International Education, Research and Innovation Networks

This document means to present and recommend to the Swiss higher education Institutions a selection of important international organisations and networking associations as well as the Swiss representations abroad in the field of education, research and innovation.

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Christine Kyburz, Scientific Collaborator,
UAS Internationalisation – Communication & Networking
The Swiss Universities of Applied Sciences and Arts maintain partnerships with local and global partners to exchange knowledge and experience and to ensure practical relevance.

They work closely with universities, corporations, research facilities as well as governmental and non-governmental organisations to address local and global challenges such as climate, energy, water, migration, demographics, health, economics, etc.
Table of Content

1. European Association
   1.1 European University Association EUA
   1.2 European Association of International Education EAIE
   1.3 European Association of Institution sin Higher Education EURASHE
   1.4 European Educational Research Association EERA
   1.5 Academic Cooperation Association ACA
   1.6 Lemonoc
   1.7 UASnet
   1.8 UAS4Europe

2. Overseas Associations
   2.1 International Association of Universities IAU
   2.2 NAFSA
   2.3 Asian Pacific Association of International Education APAIE
   2.4 World Education and Research Association WERA
   2.5 International Education Association of South Africa IEASA
   2.6 Quacquarelli Symonds QS
   2.7 Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie AUF

3. Swiss ERI-Net abroad
   3.1 Swissnex and Science & Technology Counsellors
   3.2 SwissCore
1. European Associations
1. European Associations

1.1. European University Association EUA

About:

EUA is based in Brussels with 40 employees. With 850 members across 47 countries, it is the largest and most comprehensive organisation representing universities in Europe. 17 million students are enrolled at EUA member universities. EUA is best placed to bring together institutional leaders and other higher education and research professionals to offer a truly unique European perspective.

The 15 Swiss member institutions include: swissuniversities, 2 ETHs, 10 universities, IHEID and HES-SO.

Activities: EUA ...

- provides access to substantial intellectual resources and advice on, inter alia, European funding instruments, higher education and research policies practice across Europe, on topics such as quality assurance, internationalization, governance and funding, as well as on managing transnational projects, and institutional development more generally.
- provides opportunities to share best practice by participating in European projects, structured events and mutual learning activities involving a wide and diverse range of institutions.
- influences decision-making on behalf of universities at European, national and regional levels.
- is forging links with important European stakeholders and has the ability to promote sustainable global partnerships.
- assures the visibility of Europe’s universities worldwide through representation in global events, networks and the work of international organisations;
- represents universities’ interests in global policy fora such as OECD, UNESCO and World Bank.
- informs members about policy debates impacting their development.
**Membership benefits:**

- Members receive regular updates on European higher education and research policy developments
- be invited to the EUA Annual Conferences and a wide range of thematic events with renowned European and international speakers
- be invited to participate in projects and studies
- be able to participate in workshops and seminars as well as all kinds of networking events
- have multiple opportunities to exchange with peers and leading experts on the latest trends and best practices in a range of different fields
- receive regular publications, reports and analyses of key higher education and research trends
- become eligible for membership of the EUA Council for Doctoral Education
- be able to register – at a reduced fee – for an evaluation by the Institutional Evaluation Program.

**Membership fee 2016:**

Individual Members – for Swiss HEI: € 5’613

Source: [http://www.eua.be/about/join-eua](http://www.eua.be/about/join-eua)
1.2. European Association for International Education (EAIE)

**About:**

*Founded in 1989, the EAIE is the acknowledged European centre for expertise, networking and resources in the internationalisation of higher education. It is a non-profit, member-led organisation serving individuals actively involved in the internationalisation of their institutions through a combination of training, conferences, research and knowledge acquisition and sharing. The EAIE is based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands and has approximately 2500 members from 80 countries around the world.*

**International reach, European focus**

![Map showing international reach and European focus]

**Organisation type**

- 62% University
- 15% University of Applied Sciences
- 8% Private Sector
- 6% Governmental
- 4% Non-Governmental
- 3% Other
- 2% Self-Employed

**EAIE partners:**

- European University Association (EUA)
- Academic Cooperation Association (ACA)
- NAFSA: Association of International Educators
- Asia-Pacific Association for International Education (APAIE)
- International Education Association of Australia (IEAA)

**Institutional Award for Innovation in Internationalisation**

This award recognises and rewards higher education institutions which are actively engaged in the practice of internationalisation. Institutions with a demonstrable track record in strategic innovation in the internationalisation of higher education will be considered.

**Publications:**

The EAIE has built an in-depth knowledge base of all the major topics in the internationalisation of higher education. Many of its publications can be downloaded by the EAIE members in the Member Centre of the site.

