Impressum

Editor © EPFL (February 2010)

Design & Layout
OH NO, OH YES! Design
D. S. Stefanovich

Photos
Atelier Création Photographique
A. Herzog

Print
IRL Imprimeries Réunies Lausanne SA
Swiss Printers
Embark on a great adventure

Thinking of joining EPFL? You will become one of the women and men who shape our society’s scientific future – the scientists, architects, engineers, innovators and entrepreneurs-to-be, getting higher education on a unique campus. You will contribute to exploring the new frontiers of knowledge, supported by world-leading scientists. You will help to solve major technological and environmental challenges. You will enhance your creativity to establish unprecedented connections between science and the community. An extraordinary journey awaits you, not only in the realm of science, but also on the cultural and social planes. You will also have the opportunity to live among the over 110 nationalities represented on our campus.

To guarantee your chances of success, the EPFL offers exceptional conditions and outstanding infrastructure. The School also provides a host of support opportunities and advice. The professors, assistants, students and staff are here to help you on the human, educational and social levels. In return the EPFL expects you to show commitment, perseverance and inquisitiveness, which will open up excellent vocational prospects. The success of EPFL Alumni evidences the value of our education as well as its recognition on the employment market. I look forward to welcoming you and wish you every success in your studies.

Yours faithfully,

Giorgio Margaritondo
Vice President for Academic Affairs
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## A  Introduction
- A.1 About Switzerland  
- A.2 About EPFL  

## B  Bachelor /Master Studies
- B.1 Educational Structure  
- B.2 Education at EPFL  
- B.3 Typical Academic Year  
- B.4 Timetables  
- B.5 Study Plans and Regulations  
- B.6 Course Books  
- B.7 Student Card  
- B.8 Student File  
- B.9 IT  
- B.10 Laptops  
- B.11 ECTS Credits  
- B.12 Changing Programmes at EPFL  
- B.13 Grade Sheets  
- B.14 Grade or Assessment Revision  
- B.15 Army, Military Service  
- B.16 Adapted Study Timetable  
- B.17 Teaching Languages  

## C  Bachelor /Master Admissions
- C.1 When and How to Register at EPFL  
- C.2 Transfer from another University  
- C.3 Admission to the Preparatory Special Mathematics Course - "CMS"  
- C.4 Admission to 1st Year Bachelor  
- C.5 Admission Requirements for Master Programmes  
- C.6 Admission Requirements for HES Graduates  
- C.7 Polymaths Admission Requirements  
- C.8 Admission Requirements for Students from French Preparatory Courses  
- C.9 Exchange - Mobility  
- C.10 Welcoming Events  

## D  Beyond Master Studies
- D.1 Doctoral School  
- D.2 School of Continuing Education  
- D.3 Career Center  

## E  Residing in Switzerland
- E.1 Visa and Residence permit  
- E.2 Working in Switzerland  

## F  Study Costs
- F.1 Tuition Fees  
- F.2 Study Grants  
- F.3 Cost of Living  

## G  Housing
- G.1 Student Halls  
- G.2 Other Accommodation  

## H  Health & Support
- H.1 HELP Support & Prevention  
- H.2 Health & Accident Insurance  
- H.3 Health  
- H.4 Medical Emergencies  
- H.5 Old age and survivors insurance (AVS)  
- H.6 Disabled Students  

## I  Campus Life
- I.1 Restaurants  
- I.2 Parking  
- I.3 Getting to EPFL  
- I.4 Shops  
- I.5 Child Care  
- I.6 Library  
- I.7 Career Center  
- I.8 Language Centre  
- I.9 Associations  
- I.10 University Sports Centre  
- I.11 Culture on Campus  

## J  Living in Switzerland
- J.1 Social Life in Lausanne  
- J.2 Integration – Local Customs  
- J.3 Shops & Second-Hand Stores  
- J.4 Post & Mail  
- J.5 Telephone  
- J.6 Electricity  
- J.7 Banking  
- J.8 Transport  

## K  Useful Addresses
- K.1 Student Services Hotline  
- K.2 Swiss Embassies Abroad  
- K.3 Foreign Embassies in Switzerland  
- K.4 Emergency Numbers  
- K.5 Insurance - Cantonal Supervisory Body  
- K.6 Useful Addresses & Links at EPFL  
- K.7 Useful services  

## L  Check-List
- L.1 Before you leave for Switzerland  
- L.2 Upon arrival in Switzerland  
- L.3 During your studies
A1

About Switzerland
Switzerland is located at the heart of Europe, surrounded by Germany to the north, Austria and Liechtenstein to the east, Italy to the south and France to the west. It has an area of 41285 m² with a population of 7,508,700 distributed across 26 cantons. Switzerland has four national languages: 63.7% of the inhabitants speak German, 20.4% French, 6.55% Italian and less than 0.5% Romansh. The Swiss Confederation was founded in 1291.

www.swissworld.org/en/

A2

About EPFL
EPFL is located on the shores of Lake Geneva and brings together over 10,000 people on a single campus, including 7,200 students and 275 faculty members.
Since it was founded in 1853, EPFL has become a world-renowned international institution with more than 100 nationalities on campus. The School has a unique organisation to foster cross-disciplinary research and promote partnerships with other institutions and companies. Its more than 250 laboratories and research groups enable EPFL to rank among the world’s most innovative and productive institutions in terms of science.
EPFL offers 13 complete study programmes at the Bachelor and Master levels in engineering, basic sciences, computer and communication sciences, life sciences, architecture and the environment.
The EPFL Doctoral School enables PhD students of the same subject to work together, transcending the boundaries of their own labs.
Students attending the EPFL School of Continuing Education have the opportunity to strengthen and update their skills and knowledge, giving them a competitive edge in a rapidly evolving professional environment.

Lausanne
Lausanne, the capital of Canton Vaud, lies on Lake Geneva in the French-speaking area. Its population of 135,000 includes some 25,000 students. Lausanne plays a major role in the field of international sport. In particular, as it houses the headquarters of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), it has earned the title of “Olympic Capital”. The town is characterised by its steep streets and the over 500 m difference in level between the shores of Lake Geneva and the city’s heights.
### Educational Structure
The educational structure at EPFL is in line with the Bologna Convention and includes two successive stages:
- a Bachelor with 180 credits
- a Master with 90 or 120 credits

**Bachelor**
The initial preparatory (so-called “propédeutique”) year focuses on basic training in science.
This first year is completed in one of the 13 available study programmes. However, several programmes offer the possibility of joining the Bachelor cycle (2nd and 3rd year) of a related study plan after passing the 1st year exam.

The Bachelor cycle (2nd and 3rd year) introduces the specific courses to be followed in each Programme, enabling you to gradually master the required skills and working methods.

