UNIVERSITY OF LUCERNE

OFFICE OF THE VICE RECTOR FOR TEACHING AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE

Information Sheet 2026/2027

SEMP Swiss European Mobility Programme (Erasmus)

Institutional Contacts

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ERASMUS-Code	CH LUZERN01
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Departmental Contacts

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Academic Information

Orientation Week

Fall semester: 7 – 10 September 2026

Spring semester: 15 – 18 February 2027

Please note that attendance at the orientation week is mandatory for all exchange students.

Academic Calendar

Fall semester

Start 14 September 2026

End of courses 18 December 2026

Spring semester

Start 22 February 2027

End of courses 04 June 2027

Please note that these dates refer only to lecture weeks. In some cases examination sessions may take place after the end of the teaching semester.

Examination dates

Examination dates are different at each faculty and depend on which courses students opt to take. Please therefore ensure that when registering for courses, you take the examination dates into consideration. Please refer to the appropriate section below for more faculty-specific information.

Faculty of Theology

The exam periods can be found via the following link: Exams and Master's thesis - University of Lucerne (unilu.ch)

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

In the Fall semester: exams take place during the last two weeks of the semester and the second week of January.

In the Spring semester: exams take place two weeks before and after the end of the semester.

Faculty of Law

In both the Fall and Spring semesters: exams take place within the 'academic calendar' dates listed above.

Please note that the exam period for exchange students often differs to the exam dates for regular (non-exchange) students.

Faculty of Economics and Management

The exam periods can be found via the following link: https://www.unilu.ch/en/study/courses-exams-regulations/faculty-of-economics-and-management/exams/

Faculty of Health Sciences and Medicine

The exam periods can be found via the following link:

https://www.unilu.ch/en/study/courses-exams-regulations/health-sciences-and-medicine/exams/

Transcripts of Records

You can expect to receive your transcript of records by the end of February for the Fall semester and in August for the Spring semester.

Nomination Deadlines

Fall and spring semester: 31 March 2026*

*If we have funds still available we will contact our partners to inform that further nominations for the spring semester are possible.

Application Deadlines

Fall semester:	15 April 2026
Spring semester:	30 September 2026

Duration of Study

We accept students who wish to study for 1 semester, or 2 consecutive semesters.

Levels of Study

- Undergraduate
- Graduate
- Postgraduate

Course Information, Orientation Program and Learning Agreement

Students must be able to take courses in English or German.

Students have to take at least 15 ECTS per semester at the University of Lucerne.

For all study-related issues such as learning agreements, credits, assessments, etc., please contact the departmental coordinator at the corresponding faculty.

Application and Registrations Procedures

We only accept nominations sent by the International Relations Office of our partner universities.

We use Mobility-Online for both the nomination and the application processes. Exchange semester coordinators at our partner institutions will receive an email with detailed instructions on how to nominate their students using our platform.

Nominated students, in turn, will receive detailed information on how to complete their application online, as well as other information pertinent to their mobility semester, including registration dates. Please see further details below on the documents needed during the application process.

Required documents during application process

Transcript of records

Please submit the latest copy. We can accept unofficial transcripts from the electronic registrar system of your home university if the document includes your name and the name of your home university.

Proof of English and/or German language proficiency

To ensure full participation in our programmes students taking courses in their non-native language or in a language that is not the teaching language at their home university must ensure that they have a C1 level in their language of study at the University of Lucerne. The following documents are accepted as proof of English competency:

- TOEFL IBT 85
- IELTS 6.5
- Duolingo English Test (DET) 120
- We may also accept an official confirmation from a student's home university stating that a student has a C1 level on the Common European Framework for Languages (CEFR), or that the student has studied and passed English-taught courses. In this case please name the titles of the English-taught courses and refer to the grade in the academic transcript.

To provide proof of German competency, please note that we accept any of the certificates listed in the University of Lucerne's general admission document.

German courses for beginners

During the semester, exchange students have the option of signing up for a German course at a reduced rate of 100 CHF. Students can sign up for these courses online during orientation week. 2 ECTS are awarded for this course.

Accommodation

There are a limited number of rooms available for exchange students at the student residence. Students have the possibility to apply for a room during the online application process. Nevertheless, it cannot be guaranteed that students are assigned a room in the student residence.

If you have further accommodation-related questions, please contact the Institutional Mobility Coordinator mobility@unilu.ch

Website for incoming students: https://www.unilu.ch/en/international/mobility/student-mobility/incoming-students/study-abroad-programmes/

General Information

Health Insurance

Students from within any of the EU 27 countries, as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, are eligible for the 'European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), which provides sufficient health insurance coverage for Switzerland. Any student from Europe who is unable to get EHIC coverage should contact the Institutional Mobility Coordinator for further assistance.

Students from the UK can use their EHIC (UK European Health Insurance Card) or GHIC (UK Global Health Insurance Card) in Switzerland.

Please note that travel insurance taken out in your home country is not equivalent to Swiss health insurance cover and will not be accepted by the authorities.

Personal Liability Insurance

For exchange students living at university-arranged accommodation, personal liability insurance is **mandatory**!

Exchange students should check before leaving their home country whether their personal liability insurance coverage is sufficient for Switzerland. Please note that it is usually cheaper and more convenient to organise this type of insurance cover in your home country.

For students organising their own accommodation, personal liability insurance is not compulsory but it is strongly recommended since it offers an insurance cover for third party liability claims and will cover costs relating to damage of rented accommodation.

If you have further questions please contact the Institutional Mobility Coordinator.

Visa

Students from EU and EFTA countries need a valid passport or identity card to enter Switzerland.

For non-EU/EFTA nationals: Please contact the Swiss Embassy in your home country to start the visa application process as soon as you receive the official admission letter issued by the University of Lucerne. We would advise all students to travel with a passport.

Residence Permit / Costs

All incoming students are required to get a residence permit for their stay in Switzerland. For students living in the Canton of Lucerne, the University of Lucerne will apply for the residence permit on behalf of the students.
Your residence permit will be issued after you have registered with the registration office of your community of residence (see below). Costs for the residence permit: approx. CHF 70 for EU/EFTA students; approx. CHF 250 for non-EU/EFTA students; these costs must be borne by the student.

Entering – Registration / Costs

After entering Switzerland, all students are required to register at the registration office of their community of residence. More information about this will be communicated to students during Orientation Week. Costs for the registration: approx. CHF 35

Scholarships available to exchange students

Exchange students studying at the University of Lucerne as part of the Swiss European Mobility Program (SEMP) are eligible for an exchange semester grant. This grant can only be awarded to students not receiving an Erasmus+ or Turin grant and is usually a little lower in value as compared to the Erasmus+ or Turin grants. The International Relations Office can advise students of the grants for which they are eligible.

Estimated budget per month

Actual living expenses will differ for each individual, however, the figures below provide an indication of how much a student will spend per month:

Housing (incl. additional costs)	CHF	660
Utilities (telephone, Internet, TV, radio)	CHF	100
Health insurance, liability insurance	CHF	200
Food, household items	CHF	350
Miscellaneous (clothes, laundry, transport)	CHF	350
Total	**CHF**	**1’660**

A currency converter is available here:
http://www.xe.com/en/