



## Information Sheet for an Exchange at ETH Zurich in the Academic Year 2024/25

valid as of November 2023, subject to modifications

Contact Information	
Name of the University	ETH Zurich (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich)
Office dealing with study abroad / exchange	Student Exchange Office
Postal Address	ETH Zurich Student Exchange Office Raemistrasse 101 HG F 23.1 8092 Zurich SWITZERLAND
Important Websites	Website of the University: www.ethz.ch/en.html  Website of the Student Exchange Office: www.exchange.ethz.ch  Website for Incoming Students: www.incoming.ethz.ch/  Application Information and Deadlines: Worldwide Programmes   ETH Zurich  Campus Information: www.ethz.ch/en/campus.html





Application for an Exchange	
When does the application window open, i.e. from when are applications possible?	Autumn semester: beginning of February Spring semester: beginning of July  Note however that there is no rolling admission, i.e. applications
	will only be processed after the application deadline.
Nomination and Application Deadlines	Autumn semester: 1 April Spring semester: 1 September  The nomination and application deadlines apply to all coursework students. Applications need to be complete and submitted by these deadlines.  Should a student want to come for project work only (Bachelor/Master/Diploma thesis, research project), the complete online application has to be submitted at least 3 months prior to the planned start at ETH Zurich. Note that students coming outside the regular semester dates need to find an accommodation on their own. The minimal duration for a research project is 8 weeks.
Nomination and Online Application Process	Students must apply online – find the link to the online application as well as detailed instructions at <a href="Worldwide exchange: Applying for an exchange at ETH Zurich">Worldwide exchange: Applying for an exchange at ETH Zurich</a> Students can upload all the documents required in our online application; no hardcopies required.
What application documents are required?	<ul> <li>Transcript of records with full details of previous and current university level education, including grading key/legend explaining the grading system of their home university</li> <li>Photocopy of passport (must be valid for at least three months beyond the official end of the semester, including session examinations)</li> <li>Photograph (JPG)</li> <li>List of course units planned until the exchange (template provided)</li> <li>CV</li> <li>Motivation letter</li> </ul>





	<ul> <li>In case of a research project: confirmations of thesis/research project supervisors at ETH Zurich and at the home university</li> </ul>
	Details can be found in our application guidelines at: Worldwide
	exchange: Applying for an exchange at ETH Zurich
Requirements on English/German Should students plan to take related courses?	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 Students don't need to hand in a language certificate.  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/en.html
When will students be notified about the outcome of their application?	Autumn Semester: until around middle of June Spring Semester: until around end of October
Academic Information	
Academic Calendar	www.ethz.ch/semester-dates
Welcome Day (mandatory)	Autumn semester 2024: Mon, 16 Sep 2024 (classes start 17 Sep)  Spring semester 2025: Fri, 13 Feb 2025 (classes start 17 Feb)
Semester Dates	Autumn semester 2024:  16 Sep 2024 – 20 Dec 2024 (not including examinations – see below)  Spring semester 2025:  19 Feb 2025 – 30 May 2025 (not including examinations – see below)
Examination Dates	Autumn semester 2024: End-of-semester exams: 9–20 Dec 2024 and 6–17 Jan 2025 Examination session: 20 Jan – 14 Feb 2025  Spring semester 2025: End-of-semester exams: 19 May – 13 Jun 2025 Examination session: 04 Aug – 29 Aug 2025
Examinations / Performance	https://ethz.ch/students/en/studies/performance-
Assessments at ETH Zurich	assessments/exchange.html
Rescheduling / Preponement of Examinations	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 or to arrange for distance examinations. Oral examinations (both end-of-semester and session examinations) can be held remotely via video conference if the lecturer agrees - no approval by the Examinations Office needed, exam is considered to be conducted "regularly". The examination