### Bachelor / Master Studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st year</th>
<th>Preparatory year (“propédeutique” 60 credits)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Basic Sciences (Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Computer Science)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Introductory courses (programme-specific)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd year</td>
<td>Bachelor cycle (120 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Specific courses (lectures, lab work, projects and options as from the 3rd year)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Basic Sciences (continued)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd year</td>
<td>Humanities &amp; Social Sciences (SHS)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 90-credit Programme

- **Minor (optional)** (30 credits)

### 120-credit Programme

- **Master Project** (30 credits)

### Humanities & Social Sciences (SHS)

#### 2nd year
- **Master Project** (30 credits)

#### 1st year
- **Master cycle** (60 credits)
  - Optional courses, projects
- **Specialisation or Minor** (30 credits)

---

**CMS - Special Mathematics Course**

The *Cours de mathématiques spéciales* (CMS) is a preparatory course to join EPFL.

Over 2 academic semesters, this course serves to acquire the basic understanding in Mathematics (Calculus, Linear Algebra and Analytical Geometry), Physics, Chemistry, and Biology that is required to begin EPF studies.

The course is aimed at:

- Swiss or foreign students residing in Switzerland without a “maturité” certificate acknowledged by the Swiss Confederation.
- students with a school-leaving certificate obtained abroad ("baccalauréat") subject to the applicable admission procedure (see chapter C3 on “Bachelor/Master Admissions”)

For further information: [http://cms.epfl.ch/](http://cms.epfl.ch/)

**PolyMaths**

PolyMaths is a one-semester optional course dedicated to the holders of a Swiss “maturité gymnasiale” wishing to perfect their knowledge before starting their first year.

Organised each year in Spring (February to end May), Polymaths is a full-time course to master various general aspects of mathematics and physics through a university teaching method. Together with a module on work techniques, Polymaths offers ideal preparation for polytechnic studies.

Whether you are taking a few months’ leave after your “maturité”, are at military service or simply feel the need to strengthen your skills in mathematics, this course may be of interest.

For non French-speaking school-leavers, this is also an opportunity to practice your French before starting university education!

Languages courses are offered free of charge to complement the science curriculum.

For further information: [http://polymaths.epfl.ch/](http://polymaths.epfl.ch/)
B 2

Education at EPFL

Depending on your interests, skills and professional projects you may join EPFL in any of the following study programmes:

- Mathematics (Masters in Mathematics or Mathematical Sciences)
- Chemistry & Chemical Engineering (Masters in Molecular & Biological Chemistry or Chemical & Biochemical Engineering)
- Life Sciences and Technologies

Master level only:
- Nuclear Engineering
- Financial Engineering
- Management of Technology and Entrepreneurship
- Computational Science & Engineering

Study plans and regulations for these curricula are available on [http://sac.epfl.ch/](http://sac.epfl.ch/) - “Study plans and rules” link in the index.

Detailed information is also available online on the “Prospective Students” portal on [www.epfl.ch](http://www.epfl.ch).

Programme-specific leaflets can also be ordered via: [http://bachelor.epfl.ch/page28398.html](http://bachelor.epfl.ch/page28398.html)

Bachelor and Master level programmes:
- Architecture
- Civil Engineering
- Environmental Science and Engineering
- Electrical & Electronics Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Materials Science and Engineering
- Micro-Engineering
- Computer Science
- Communication Systems
- Physics
Planning Your Time
Our study programmes are designed for full-time studying to obtain 30 credits per semester. The information provided during lectures may be substantial as from the start of term, which is why you should schedule practical work and exam preparation as from the onset of the courses.

Both the winter and summer exam sessions are punctuated by 2-3 weeks’ revision time during which there are no lectures. These weeks are not holidays and should be used to complete reports on practicals and projects and revise for the exams which are within a three week period.

Study Plans and Regulations
Detailed study plans for each programme specify compulsory lectures and available optional courses for each semester, indicating the number of hours and credits. These plans also set when and how teaching assessment takes place.

The Rulebooks include legal provisions governing the passing of the exams for each programme. These documents are available on [http://sac.epfl.ch/page9617.html](http://sac.epfl.ch/page9617.html).

Typical Academic Year
The academic year at EPFL is divided into two (autumn and spring) semesters of courses, 14 weeks each, followed by 2 to 3-week (winter and summer) exam sessions.

- Autumn semester course schedule: mid September to end December
- Winter exam session: last three weeks in January
- Spring semester course schedule: mid February to end May
- Summer exam session: mid June to beginning of July

Academic Calendar
The Academic Calendar ([http://sac.epfl.ch/page19672.html](http://sac.epfl.ch/page19672.html)) provides all major dates and deadlines for completion of your studies.

Major Deadlines

**Early September:** Registration week and welcoming activities for new students (see chapter C10 on “Welcoming Events” in the “Bachelor/Master Admissions” section)

**Mid September:** courses start 30 September: deadline for late arrivals of admitted students and for eligible students registered at another Swiss university to transfer for their 1st year at EPFL.

**Early October** (end of the 2nd week of courses): deadline to register for courses and request a change in study programme.

1 December: deadline for 1st-year students to withdraw without failure and/or register for Polymaths as per the rules set out on the site [http://cms.epfl.ch/polymaths/](http://cms.epfl.ch/polymaths/).

B 5

Timetables

**Course Timetable**
Course timetables and descriptions are posted online on [http://is-academia.epfl.ch/page51706.html](http://is-academia.epfl.ch/page51706.html) several weeks before the start of the semester.

**Exam Timetable**
Exam timetables are available online on [http://is-academia.epfl.ch/page51706.html](http://is-academia.epfl.ch/page51706.html) several weeks prior to the start of each session. They are designed to avoid two tests on the same day, which is why it is important that you register properly within the set deadlines.

(see Chapter L3 Check-list “During your studies”)
**Student File**
Access to your academic file and academic management tool: IS-Academia

The IS-Academia software enables you to consult your personal academic file online (http://is-academia.epfl.ch/).

Access to the application is divided into two sections:
- Part of the IS-Academia data is accessible to the public.
- Access to individual and personal data is protected and you will need a username and password (allocated to you at the beginning of your studies) to view this section.

The following functions are available in the protected section (see also Chapter B9 on IT and http://dit.epfl.ch/page50925.html):

- **Personal Data**
  - **Identification**
    - Lists your personal data (name, address, etc.)
  - **Address Changes**
    - Form to notify a change of address.
  - **Enrolment Certificate**
    - Page enabling you to print your student certificate.

---

**Course Books**
There is a descriptive course leaflet for each of the courses to be found in the Bachelor / Master study plan.

This leaflet also gives the teaching objectives, the content, the required level necessary to follow the course, the number of hours, the number of credits, the bibliography and the information relating to how the course is evaluated.

The course leaflets are available on: [http://is-academia.epfl.ch/page51706.html](http://is-academia.epfl.ch/page51706.html) (“Course description” link)
Academic Registration Form
Form indicating the semester and programme under which you are registered. You should validate this form at the start of each term. **This is compulsory to enable you to register** for the courses you have selected for the coming term.

Students Online Application Form
Page to register as a contact student to answer queries by new students.

**Teaching**

Course Registration
Page enabling students to register for Bachelor / Master courses. You should tick off all the courses you attend within two weeks following the start of each semester.

Evaluation of Teaching
Page dedicated to assessing your own courses only.

Evaluation Results
Page to consult the results of your course assessments. *(and to withdraw from exams)*

Exam Registration
Page to consult registrations for *(and withdrawals from)* exams. You are automatically registered for exams based on your course registrations. However, you are entitled to withdraw up to two weeks prior to the start of the exam session. Caution: you may not withdraw from a subject with exams during the term, or from 1st year courses.

