

Information Sheet for Student Exchange 2020/21

Valid as of August 2019

Contact Information	
Name of University	ETH Zurich – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich
Office dealing with study abroad/exchange matter	Student Exchange Office

Postal Address	ETH Zürich Student Exchange Office Rämistrasse 101 HG F 22.4 8092 Zürich SWITZERLAND
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Website of University Website of our office	www.ethz.ch/index_EN www.incoming.ethz.ch
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Basic data	
Semester dates	<p>Autumn semester 2020: 14 Sep 2020 – 18 Dec 2020 (not including examinations – see below)</p> <p>Spring semester 2021: 22 Feb – 04 June 2021 (not including examinations – see below)</p>
Examination dates	<p>Autumn semester 2020: End-of-semester exams: 07 – 18 Dec 2020 and 11 – 22 Jan 2021 Examination session: 25 Jan – 19 Feb 2021</p> <p>Spring semester 2021: End-of-semester exams: 24 May – 18 Jun 2021 Examination session: 09 Aug – 03 Sep 2021</p>
Exam schedule and preponement of exams	<p>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 reschedule/prepone certain examinations under specific conditions. Further information on the preponement of examinations can be found at https://www.ethz.ch/students/en/studies/performance-assessments/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>
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 (online)	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 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/slz/index.en.php</p>
<p>Online Application Process</p>	<p>Partners are requested to announce the students nominated for an exchange to ETH Zurich before the deadlines below by email.</p> <p>Students must apply online – the link to the online application can be found under worldwide programs at www.exchange-in.ethz.ch.</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 • Photocopy of passport • 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</p> <p>Spring semester: beginning of July</p> <p>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/thesis: min. 4 months before the planned start</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>

Course selection

<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>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.</p> <p>Students should have finished two years of study before they start their exchange at ETH Zurich.</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>What is the minimum and maximum number of courses exchange student can take?</p>	<p>There is no maximum number of courses, but students need to obtain at least 20 ECTS per semester. 2/3 (min. 14) of these ECTS must be acquired in the field the student is enrolled in.</p> <p>Normally students do not take more than 30 ECTS per Semester.</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>
<p>Course registration deadline</p>	<p>Online registration for courses closes 2 weeks after the semester commences. Minor changes to the study plan are still possible in the first two weeks of the semester. However, all changes to the original study plan must be approved by the departmental exchange coordinator.</p>

Living and Costs

<p>Will housing be provided by the host university?</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. www.wohnen.ethz.ch/index_EN</p> <p>Please note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students coming for research projects can only apply for housing if they are staying for the regular semester dates. • Students older than 28 years cannot be accommodated in our student housing. • 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. • 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 61 to 80, depending on age • Health insurance: currently about 100 CHF → Total approx. CHF 1450 a month <p>Individual expenses, such as clothes, leisure, travel, telephone, etc., are not included.</p> <p>Students should budget approximately CHF 1750 a 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.</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: 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>
<p>Do students need any other insurance?</p>	<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 unintentional damages caused to third parties both inside and outside ETH Zurich. Not having personal liability insurance may result in considerable expenses, e.g. damage to property in rented rooms or flats, injury or other damage to a person's health, etc.).</p>

Additional Information

Academic structure	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)
Credit system	ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) Workload of a full-time student: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 30 ECTS per semester 2. 60 ECTS per academic year 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 .
Grading system	www.ethz.ch/content/dam/ethz/main/education/rechtliches-abschluesse/grading.pdf
Visa requirements	All visa applications are processed by ETH Zurich. Students will be informed after their acceptance about the further procedures. See: www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/reps.html for Swiss embassies. Visa and residence permit fees usually amount to approx. CHF 350. (Exception: Students applying for D-BSSE in Basel who want to undertake a research project must apply for their visa on their own)
When will the official transcripts of records be ready?	approx. 2 weeks after the examination session Note: Transcripts of records are not sent automatically but are only issued upon request. Students must request an official transcript at the student administration office 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 latter's address and explicitly request the transcripts to be sent there.

Useful information

Are there any related handbooks, useful websites, downloads etc. can be provided to exchange students?

Websites:

General information on living in Zurich:

→ www.ethz.ch/en/studies/non-degree-courses/exchange-and-visiting-studies/living-in-zurich.html

General Information on Studying at ETH Zurich:

→ www.ethz.ch/en/studies/non-degree-courses/exchange-and-visiting-studies/about-the-study-programmes.html

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for Incoming Exchange Students:

→ www.ethz.ch/en/studies/non-degree-courses/exchange-and-visiting-studies/faq.html

Student Handbook for International Students:

→ www.ethz.ch/content/dam/ethz/main/education/internationales/pdf-en/handbook.pdf

Course Selection:

→ www.courses.ethz.ch

Examinations at ETH Zurich:

→ <https://www.ethz.ch/students/en/studies/performance-assessments.html>

ETH Zurich visual tour:

→ www.ethz.ch/en/studies.html

ESN Student Network:

→ www.esn.ethz.ch

ASVZ Academic Sports Association Zurich:

→ www.asvz.ethz.ch

Psychological Counseling Service:

→ www.pbs.uzh.ch/index_en.html

In Case of Illness:

→ www.doctor.ch/doctor.html and www.permanence.ch