



STUDENT GUIDE TO **SWITZERLAND**

STUDY ABROAD REFERENCE · 2026/27 INTAKE

ABOUT SWITZERLAND

- Switzerland is a **multilingual** country in central Europe, with **Bern** as the capital.
- Home to around **8.8 million people** and a global centre for **finance, pharma and hospitality**.
- **ETH Zurich and EPFL** rank among the **world's top universities**.
- Programmes are taught in **English, German, French or Italian**.
- The **Swiss Franc (CHF)** is the official currency.
- Some of the most popular student cities:

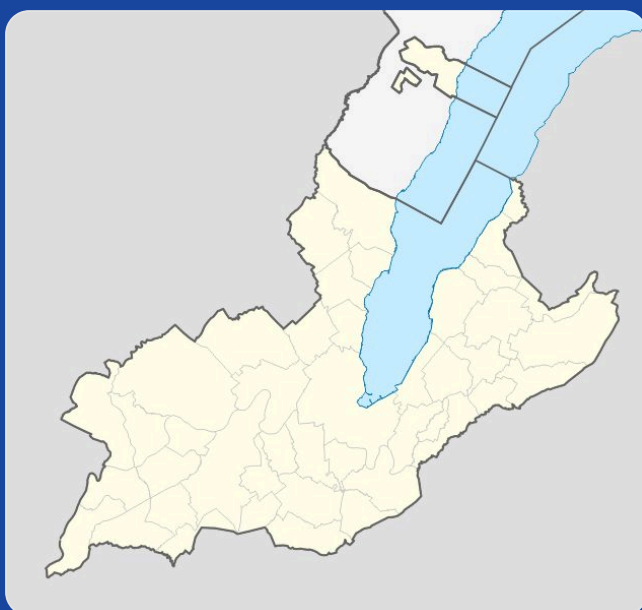


INDIA TO SWITZERLAND

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 1,500–40,000 / yr**
- Proof of funds: ~CHF 21,000 / yr
- Main intakes: **Sep · Feb**

Public tuition is low; private hospitality schools cost more. Figures indicative — verify per intake.

WHY STUDY IN SWITZERLAND?



TYPES OF INSTITUTIONS

- Switzerland has both low-fee public universities and elite private schools.
- They fall into three broad groups:



PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES & ETH DOMAIN

Low-fee, research-led (ETH, EPFL).



UNIVERSITIES OF APPLIED SCIENCES

Practical, industry-linked degrees.



HOSPITALITY SCHOOLS

World-leading hotel and culinary management.



Elite private schools
From the Alps to the shores of Montreux.

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 engineering and technology institute.

University of Zurich**ZURICH**

Switzerland's largest university.

University of Geneva**GENEVA**

Strong in international relations and science.

EHL Hospitality Business School**LAUSANNE**

The world's top-ranked hospitality school.

Les Roches**CRANS-MONTANA**

Global hospitality management education.

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

POPULAR FIELDS OF STUDY

- Switzerland is strong in **engineering, finance, pharma and hospitality.**



ENGINEERING & TECH

Robotics, electrical and mechanical.



HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT

World-leading hotel and culinary schools.



BANKING & FINANCE

A global financial centre.



LIFE SCIENCES & PHARMA

Home to major pharma companies.



COMPUTER SCIENCE

AI, data and software.



DATA SCIENCE

Analytics and applied statistics.

TUITION & COSTS

- **Public tuition is remarkably low**; the main cost is living, and **private hospitality schools** charge more.

Public university per year	CHF 1,500–4,000
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Universities of Applied Sciences per year	CHF 1,500–5,000
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Hospitality schools (private) per year	CHF 25,000–40,000
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Living costs per year	CHF 21,000–27,000
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Proof of funds for visa	~CHF 21,000 / yr
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Some universities and hospitality schools offer **merit scholarships and paid internships**.

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 internships help with the cost of living.

Swiss Government Excellence

GOVT

Prestigious research scholarships for postgraduates.

ETH / EPFL Scholarships

INSTITUTIONAL

Merit awards for master's students.

Hospitality Merit Awards

INSTITUTIONAL

Scholarships at hospitality schools.

Paid Internships

INDUSTRY

Salaried placements offset costs.

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

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

BACHELOR'S

- **12 years** of schooling; some programmes require a foundation year.
- **IELTS 6.0–6.5** or a German / French language certificate.
- Subject prerequisites for competitive courses.
- Apply directly to each institution.

MASTER'S

- A recognised **bachelor's degree** in a related field.
- **IELTS 6.5** or language proof.
- Statement of purpose and references.
- A strong academic record for ETH / EPFL.

INTAKES

- **September** — main intake at most universities
- **February** — second intake at some institutions
- **Rolling** — hospitality schools offer multiple intakes

STUDENT VISA & FUNDS

1

OFFER & ACCEPTANCE

Accept your offer and pay any deposit.

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.

Hospitality Placements

PAID INTERNSHIPS

Built into hospitality programmes.

HOW TO APPLY

1

SHORTLIST

Choose universities or hospitality schools.

2

PREPARE DOCUMENTS

Transcripts, IELTS and language proof.

3

APPLY

Apply directly to each institution.

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.