

# Welcome

Enrolment and residency:  
Next steps for new  
Master's degree students



Student Services

## 6 Opening a bank account

The most convenient and cheapest way for you to pay bills and withdraw money is to have your own bank account in Switzerland. All banks offer student accounts with similar benefits, so your choice of bank depends on your personal preferences. Banks do not usually allow non-EU citizens to open an account without a residence permit (receiving it can take a couple of weeks).

Selection of banks:

[www.ubs.com](http://www.ubs.com) → [www.credit-suisse.com](http://www.credit-suisse.com) →  
[www.zkb.ch](http://www.zkb.ch) → [www.postfinance.ch](http://www.postfinance.ch) →

## 7 Getting health insurance

Health insurance is required by law in Switzerland. After you apply for a residence permit the authorities will send you a letter (in German!) asking for the name of your chosen health insurance company. You must take out insurance within three months of your arrival, but please note that you must pay the premiums from the day you entered the country. In other words, you cannot save money by delaying your purchase of health insurance.

Students who have a European Health Insurance Card can apply for an exemption from the Swiss health insurance obligation. Students without a European Health Insurance Card must take out Swiss health insurance, unless their insurance at home fulfils Swiss requirements (which is very rare). Health insurance is extremely expensive in Switzerland, but a few companies offer special plans for international students at a rate of ca. CHF 100.00 per month.

For detailed instructions see:

[www.ethz.ch/health-insurance-for-students](http://www.ethz.ch/health-insurance-for-students) →

Please note: You must enter Switzerland and apply for your residence permit before you can seek an exemption or sign up for a "cheap" student offer.

**We wish you all the best in your preparations and look forward to welcoming you soon at ETH Zurich!**

## Contact

ETH Zurich  
International Student Support  
HG F 22.3 (ETH Main Building, floor F, room 22.3)  
Rämistrasse 101  
8092 Zurich, Switzerland

Phone: +41 44 632 20 95  
Email: [international@sts.ethz.ch](mailto:international@sts.ethz.ch)

Office hours:  
Tuesday and Friday from 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

## How to enrol as an ETH Zurich student

### 1 Completing your registration

Early submission of all the documents required by the Admissions Office (e.g. the original of your Bachelor's degree certificate or a language certificate) will greatly facilitate the start of your studies at ETH Zurich. We are only able to issue your matriculation package (student ID card, confirmation of studies, username, login, email address etc.) by the beginning of the semester if we receive all of your documents at least three weeks before this. Please note that it is not possible to receive temporary matriculation documents.

### 2 Receiving your matriculation documents

If you provided us with a Swiss postal address when you applied for your Master's degree programme, your matriculation documents will be sent to that address. If you applied with an address outside of Switzerland, you can pick up your matriculation documents at the Registrar's Office (ETH Main Building, floor F, room 19).

### 3 Registering for courses and examinations

Provided that your matriculation is complete, it is possible to register for courses before the semester has started. However, we recommend waiting until the "Welcome & Introduction Day" held on the first Monday of the Autumn Semester (not offered in the Spring Semester), where the registration procedure will be explained in detail. You will receive an invitation by email in August. You may attend classes before registering for them. The registration deadline for examinations is the end of the fourth week of the semester. It is only possible to register for an examination if you are registered for the respective course.

ETH Course Catalogue:

[www.courses.ethz.ch](http://www.courses.ethz.ch) →

Information on examinations:

[www.ethz.ch/students/en/studies/performance-assessments.html](http://www.ethz.ch/students/en/studies/performance-assessments.html) →

### 4 Paying your semester fees

Your semester invoice will be sent to your ETH email address about five weeks after the start of the semester. It must be paid within 30 days. Please note that it is not possible to make advance payments.

## How to organise your stay in Switzerland

### 1 Applying for a student visa (if applicable)

ETH Zurich provides very detailed guidelines on how to apply for a student visa; you will have already received these by email. Please read the instructions very carefully and contact the International Student Support Office if anything is unclear (email: [international@sts.ethz.ch](mailto:international@sts.ethz.ch)).

Immigration guidelines:

[www.ethz.ch/immigration-guidelines-for-students](http://www.ethz.ch/immigration-guidelines-for-students) →

### 2 Finding accommodation

ETH Zurich offers a limited number of rooms to Master's degree students from abroad. You will have already received the application link by email. All applicants are notified about the outcome of their application by the middle of July (for the Autumn Semester) and the beginning of December (for the Spring Semester). Please note that only about one third of all Master's programme applicants can be offered a room, and that applicants who need a visa to enter Switzerland are given priority.

Housing in Zurich is scarce and expensive. The average monthly rent for a non-luxurious, unfurnished single room with shared bathroom and kitchen easily comes to CHF 700.00 or more. If you need to find your own accommodation you must come to Zurich several weeks before the start of the semester: it is not possible to rent a room without meeting the landlord or flatmates in person. Please note that your chances of finding accommodation increase enormously if you do not limit your search to the city centre. The public transport system in Switzerland is excellent, and you can reach ETH from almost every village in the Canton of Zurich in around 30 minutes... The Housing Office provides a helpful list of ways to search.

Housing Office:

[www.wohnen.ethz.ch/index\\_EN](http://www.wohnen.ethz.ch/index_EN) →

### 3 Signing up for a German course

Although your Master's degree programme will (with a few exceptions) be taught in English, we highly recommend that you learn at least some basic German. If possible, start learning it while you are still in your home country – it will make your daily life in Zurich much easier!

The Language Center of the University of Zurich and ETH Zurich offers intensive courses for beginners before the semester begins (60 lessons in 2 weeks), semester courses for beginners and post-beginners (2 lessons per week), and tandem learning. If you are interested you should submit your online application as soon as the application window opens. Please check the Language Center website for exact dates.

Language Center:

[www.sprachenzentrum.uzh.ch/index\\_en.php](http://www.sprachenzentrum.uzh.ch/index_en.php) →

### 4 Applying for your residence permit

All non-Swiss students must apply for a residence permit at the local residents' registration office within 14 days of arrival. In the city of Zurich these district offices are called "Kreisbüro" and are numbered from 1 to 12 according to district. To choose the right Kreisbüro you must know the number of your district: ask your landlord or flatmates if you do not have this information.

Addresses, opening hours and information on compulsory documents can be found at:

[www.ethz.ch/residence-permits-for-students](http://www.ethz.ch/residence-permits-for-students) →

### 5 Buying tram/bus tickets

If you live in the city of Zurich, it will be easiest to commute by public transport. You can buy a Personal Network Pass for Zone 110 which allows you to use all trams, buses, trains and even boats within the city. Prices are approximately CHF 85.00 for a monthly pass and CHF 780.00 for an annual pass (reduced rates are available for students under 25). Passes can be purchased from ticket machines at tram or bus stops or at the ZVV (Zurich public transportation network) sales point in Zurich Main Station.

Zurich public transportation network:

[www.zvv.ch/zvv/en/home.html](http://www.zvv.ch/zvv/en/home.html) →