**Membership benefits:**

The members share a common goal:
- **to internationalise their institutions through collaboration, knowledge exchange and continuous professional development.**
- **to belong to a European network of global minds!** Connect with other professionals working in international higher education.
- **to access top-notch resources!** Search fellow EAIE members using the Member Directory and cultivate partnerships with this unique group. Receive free access to the in-depth internationalisation knowledge base. Receive the latest higher education news in the monthly member e-newsletter.
- **to acquire solutions for your daily work!** Take part in the Mentorship programme, an exclusive platform for EAIE members to develop supportive relationships.
- **to boost your visibility!** Develop your professional standing through member involvement opportunities establishing you as a leader in higher education. Be recognised for your outstanding endeavours in the internationalisation of higher education through the EAIE Awards.

**Membership fee:**

EAIE Membership fee as in 2016: € 210 per year.

Source: [http://www.eaie.org/home/join-us/fees-payment.html](http://www.eaie.org/home/join-us/fees-payment.html)
1.3. European Association of Institutions in Higher Education EURASHE

**About:**

EURASHE, the European Association of Institutions in Higher Education offers professionally-orientated programmes and is engaged in applied and profession-related research within the Bologna cycles. Members of EURASHE are national associations of higher education institutions and individual institutions, such as universities, (university) colleges and universities of applied sciences, as well as other professional associations and stakeholder organisations active in the field of higher education. EURASHE was founded in Patras (Greece) in 1990. It has the status of an international non-profit association according to Belgian law (aisbl) and its Secretariat is located in Brussels (Belgium).

**Mission:**

EURASHE’s mission is to represent the views of professionally-orientated institutions and programmes in the higher education systems in countries of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), either in binary higher education systems or in unitary ‘university’ systems. Its aim is to promote the interests of professional higher education in the EHEA and to contribute to the progressive development of the European higher education and research Area (EHERA). In addition to offering professionally-orientated programmes,

**Policy:**

EURASHE is engaged in the development of policies on key issues for Professional Higher Education (PHE). They are regrouped into 4 areas: mission of PHE, quality of higher education, modernising PHE within diversified higher education and research, development and innovation.

**Activities:**

EURASHE organizes and co-organizes seminars, round tables, fora, workshops and conventions. The EURASHE Annual Conferences – attract a diversity of delegates – heads of institutions, higher education practitioners, policy-makers, academics and students – from the education community across Europe and beyond its borders.
Members:

EURASHE members are specifically engaged in applied and profession-related research, and its technological applications. EURASHE believes partnership and cooperation with other regions of the world are important. It has thus established relationships with countries outside the EHEA through associate membership and partnership agreements with other regions, such as Canada, the United States of America, the Middle East and Asia.

Source: http://www.eurashe.eu/about/members/
EURASHE focuses primarily on policy development and on higher education projects and research with emphasis on its professionally-orientated segments. Furthermore, it organises annual conferences, thematic seminars and tailor-made events for its members.

**Membership benefits:**

- Members have their voice heard and promoted,
- receive guaranteed membership involvement – interactive membership programme,
- can actively be involved in EURASHE’s five operational working groups, namely:
  - professionally oriented research,
  - development and innovation,
  - mobility and international openness,
  - transparency tools and quality assurance,
  - national qualifications frameworks and student-centred learning, employability and lifelong learning.
- have the opportunity to cooperate transnationally with the numerous EURASHE member institutions,
- can participate in and host EURASHE events (annual conferences, seminars, etc.),
- are invited to be partners in interesting and innovative projects,
- have the possibility to endorse policy documents and to share good practice,
- etc.

**Membership fee:**

Member applications for membership are examined by the board of EURASHE, which meets at least three times per year.

**Six categories:**

- national association of higher education institutions within the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) (full member)
- individual higher education institution within the EHEA (full member)
- sectorial association of higher education institutions (associate member)
- organisation (associate member)
- national association of higher education institutions outside the EHEA (associate member)
- individual higher education institution outside the EHEA (associate member)

Application form can be downloaded under: http://www.eurashe.eu/about/members/
1.4. European Educational Research Association EERA

About:

EERA was founded in June 1994 as a result of discussions among many national educational research associations and several major research institutes throughout Europe which identified the need for a European association to foster the exchange of ideas amongst European researchers, promote collaboration in research, improve research quality and offer independent advice on educational research to European policy-makers, administrators and practitioners.

EERA membership is made up of more than 30 national and regional educational research associations from all parts of Europe. It is governed by the council and the executive committee. The academic work is organised in thematic networks. From 1994 to 2008 EERA was constituted as a charity under British law and was based in Scotland. Since 2008 EERA has been based in Berlin and is constituted as a “Verein”. EERA is dependent on the participation of the national associations to take forward its mission of promoting educational research in Europe and of fostering cooperation between associations of educational researchers.

