



PUBLIC & LOW-FEE UNIVERSITIES **SWITZERLAND**

PUBLIC / EPA ROUTE · 2026/27 INTAKE

ABOUT SWITZERLAND

- This guide covers Switzerland's **public universities** — low-fee, research-led institutions.
- Home to **ETH Zurich and EPFL**, among the world's top universities.
- Public tuition is typically **CHF 700–1,500 per semester** for all students.
- Programmes are taught in **English, German, French or Italian**.
- The **Swiss Franc (CHF)** is the official currency.
- Some of the most popular student cities:

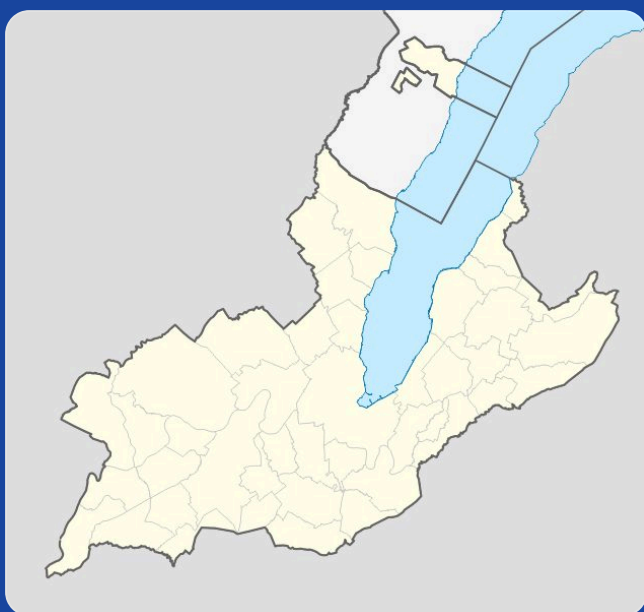


INDIA TO SWITZERLAND

CURRENCY

Swiss Franc (CHF) · 1 CHF ≈ ₹105 (indicative)

Delhi	≈ 8h 30m	Switzerland
Mumbai	≈ 9h 00m	Switzerland
Bengaluru	≈ 10h 30m	Switzerland
Chennai	≈ 11h 00m	Switzerland
Hyderabad	≈ 10h 00m	Switzerland



FACTS

- Capital: **Bern**
- Flight distance: ~7,000 km
- Time zone: **CET (UTC+1)**
- Tuition: **CHF 1,500–4,000 / yr**
- Proof of funds: ~CHF 21,000 / yr
- Main intakes: **Sep · Feb**

Public-university tuition is low. Figures indicative — verify per intake.

WHY STUDY IN SWITZERLAND?



Switzerland's public universities offer **world-class research** at **very low tuition** — the fees are modest; living is the main cost.

TYPES OF INSTITUTIONS

- This brochure covers Switzerland's public, low-fee universities.
- They fall into three broad groups:



ETH DOMAIN (ETH ZÜRICH, EPFL)

Elite science and technology universities.



CANTONAL UNIVERSITIES

Public research universities in each canton.



UNIVERSITIES OF APPLIED SCIENCES

Practical, industry-linked public degrees.



TOP UNIVERSITIES

- Switzerland hosts several **globally recognised** universities.
- Admission is **merit-based** and competitive.

ETH Zurich**ZURICH**

One of the world's top science universities.

EPFL**LAUSANNE**

Elite public engineering and technology institute.

University of Zurich**ZURICH**

Switzerland's largest public university.

University of Geneva**GENEVA**

Public research in science and diplomacy.

University of Bern**BERN**

Broad public research university.

University of Basel**BASEL**

Switzerland's oldest university.

Indicative selection — confirm each programme's entry requirements and intake before applying.

POPULAR FIELDS OF STUDY

- Swiss public universities lead in **engineering, sciences and research**.



ENGINEERING & TECH

Robotics, electrical and mechanical.



COMPUTER SCIENCE & AI

Software, data and AI.



LIFE SCIENCES & PHARMA

Biotech and medical research.



DATA SCIENCE

Analytics and applied statistics.



NATURAL SCIENCES

Physics, chemistry and maths.



ECONOMICS & FINANCE

Public-university business and finance.

TUITION & COSTS

- **Public tuition is remarkably low** — the main cost of studying in Switzerland is living, not fees.

ETH Zurich / EPFL
per year

CHF 1,460

Cantonal universities
per year

CHF 1,500–4,000

Universities of Applied Sciences
per year

CHF 1,500–5,000

Living costs
per year

CHF 21,000–27,000

Proof of funds for visa

~CHF 21,000 / yr



Swiss Government Excellence and university scholarships support postgraduate researchers.

COST OF LIVING

- Switzerland is **expensive to live in** — budget around **CHF 21,000+ a year**.

Accommodation student housing / shared	CHF 700–1,300
Food & groceries	CHF 400–600
Transport student travel pass	CHF 70–120
Health insurance mandatory	CHF 120–250
Phone, internet & leisure	CHF 150–250
Estimated monthly total	~CHF 1,700–2,300

Figures indicative for 2026 — costs vary between the capital and smaller cities.

SCHOLARSHIPS & FUNDING

- Government and university scholarships plus paid research roles help with the cost of living.

Swiss Government Excellence

GOVT

Prestigious research scholarships for postgraduates.

ETH / EPFL Scholarships

INSTITUTIONAL

Excellence awards for master's students.

Cantonal University Grants

INSTITUTIONAL

Merit and need-based support.

Research Assistantships

DEPARTMENTAL

Paid PhD and research positions.

Eligibility, deadlines and amounts change each cycle — confirm on the official scholarship pages.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

BACHELOR'S

- **12–13 years** of schooling; some programmes require a foundation year.
- **IELTS 6.5** or a German / French language certificate.
- Subject prerequisites for competitive courses.
- Apply directly to each university.

MASTER'S

- A recognised **bachelor's degree** in a related field.
- **IELTS 6.5** or language proof.
- A strong academic record for ETH / EPFL.
- SOP, references and (for research) a proposal.

INTAKES

- **September** — main intake (autumn semester)
- **February** — spring intake at some universities
- **Rolling** — research / PhD positions open year-round

STUDENT VISA & FUNDS

1

OFFER & ACCEPTANCE

Accept your public-university offer.

2

PROOF OF FUNDS

Show around CHF 21,000 for living costs.

3

APPLY AT CONSULATE

Apply for the National (D) visa.

4

DOCUMENTS & BIOMETRICS

Submit documents and give biometrics.

5

APPROVAL & TRAVEL

Receive approval and travel to Switzerland.

6

RESIDENCE PERMIT

Register with the canton on arrival.

WORK & POST-STUDY

- Students work **15 hours a week**; graduates get **6 months** to find work, with the labour-market test **waived**.

Part-Time Work

15 HRS / WEEK

Permitted during term time.

Job-Search Stay

6 MONTHS

Stay to find work after graduation.

Skilled Work Permit

SKILLED ROUTE

Labour-market test waived for Swiss graduates.

In-Demand Sectors

GROWTH AREAS

Engineering, IT, pharma and finance.

HOW TO APPLY

1

SHORTLIST

Choose public universities and programmes.

2

PREPARE DOCUMENTS

Transcripts, IELTS and language proof.

3

APPLY

Apply directly to each university.

4

OFFER & FUNDS

Accept your offer and arrange proof of funds.

5

VISA

Apply for the National (D) visa at the consulate.

6

DEPARTURE

Arrange housing and register with the canton.



Your Switzerland study journey — one step at a time.