



SWISS INSTITUTIONS FACE OUTWARD

Switzerland is a small country of 8.5 million inhabitants in the heart of Europe. One quarter of its inhabitants hold a foreign passport, 66% of whom are EU-citizens – figures showing how much Switzerland is open and interconnected to the world.



Switzerland is a country with few natural resources. In order to compensate, the public authorities and the private sector devote substantial financial resources towards maintaining and expanding Swiss education and research activities, which are internationally competitive in many different areas. It is not by chance that in 2017, Switzerland topped the rankings of the Global Innovation Index for the sixth time in succession.

Switzerland counts three types of higher education institutions (HEIs) integrated in the Bologna process and tailored to meet the needs of their respective target groups. There are 12 universities, eight universities of applied

sciences and arts (UASA) and 20 universities of teacher education (UTE). Most HEIs are state-funded and publicly accredited. The universities offer a wide range of bachelor's, master's and PhD programmes at a high scientific and theory-based level and carry out fundamental research. UASA offer bachelor's and master's programmes related to scientific and professional education and carry out applied research. UTEs offer practice-oriented training in various subject areas at primary and secondary levels. Many degrees – all humanities and some science degrees – are only available at universities; others, like health sciences, landscape architecture and arts, can only be studied at a UASA.

OPEN FOR INTERNATIONAL TALENTS AND BRAIN CIRCULATION

Swiss HEIs attract students from all over the world. In 2017-2018, more than 250,000 students registered at Swiss HEIs, and about a quarter of those are international. The figures are even higher when looking at PhD and scientific collaborators, where the percentage amounts to nearly 70%. At universities, 50% of professors come from abroad. Regarding the scientific outputs, 70% of publications are the result of international collaborations.

AN INTEGRAL PART OF EU RESEARCH

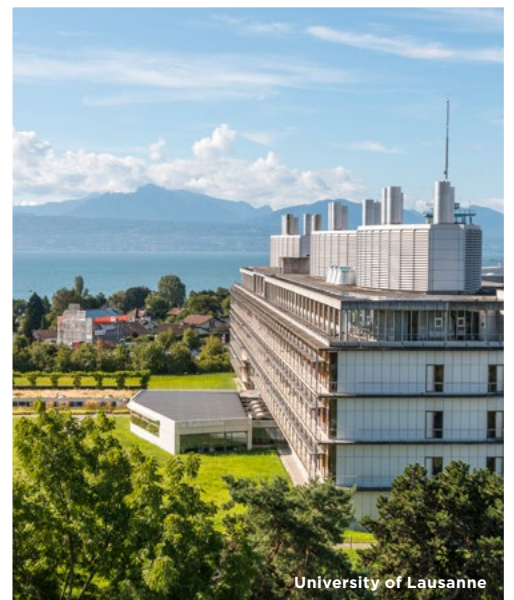
Institutions in EU countries constitute the main partners of Swiss HEIs. Access



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to and participation in the EU framework programmes is thus of great importance for Swiss HEIs. After the Swiss voted to limit immigration in February 2014, Switzerland was only partially associated with Horizon 2020. However, it became fully associated again in 2017. On the other hand, Switzerland is not associated with the Erasmus+ programme and has developed its own solution, *Swiss-European Mobility Programme* (SEMP). This provides an alternative to students' mobility but not to the other actions of Erasmus+. The full membership of Switzerland to the next European research and innovation as well as education framework programmes remains a goal of Swiss HEIs.

WORLD-CLASS PERFORMANCE

For a small country like Switzerland, it is crucial to have open and global HEIs. It is a key factor driving their quality and reputation. The quality of the Swiss higher education sector is reflected, among other things, in international university ranking lists. Furthermore, Swiss HEIs play a key role in producing the technological, scientific and innovative capacities that feed the economy. This emphasises the value and importance of international exchange for academia, the economy and society.

SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE

Today's global society faces pressing and complex challenges across many domains.

Swiss HEIs want to play an active role in addressing challenges such as personalised health, climate change, migration crisis, and digitalisation, thereby contributing to the well-being of society. Furthermore, Swiss HEIs are committed to the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and develop research in inter-, multi- or transdisciplinary contexts and with enlarged partners to achieve sustainable development.

Swiss HEIs look forward to welcoming you to Switzerland!

— MICHAEL O. HENGARTNER,
President of the Rectors' Conference of Swiss
Higher Education Institutions, swissuniversities