EERA was founded for the purposes of:
- encouraging collaboration amongst educational researchers in Europe
- promoting communication between educational researchers and international governmental organisations such as the EU, Council of Europe, OECD and UNESCO
- improving communication amongst educational research associations and institutes within Europe
- disseminating the findings of educational research and highlighting their contribution to policy and practice
Members:

Member’s profile: Existing National or Regional Associations of Educational Research

- **Switzerland**: The State of Educational Research in Switzerland – Member Report: Katharina Maag Merki, former president of Swiss Society of Research and Education SSRE reports on educational research in Switzerland. [read more]
- **Belgium**: The State of Educational Research in Belgium – Eric Mangéz reported in September 2014 on educational research in Belgium, paying special attention to Belgian multi-linguality. [read more]
- **Netherlands**: The State of Educational Research in the Netherlands – EERA Member Report: Theo Wubbels, president of VOR and treasurer of EERA, reports on educational research stakeholders in the Netherlands and on the corresponding funding situation. [read more]

Events: [http://www.eera-ecer.de/other-organisations-events/](http://www.eera-ecer.de/other-organisations-events/)

1.5. Academic Cooperation Association ACA

**About:**

*Founded in 1993, the Academic Cooperation Association is a not-for-profit pan European network of major organisations responsible in their countries for the promotion of internationalisation in education and training.*

ACA is a dynamic think tank in the area of international cooperation in higher education. Its goal is to promote innovation and internationalisation of European higher education while maintaining a global outreach. ACA activities include research and analyses, evaluations, consultancy for private and public bodies, advocacy, publications, and much more.

Current membership is comprised of 24 national organisations in 18 European countries, as well as associate members in North America, Australia and Mexico. ACA members are involved in a wide range of activities in the field of internationalisation of education, with particular focus on management of exchange programmes, promotion of national education and culture abroad, research and data collection, provision of education-related information and consultation, and formulating policy advice.

The ACA Secretariat is located in Brussels – a privileged position to create and maintain close working relations to the European institutions.

**ACA Member Organisations (26):**

- swissuniversities – [www.swissuniversities.ch](http://www.swissuniversities.ch)
- Österreichischer Austauschdienst OeAD – [www.oead.at](http://www.oead.at)
- Campus France – [www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org)
- DAAD – [www.daad.de](http://www.daad.de)
- British Council – [www.britishcouncil.org](http://www.britishcouncil.org)
ACA Activities – of potential interest for Swiss UAS:

ACA is committed to organising events as platforms for exchange. Regular ACA events are: The annual conferences and the more specific one-day seminars. Both types of events are open to a public dealing with internationalisation in higher education.

The ACA Annual Conferences usually take place in May/June each year, last two and a half Days and attract more than 300 from all over the world. ACA's conference series are a synonym for high-quality information, analysis and discussion on current policy and practice-related issues in the area of international higher education. The shorter and more exclusive ACA seminars, better known as the series of ACA European Policy Seminars (EPS) take place almost exclusively in Brussels and gather ca. 100 stakeholders. The flagship of the ACA European Policy Seminars is “What’s new in Brussels”. This seminar informs about recent developments in the European higher education landscape. The other seminars tackle specific topics, such as student services and funding international students to cooperation with other world regions and student mobility.


Participation Fee:

Annual Conferences: € 390 (2015)
1.6. Lemonoc

**About:**

LEMONOC's main objective is to improve the quality of learning mobility with non-industrialized or economically developing countries within European higher education institutions (HEIs). The project provides tools and resources and facilitates a stronger cooperation among HEIs to share knowledge and good practices.

There is an increasing number of diverse exchange opportunities in higher education institutions with varying goals and objectives. This involves a need to develop a more structural, qualitative and joint approach in organizing such transnational exchange programmes. LEMONOC will strengthen the capacity of higher education institutions to organise learning mobility with non-industrialised countries by:

1. Collecting, analysing and systematising data
2. Sharing knowledge and expertise with different stakeholders
3. Providing a dynamic, interactive e-platform
4. Developing an online self-assessment tool for HEIs
5. Providing validated good practices and structured resources in an e-library
6. Developing training courses for trainers and staff of international mobility service
7. Ensuring the further development of the outcomes online and at an international seminar

**Consortium partners:**

More partners: [http://lemonoc.eu/content/partners](http://lemonoc.eu/content/partners)
Source: [http://lemonoc.eu/](http://lemonoc.eu/)
1.7. UASnet – Making the Innovation Union work

About:

The Universities of Applied Sciences network (UASnet) aim to strengthen the contribution of the Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS) sector to the research and innovation strategy of Europe. The UAS are uniquely positioned, because of their integrated approach of educating initial and lifelong learners, based on innovative research results produced by working closely together with the world of work. Linking UAS by the European Network UASnet, ensures the European labour market of clustered knowledge and state of the art RDI solutions, hence, increasing the competitiveness of the EU.