	must be held during the original examination period. Further information on the preponement of examinations can be found at:  www.ethz.ch/students/en/studies/performance-assessments/exchange/preponement.html
	The Student Exchange Office invites accepted exchange students to attend a special information event on the preponement of examinations, which takes place in the first weeks of each semester.
	Please note: If due to the time difference a distance examination takes place outside the local office opening hours, it would be possible to postpone the examination to the next morning. In such a case and in addition to the consent of the lecturer, students will also need the approval of the Examinations Office. Please note that local holidays (e.g. Chinese New Year) cannot be taken into account as a sufficient reason to postpone exams even further. At ETH Zurich, examinations also take place on Saturdays (morning). A corresponding distance examination would then also have to take place on that Saturday. A postponement to the following Monday is not possible.
Repetition of Failed Examinations	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.
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 regular full-time student:  • 30 ECTS per semester  • 60 ECTS per academic year Exchange students should obtain a minimum of 20 ECTS per semester. Two thirds of the courses and ETH credits (14 out of 20) usually have to be earned at the department of enrolment.  www.ethz.ch/en/studies/legal-principles-degrees.html
Grading System	www.ethz.ch/content/dam/ethz/main/education/rechtliches- abschluesse/grading.pdf
	Nominated students must have successfully completed at least two years/four semesters of study on university level in a relevant field of study upon starting their exchange at ETH Zurich.
What should the academic background of nominated students be?	In order to make sure our departmental exchange coordinators are able to get a clear idea about an applicant's academic background, we prefer applications from students with sufficient proof of performance at their current university. We reserve the right to decline applications from students who have only very recently started their studies with their current home university and not yet been able to establish a solid academic track record there (applicable mainly for Master/Graduate level students).





	All students should pursue a degree in science or engineering in order to be enrolled as exchange student at ETH Zurich.  Please note that at ETH Zurich it is the individual departments deciding on the admission of exchange students. Their respective conditions for the admission of exchange students can be found here. Especially the Department of Computer Science has recently defined their admission criteria in a more specific but also somewhat more restrictive manner.
Laptop requirements	ETH Zurich has a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) policy and recommends having a laptop which meets these requirements.
Course Selection	
Language of instruction	Students must have sufficient knowledge of English. German would be a benefit for some (mainly undergraduate) courses. Information about the language of instruction of each course can be found in the course catalogue of ETH Zurich (see the selection criteria 'language of instruction').  As a rule:  • Bachelor programmes are mainly in German*  • Master programmes are mainly in English**  (exception: Architecture and Civil Engineering may offer very few courses in English only – if any)  * The undergraduate courses of the 1st and 2nd year Bachelor studies are normally taught in German at ETH Zurich, but many courses of the 3rd year are taught in English.  ** Undergraduate exchange students are allowed to choose courses of Master programmes (mainly taught in English, as a rule) if they fulfill the prerequisites.
How to find courses?	<ul> <li>Course catalogue: www.courses.ethz.ch         Publication dates: mid-May and mid-November</li> <li>Detailed information on preparing a study plan:         <u>Study planning   ETH Zurich</u></li> <li>Note also the conditions and restrictions set by the departments: <u>Study plan guidelines (ethz.ch)</u></li> </ul>
Are there any courses that will NOT be open or have certain restrictions for exchange students?	<ul> <li>If courses are restricted, it is indicated in the course description, please see our course catalogue (www.courses.ethz.ch). Students should follow the instructions in the course descriptions and/or contact the lecturer if they wish to participate in such a course.</li> <li>Courses ending with -AAL are not open to exchange students</li> <li>→ Students must consult our Study plan guidelines (ethz.ch) for detailed information on academic requirements and restrictions, which may vary depending on the individual department.</li> </ul>





	→ Students should also check with their home university about any further restrictions, such as certain departments or study programmes being excluded from the particular student exchange agreement between the universities.
What is the minimum and maximum number of courses exchange student can take?	Students need to obtain at least 20 ECTS per semester (excluding language courses). Two thirds (for example 16 out of 24 ECTS credits) must be acquired in the department of enrolment. Exceptions are possible for interdisciplinary study programmes such as Environmental Sciences, Earth Sciences, Health Sciences and Technology, Computational Science and Engineering, etc. and must be approved by the Departmental Exchange Coordinator.  The academic pace at ETH Zurich is high and students are expected to work a lot during the semester and for the exams. We recommend taking between 20-26 ECTS per semester. If students wish to take more than 30 ECTS - which is not recommendable – they should discuss this with their Departmental Exchange Coordinator.
Can undergraduate exchange students take graduate / Master level courses?	Yes, but only if they are in their senior years (3rd or 4th) of Bachelor studies and meet the prerequisites for the respective course.
Are there any courses that charge additional fees?	Registration fees apply for language courses – see the website of the language center for details.  Special excursions / seminar weeks might charge additional fees that will be announced by the lecturers.
Course Registration Deadline	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.
Additional Information	
Visa and Residence Permit	All visa applications are processed by ETH Zurich (Exception: Students applying for D-BSSE in Basel who want to undertake a research project must apply for their visa on their own). Students will be informed after their acceptance about the further procedures.  Student who require a visa must pay the fee of the Migration Office of the Canton of Zurich for the visa authorization of around CHF 100 by credit card upon submitting their visa application information to us. This fee is non-refundable in case of later withdrawal.





