



Z-MB-Applicants from Abroad

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Fact Sheet for Applicants from Abroad

We are very pleased that you are interested in studying at the ZHAW.

This fact sheet is designed to help you prepare for your studies at the ZHAW. It contains information on:

- **Residing in Switzerland for study purposes**
- **Tuition fees**
- **Admission** with a foreign qualification
(this also applies to Swiss nationals)

For further information, please contact the academic office of the degree programme you intend to apply for. This link gives you an overview of the contact options:

<https://www.zhaw.ch/en/study/contacts-for-degree-programmes/>

1 Residing in Switzerland for study purposes

Applicants from abroad who wish to study in Switzerland must apply for a **residence permit** and take out **health insurance** before they begin their studies. This is their personal responsibility.

1.1 Residence permit

1.1.1 Student residence permit for Swiss or EU nationals

You have lived abroad, are a Swiss national or a national of an EU member state and you are coming to Switzerland to study?

If you are a Swiss national, you can study in Switzerland as a matter of course. However, the information below on health insurance and on your acceptance and admission with a foreign qualification also applies to you.

If you are an EU national, please find out whether your country is a signatory to the agreement between the Swiss Confederation, of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other, on the free movement of persons "[Abkommen zwischen der Schweizerischen Eidgenossenschaft einerseits und der Europäischen Gemeinschaft und ihren Mitgliedstaaten andererseits über die Freizügigkeit](#)" (only in German), see "[Free Movement of Persons Switzerland –](#)

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[EU/EFTA](#)"). In accordance with Art. 24, residence permits for students are issued on a yearly basis for the period of their studies. In order to ensure that you receive a residence permit, you must be able to present evidence that you have taken out health insurance and that you have the necessary financial means to cover the expenses of your stay and studies in Switzerland.

Please contact the Migration Office of Canton Zurich to find out what formalities you need to complete in order for a residence permit to be issued:

Migrationsamt des Kantons Zürich, Berninastrasse 45, 8057 Zürich, Tel. +41 43 259 88 00,
[Migrationsamt Kanton Zürich](#).

1.1.2 Student residence permit for nationals of other countries

If you are a national of a country which is not a signatory to the above-mentioned agreement, contact the Migration Office of Canton Zurich to find out what formalities you need to complete in order for a residence permit to be issued:

Migrationsamt des Kantons Zürich, Berninastrasse 45, 8057 Zürich, Tel. +1 43 259 88 00,
[Migrationsamt Kanton Zürich](#).

Please note in particular the regulations in the ordinance on admission, residence and gainful employment (OASA) (Verordnung über Zulassung, Aufenthalt und Erwerbstätigkeit (VZAE), only in German) of 24 October 2007 in Art. 23 concerning the conditions for study and continuing education purposes ([Art. 23, Persönliche Voraussetzungen](#)) and Art. 16 concerning registration and de-registration for residence during the working week ([Art. 16, An- und Abmeldung bei einem Wochenaufenthalt](#)).

With regard to part-time employment or internships during your studies, please note the following OASA/VZAE regulations: [Art. 38, Aus- und Weiterbildung mit Nebenerwerb](#), [Art. 39, Ausbildung mit obligatorischem Praktikum](#) and [Art. 40, Erwerbstätigkeit während der Weiterbildung an einer Hochschule oder Fachhochschule](#).

1.2 Health insurance

If you are studying in Switzerland with a student residence permit, you are obliged to take out health insurance according to Art. 3 of the federal law on health insurance (Bundesgesetz über die Krankenversicherung (only in German), [Art. 3, KVG](#)).

It is your personal responsibility to organise your own health insurance.

If you can demonstrate that you have sufficient health insurance cover from a foreign health insurance provider, you can apply to the residents' registration office for exemption from the Swiss compulsory health insurance requirement.