**Oral Exam Timetable**
Individual timetable for oral exams if posted by your class delegate in IS-Academia

**Statement of Results**
To view and print your various exam grades *(pdf file)*.

**B 9**

**IT**

Access to IT Resources
To access secured IT services you must identify yourself with a username and password provided to you at the beginning of your first study semester. Identification and authentication principles are described at the following address:
http://dit.epfl.ch/page50925.html

Password Management
You may change your originally allocated password on the GASPAR portal:
http://gaspar.epfl.ch

Available IT Resources
The list of available IT resources may be consulted on:
http://dit.epfl.ch/page50928.html

**E-mail address “@epfl.ch”**
An e-mail address “first name. name@epfl.ch” is allocated to you when you first register. Throughout your studies at EPFL, important information, reminders, etc., will be e-mailed to you at this address, enabling the EPFL to reach you quickly, either individually or as a group. You are expected to read your e-mails and manage your mailbox diligently. This e-mail address will also be posted in the student directory. To manage your account please connect to: http://webmail.epfl.ch

**Printing**
You will find all the information related to reloading, prices and the state of your account for the EPFL printing machines on the following page: http://myprint.epfl.ch/

**Communication Tools**
The various EPFL communication tools are listed on the link:
http://dit.epfl.ch/page50926.html

Purchasing a Computer
Attractive terms for students via the Poseidon portal:
http://poseidon.epfl.ch/

**Help / Support**
Online support is available in the form of Web pages, wikis or directly linked to the IT applications, e.g.:
http://support-it.epfl.ch/page48561.html
http://wiki.epfl.ch/is-academia.support/etudiants.bama
B 10  
**Laptops**  
**Why purchase a laptop?**  
Access to computers is available in dedicated IT rooms. However, in order to study under the best possible conditions your are advised (although not obliged) to purchase a laptop as from your 1st year of studies.

**Purchasing a laptop - Poseidon**  
The Poseidon service enables you to purchase a computer at preferential rates, with a 3-year warranty, and to benefit from support thanks to the education-oriented helpdesk.

In addition, Poseidon promotes the use of open source software in education.

For further information: [http://poseidon.epfl.ch/](http://poseidon.epfl.ch/)

B 11  
**ECTS Credits**  
The European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) serves to assess the level reached by a student by awarding credits to a completed course.

ECTS credits are proportional to the volume of work to be completed by the student in the form of either courses, practicals, laboratory work, projects or homework.

The ECTS system is based on the assumption that the quantity of work required by a full-time student over an academic year is equivalent to 60 credits. As the workload of students registered for a full-time study curriculum in Europe is usually about 1500-1800 hours per annum, one credit represents approximately 25 to 30 hours' work.

For further information see: [http://bachelor.epfl.ch/page28393.html](http://bachelor.epfl.ch/page28393.html)

B 12  
**Changing Programmes at EPFL**  
During Bachelor studies at EPFL you may change programmes once, provided that you have not had a final failure.

In the 1st year you may apply for a change of programme before the end of the 2nd week of courses in the autumn semester, either by filling in the “Academic Registration Form” on IS-Academia, or by e-mail to the Student Services Hotline provided that you have validated this form.

As from the 2nd year you must fill in the relevant form on the Registrar’s Office Web page to apply for a change of programme, to be decided by the authorities concerned.

For further information: [http://sac.epfl.ch/page32162.html](http://sac.epfl.ch/page32162.html)

B 13  
**Grade Sheets**  
The Registrar's Office sends students an official grade sheet by post only at the end of each study cycle (“Propédeutique”, Bachelor, Master). Provisional results for interim years may be consulted and printed from IS-Academia (see section B8 on the “Student File”).

B 14  
**Grade or Assessment Revision**  
Students are entitled to make an official request to have a grade revised, within the set deadline and according to established procedure.

For further information: [http://sac.epfl.ch/page9622.html](http://sac.epfl.ch/page9622.html) ("Demande de nouvelle appréciation ou de recours" link)
Adapted Study Timetable
If you have a physical disability or are an elite sportsperson or musician, you may – subject to certain conditions – request an adapted study schedule. Kindly fill in the relevant form on http://sac.epfl.ch/page32303.html and send it to the Registrar’s Office together with the required evidence, i.e.:
- elite sportsperson (official certificate from your Swiss sports federation, together with training and competition schedule)
- musician (official certificate from the Conservatoire de Musique stating the number of hours devoted to music lessons)
- disabled student (medical certificate stating why you need an adapted study schedule)

Teaching Languages
There are four official languages in Switzerland: French, German, Italian and Romansh. Although a number of persons understand English, the official language in Canton Vaud is French. French is the official language for legal texts at EPFL. Teaching is partly in French and partly in English depending on course levels.
C 1
When and How to Register at EPFL

Cours de Mathématiques Spéciales “CMS” and Bachelor

Registration deadline: mid-January to end of April

Registration form: to be filled in online on http://futuretudiant.epfl.ch/

All applications – even if incomplete – must reach EPFL by end of April. They may, however, be completed with the latest results obtained until 15 July latest.

Master

Registration deadline: early November to 15 January and 15 January to 15 April.

The application form is totally online and must imperatively be validated before the deadline.

Access to the online application form on the next page: http://futuretudiant.epfl.ch/

N.B.: Although the Admission Committee for Master programmes meets twice a year, the start of the academic year is only once a year in mid September.

Polymaths

Registration deadline: 1 December

Registration form to be printed from the following link: http://polymaths.epfl.ch/

When submitting your application, please attach all documents required in the admission procedure. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed by our Admission Committee.

C 2
Transfer from another University

Candidates registered with another Swiss University or University of Applied Sciences may apply for a transfer of their registration to EPFL until the end of September. However, transfer will only be accepted provided that the applicant meets the EPFL’s own admission criteria.

Transfer applications should be sent to the Student Services Hotline by e-mail to student.services@epfl.ch

Students no longer entitled to pursue their studies in a Swiss University or University of Applied Sciences may not be admitted to EPFL in the same programme.

C 3
Admission to the Preparatory Special Mathematics Course – “CMS”

Acknowledged Swiss certificates (“maturité”)

The holders of a “maturité” acknowledged by the “commission suisse de maturité” and eligible for 1st-year admission may request admission to the CMS.

For these students, succeeding in the CMS is not compulsory, although they will only be entitled to start the spring semester if they have obtained a minimum average grade of 3.5 at the end of the autumn semester.
HES Bachelors

The holders of an HES Bachelor are eligible for admission to the 1st year of any EPFL programme.

Foreign applicants with a foreign diploma

Applications by foreign students holding a foreign diploma are dealt with by our Admission Committee, which decides whether or not a student may be admitted to EPFL. However, the holders of a “baccalauréat” (or equivalent) from an EU or EFTA member state with an average grade (weighted by applicable coefficients) of 70% or over in the following subjects: Mathematics, Natural Science (Physics or Chemistry or Biology), the baccalauréat teaching language and another modern language, are admitted into 1st year without an exam.