UASnet partners:

- Denmark: Danish Rectors’ Conference – University Colleges Denmark
- Estonia: Estonian Rectors’ Conference
- Ireland: Institutes of Technology Ireland (IOTI)
- Lithuania: Lithuanian Colleges Directors’ Conference
- Portugal: Portuguese Coordinating Council for Polytechnical Institutions (CCISP)
- Finland: The Rectors’ Conference of Finnish Universities of Applied Sciences (ARENE)
- Netherlands: Netherlands Association of Universities of Applied Sciences (HBO-raad)
- Flanders: Flemish Association of Universities of Applied Sciences (VLHORA)

Contact:

Secretary General UASnet: Sara Hoogeveen MA,
Vereniging Hogeschoolen, Netherlands Association of Universities of Applied Sciences
Prinsessegracht 21, 2501 CC, The Hague, The Netherlands
post@uasnet.eu
+31 70 312 21 44
1.8. UAS4Europe

**About:**

**Smart Partnerships for Regional Impact**

*Europe needs more and stronger involvement of the Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS). This conclusion is unavoidable if we look at the European objectives in the area of innovation and growth. The European challenge-based research approach must generate more impact power. We believe there is an insufficiently used reserve of impact power resting with the UAS on European level.*

Increasing the impact of applied research and innovation is the way forward to enhance Europe's competitiveness and ability to create more growth and jobs. European Universities of Applied Sciences play an important regional role in delivering applied research and innovation on the one hand and on the other hand they act as an important link between SMEs and industry, traditional universities, societal organizations and VET and other educational institutions in the region.

**Partners:**

UAS4EUROPE is a joint initiative from EURASHE, UASnet, swissuniversities, Hochschule Bayern eV. (supported by Bavarian Research Alliance) and the Austrian FHK.

**Mission:**

The aim of the joint position paper is to show the roles of the UAS and their value to Europe:

1. **As regional connectors:** experts in having the right connections and constant cooperation in the region, from traditional universities, SMEs, industry, civil society and local and regional authorities. The UAS are at the core of regional development and in constant contact with all the stakeholders. They can respond quickly to the regional and market needs.

2. **As international key players:** collaboration with people across borders: from all over Europe and from around the world. This supplies the UAS with a culture of openness and allows UAS to connect with a broad spectrum of contacts and networks. A genuine culture of sharing information and knowledge adds to the success of delivering projects with societal impact.
3. **As competent project leaders and evaluators for European programs:** The European UAS are already leading in different kinds of multidisciplinary projects. As research actors they have the competence and capacity to lead more European projects. The UAS applied researchers have unique skills sets, which can contribute to and complement the traditional university and industry researchers’ skills as evaluators of for example H2020 projects.

4. **As consulting bodies:** being part of European and national level discussions, advisory boards and decision-making on calls in relevant fields of research and innovation.

5. **As contributors to European entrepreneurship:** The European UAS are the key entrepreneur educators in their regions. In this way they contribute to European growth and to more jobs. The working life skills the UAS project work offers to their students strongly enhance employability, professional innovation and trendsetting.

**Publications:**

- **Position paper UAS4EUROPE Smart Partnerships for Regional Impact** (31 May 2016)
- **Contribution of UAS4EUROPE on the European Innovation Council** (28 April 2016)

**Contact:**

Email: info@uas4europe.eu
2. Overseas Associations
2. Overseas Associations

2.1. International Association of Universities IAU

About:

Founded in 1950, under the auspices of UNESCO, the International Association of Universities (IAU) is the leading global association of higher education institutions and organisations from around the world. IAU brings together its universities, other higher education institutions (HEIs) and their associations, from more than 130 countries for reflection and action on common priorities. IAU is an independent, bilingual (English and French), non-governmental organisation offering a variety of services and support to its Members. It acts as the voice of higher education to UNESCO and other international higher education organisations, and provides a global forum for leaders of institutions and associations to discuss, reflect, and take action on issues of shared interest.

Mission: IAU ...

• brings higher education leaders together building a global platform for exchange on key topics and emerging issues.
• maintains a unique database of more than 18,000 higher education institutions worldwide WHED, including 34 institutions for Switzerland. (Swiss member institutions are: ETHZ, EPFL; UniBe, UniFr, UniGe, UniL, UniNe, UniZh)
• analyzes, monitors and informs about trends in higher education from comparative and international perspectives.
• Advocates and promotes the interests of the higher education community to international governmental bodies such as UN, OECD, ASEAN, etc.
• Builds capacity and provides policy advice upon demand from institutions in several areas of expertise.
Thematic priorities:

“Re-thinking internationalization”

IAU International Ad-hoc Expert Group on Re-thinking Internationalization aims at bringing together a growing number of scholars and practitioners who are questioning the current developments in internationalization. The ad-hoc group builds on the discussion that took place during the 4th IAU Global Meeting of Associations in Delhi, India, in April, 2011 and poses a number of conceptual questions:

- Is the concept and the definition of internationalization keeping up with developments in higher education?
- Is there a shared understanding of the concept?
- Has internationalization lost sight of its central purposes?
- Etc.