1.3 Swiss social security number

The ZHAW has to report the social security number for all students to the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) by 15 October each year. In the case of foreign students who do not have a Swiss social security number, the ZHAW has to apply to the Central Compensation Office CCO (Zentrale Ausgleichsstelle ZAS) for a number to be issued. This number will be stated on the enrolment confirmations from the second semester onward.

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2 Tuition fees

Administrative costs are covered by the fees charged in connection with the admission process. These fees are set by the ordinance governing tuition fees at Zurich Universities of Applied Sciences ([Verordnung über die Studiengebühren an der Zürcher Fachhochschule](#), only in German).

When you come to Switzerland to study, you have the right to live in the country but, according to Swiss law, you do not have a legal place of residence here (Art. 23 of the Swiss Civil Code (Zivilgesetzbuch ZGB)). If this is the case, you must pay a supplementary fee of CHF 500.00 per semester in addition to the standard fee of CHF 720.00 per semester (see the above-mentioned ordinance governing tuition fees at Zurich Universities of Applied Sciences ([Verordnung über die Studiengebühren an der Zürcher Fachhochschule](#))). This additional tuition fee appears on your semester invoice. This fee does not apply if you hold Swiss citizenship.

3 Application process: admission with a foreign qualification

3.1 Admission to a Bachelor's programme

Applicants who have completed their school education either wholly or partially abroad or in accordance with a foreign education law must submit the following documents in addition to their application form in order for their admission to a Bachelor's programme at the ZHAW to be evaluated:

- Qualification or academic certificate which, in the country of issue, entitles the holder to be admitted to university; this document must include details of the subjects studied and grades awarded;
- A notarised German translation (in exceptional cases English is also acceptable) of the qualification or academic certificate entitling the holder to be admitted to university;
- If the applicant has already started or completed a university degree, transcripts of records or the degree certificate, together with a notarised translation;
- Confirmation (reference) from an employer that the applicant has acquired at least one year's professional practice in a field closely related to the degree programme he or she intends to study¹;
- Copies of recognised diplomas of German language proficiency (Goethe-Zertifikat C1, Zentrale Mittelstufenprüfung or equivalent) (please see the regulations on matriculation and exmatriculation ([Reglement zur Zulassung, Immatrikulation und Exmatrikulation](#), only in German));
- CV with details of education and employment history

¹ Before you begin your studies, you must have acquired at least one year's practical experience of professional working life or completed an apprenticeship in an area related to the field of study you intend to pursue (please see below for exceptions to this ruling). As a rule, this requirement is at least partially met if you hold a vocational qualification at secondary education level (in Switzerland, a Federal Vocational Baccalaureate or Specialised Baccalaureate) related to the degree programme you have chosen. Exceptions can be made in the field of health professions and for the degree programmes in Computer Science, Natural Sciences and Engineering, in which students can at least partially complete the required one year's practical experience during or after the programme. For the degree programme in Applied Languages, linguistic competence instead of practical experience is a prerequisite.



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3.1.1 Evaluation of foreign qualifications

The equivalency recognition process and the entrance examination (general education) are determined by the Guidelines on Admission to Bachelor's Degree Programmes.²

3.2 Admission to a Master's programme

If you want to apply for a Master's programme, please consult the admission and application requirements for the programme in question on our [website](#) (only in German).

3.3 German language proficiency C1

The ZHAW offers German courses to allow you to prepare for the Goethe-Zertifikat C1. For further information, please go to [German courses](#).

3.4 Submission of application documents

Applicants are responsible for providing the necessary evidence to ensure that they fulfil the admission requirements that specifically apply to them. Please note that, under certain circumstances, you will not be able to enrol if you do not submit your documents by the deadline.

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Beschlussinstanz	LeiterIn Ressort Lehre	Publikationsort	Public

² Available under: https://gpmpublic.zhaw.ch/GPMDocProdDPublic/Vorgabedokumente_ZHAW/Z_RL_Guidelines_on_Admission_to_Bachelors_Degree_Programmes.pdf