Entrance exam

Applicants who do not meet the 1st-year admission requirements must pass an entrance exam to start Bachelor studies. This exam may be prepared at EPFL within the Special Mathematics Course (CMS). However, there are a restricted number of spaces. Students who do not qualify for the CMS may also turn to private schools to prepare this entrance exam.

The terms of the entrance exam are set in the “ordonnance d’admission à l’EPFL” http://polylex.epfl.ch/page69733.html

The entrance exam schedule may be obtained on the following webpage: http://sac.epfl.ch/page9617.html. Registration by emailing student.services@epfl.ch

Registration deadline: 15 January to 31 May.

Entrance exam fees are set out on http://sac.epfl.ch/page32164-fr.html

C4

Admission to 1st Year Bachelor

Swiss certificates (“maturités”)

The holders of a “maturité” acknowledged by the “commission suisse de maturité” are eligible for 1st-year admission.

Swiss certificates not acknowledged (“maturité professionnelle”, “maturité commerciale”, “diplôme de culture générale”, etc.)

The holders of a “maturité” not acknowledged by the “commission suisse de maturité” are eligible for the CMS and will be required to pass an admission exam at the end of the CMS to be admitted to 1st-year courses.

Swiss nationals with a foreign “baccalauréat”

Swiss national holders of a foreign baccalauréat are admitted automatically to the CMS.

Foreign applicants with a foreign diploma

Applications by foreign students holding a foreign diploma are dealt with by our Admission Committee, which decides whether or not a student may be admitted to the CMS. Admission requirements by country are available from the http://sac.epfl.ch page - link on “Admission requirements at EPFL”. You are advised to check these out as they may change from one year to the next.

Entrance exam

Applicants having passed the entrance exam to EPFL or ETHZ are admitted into 1st year.

The Cours de Mathématiques Spéciales “CMS” prepares students for this exam. However, admission to the CMS is on personal record (see section C3 on “Admission to the Preparatory Special Mathematics Course”).

Admission requirements by country are available from the http://sac.epfl.ch page - link on “Admission requirements at EPFL”.

Swiss nationals with a foreign “baccalauréat”

Swiss national holders of a foreign baccalauréat are admitted automatically to the CMS.
C 5
**Admission Requirements for Master Programmes**

**Bachelors from EPFL**
Students with an EPFL Bachelor are automatically admitted to the Master programme in the same field of study without having to apply again. However, if they aim at an EPFL Master in another subject, they should apply online within the set deadline and follow the relevant application procedure.

Registrations on: [http://master.epfl.ch/page43275.html](http://master.epfl.ch/page43275.html)

**Bachelors from another Swiss or Cluster network university**
Students with a Bachelor from another Swiss university are automatically admitted to the Master Programme linked to their Bachelor studies, although specific conditions may apply (validate additional credits). However, such students should apply online within the set deadline and follow the relevant application procedure.

**Foreign Bachelors**
The holders of a foreign Bachelor should apply online within the set deadline and follow the relevant application procedure. An Admission Committee reviews all complete applications. Only students with an excellent academic record and references can be accepted.

For further information: [http://master.epfl.ch](http://master.epfl.ch)

C 6
**Admission Requirements for HES Graduates**
Provided that they apply for the same field of study as their diploma or Bachelor, the holders of an HES Bachelor may be accepted for an EPFL Master programme subject to certain conditions.

For further information, please look up [http://bachelor.epfl.ch/page28394.html](http://bachelor.epfl.ch/page28394.html)

C 7
**Polymaths Admission Requirements**
The holders of a Swiss “maturité” or students already registered in a 1st-year EPFL programme may register for Polymaths (see chapter B1) by following the official application procedure.

Access to Polymaths is on personal record as the number of places is restricted (to 80 students). If the number of applicants exceeds this limit, the CMS management will select applicants.

In addition to their school record, major emphasis will be put on the candidates’ motivation. The final decision rests with the CMS and will be notified latest by mid January.

For further information: [http://cms.epfl.ch/polymaths/index.html](http://cms.epfl.ch/polymaths/index.html)

C 8
**Admission Requirements for Students from French Preparatory Courses (CPGE)**
Applicants from preparatory science classes in the higher mathematics (MPSI, PCSI, PTSI, TSI) or special mathematics (MP, PC, PSI, PT, TSI) channels may submit an application file for admission to a higher year. These files are dealt with in a very selective way. Only students from a top preparatory school with excellent results are accepted and an interview may be required.

For further information: [http://bachelor.epfl.ch/page30704.html](http://bachelor.epfl.ch/page30704.html)

EPFL guarantees admission in 3rd year without any exam in certain study programme to students who have successfully passed the entrance exam from the ENS Lyon.

For further information: [http://bachelor.epfl.ch/page37260.html](http://bachelor.epfl.ch/page37260.html)

C 9
**Exchange - Mobility**
The EPFL Student Affairs Department – more precisely the Student Exchange Office – is in charge of promoting and organising student exchange programmes. It offers academic exchange opportunities to 3rd year Bachelor and 1st year Master students and for Master projects in the framework of the Erasmus European programme as well as based on agreements signed with over 120 partners throughout the world: [http://sae.epfl.ch/page21890.html](http://sae.epfl.ch/page21890.html)

This department is also in charge of welcoming over 400 exchange students per annum from our worldwide partners. To be accepted as an exchange student at EPFL, you must be selected by your home university and announced as such to the EPFL Student Exchange Office: [http://sae.epfl.ch/page23143.html](http://sae.epfl.ch/page23143.html)
D 2
School of Continuing Education
Full details about each course are online on http://continuing-education.epfl.ch directly under each continuing education programme.

D 3
Career Center
The Career Center is a bridge between EPFL and working life.
As such it has a dual role: to provide academic guidance and to support integration into working life at the end of your studies.
In order to help you to be prepared for your working life, the Career Center offers individual sessions and a range of courses on vocational integration and the development of useful skills for working life. Various workshops on career opportunities for engineers are also organised and usually moderated by EPFL Alumni with active careers.
For further information: http://carriere.epfl.ch

D 1
Doctoral School
The PhD in Science – the ultimate degree awarded by EPFL – is generally granted after 4 years of research further to graduate studies for a Master, an engineer’s diploma or equivalent degree (see below). Doctoral theses are often completed in conjunction with paid employment as a PhD Assistant in an EPFL lab or institute.
The Doctoral School offers a wide range of high-level courses providing the necessary credits to obtain a PhD.
Information about doctoral studies is provided on http://phd.epfl.ch/page55499-en.html
The application form and registration procedures for PhD studies are on http://phd.epfl.ch/page58053-en.html

C 10
Welcoming Events
Various welcoming activities are organised in the weeks prior to the start of the academic year.
A Welcome Day for all new students on the Friday before the start of term in September. As this enables you to gather important information about your studies and to meet your future lecturers, you are required to attend. The programme is set out on http://sae.epfl.ch/page23580.html

How to be a successful student: during the week before courses start, EPFL offers a range of workshops to prepare you for polytechnic education and to learn “Le métier d’étudiant” : http://sae.epfl.ch/page30919.html

Integration Week, extremely useful to establish contacts, is organised in the week prior to the start of term in September by the executive committee of AGEPOLY, the EPFL student association: http://agepoly.epfl.ch/
Click on the link “semaine d’intégration”
(See also section I9 “Associations”)

Welcoming Programme for foreign students: http://sae.epfl.ch/page21671.html
Visa and Residence permit

Visa
For nationals of an EU country
No visa needed to enter Switzerland, so no administrative steps to be taken from abroad.