Activities:

With members in about 130 countries, IAU has a unique capacity to organize global conferences, meetings and seminars on topics of interest to institutional and association leaders in higher education:

- Thematic Annual International Conferences
- Quadrennial General Conferences
- Bi-annual Global Meetings of Associations (GMA)
- Training workshops and seminars
Members:

With more than 600 member institutions from over 120 countries, the institutional members are at the heart of the life and work of the International Association of Universities IAU.

Membership benefits:

Institutional Membership in IAU includes the following benefits:
• Be associated to the principles and values IAU upholds.
• Discount registration fee for IAU conferences.
• Invitation to speak at IAU conferences.
• Right to vote and stand for election as President and as an Administrative Board Member at the quadrennial general conferences.
• Use of IAU logo to indicate affiliation to the association.
• Invitations to participate in activities, workshops, seminars and expert meetings.
• Opportunity to participate in IAU working groups on priority themes.
• IAU consultation for expert advice in its areas of work.
• Eligibility to apply for LEADHER grants (up to 6 grants of 10'000 Euro a year).
• Advanced access to the World Higher Education Database (WHED) Portal.
• and more …

Membership fee:

The financial year at IAU runs from 1 October to 30 September.

Fee for Swiss institutions:
• Institutions with < 1’000 students: € 1’250
• Institutions with > 1’000 < 5000 students: € 1’600
• Institutions with > 5000 < 10’000 students: € 2’250
• Institutions with more than 10’000 students: € 2’850

Institutional Membership Application Form
For more information please contact Juliette Becker: j.becker@iau-aiu.net
Source: http://www.iau-aiu.net/
2.2. Association of International Educators NAFSA

About:

1948 the National Association of Foreign Student Advisers was founded. 1990 the NAFSA was renamed to Association of International Educators, reflecting the role of its members in all aspects of international education and exchange. NAFSA is the largest association of professionals committed exclusively to advancing international higher education. Its mission, as stated in 2010, is to advance international education and exchange and global workforce development. The association provides leadership to its diverse constituencies through establishing principles of good practice and providing professional development opportunities. NAFSA encourages networking among professionals, convenes conferences and collaborative dialogues, and promotes research and knowledge creation to strengthen and serve the field.

Activities:

NAFSA – Annual Conferences

NAFSA's annual conference provides a multitude of educational offerings for international education professionals at all levels of experience and in every specialty. These opportunities will help you develop the knowledge, skills, and ideas you need to better serve your organization or institution, move forward in your professional development, and engage effectively with colleagues from around the globe. Check out the wide range of offerings at last year’s conference. More information on the NAFSA 2016 Annual Conference & Expo will be available soon. [http://www.nafsa.org/Attend_Events/](http://www.nafsa.org/Attend_Events/)

NAFSA – Regional Conferences

The 11 NAFSA regions hold their conferences each year in late October and early November. These events are excellent opportunities for those involved in international education and exchange to network with accomplished colleagues and stay current with the latest trends. (See details under: [http://www.nafsa.org/Attend_Events/Regional_Conferences/](http://www.nafsa.org/Attend_Events/Regional_Conferences/))
Membership – A global Community:

NAFSA is the world’s largest nonprofit association dedicated to international education and exchange. NAFSA’s 10,000 members from more than 3,500 institutions, in over 150 countries are administrators, advisors, instructors, students, advocates, volunteers, and all those committed to the growth of international education. Membership provides professionals in the field with access to information and best practices; leaders in international education; potential partners; and professional development opportunities.

A NAFSA membership offers you the opportunity to:

• **Network and engage** with NAFSA’s nearly 10,000 members, in person and online
• **Develop and expand professional networks** through leadership and member activities
• **Stay up-to-date on current news and trends** with www.nafsa.org and member-only publications such as International Educator magazine and the NAFSA news e-newsletter
• **Connect with international education professionals** from around the globe at NAFSA’s Annual Conference & Expo, the largest gathering for the international education field, at a significant discount
• **Access expert information** related to government regulations, best practices, and advocating for internationalization on campuses
• **Build expertise** with quality professional development training while saving at the discounted member rate

**Membership fee:**

regular member fee USD 440 / € 402
2.3. Asian Pacific Association for International Education APAIE

About:

The Association was adopted by a Founding Committee consisting of university representatives from thirteen countries/regions in the Asia-Pacific by unanimous resolution, 3 December 2004, at Korea University in Seoul, Korea. APAIE is an international non-profit organization whose goal is to activate and reinforce the internationalization of higher education in the Asia-Pacific region and around the world, and to engage the professional challenges of individuals in international education. The APAIE Secretariat is permanently located in Seoul. The APAIE Board and the president are nominated from a variety of countries in the Asia Pacific region.

Board of Directors and Steering Committee

• **President**
  Katsuichi UCHIDA, Waseda University

• **Vice President for Administration**
  Susan ELLIOTT, The University of Melbourne

The founding members are:

• Griffith University (Australia),
• National Sun Yat-sen University (Taiwan),
• Kasetsart University (Thailand), Waseda University (Japan),
• Korea University,
• University of Philippines (Los Banos),
• Brawijaya University (Indonesia),
• National University of Singapore,
• University of Hawaii, Manoa (USA), University of Delhi (India),
• University of Auckland (New Zealand),
• Chinese University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong SAR),
• and Renmin University of China (Mainland China).