	The student's passport must be valid for at least three months beyond the official end of the semester, including session examinations.
	Everyone staying for more than 90 days (irrespective of whether they required a visa or not) is required to obtain a residence permit. Instructions on how to apply for it will be provided to students when they register in person at our helpdesk. Students need to follow the instructions and apply for their residence permit within 14 days after arrival.
	Important: The exact duration of the residence permit is calculated from the day of entrance to Switzerland and according to the duration of studies confirmed by ETH Zurich in the official confirmation of acceptance. Students should therefore <a href="mailto:never">never</a> enter Switzerland before the start date stated on their official confirmation of acceptance. Otherwise, they risk their residence permit expiring before the last day of their planned mobility stay and not being able to write their final exams or finish their project/thesis work. In such case, they would have to apply for an extension of their residence permit at a charge. This applies to all non-EU/EFTA nationals, <a href="with and without a visa requirement">with and without a visa requirement</a> , even if the visa authorisation or the issued visa theoretically allows an earlier entry to Switzerland!
	Visa and residence permit fees usually amount to approx. CHF 400.
	Intensive German courses: Scheduled two weeks prior to semester commencement
German Language Courses (optional)	Semester courses: Held during the semester (2 hours/week)
	A separate registration with the Language Center is required and fees apply. Places are limited - students are advised to register within the very first hours of the registration window (keeping in mind any potential time difference!).
	Detailed information on registration fees as well as access to the online application for courses can be found <a href="here">here</a> .
	www.wohnen.ethz.ch/en
Accommodation / Housing	Housing is not guaranteed, but we have usually been able to find accommodation in one of our students' halls of residence for all worldwide exchange students who registered with our Housing Office. After their acceptance, students will receive information on registering for accommodation by email. They should read this information carefully and apply online within the set deadlines.
	Generally, rooms arranged by the <u>Housing Office of the University of Zurich/ETH Zurich</u> are fully furnished, complete with internet connection and bed linen. Usually rooms are for single occupancy while bathroom, kitchen, living room space and laundry facilities are shared with flat mates. Flat mates can be of any gender. Cleaning and laundry service are not provided.





- After rents for student rooms remained stable for a long period, <u>WOKO</u> have announced a rent increase of up to 15% for the spring semester 2023. Final rental prices have not yet been determined, but we expect most rooms to be offered in a range of CHF 600 to CHF 900 (compared to CHF 450 to CHF 850 until now). Reasons lie in the changed rent environment in the city of Zurich as well as rising inflation.
- Beginning with the spring semester 2023, rent will be due in one payment for the entire semester. If a single payment is a serious financial burden for students, they are invited to contact the Student Exchange Office for advice.
- Rental periods are fixed and must be agreed upon during the application process. Students coming in spring semester now have the choice between two options:

## Spring semester:

1st of February – 30th of June 1st of February – 15th of August

## Autumn semester:

1st of September - 31st of January

As you may notice the contract ends now in both semesters before the respective session examination period. Students staying for the full duration of the session examinations and having examinations beyond the end of the rental period 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. On the positive side, however, all those students who already know that they have an accepted reason to prepone their examination or take them as distance examination can terminate their contract at the end of June without having to look for a sublet. We will prepare a decision guide for students.

## Please note:

- Students coming for research projects can only apply for housing if they are staying for the regular semester dates.
   Students coming outside of the regular semester dates need to find an accommodation on their own.
- There is only a very limited offer of student housing for students older than 28 years therefore we may not be able to accommodate such students in one of our dormitories.
- Housing is only available if partner universities distribute students evenly on both semesters in the same academic year, unless otherwise agreed. Should partners wish to send more students in any of the semesters than agreed, housing cannot necessarily be provided to those students. Instead,