For nationals of non-EU countries
A visa is compulsory and must be applied for from the “Swiss representation” (embassy or consulate) closest to your home abroad.

The visa application must be submitted at least 3 months prior to the start of your study curriculum by means of the appropriate “visa application form”. In order to improve the effectiveness and the speed of the process, it is required to join to the visa application file the following document: “Application for a Temporary Residence Permit for Study Purposes in the Canton of Vaud”

Site for general information on entry into Switzerland: www.population.vd.ch.

All documents on our website: http://sae.epfl.ch/visa

Residence permit
You have to register with the residents’ office (“contrôle des habitants”) of your commune of residence within 14 days of your arrival in Switzerland.

For conferated people coming from another canton, this process has to be also followed.

For other communes, you will find the address of the residents’ office on the following page: www.ucv.ch select “annuaire des communes”. You should submit the following documents:

- Passport
- EPFL enrolment certificate (which you can print as soon as you are registered)
- ERASMUS grant certificate (if applicable)
- 3 passport photos
- 1 document proving that you have sufficient funds (minimum CHF 1,600 per month) to cover your stay in Switzerland (letter from your parents, bank statement, grant, etc.).
**E 2**

**Working in Switzerland**

The **police cantonale des étrangers** authorise EU students to work as from the start of their studies at EPFL. They may work maximum 15 hours per week during semesters and full-time during the academic holiday.

Non-EU students are not allowed to work during the first six months of their stay in Switzerland, after which they may work maximum 15 hours per week during semesters and full-time during the academic holiday.

For all regular paid work, students holding a B permit must ask their future employer to fill in and sign a form for employment (**form 1350 for Canton Vaud**). They should then have this document endorsed by the Student Services Hotline.

The form is available on:

www.vd.ch/fr/themes/vie-privee/etrangers/entree-et-sejour/formulaires/

Failure to comply with these rules may result in refusal to extend the residence permit.

For further information

http://sae.epfl.ch/travail

---

**Tax at source refunds**

Foreign students working in a company are subject to social deductions and tax deducted at source. The latter can be reclaimed in December of each year provided that the student’s annual income is under CHF 8,000.

For Canton Vaud, applications for refunds should be submitted in writing to the address below, together with:

- employers’ certificates for the given tax year
- copy of the residence permit
- copy of the EPFL registration certificate
- your bank or postal account number for reimbursement

Administration cantonale vaudoise des impôts (**Impôts à la source**)

Route de Berne 46
CH - 1014 Lausanne
Tel. +41 (0)21 316 21 21
F 1

Tuition Fees
The amounts below are subject to changes by the Board of Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology (ETH Board).

Bachelor and Master studies
At the beginning of each semester, you will receive an invoice by post for tuition fees, currently CHF 633 per semester. In addition, as a new student, you should pay a registration tax (CHF 50 for the holders of a Swiss certificate and CHF 110 for foreign certificates) at the beginning of your 1st semester at EPFL. Exceptionally and as a last resort only, any student with insufficient means to pay his/her tuition fees and related taxes may apply for assistance from the Fondation des Etudiants de l’EPFL. The application should be submitted to the EPFL Social Service by 1 September of each year. You may make an appointment by e-mail to student.services@epfl.ch or by phone on +41 (0)21 693 43 45.

For further information about social grants awarded by the Fondation des Etudiants de l’EPFL please refer to the ”directive concernant l’attribution des bourses d’études par l’Ecole Polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne” on http://polylex.epfl.ch/page69734.html

Exchange students are exempted from tuition fees and taxes at EPFL provided that an agreement exists with their home university.

F 2

Study Grants
Swiss nationals and residents
Swiss and foreign students residing in Switzerland should apply, before they start their studies, to the grant office of the canton of their parents’ domicile. The office may award a grant based on a scale taking income and family situation into account. The addresses of the cantonal grant offices are listed on http://sae.epfl.ch/page22148.html

PhD
No fees are charged during the period of thesis preparation. The candidate does, however, have to pay a tax of CHF 1200 to sit the oral thesis examination. In exceptional situations, a request for exemption from payment of this tax may be submitted to the EPFL Social Service, which decides on a case-by-case basis.

Continuing Education
Registration fees, which vary depending on the chosen programme, are listed on http://continuing-education.epfl.ch

For further information about social grants awarded by the Fondation des Etudiants de l’EPFL please refer to the “directive concernant l’attribution des bourses d’études par l’Ecole Polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne” on http://polylex.epfl.ch/page69734.html

Exchange students are exempted from tuition fees and taxes at EPFL provided that an agreement exists with their home university.
Private foundations
The list and terms for eligibility are set out on http://sae.epfl.ch/page21665.html

Cost of Living
The cost of living is high in Switzerland and you are strongly advised to prepare a budget in advance of your studies. Amounts may naturally vary according to your consumption habits. However, be prepared to spend more money at the start of your stay.

A typical annual budget is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition and supplies</td>
<td>CHF 2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation</td>
<td>CHF 7,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>CHF 7,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothes and personal items</td>
<td>CHF 2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance, transport, misc.</td>
<td>CHF 3,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>CHF 22,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Housing

G1

**Student Halls**
The Fondation maison pour étudiants Lausanne (FMEL) manages 7 residences with accommodation (rooms and studio flats) for EPFL and Lausanne University students only. The monthly rent for a room is from CHF 450 to CHF 526 *, and from CHF 610 to CHF 665 * for studios, depending on the building. Applications for a room can be made online.

Les Estudiantines - brand new halls of residence on campus - offer 330 accommodation units (studios and furnished rooms) available to EPFL students as a priority. Monthly rent for a room from CHF 570 *, and from CHF 670 * for a studio. There are other student halls.

For further information:
http://logement.epfl.ch

**Studio flats and apartments**
Apartments and studio flats are essentially managed by estate agents. Financial guarantees are required and an amount equal to 3 months' rent should be deposited before moving in (see rental guarantee below).

As flats are usually unfurnished, an amount of about CHF 2,500 should be foreseen to purchase new furniture and equipment.

For further information:
http://sae.epfl.ch/page21797.html

**Rental guarantee**
The EPFL and SwissCaution have formed an exclusive partnership allowing you to provide rental guarantee without a bank deposit under particularly reasonable terms.

For further information:
http://logement.epfl.ch

**Emergency accommodation**
If you arrive in Lausanne without a place to stay, Lausanne Tourisme (office at Lausanne train station) provides hotel addresses.

For further information:
http://logement.epfl.ch

**Offering accommodation**
Looking for a flatmate, to sublet your apartment or to find a new tenant for your studio flat? Use our housing database to place an ad.

