Faculty of Law – Student Exchange Programs
Grab the exciting opportunity and study law in the heart of Europe
Summer in Zurich
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The Faculty of Law

The Faculty of Law at the University of Zurich (UZH) is not only one of the largest faculties in Europe – with enrollment currently standing at 3'600 students, but also excels with regard to its outstanding international network. It has collaborative partnerships with over twenty leading law schools in Europe, America, Asia, Australia and the Middle East. An active member in several international educational and research associations – including the «League of European Research Universities» (LERU) and «Universitas 21» – the Faculty of Law is dedicated to maintaining and improving its international standing. The Faculty of Law was founded in 1833 and epitomizes academic education at the highest level. Excellence in research and teaching extends to all legal disciplines, with major areas to research in the fields of International and European Law, Technology and Environmental Law, Commercial and Financial Law, Legal History and Legal Theory. Our main priority at the Faculty of Law is to prepare students for the challenges of work in an increasingly global legal community, while providing an outstanding legal education.

Law library

The library contains some 200'000 books and close to 800 periodicals and series. It is one of the largest law libraries in Switzerland. The collection focuses on the laws of Switzerland and its neighboring countries (Germany, Austria, France, Italy, Liechtenstein) as well as the Anglo-American legal systems. The list of publications concerning Swiss law is as exhaustive as possible. The library with its air suspended galleries and unique interior has since its opening in 2004 been a center of attraction for those interested in architecture from all around the world, as it was designed by the famous architect Santiago Calatrava. The Law Library is therefore also known as the «Calatrava Library».

The University of Zurich

The University of Zurich has attained international recognition for its academic excellence. It belongs to the top-ranked universities in the German-speaking world and is the largest, most academically diverse institute for higher education in Switzerland.

The University of Zurich was the first European university to be established by a democratic political system. That was in 1833, in the meantime, the University of Zurich has grown to become Switzerland’s largest university with seven faculties.

Over the years, the Nobel Prize has been conferred upon twelve UZH scholars.

WHY CHOOSE THE UNIVERSITY OF ZURICH AND THE FACULTY OF LAW FOR YOUR EXCHANGE?

- The Faculty of Law at the University of Zurich is the largest law school in Switzerland and one of the biggest law faculties in Europe, with more the 55 full professorships.
- We have one of the largest academic libraries in Switzerland.
- The Faculty of Law offers more than 150 courses each semester – lectures, seminars, and PhD courses.
- International Research Network: the University of Zurich is an active member of global and European research networks, such as the League of European Research Universities (LERU) and of Universitas 21 (U21).
- Our courses are taught in German, English and French.
- Quality of Life: According to Mercer’s, Zurich is ranked in the top two cities worldwide for quality of living.
- The University of Zurich and the Faculty of Law create an open, bold and supportive environment.
- Extended services for students, including housing, health services, career services, language courses, sport and recreational facilities.
Our Exchange Programs

CH-Unimobil (Swiss Mobility)

Students from another Swiss university may study for one or two semesters at the Faculty of Law. A framework convention between Swiss universities on the mobility of students ensures that semesters, courses and examinations are recognized. There is little administration involved, as students remain enrolled at their home institution, to which the study fees are paid. No fees are paid to the partner institution.

Swiss-European Mobility Programme (SEMP, formerly ERASMUS)

The Faculty of Law currently has exchange agreements with more than fifty partner universities throughout Europe. Exchange students can study for one or two semesters at the Faculty of Law. SEMP incoming students are eligible for financial aid from the Swiss government. Students automatically apply for aid when they submit their application to be an exchange student at UZH. Students remain enrolled at their home institution, to which the study fees are paid. No fees are paid to the partner institution.

Faculty Agreements

The faculties of the UZH have concluded Faculty Agreements with several universities worldwide. These agreements address students of the relevant field of study only.

The Faculty of Law has bilateral Faculty Agreements with over twenty non-European universities and selected European universities. Within the framework of these agreements, students have the opportunity to study for one or two semesters at the Faculty of Law. Students remain enrolled at their home institution, to which the study fees are paid. No fees are paid to the partner institution.

University-wide Agreements

Students from partner universities can study at the UZH for up to two semesters. University-wide agreements are open to students of all fields of study. Students remain enrolled at their home institution, to which the study fees are paid. No fees are paid to the partner institution.

Visiting (Guest) Students

International students from a university that has no exchange agreement with the Faculty of Law have the possibility to apply as visiting students. Visiting students pay the same semester fees as regular students but are not entitled to obtain an academic degree.

Buddy Program

To ensure the integration into student life, incoming exchange students are invited to sign up for the Buddy Program. The buddies are regular law students who volunteer to help exchange students settle in to their exchange at the Faculty of Law and life in Zurich.
STUDY PROGRAMS

Bachelor of Law

The Bachelor of Law takes three years of study. It focuses on basic knowledge and the ability to think methodically and scientifically. The study programs require and encourage students to reflect on the material they have been taught. They help them develop essential social skills such as argumentation and communication and the ability to work in a team.

