

Fact Sheet - Lugano Campus

2025/2026



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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 2025
405th globally
(out of 1503 universities considered).

THE World University Rankings 2025
Range 301-350
(out of 2092 universities considered).

THE World's Best Small Universities 2024
9th worldwide
among small universities.

THE Young University Rankings 2024
44th 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 and Study Abroad Service website:

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

Spring Semester deadlines

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

Academic calendar

- Autumn Semester
15 September - 19 December
Exam session: mid January – beginning of February
- Spring Semester
16 February - 29 May
Exam session: early 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 mid-term examination sessions.
The decision on whether to hold a mid-term exam 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

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 that 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 and Master courses at the Faculty of Informatics are entirely taught in English. Bachelors in Communication and Philosophy are almost entirely held in Italian. Courses of the first three semesters in the Bachelor of Economics are offered in both Italian and English.

All Masters offered at USI are taught 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.

Language requirements

Non-native speakers are required to submit proof of proficiency - equivalent to at least B2 of the common European Framework of Reference for Languages - in the language of the courses they intend to take (Italian and/or English). Internal language certificates issued by the home university are also accepted.

Study programmes

Bachelor

Bachelor's programmes are offered in the following subject areas:

- Italian Language, Literature and Culture
- Communication
- Economics
- Informatics
- Data Science
- Theology (at the Faculty of Theology of Lugano, affiliated to USI)
- Philosophy (at the Faculty of Theology of Lugano, affiliated to USI)

www.usi.ch/en/education/bachelor

Master

Master's programmes 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

Course lists and descriptions

- [Faculty of Communication, Culture and Society](#)
- [Faculty of Economics](#)
- [Faculty of Informatics](#)
- [Faculty of Theology of Lugano](#)

Study outline

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 as well. However, combining courses from different programmes, faculties, and/or study levels is strongly discouraged, as it is more likely to result in overlap of classes and/or final exams. Exams can be taken only during the exam sessions, at the set date and time and in the prescribed modality. No special exam sessions will be organized and it is not possible to request rescheduling or extra-muros exams.

In general, USI doesn't offer Bachelor's or Master's thesis exchange programmes. Students working on their project during the mobility are required to take at least one course. No ECTS credit points will be awarded for the thesis nor will the project appear in the transcript of records.

Exception: at the Faculty of Informatics, during the second semester at USI and subject to approval from 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 must ensure 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. Class schedules are available online, on the description page of each course.

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 and Study Abroad 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 and Study Abroad 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

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 2025/2026.

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 outside of Switzerland 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

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

Registration procedure

Student mobility at USI is managed through 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, cultural and social aspects of USI and Lugano.

The reports are available on our Responsive portal, in the Exchange experience reports section.

<https://application.mobility.usi.ch>

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 all the necessary information concerning registration with the local authorities, health insurance and (if applicable) the SEMP scholarship. Details about the information sessions will be sent after the application deadline.

Course registration

Students will be asked to register to courses at the beginning of the Semester, no advance registration is required.

The International Relations and Study Abroad 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' student administrations. It is not possible to ask for rescheduling in case of overlap 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 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 available for download from Mobility Online. The credits transfer is under the responsibility of the home institution.

Living in Switzerland

Students from Non-EU/EFTA countries bound by a Visa requirement must request a Visa to the Swiss Embassy or Consulate in their home country before entering Switzerland.

All students must apply for a residence permit "L" for educational purposes within 14 days after their arrival in Switzerland.

All students must register to the town population office (Puntocittà) within 8 days of arrival in Switzerland. The International Relations and Study Abroad Service will assist exchange students with the necessary procedures.

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 that they are covered by an equivalent insurance in their home country. To ask for an exemption, the student must make an official request using the appropriate form.

An exemption may be requested by students belonging to one of the three following categories:

- EU/EFTA nationals who have a European 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 with private health insurance in Non-EU/EFTA countries who can prove that such insurance complies with Swiss standards, i.e. that it is unlimited.

The International Relations and Study Abroad Service staff will assist exchange students with the procedure after their arrival in Ticino.

In order to provide students who are not eligible for an exemption with an appropriate coverage at a more affordable price, USI has negotiated with a health insurance company.

www.desk.usi.ch/en/health-insurance-students

Housing

Students are responsible for securing their own accommodation. USI operates the USI Home housing, which is mainly reserved for exchange students and is located in Via Lambertenghi 1, 6900 Lugano - a 5-min walk from the USI campus.

USI Home 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:

www.desk.usi.ch/en/usi-home

If interested, students must apply via the online form as soon as possible.

www.desk.usi.ch/en/usihome-request-form

Application will be processed in the order of receipt. Due to the limited number of rooms, accommodation at USI home is not guaranteed.

Further information on housing is available on:

www.usi.ch/en/housing

Sport Service USI

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

www.sport.usi.ch

Living costs

Living costs for a student in Lugano are, on average, between CHF 1'300-1'900 per month (EUR 1'300-1'900).