For further information:
http://logement.epfl.ch

*prices subject to change
Health & Support

H1
HELP Support & Prevention
Students needing psychological, social or health support during their studies may contact the HELP network at all times.
The HELP network offers several services to promote the quality of human relationships on campus and to support students in various fields: psychotherapeutic consultation, individual interviews in case of personal or economic problems, mediation and individual support, coaching, chaplaincy, health at work, equal opportunities office, etc.
All HELP network services are provided in strictest confidence.
For further information: http://help.epfl.ch

H2
Health & Accident Insurance
Health and accident insurance is compulsory in Switzerland and all foreign students must have insurance approved by the Swiss authorities: http://sae.epfl.ch/assurances. In certain cases, provided that the foreign health and accident cover is equivalent to that foreseen under Swiss law, students may ask to keep their foreign insurance. They should apply to the cantonal supervisory body as follows:
Organe Cantonal de Contrôle de l’assurance maladie et accidents
Ch. de Mornex 40
CH - 1014 Lausanne
Tel. +41 (0)21 557 47 47
Fax +41 (0) 21 557 47 50
E-mail: info.occ@vd.ch
www.vd.ch/occ

Students from EU countries are entitled to an exemption from the obligation to use Swiss insurers provided that they submit their European Health Insurance Card to the same Organe Cantonal de Contrôle de l’assurance maladie et accidents.
For further information: http://sae.epfl.ch/page21808.html

H3
Health
Healthcare
Students in need of medical care can go to the closest medical centre or to the University Hospital CHUV. The list of hospitals, medical centres and emergency services is given on http://sae.epfl.ch/sante
On the campus two nurses look after the HealthPoint. You can contact them by phone +41 (0)21 693 20 02 or by email HealthPoint@epfl.ch
For further information: http://healthpoint.epfl.ch/

Dental care
Swiss health insurance does not cover dentists’ bills. It is best to arrive in Switzerland with healthy teeth as dentists can be extremely expensive. You are advised to ask for an estimate before having treatment.
The list of dental care centres is on http://sae.epfl.ch/sante
**Disabled Students**
The EPFL is determined to make the life and integration of disabled persons easier. You may request an adapted study plan from the Student Affairs Department. In addition, the EPFL Website provides many useful contacts on campus and beyond for help on access, transport, leisure, adapted housing, travel in Switzerland and abroad, home help and care and legal issues. For further information: http://sae.epfl.ch/handicapes

---

**Psychological distress**
Students needing psychiatric or psychotherapeutic support may make an appointment with a specialised psychiatrist subject to medical privilege. Consultations take place on campus and you should make an appointment by contacting the Student Affairs Department, BP 1 242, Tel. +41 (0)21 693 22 82 http://sae.epfl.ch/page35894.html

**Medicines**
Prescription drugs must be purchased at a chemist’s.

---

**Medical Emergencies**
Call 144 for the medical emergency centre serving the whole canton of Vaud.

**Medical and surgery emergencies**
CHUV University Hospital (Centre hospitalier universitaire du canton de Vaud)
Rue du Bugnon 46
CH - 1011 Lausanne
Surgery:
Tel. +41 (0)21 314 38 77
Medicine:
Tel. +41 (0)21 314 38 78

**Centre for doctors and dentists on 24h duty (Lausanne)**
Tel. 0848 133 133

**Treatment centre for poison cases (Zurich)**
Call 145

**Psychiatric help (Service de psychiatrie et de liaison - SPL)**
Policlinique médicale
Universitaire
Rue du Bugnon 44
CH - 1011 Lausanne
Tel. +41 (0)21 314 61 04 (24/7)

**Psychiatric emergencies**
Please call the centre for doctors on duty.

---

**Old age and survivors insurance (AVS)**
According to AVS law, Swiss and foreign students holding a C permit must subscribe for AVS if they do not have any gainful employment. This contribution applies from 1 January of the year following that in which the student reaches the age of 20.

Students must pay an annual subscription by means of a payment slip provided by the *Agence communale des assurances sociales* in Lausanne, even if they do not live in Lausanne. For students who work, AVS contributions during each period of employment are deducted from the annual subscription.

**Service des assurances sociales**
Cotisations et prestations AVS/AI/APG
Place Chauderon 7
1003 Lausanne
Tel. +41 (0)21 315 11 11

For further information: http://sae.epfl.ch/assurances
## Campus Life

### Getting to EPFL

#### Metro

The M1 line takes you to the EPFL stop in 15 minutes from central Lausanne (Flon stop) or 7 minutes from Renens train station (ticket valid for 1 zone – 1 hour).

For further information: www.epfl.ch/tsol/

#### Bus

Several bus lines stop at EPFL.

- TL (*Transports publics de la région lausannoise*): www.t-l.ch/
- TP (*Transports publics morgiens*): www.mbc.ch/index.html

No 33 (from Mont-Goulin/Prilly)

No 1 and No 5 (from Denges)

Students using the bus and metro in Lausanne are advised to purchase a monthly pass at student rates. Information on rates, timetables and destinations can be obtained from the Flon station or by telephone on 0900 564 900.

For further information: http://information.epfl.ch/page14498-en.html

http://sae.epfl.ch/page21845-en.html

### By car

Follow the “Lausanne-Sud” direction on the motorway and take the “EPFL” exit (*about 5 minutes from the motorway exit*).

### Restaurants

There are several restaurants and cafeterias on the EPFL campus. For the menus and opening times please look up [http://restauration.epfl.ch/](http://restauration.epfl.ch/)

Meals are usually served Monday to Friday from 11.30h to 14.00h and 18.00h to 20.00h.

Students who pay with their CAMIPRO badge – which doubles up an electronic purse – get a discount. You can load your CAMIPRO badge at the AGEPoly shop, at the Information desk and in the IN, CM and CE buildings.

**Note** that if your badge does not have sufficient cash, your meal will be charged at full price. You cannot pay part with your card and part in cash, so make sure the balance on your badge is sufficient.

### Parking

Car parks are available to students on the EPFL site by purchasing a monthly or yearly parking permit from the “Accueil-information” office located on the Esplanade.

Parking permits may be bought at any time, even after the start of term.

However, you are advised to opt for public transport as parking spaces are limited. Your parking permit does not guarantee a free space.

For further information: [http://dii.epfl.ch/page30200.html](http://dii.epfl.ch/page30200.html)
The Career Center offers a range of courses you can attend along your whole academic cursus focused on the development of useful skills for working life such as “soft skills” and to determine the business field in which you will be able to work once you have graduated.

For further information: [http://carriere.epfl.ch](http://carriere.epfl.ch) (see Chapter D3 “Career Center”)

I 4

Shops
Various shops and services are available on campus:
- Post office
- CFF train ticket shop
- “La Fontaine” bookshop
- “Le Négoce” grocery store
- Bank Credit Suisse
- “Tech Travel” travel agency
- Les Presses Polytechniques Universitaires Romandes (university publishers)

For further information: [http://information.epfl.ch/page14481.html](http://information.epfl.ch/page14481.html)

I 5

Child Care
There are two day-care centres on the EPFL campus: La Croquignole and Le Polychinelle.

As the number of places is limited you are advised to register as soon as possible or even to put your name down on the waiting list. Do also contact your commune of residence for information on childcare facilities and a list of daycare providers (“mamans de jour”).