Mission:

The mission of APAIE is to achieve greater cooperation amongst those responsible for international education and internationalization in Asia-Pacific institutions. The Association promotes dialog and cooperation between institutions in the Asia-Pacific region and those outside the region. The Association would like to facilitate the exchange and mobility of students, staff and scholars, and the advancement of academic collaboration inter-regionally.
Allied Associations:

- AIEA – Association of International Education Administrators
- AMPEI – The Mexican Association for International Education
- CONAHEC – Consortium for North American Higher Education Collaboration
- EAIE – European Association for International Education
- IEAA – International Education Association of Australia
- ISANA – International Education Association
- NAFSA – Association of International Educators

Membership – categories:

The APAIE Membership is valid for one year, from April 1 to March 31 of the following year. There are two types of membership in APAIE.

I. Institutional Membership: for institutions of higher education. Each institutional membership covers two (2) individual memberships which might be transferable.

II. Individual Membership: for individuals who work in institutions of higher education or in non-profit organizations involved with international education.

Other categories of membership are determined by the Board of Directors (BoD). The specific procedure for application and granting of membership shall be determined by the Board of Directors. Annual membership fees shall be determined by the BOD. Membership term is from April 1 to March 31 of the following year.

Membership fee:

- Individual Membership: USD 100 / € 91
- Institutional Membership: USD 650 / € 593

Source: https://www.apaie.org
2.4. World Education and Research Association WERA

About:

The World Education Research Association WERA is an association of 22 national, regional, and international specialty research associations aimed at advancing education research as a scientific and scholarly field. Established on April 18, 2009 in San Diego, California, WERA aims to undertake initiatives that are global in nature and thus transcend what any one association can accomplish in its own country, region, or area of specialization. Member associations are resolved to work together to address such issues as building capacity and interest in education research, advancing education research policies and practices, and promoting the use and application of education research around the world. Member associations work together to address such issues as:

- Building capacity and interest in education research
- Advancing education research policies and practices
- Promoting the use and application of education research around the world

Member associations include education research associations from countries around the world, including: Brazil, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Pakistan, Peru, Scotland, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Taiwan, Turkey, and the United States of America. Two regional associations, the European Educational Research Associations, and the European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction, are also members of WERA.

WERA-IRNs

The purpose of WERA-IRNs is to advance education research worldwide on specific scholarly topics. IRNs are temporary collaborative groups of scholars working on a specific research topic primarily through virtual communications. IRNs synthesize knowledge, examine the state of research, and stimulate collaborations or otherwise identify promising directions in research areas of worldwide significance. Priority products for IRNs include substantive reports that integrate the state of the knowledge worldwide and set forth promising research directions.
Activities:

Various events are organized and/or co-organized by WERA-IRNs:

• DGfE-Congress 2016 – Association: German Education Research Association / Deutsche Gesellschaft für Erziehungswissenschaft / March 13 – 16, 2016 in Kassel Germany. read more

• 16th National and 8th Ibero-American Conference on Education: “Democracy and Education” – Sociedad Española de Pedagogía / June 28 – 30, 2016 at Universidad Complutense, Madrid, Spain. read more

• Association: ECER 2016 / August 29 – September 2, 2016, Location: To be Announced

Membership benefits:

Individual memberships provide opportunities for exchange of information, communication, and collaborations otherwise not readily available across continents and hemispheres. Individual members will receive benefits of WERA and may participate in WERA activities at discounted rates. Benefits of WERA membership include:

• Discounts on WERA publications, including the World Education Research Yearbook

• Discounts on WERA professional development workshops and courses

• Opportunity to propose and lead a WERA International Research Network (IRN)

• Online news and information about education research activities around the world (conferences, calls for papers, etc.), and the opportunity to participate in discussion groups, podcasts, and other WERA activities

• Automatic membership in the Graduate Student Forum

Individual membership is offered on an affordable sliding scale to adjust for differences in economic capacity around the world. Also, you may choose to become a member of WERA for one year, or for two years at a slightly lower dues rate.

Membership fee:

• for Switzerland – 2016 Regular member:
  – USD 100 / € 91 for one year,
  – USD 180 / € 165 for two years

Source: https://wera.site-ym.com/
2.5. International Education Association of South Africa IEASA

**About:**

The International Education Association of South Africa IEASA, a non-profit organisation, was established as a result of the need for universities and universities of technology in South Africa to respond to international educational trends. If South Africa is to remain competitive within the global economic environment it is important that higher education provides opportunities for students to obtain a global perspective to their studies. It also means that opening up to international contacts will benefit students, tertiary institutions and will assist South Africa to be a competitor and participant in world markets.