	they may have to find accommodation on their own, which can be very time-consuming, expensive and hard to find.
	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.
Health Insurance	www.ethz.ch/health-insurance-for-students  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. However according to our experience, it is very unlikely to be exempt by the cantonal health insurance authorities. In this case, some insurance companies offer special packages for foreign students.
	Please note: We do help students to fulfill 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.
	The Student Exchange Office invites accepted exchange students to attend a special information event on health insurance in the first two weeks of the semester start.
Personal Liability Insurance	ETH Zurich is insured against material and property damage, though with a high franchise (amount retained from one's own account). Should instruments and equipment belonging to ETH be damaged by students through negligence (e.g. in practical courses, during semester projects or a thesis), ETH Zurich can make the persons involved accountable for the damage costs. ETH Zurich therefore highly recommends its students to take out a personal liability insurance to cover any unforeseen risks. Such an insurance also covers risks outside of ETH Zurich where expensive damage may occur, e.g. in rented rooms or flats, involvement in accidental bodily injury, etc. Likewise recommendable is a householder's comprehensive insurance including theft/burglary, e.g. for laptops, bicycles, etc.
Cost of Living	<ul> <li>General ETH fees: none for exchange students</li> <li>Study materials (books, chemicals,): CHF 50 to CHF 100, depending on field of study</li> <li>Excursions: up to approx. CHF 50</li> <li>Room rent: CHF 600 to CHF 900, or more</li> <li>Food (if using ETH facilities): approx. CHF 500</li> <li>Public transport (buses, tramways within the city of Zurich): approx. CHF 60 to 90, depending on age</li> <li>Health insurance: roughly between CHF 70 and CHF 200 only applicable in case of special student offers. Monthly fees with regular insurance plans may otherwise amount up to CHF 400 per month. Students older than 45 years need to obtain a regular insurance plan.</li> <li>See www.ethz.ch/health-insurance-for-students</li> </ul>





	for more information. Individual expenses, such as clothes, leisure, travel, telephone, etc., are not included. Students should budget approximately CHF 1750 per month (which corresponds to the requirement of migration
	authorities), see also section 'Cost of living'.
Financial Support	Heyning-Roelli Scholarship: Exchange students coming to ETH Zurich can apply for scholarships offered by the Heyning-Roelli Foundation: <a href="http://www.heyning-roelli-stiftung.ch/index_en.html">http://www.heyning-roelli-stiftung.ch/index_en.html</a>
	This foundation provides financial support for travel and accommodation costs to talented students in need of financial aid who take part in exchange programmes with Swiss universities. Applications are carefully evaluated and support will be granted to the most suitable candidates.
	Transcripts are usually ready approx. two weeks after the examination session.
Obtaining the Transcript of Records	Note: Transcripts of records are not sent automatically but are only issued upon request, see <a href="https://www.ethz.ch/content/dam/ethz/main/education/non-degree/mobilitaet/PDF">www.ethz.ch/content/dam/ethz/main/education/non-degree/mobilitaet/PDF</a> englisch/Requesting-the-Transcript.pdf for details.
	Students must actively request an official transcript at the Student Administration Office ("Studiensekretariat") 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 address of the latter and explicitly request the transcripts to be sent there.
Useful Websites	
General information on living in Zurich	Living in Zurich   ETH Zurich
General information on studying at ETH Zurich	Exchange students   ETH Zurich
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for Incoming Exchange Students	FAQ for incoming students   ETH Zurich
Handbook for International Students	International students   ETH Zurich
Disability Advisory Service at ETH Zurich	https://ethz.ch/en/studies/special-study-situations/studying-with-a-disability.html
ETH Zurich's food facilities	www.ethz.ch/en/campus/getting-to-know/cafes-restaurants- shops/gastronomy.html
ETH Zurich virtual and visual tour	ETH virtual   ETH Zurich
ESN Student Network	http://zurich.esn.ch/
ASVZ Academic Sports Association Zurich	www.asvz.ch/en





VSETH	www.vseth.ethz.ch/en
Other campus resources	www.ethz.ch/en/campus.html
Psychological Counseling Service	https://www.pbs.uzh.ch/en.html
In Case of Illness	https://ethz.ch/en/studies/international-immigration-housing/health-insurance/krankheit.html
Health Insurance	www.ethz.ch/health-insurance-for-students
Zurich Airport	www.zurich-airport.com/
Discover Switzerland	www.swissworld.org/
Swissinfo – News about Switzerland	www.swissinfo.ch
MySwitzerland - Tourism	www.myswitzerland.com/en-ch/
SwitzerlandMobility  – non-motorized traffic	www.schweizmobil.ch/en