I 6

Library
Situated in the Rolex Learning Center, the mission of the EPFL Library is to help you to succeed in your studies and personal projects. In short, the EPFL library:
- provides scientific and technical information and documents in the EPFL’s education and research fields.
- offers EPFL students the appropriate tools and methods to conduct documentary research independently.
- is a place of work, study, documentation and meetings for the EPFL community.

For further information: [http://library.epfl.ch](http://library.epfl.ch)

I 7

Career Center
The Career Center is a bridge between EPFL and working life.

As such it has a dual role: to provide academic guidance and to support integration into working life at the end of your studies.

Academic / career advisors are available should you have questions or doubts about your studies and to take stock of your situation. Individual interviews are made on appointment.

Please contact the Student services desk by phone on +41 (0)21 693 43 45 or by e-mail to student.services@epfl.ch

I 8

Language Centre
In order to promote the development of the necessary multilingual skills for students to communicate across cultures, the EPFL Language Centre offers various possibilities to learn the following languages: English, French, German and Italian.

Various types of training are offered during and between terms with modules for integrated skills, specific skills for academic and vocational requirements, external exam options, intensive and semi-intensive, self-learning in the multimedia centre (with or without support) and tandem with or without tutorial support.

Intensive French courses are specifically dedicated to new, non French-speaking students before the start of the academic year. These courses are aimed at exchange students (ERASMUS) and students starting a Master course.

Courses are free of charge and restricted to members of the EPFL community (French courses for spouses for a fee).

Please register online on [http://langues.epfl.ch](http://langues.epfl.ch)
Associations

Student Associations

There are over 60 student associations on the EPFL campus, dedicated to all sorts of sports, board or network games, organising acclaimed festivals, acting, singing or playing an instrument or shaping your career... These associations help new students to settle in at EPFL. Please look up the site http://associations.epfl.ch/ to give your studies added meaning! You will also find all necessary information should you wish to establish a new association.

AGEPoly

AGEPoly is the EPFL student association. It represents the interests of all registered students and promotes them vis-à-vis the EPFL management via committees in charge of making decisions affecting life on campus. AGEPoly enables students to:

- join into campus community life
- make the most of the entertainment activities organised by the association and through its committees (see http://agepoly.epfl.ch/agepoly/page/commissions)
- enjoy benefits negotiated by the students for the students
- purchase EPFL branded items, photocopy cards and many other goodies from the association boutique

Culture on Campus

There are special offers for students in the field of artistic creation – theatre, dance, movies, museums, modern and classical music. Please look up http://culture.epfl.ch

University Sports Centre

For a better lifestyle or just to do yourself some good while having fun, this exceptional site offers 85 sports to choose from, in cooperation with over 200 instructors. The University Sports Centre is a joint venture between the two universities in Lausanne – UNIL and EPFL. A leaflet listing all sports, including schedules, is available at the EPFL Student Services desk. This information is also on www.unil.ch/sport

Some sports disciplines can be practiced at competition level within the University club. For further information please contact the sports department: sports@unil.ch

Subscribe to the newsletter will keep you informed of special offers: culture@epfl.ch
**J 1**

**Social Life in Lausanne**  
The city of Lausanne – the Olympic capital – attracts thousands of tourists every year from all over the world to visit the historic buildings of the town’s rich heritage.

There are also a number of concert halls, a dense museum network, music festivals, renowned sport events, great restaurants, discos and many other places for your entertainment. Please look up the offer on the site of the Lausanne Tourist Office:  
www.Lausanne.ch

If you are into movies please look up the programme in Lausanne on http://Lausanne.cine.ch

And the local cultural agenda:  
www.tempslibre.ch

**Winter sports** such as downhill or cross-country skiing, ski mountaineering, snowshoeing, ice skating and ice hockey are extremely popular in Switzerland and Lausanne has several ice rinks. A number of ski resorts are less than an hour away.

**Summer sports** - nautical sports, mountain hiking or climbing, cycling - find an ideal home in Lausanne and the surrounding area.

**J 2**

**Integration – Local Customs**  
Switzerland is very unusual in that its various language regions have close relationships with their immediate neighbours as they share a language and culture. Thus the French-speaking area ("Romandie") has close ties to France, the German-speaking area to Germany and the Ticino to Italy.

To help you fit in we recommend the following links and books:

- www.swissworld.org
- www.survivalbooks.net
- www.myswitzerland.com
- http://studying.epfl.ch

EPFL has set up a coaching programme to help new students to fit in by taking advice from a more experienced student:

http://coaching.epfl.ch

**J 3**

**Shops & Second-Hand Stores**  
Most shops are open from 08.30h to 18.30h except on Saturdays where closing time is earlier. Except in train stations and airports shops are closed on Sundays.

Most Swiss cities have a fruit and vegetable street market twice a week.

A list of second-hand stores is provided on http://sae.epfl.ch/achats
**J 4 Post & Mail**
Post offices are generally open from 07.30h to 18.00h Monday to Friday and 08.00h to 11.00h on Saturdays. There is a post office on the EPFL campus: [http://information.epfl.ch/page14481.html](http://information.epfl.ch/page14481.html)

Mail can either be sent by “A” post (delivered on the following day) or “B” post (which takes 3-4 days).

Post offices also offer other services – telephone, Fax, money transfers, debit card for shopping. You can also open a postal account to manage your funds and pay your bills.

Further information on [www.poste.ch](http://www.poste.ch)

**J 5 Telephone**
Coin payphones are fast disappearing and have been replaced with payphones operating with phone cards – for sale in post offices or newsagents.

For calls in Switzerland please dial 0, then the area code (21 for Lausanne) and a seven-digit number for your correspondent.

To call abroad from Switzerland please dial 00 followed by the international code, area code, and your correspondent’s phone number.

The Swiss phone directory is on [www.directories.ch](http://www.directories.ch)

To purchase a mobile phone please contact one of the mobile network operators.

**J 6 Electricity**
The standard voltage in Switzerland is 220V. Standard sockets are for three-pin plugs:

Transformers and adapters can be purchased from electronics stores, supermarkets or DIY stores.

**J 7 Banking**
You may open a bank account in Switzerland by submitting ID and your residence permit. There is a bank on the EPFL campus and another at Lausanne University: [http://information.epfl.ch/page14481.html](http://information.epfl.ch/page14481.html)

Bank cards/debit cards are widely used for cash withdrawals and accepted for payment in most shops.

**Swiss currency**
The Swiss currency unit is the Swiss Franc (abbreviated CHF or simply Fr.)

Coins come in 5, 10, 20, and 50 centimes and 1, 2 and 5 franc pieces.

Banknotes come in denominations of CHF 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, and 1000.

**J 8 Transport**
Switzerland has a highly developed public transport network.

**Train (CFF)**
Train fares are relatively high in Switzerland. You are advised to purchase a half-fare card which enables you to buy train and boat tickets at half price.

Youngsters under 25 with a half-fare card are also entitled to the additional “Track 7” (Voie 7) offer, enabling them to take the train free of charge from 19.00h onwards ([http://mct.sbb.ch/mct/en/reisemarkt/abonnemente/gleis7.htm](http://mct.sbb.ch/mct/en/reisemarkt/abonnemente/gleis7.htm)). There is a CFF ticket shop at EPFL on the Esplanade.