Master of Law

The Master of Law takes three semesters of study. It focuses on providing students with an in-depth legal education and the skills to work independently on scientific and practical tasks.

Double Degree Master’s Program

The Double Degree Master’s Program jointly undertaken with several renowned partner faculties offers students an opportunity to expand and further their knowledge of the Swiss legal system, of the legal system of the country of the relevant partner faculty and of international law. The program consists of the study program at the Faculty of Law and the study program at a partner faculty and takes two years of study.

Doctorate

Doctoral candidates learn the essential methodological skills for an in-depth and broad-ranging study of legal issues.

TEACHING METHODS

Lectures

A lecture is a teaching method conducted by a lecturer in which an aspect of law is systematically examined. Lectures form the foundation when dealing with a law topic.

Exercises

The purpose of exercises is the development of knowledge and skills gained in a specific field, as well as applying abstract concepts to concrete facts by working on problems derived from practical situations. Attending an exercise is particularly useful if students are thoroughly prepared and able to take active part in discussions.

Seminars

Seminars offer an academic approach to defined problems within a specialized field. Each semester, about ten to twenty seminars (sometimes organized as block courses lasting several days) are offered in various fields. Participation in a seminar is based on a paper about a specific topic. During a seminar, students are expected to participate actively and possibly to prepare a presentation on the topic under consideration.

ECTS

The European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) is a student-centered system based on the student workload required to achieve the objectives of a program. The objectives are preferably specified in terms of the learning outcomes and competences to be acquired. ECTS is based on the principle that sixty credits measure the workload of a full-time student during one academic year. The student workload of a full-time study program in Europe amounts in most cases to around 1500-1800 hours per year and in those cases one credit stands for around 25 to 30 working hours.
Winter activity in the Swiss mountains: snowshoeing with the ASVZ

Students learning in front of the UZH main building
Academic Sports Association Zurich (ASVZ)

The ASVZ offers all university members an attractive sports program, which provides plenty of opportunities to discover new activities or to train favorite sports. They offer participants an extremely varied range of over 120 sports, from Aikido to Zumba.

Libraries

Together, the many libraries that belong to or are linked with UZH have almost 6 million books as well as a large number of journals and electronic databases. All libraries offer excellent facilities, including work spaces, computer access, reading rooms and copy machines. In addition, UZH students can borrow books from more than sixty libraries from throughout Switzerland by interlibrary loan.

Language Center

Exchange students can benefit from the courses offered by the Language Center of the UZH and ETH Zurich. Beside courses in thirteen different languages and an advisory service, the following options are of special importance for exchange students: German intensive courses, organized Tandem Learning and the Self-Access Center.

Career Services

The goal of Career Services is assisting all students, PhD candidates, and graduates of the UZH in matters concerning their careers. Whether it is support with the CV, going through a mock interview or getting to know future employers at brown bag lunches: the Career Services offers a broad range of services.

Catering

Your student ID entitles you to reduced prices on meals at the various cafeterias and canteens of UZH and ETH Zurich.

Psychological Counseling Services

The psychological counseling services at UZH help students when they face personal difficulties or difficulties related to their studies, for example learning barriers or exam anxiety.

The counseling services are free of charge and confidential; sessions can be held in German, English, French, Italian or Spanish.

Disability Office

The UZH Disability Office helps exchange students who have or are in any way affected by a disability. It provides information, support and resource-oriented solutions. It is recommend to contact the office at an early stage of your preparations.

ACCOMMODATION

Alumni House

The Alumni House offers sixteen rooms (of which four are double rooms) for students from our partner universities who are enrolled as exchange students at the Faculty of Law.

You can find more information about the Alumni House on this website: www.iusalumni.uzh.ch/en/alumnihaus.html

Further Accommodation Options

The UZH does not own student dormitories but the International Relations Office reserves a limited number of rooms for exchange students. These rooms are administered by the Housing Office of University and ETH Zurich: www.wohnen.ethz.ch and the Woko Studentische Wohn­genossenschaft: ww.woko.ch
The City of Zurich

With its nearly 400'000 inhabitants, superb infrastructure and lavish natural surroundings, Zurich is a renowned center for science and business and popular for study and research.

The countryside can be reached within just ten minutes from any point in the city.

Academic vitality

Innovative research conducted by the UZH often stems from collaborative efforts with the city’s other outstanding research institutions: at UZH fruitful partnerships with the ETH Zurich, the University’s hospitals and the Zürcher Fachhochschule ZFH are cultivated. The UZH and ETH Zurich collaborate closely in the natural sciences and have created joint institutes and professorships. In addition, both Zurich universities work with the University’s hospitals to translate today’s research findings into tomorrow’s medical practice. The three diverse institutes of higher learning and five University hospitals make the university city of Zurich a vibrant place for researchers and students alike – innovation and first-rate academics are a given.