**Mission:**

To advocate, promote and support the internationalisation of higher education by providing a professional forum for institutions and individuals to address challenges and develop strategic opportunities in international education in Africa and the rest of the developing world.

**Membership fee:**

Fee for foreign (non-African) education institutions: USD 925/year (€ 844)

**Existing cooperation between Switzerland and South Africa:**

**Free Trade Agreement FTA**

In 2008 Switzerland signed a free trade agreement with the South African Custom Union SACU: South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland.

Source: [SECO](#)
Swiss South African Joint Research Program

The bilateral Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation signed between Switzerland and South Africa in 2007 formally established the Swiss-South Africa Joint Research Programme (SSAJRP). The first phase of the cooperation lasted from 2008 to 2011 with 2012 being a bridging year. A second phase of SSAJRP started in 2013 for another four years.

The priority research fields for the first phase were in the domains of:

- Public health and biomedicine
- Biotechnology and nanotechnology
- Humanities and social sciences

The domain of clean and green technology is included in the second phase.
Source: SSAJRP

Young professionals (trainees)

Switzerland has concluded trainee exchange agreements with various countries including South Africa in order to enable young professionals to extend their occupational and linguistic skills in Switzerland. Work permits can be granted for a maximum of 18 months.

Source:
Young professionals
http://www.ieasa.studysa.org/
2.6. Quacquarelli Symonds QS

**About:**

QS is a British company specialising in education and study abroad. The company was founded in 1990 by Nunzio Quacquarelli. Today, QS has over 250 employees and operates globally from offices in London (head office in Hampstead, North London), New York, Boston and Washington D.C. (USA), Paris (F), Singapore, Stuttgart (Germany), Sydney (Australia), Shanghai (China), Johannesburg (South Africa) and Alicante (Spain).

**Mission: QS ...**

- provides services for undergraduates, graduates, Masters, Ph.D., MBA and Executive MBA candidates. It offers publications and events to broaden the scope of study abroad.
- runs events and produces guides for postgraduates across 35 countries.
- provides market-leading services to the higher education community around the world; unmatched by competitors in range, innovation, quality or client satisfaction.

**Events:**

- **QS World MBA Tour:** opportunity to meet with MBA admissions officers and alumni from top business schools around the world. Topics: MBA admission strategy, improvements in GMAT or GRE scores, QS scholarships.
- **QS World Grad School Tour:** a global series of events where admissions officers from the world’s top grad schools get the opportunity to meet.
- **Conferences and seminars:**
  - QS-APPLE – Asia-Pacific Professional Leaders in Education
  - QS-MAPLE – Middle East and North Africa Professional Leaders in Education.
  - QS WorldClass – higher education and industry join hands
  - QS in conversation – global best practices exchange platform
  - QS Women in Leaderships – highlights the career benefits for women
  And many more

Source: [http://www.qs.com](http://www.qs.com)
2.7. Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie AUF

**About:**

The AUF is an international association comprising universities, grandes écoles, academic networks and scientific research centers that use the French language all over the world. With a network of 812 members in 104 countries, it is one of the world’s largest higher education and research associations. Within its scope of competence, the AUF implements resolutions adopted at conferences attended by representatives of French speaking countries. (Sommets de la Francophonie).

**Mission:**

Keenly aware of what is at stake where academic knowledge is concerned and its impact on societal development, the AUF has been working with French-speaking academic partners worldwide for over fifty years. AUF supports quality teaching accessible for all, across the globe.

**Activities:**

AUF’s three main strands of activity are:

- **Coordinating French-speaking academic cooperation worldwide**
  The AUF fosters academic cooperation between member institutions in a spirit of solidarity, complementarity, and knowledge sharing.

- **Supporting academic institutions, staff and students**
  The AUF offers services to students, lecturers and researchers including mobility funding, access to online degree courses, and support for research projects.

- **Engagement on the international scene**
  The AUF takes part in international projects alongside major organisations and makes its expertise available to development agencies and Francophonie member states. By producing reports or making official statements, AUF takes a stance on international higher education development issues such as broadening access to academic studies, assessment and ranking of universities, access of women to higher education, and the use of digital technology in educational settings.
**Vision 2014–2017:**

The AUF supports the action of universities in the development of societies respecting the diversity of cultures. This vision leads to the three major principles of action defined in the framework of the quadrennial programming 2014 – 2017: the partnership, the planning of structural actions and the sustainability in the exchange of experiences and monitoring. These principles of action foster particularly the following four main areas of intervention: training, research, the University governance, international publication and the associative life. Read more about the Program 2014-2017 (pdf) in French only.

**Membership:**

The AUF has 812 member institutions in 104 countries, of which 64 are members of the international organization of la Francophonie. Associate members from Switzerland are e.g.: HES-SO, HEID, EPFL, Universities of Fribourg, Geneva, Lausanne and Neuchatel.