For further information: [www.cff.ch](http://www.cff.ch)

**Bus & Metro (TL)**
The public transport network in the Lausanne area is highly developed. It is divided into several zones and the ticket or season ticket price is based on the number of zones selected: [www.mobilis-vaud.ch/index.php/tarifs/abonnements](http://www.mobilis-vaud.ch/index.php/tarifs/abonnements)

Tickets can be bought from automatic ticket dispensers at the bus/metro stop, and monthly or yearly season tickets from several points of sale (see [www.t-l.ch/sans-image/points-de-vente-tl.html](http://www.t-l.ch/sans-image/points-de-vente-tl.html)).

During the week bus services stop around midnight. On weekends a late service is foreseen (see [www.service-pyjama.ch](http://www.service-pyjama.ch))

For further information: [www.t-l.ch](http://www.t-l.ch)
The “Mobility Car Sharing” service enables members to have access to a car 24h a day. EPFL cooperates with this service and there are several “Mobility” cars available on campus as well as in over 400 cities in Switzerland.

For further information:
http://sgi.epfl.ch/page51275.html and www.mobility.ch

Cycling
To promote eco-mobility on campus, the EPFL provides a “bike point” service enabling you to hire, purchase or repair a bike or electric bike at low cost. For further information:
http://dii.epfl.ch/page30208.html

Driving
The legal age to learn to drive in Switzerland is 18. Holders of a valid foreign driving licence can drive in Switzerland for maximum 12 months, then have to apply for a Swiss licence: www.san.vd.ch

The speed limits in Switzerland are 120km/h on the motorway, 80 km/h on other roads and vary from 30 to 50km/h in towns and villages. Traffic in town is very dense, radar checks are frequent at major crossroads and parking is for a short time only. You are therefore advised to opt for public transport. As for parking at EPFL please refer to the relevant section in the “Campus Life” chapter.

Travel agency
The travel agent on the EPFL Esplanade offers attractive rates.
Useful Addresses

Foreign Embassies in Switzerland
The addresses and phone numbers of foreign representations in Switzerland are given in the link below: www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/reps/forep.html

Emergency Numbers
• Emergencies at EPFL: dial 115 (extension) or 021 693 30 00 (from a mobile phone)
• Police - dial 117
• Fire - dial 118
• Doctor/Ambulance - dial 144
• CHUV - University Hospital, Lausanne, Rue du Bugnon 46 Tel. +41 (0)21 314 11 11 www.chuv.ch
• Morges Hospital, Morges, Ch. du Crêt 2 Tel. +41 (0)21 804 22 11 www.ehc-vd.ch

Student Services Hotline
The Student Services Hotline is the focal point for all academic queries. The desk is open daily from 09.00h to 18.00h during term (shorter office hours in summer) and located in the BP building hallway. You may also call the hotline on +41 (0) 21 693 43 45 or e-mail student.services@epfl.ch.
Your query will be answered immediately or, if necessary, an appointment will be made with the appropriate specialised staff in Student Services. You will also find many answers to your academic queries in the Student Guide: http://studying.epfl.ch/
For further information: http://formation.epfl.ch/page25189-en.html

Swiss Embassies Abroad
The link below provides the list of Swiss embassies abroad. Please contact them for any query relating to visa and permit applications. www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/reps.html
K 5

Insurance – Cantonal Supervisory Body
Organe cantonal de contrôle
Chemin de Mornex 40
CH - 1014 Lausanne
Tel. +41 (0)21 557 47 47
Fax +41 (0)21 557 47 50
E-mail : info.occ@vd.ch

Further information (French only) : www.vd.ch/en/themes/sante-social/assurances-sociales/contact

K 6

Useful Addresses & Links at EPFL

Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne - EPFL
Station 1
CH - 1015 Lausanne
Tel. +41 (0)21 693 11 11
Fax +41 (0)21 693 43 80
www.epfl.ch

Student Services
EPFL AA-DAF
BP 1229 (Bâtiment BP)
Station 16
CH - 1015 Lausanne
Tel. +41 (0)21 693 43 45
Fax +41 (0)21 693 30 88
student.services@epfl.ch
http://formation.epfl.ch/page25189-fr.html

Health Point
Tel. +41 (0)21 693 20 02
HealthPoint@epfl.ch
http://healthpoint.epfl.ch

Language Centre
CE 2445 (Bâtiment CE)
Case postale 117
CH - 1015 Lausanne
Tel. +41 (0)21 693 22 89
Fax +41 (0)21 693 22 60
http://langues.epfl.ch/

AGEPoly Student Association
CP120 - Esplanade 13
CH - 1015 Lausanne
Tel. +41 (0)21 693 20 95
Fax +41 (0)21 693 20 97
E-mail : agepoly@epfl.ch
http://agepoly.epfl.ch/agepoly/

K 7

Useful services

Lausanne Tourisme
Tel. +41 (0)21 613 73 73
www.Lausanne-tourisme.ch

Lausanne public transport (TL)
www.t-l.ch

Train timetable
www.cff.ch

Taxi Services
Tel. 0800 810 810 or
Taxiphone 0800 801 802 or
Allo Taxi 0800 870 872

Directory
www.directories.ch

Weather
www.meteosuisse.ch

Info on Switzerland
www.swissworld.org/en
Check-List

L 1
Before you leave for Switzerland
If you come from abroad and are not a Swiss national, make sure you have (done) the following:
- Passport or ID card
- Visa (non-EU citizens)
- European Health Insurance Card (EU-EFTA)
- Letter from your foreign health/accident insurance confirming coverage of your medical costs in Switzerland (for non-EU students)
- Letter from your third-party (liability) insurance if you have one
- Acceptance letter from EPFL
- Booked a hotel or lodgings for the first few days
- Copy of your lease if you have rented a room for your stay
- A few passport photos
- Registered online for the intensive French course or other language courses: [http://langues.epfl.ch](http://langues.epfl.ch)

L 2
Upon arrival in Switzerland
If you are a new Bachelor or Master student:
- Introduce yourself during registration week (except for exchange students)
- Register with the residents’ office of your commune
- Send a copy of your European health insurance card to the cantonal supervisory body if you do not have Swiss insurance
- Register online for the courses (and architecture studios) for the term to come within the set deadlines.

If you are an exchange student:
- Go to the Information session for Exchange students to collect your student card and the useful information for the beginning of your studies
- Register with the residents’ office of your commune
- Check your choice of courses and related schedules
- Register online for the courses (and architecture studios) for the term to come within the set deadlines
- Contact your programme’s Exchange Coordinator with any academic queries
- Contact the professor in charge of supervising your Master project if applicable
- Contact the Xchange association

L 3
During your studies
At the start of each term
- Validate the academic registration form
- Print your enrolment certificate (for family allowances, applications for residence permits, etc.)
- Register online for course, projects and studios
- Pay your tuition fees for the term (invoice mailed to your address for the term)

During term
- Fill in the course assessment forms
- Possibility of withdrawing from certain exams (Cf. academic calendar)