Economic import

People enjoy living in Zurich for many reasons – not least on account of the many economic advantages brought on by Zurich’s status as one of Switzerland’s economic motors: 85 of the 100 largest Swiss companies are based in or near the city. Numerous private research centers have also chosen to establish their main offices in or near Zurich, including the renowned IBM Research Laboratory, Google’s European research center and the Microsoft Swiss Development Center. High-tech companies and start-ups alike add extra impetus to the innovative atmosphere: Zurich’s international appeal continues to grow.

Beautiful location

Year after year Zurich is at the top of the chart in the Mercer survey, a study ranking the quality of life in the world’s major cities. This is no great surprise considering Zurich’s many charms: a beautiful lake set against an alpine panorama, a world-class opera house as well as numerous theaters and museums. The city is also auspiciously located: Zurich’s airport connects the city with the rest of the world, its train station offers quick and reliable transit connections to Europe’s main hubs, and the region itself boasts one of the world’s most efficient and accessible public transportation systems. Lake Zurich, the river Limmat, the many parks and the nearby Alps offer the city’s dwellers plenty of opportunities for rest and recreation.
Swimming in the river Limmat
Christine Korper
exchange student within a Faculty Agreement

Besides the obvious breath-taking beauty of the glittering lakes and glistening mountain peaks, Switzerland is filled with culture. I could be eating white sausage with white beer one moment and raclette with champagne in an igloo the next. I chose Zurich because it gave me the chance to dip right into this melting pot of European culture. The Faculty of Law exceeded my expectations. I decided on UZH not only because of its world-renowned faculty, but also because the classes offered give me an opportunity to explore European law and how civil law countries operate. Professors challenge us to compare, contrast and analyze different legal systems, giving us a bigger picture on how law functions internationally. Further, the Faculty of Law contains such a diverse body of students, that you are almost sure to always have interesting discussions, whether it be between students from Sweden and Australia or students from France and Japan.

Arthur Simon Lucien Waltz
CH-Mobility exchange student

Since laws are national, their study might give the feeling of being stuck in the country where they apply. And bad luck for you if this country is Switzerland, representing a little 0,03 percent of emerged lands on earth.

Fortunately, there is Zurich, with plenty of cultural opportunities, a great diversity and its exotic language. It feels new and I like it! I particularly enjoy the social security course of Professor Gächter, where a lot of actual question are discussed and where students are encouraged to participate. This course really develops the critical thinking!

Outside of university, I appreciate the multitude of veggie restaurants and the «Badi» (outdoor swimming) in summer.

Manal Abad
exchange student within a Faculty Agreement

I was looking for a place where «doing your best» is appreciated and what matters most. And I found that at the Faculty of Law UZH, the encouragement, excellent working atmosphere and the high level of education.

Since I am a PhD student, I will not find better than the UZH as it is considered one of the leading Research Universities in Europe. I am looking forward to inserting this experience to my academic career with further development of analysis and understanding law in different countries and legal systems. This experience will affect me not only academically, but also personally by witnessing the Swiss values in the city of Zurich, the high level of tolerance, motivation, positivity and the acceptance of cultures, languages and diversity of religion.

Otto Lugnegård
SEMP exchange student

My name is Otto Lugnegård and I am an exchange student from Lund University, Sweden. The main reason why I choose to do my exchange studies in Zurich and at the Faculty of Law was because of the international character the city and the university have. There is a great mix of languages and cultures among the people who live and study here. I like the big-city-pulse of Zurich, although the city is not very big, I also wanted to take courses lectured in both German and English and the variety of courses which the faculty offers enabled this.
Academic Calendar

Contact Information

FALL SEMESTER

Semester
1 August - 31 January

Lecture period
Mid-September (W 38) - End of December (W 51)

Exam Period
January

SPRING SEMESTER

Semester
1 February - 31 July

Lecture period
Mid-February (Week 8) - End of May (Week 22)

Spring break
Ca. 10 days in April

Exam period
June-July

Please note the application deadlines differ, depending on the exchange program. For more information, contact the Office for International Programs of the Faculty of Law UZH or the International Relations Office UZH.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions concerning the exchange at the Faculty of Law:

International Programs
Dean's Office of the Faculty of Law
University of Zurich
Raemistrasse 74/2
8001 Zürich, Switzerland
Tel. +41 (0) 44 634 45 00
incomings@ius.uzh.ch

Visit the website of Faculty of Law:
www.ius.uzh.ch

Questions concerning administrative matters, e.g. application procedure should be addressed to:

International Relations Office
University of Zurich
KOL E 17
Raemistr. 71
8006 Zürich, Switzerland
www.int.uzh.ch
Winter in and around Zurich