To become a partner please contact AUF at: info@auf.org.
Read more about membership: [https://www.auf.org/auf/les-membres-de-lauf/](https://www.auf.org/auf/les-membres-de-lauf/)
3. Swiss Education Research & Innovation Network ERI-Net
3. Swiss Education Research & Innovation Network ERI-Net

3.1. swissnex and Science and Technology Counsellors

About:

swissnex is connecting Switzerland & the world in science, education, art and innovation. swissnex is an initiative of the Swiss Government. Each swissnex promotes public-private ventures through its own example. Partners, donors and sponsors provide vital financial support.

Together with science and technology counsellors based in Swiss embassies around the world, swissnex takes an active role in strengthening Switzerland's leadership as a worldclass location. The State Secretary for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) currently manages the swissnex Network, composed of:

- swissnex Boston (since 2000), with an outpost in New York City
- swissnex San Francisco (2003),
- swissnex China (2007), with an outpost in Guangzhou
- swissnex India (2011)
- swissnex Brazil (2013), with an outpost in Sao Paolo
- swissnex Singapore * until end of October 2015,
swissnex works on a performance policy by mutual agreement with SERI and their activities are mainly financed by partners’ contributions or by public and private sponsors. swissnex thrives on collaborating with its partners, who range from Switzerland’s top universities and multinationals to high-tech startups and groundbreaking researchers.

**Mission:**

swissnex is a network with nodes in the world’s most innovative hubs, where the future is being shaped. Together with science and technology counsellors based in Swiss embassies around the world, swissnex takes an active role in strengthening Switzerland’s leadership as a world-class location for science, education, and innovation.

**The core value of swissnex lies in their ability to:**

- connect scientists, researchers, entrepreneurs, policy-makers, and thought leaders with inspiring peers and new ideas on either side of the globe
- facilitate academic programs, global innovation strategies, and knowledge exchange
- create and present transdisciplinary projects in imaginative ways
- support internationalization efforts of Swiss academic institutions and companies, with a special focus on R&D based start-ups
- inform on developments in science, technology, education and innovation policies

**Stay tuned to the latest news!**

Learn about swissnexDays, and read latest publications and press articles about the swissnex network.

**Annual Reports** published by the individual swissnex offices

The **swissnexDay** is a platform for the exchange of knowledge and ideas. This annually event is intended for representatives from higher education institutions, businesses, research-based startups, public authorities, and interested members of the public. Networking is an important element of the swissnexDay following swissnex’ motto: “connecting the dots”.

**Sources and related links:**

- Locations and contacts of the Swiss ERI-Net in the world: [www.swissnex.org](http://www.swissnex.org)
- Gateway to Switzerland’s Education, Research and Innovation Landscape: [http://www.swissnex.org/resources/](http://www.swissnex.org/resources/)
Swissnex on Social Media:

Follow swissnex on social media: (for example)

- Facebook (China)
- Twitter (SF)
- Google+ (Boston)
- Linkedin (Brazil)
- Flickr
- Youtube (India)
- Instagram and more depending on the region.
3.2. SwissCore

**About:**

SwissCore is the Swiss information and liaison office for European research, innovation and education in Brussels, funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) and the Commission for Technology and Innovation (CTI).

**Mission:**

SwissCore acts as the bridge between Swiss and European knowledge institutions and supports Swiss participation in European knowledge programmes.

**Services:**

- SwissCore provides high-quality information by writing articles, info-mails, notes, reports and by publishing a free monthly newsletter ([Synopsis](#)),
- liaises between Europe and Switzerland in the fields of research, innovation and education by giving presentations and speeches and participating in and (co-) organising of meetings and events,
- supports the Swiss participation at European level by answering questions, providing brokerage and strategic advice, organising visits to and traineeships in Brussels, offering office facilities and by giving specialised trainings,
- promotes the Swiss knowledge institutions at European level by executing ad hoc replacements of Swiss representatives and ad personam representations of the funders and by representing the Swiss knowledge institutions within the Informal Group of EU RTD Liaison Offices (IGLO).
Activities:

- The **Annual Event** concerns the annual reception of SwissCore and the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) held in April, May or June in Brussels inviting all major contacts within Brussels and key persons from the Swiss network.

- The **Swiss Briefings** aim at presenting a Swiss best practice in either the field of research, innovation or education to representatives of European partners. They are jointly organised with the Swiss Science and Technology Counsellor and held at the [Mission of Switzerland to the European Union](https://www.mission.ch/) (Mission CH EU).

- The **Seminars** concern annual conferences in Brussels on a prominent topic on the European agenda for the Swiss clients. They are intended to inform the clients on current policy preparing them to properly safeguard their interest at European level or on European programmes enabling them to correctly inform and train their Swiss constituencies participating in these programmes. SwissCore offers tailor-made visits, en marge of these seminars.

Student traineeships:

SwissCore recruits twice a year a Student Trainee for a duration of six months, from February to July and from September to February.

Source: [https://www.swisscore.org/](https://www.swisscore.org/)