websites, downloads etc. can be provided to exchange students?</p>	<p>Websites:</p> <p>General information on living in Zurich: → www.ethz.ch/en/studies/non-degree-courses/exchange-and-visiting-studies/living-in-zurich.html</p> <p>General Information on Studying at ETH Zurich: → www.ethz.ch/en/studies/non-degree-courses/exchange-and-visiting-studies/about-the-study-programmes.html</p> <p>Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for Incoming Exchange Students: → www.ethz.ch/en/studies/non-degree-courses/exchange-and-visiting-studies/faq.html</p> <p>Student Handbook for International Students: → www.ethz.ch/content/dam/ethz/main/education/internationales/pdf-de/handbook.pdf</p> <p>Course Selection: → www.courses.ethz.ch</p> <p>Examinations at ETH Zurich: → https://www.ethz.ch/students/en/studies/performance-assessments.html</p> <p>ETH Zurich visual tour: → www.ethz.ch/en/the-eth-zurich/portrait/eth-zurich-virtual-tour.html and www.ethz.ch/en/the-eth-zurich.html</p> <p>ESN Student Network: → www.esn.ethz.ch</p> <p>ASVZ Academic Sports Association Zurich: → www.asvz.ethz.ch</p> <p>Psychological Counseling Service: → https://www.pbs.uzh.ch/en.html</p> <p>In Case of Illness: → https://ethz.ch/en/studies/international-immigration-housing/health-insurance/krankheit.html</p>
---	---