

Higher education and university

There are two types of higher education institutions in Switzerland: universities, and universities of applied sciences (UAS). All universities follow the Bologna system (the European tertiary education system). It is also possible to pursue higher education in the form of continuing education.

The higher education system

Among Swiss universities, a distinction is made between universities and universities of applied sciences. In universities of applied sciences, teaching is oriented towards practice, while in universities it is more theoretical and academic.

Both types have the same value. They follow the Bologna system (the European tertiary education system). At the end of their studies, students obtain a degree recognised throughout Europe: the Bachelor (approx. three years of study) and then the Master (approx. two years of study).

Admission to a university of applied sciences

With a Swiss baccalaureate, admission to a university of applied sciences is guaranteed. Foreign school-leaving certificates are not recognised automatically. You must enrol directly at the university in which you wish to study.

Admission requirements vary from one institution to another.

For example, some insist on people taking examinations or require internships.

In general, very good knowledge of French or German is required. This does not apply for courses held entirely in English.

The Centre d'orientation scolaire et professionnelle et de psychologie scolaire (Centre for Educational and Vocational Guidance and School Psychology (COSPP)) provides free information on the various study opportunities offered by universities of applied sciences.

Higher vocational education

In addition to the universities of applied sciences (UAS), there are also the professional education institutions (PEIs).

In these, professionals who hold a federal vocational diploma can obtain a PEI diploma. This is at the same level as a UAS degree, but it is more practical and professionally oriented.

Continuing education

Professionals can specialise and deepen their professional knowledge through ongoing training. They can obtain diplomas such as the federal professional diploma or the advanced federal diploma.

Additional information (links, addresses, information sheets, brochures)

www.bonjour-jura.ch/en/school-and-education/higher-education-and-university