

University of Lausanne - Factsheet 2025-2026

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of the Institution	Université de Lausanne / University of Lausanne	
Address	Unicentre UNIL-Centre CH-1015 Lausanne Switzerland	www.unil.ch Phone: +41 21 692 11 11
Rector	Prof. Frédéric HERMAN	

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

International Relations Office	The International Relations Office draws up and implements exchange agreements.	
Address	International Relations Office Château de Dorigny UNIL-Chamberonne CH-1015 Lausanne	www.unil.ch/international International@unil.ch Phone: +41 21 692 20 20 Fax : +41 21 692 20 05
Head of the Office	Dr Denis DAFFLON	Denis.Dafflon@unil.ch + 41 692 20 26
Agreements with Asia, Oceania, and Europe (except SEMP)	Mr Marc PILLOUD	Marc.Pilloud@unil.ch +41 21 692 20 23
Agreements with Africa and Americas	Mr Matthias BUESS	Matthias.Buess@unil.ch +41 21 692 20 21
SEMP agreements (ex-ERASMUS)	Mr Gregor JANCIK	Erasmus@unil.ch +41 21 692 20 24

STUDENT EXCHANGE

Social Affairs and Student Mobility Service (SASME)	The Social Affairs and Student Mobility Service is in charge of all practical issues regarding exchange students.	
Address	Social Affairs and Student Mobility Service (SASME) Unicentre UNIL-Centre CH-1015 Lausanne	www.unil.ch/sasme studentmobility@unil.ch +41 21 692 21 13
Head of the Office	Mr Cédric RYCHEN	Cedric.Rychen@unil.ch +41 21 692 21 14
Contact SEMP exchange students and nominations/applications	Ms Maria VELASCO	Maria.Velasco@unil.ch +41 21 692 21 16
Contact SEMP exchange students in Medicine and nominations/applications	Ms Rachele MONTEFINESE Ms Lucia PALAZZO	mobilite_med@unil.ch +41 21 692 50 18
Contact incoming exchange students and applications outside SEMP	Ms Frédérique AUGER	frederique.auger@unil.ch +41 21 692 60 31
Contact outgoing exchange students and applications outside SEMP	Mr Olivier GOUMOENS	Olivier.Goumoens@unil.ch +41 21 692 21 17
Reception for exchange students	Ms Katarina CHOLLET Ms Frédérique AUGER	studentmobility@unil.ch +41 21 692 21 13

IMPORTANT DATES 2025-2026

Autumn semester

Welcome day for exchange students	11 September 2025 (<i>to be confirmed</i>)
Period of Courses	15 September – 19 December 2025
Christmas Holidays	20 December 2025 – 8 January 2026
Exams *	9 – 31 January 2026

Spring semester

Welcome day for exchange students	13 February 2026 (<i>to be confirmed</i>)
Period of Courses	16 February – 29 May 2026
Easter Holidays	7 April – 10 April 2026
Exams *	8 June – 4 July 2026

* Each Faculty arranges its exam sessions within the period mentioned above

Nomination deadline for SEMP exchange agreements

For the autumn semester	30 April 2025
For the spring semester	15 October 2025
Deadline for Medical Students (autumn and spring semesters)	30 March 2025

Nomination/application deadlines for other exchange agreements

For the autumn semester	Nomination: 15 March 2025, Application: 5 April 2025
For the spring semester	Nomination: 30 September 2025 Application: 15 October 2025

Full academic calendar www.unil.ch/central/calendar

TEACHING LANGUAGE

Most courses are taught in French. **Students' French language skills must be at least equivalent to level B2 of the CEFR.** Students who do not meet this requirement shall enrol in the courses of French as a foreign language (see below).

At Bachelor level, several courses are taught in English at the Faculty of Business and Economics and at the School of Biology. At Master level, programmes taught in English are offered in Geology, Environmental Geosciences, Business, Finance, Economics and English Literature. A PDF list of courses taught in English is available on www.unil.ch/international/studyatunil. **Students wishing to attend these courses must have sound academic skills, and English language skills at least equivalent to the level B2 of the CEFR.**

It is recommended for students wishing to attend courses taught in English to have at least a basic knowledge of French for daily life and social integration.

COURSES IN FRENCH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Le FIL de l'EFLE (intensive courses in French language)

Le FIL de l'EFLE offers 4-week intensive and semi-intensive courses in French language during the summer and winter breaks (A0-C1 levels). It is possible to get 5 ECTS credits for the intensive courses only (special conditions apply). **Students must pay for these courses, unless included in the exchange agreement.**

Address	Le FIL de l'EFLE Anthropole UNIL-Chamberonne CH-1015 Lausanne	www.unil.ch/lefil lefil-admin@unil.ch +41 21 692 30 90
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Ecole de français langue étrangère (School of French as a foreign language)	The School of French as a Foreign Language offers courses in French language during the autumn and spring semesters for beginners to advanced students. Students can freely choose the number of courses they attend and study full-time or part-time, and take content courses in addition. Credits can be obtained. The courses are free of charge for exchange students. In addition, a 3-week course in French as a foreign language is offered free of charge just before the start of the autumn semester. This course is offered only to incoming exchange students staying for the autumn semester.	
Address	EFLE Anthropole UNIL-Chamberonne CH-1015 Lausanne	www.unil.ch/fle efle@unil.ch +41 21 692 30 80
Online learning or testing platforms	www.unil.ch/international/french	

ACADEMIC INFORMATION AND TRANSCRIPTS

Courses not open to exchange students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School of Medicine (except specific SEMP agreements) • Courses of the School of Criminal Justice (except courses of the Master of Law in Criminology and Security; for courses of the Bachelor and Master in Forensic Sciences, a written request must be sent to the Direction of the School). • All MSc offered by the School of Biology • MSc in Accounting, Control and Finance • MSc in Human Taphonomy • Some courses may require specific prerequisites and the approval of the Master programme's director • Executive programmes (EMBA, MAS, etc.) 	
Credits and grades	UNIL uses ECTS credits. The grading scale is from 0 (lowest grade) to 6 (highest grade). Passing grade is 4.	
Course load	We expect our exchange students to complete at least 15 ECTS during their exchange semester at UNIL and recommend that they do not exceed 30 ECTS per semester.	
Transcripts	Bilateral agreements: the original transcript is sent to the exchange office of the partner institution at the end of February for the fall semester and at the end of August for the spring semester. Contact: Ms Frédérique Auger studentmobility@unil.ch (+41 21 692 60 31)	
Info for incoming exchange students	www.unil.ch/international/studyatunil	

HOUSING

University housing office	UNIL cannot guarantee housing for all exchange students. Priority is given to overseas exchange students. University halls of residence are open to bachelor and master students only. Advanced studies and continuing education students (Master of Advanced Studies) have not access to university halls of residence. Students who did not get a room through our office can ask for a room rent list. More info: www.unil.ch/international/comingtolausanne	
Address	Social Affairs and Student Mobility Service (SASME) Unicentre UNIL-Centre CH-1015 Lausanne	Logement@unil.ch +41 21 692 21 13

INSURANCE

Foreign students **must** have a health and accident insurance coverage that complies with Swiss regulations. If a foreign health and accident insurance does not offer the minimum coverage required by Swiss law, the exchange student will have to contract a Swiss health and accident insurance for international students. European students can benefit from the minimum coverage required by Swiss law if they have a European Health Insurance Card. More info: www.unil.ch/international/insurance

IMMIGRATION

Visa

Students should apply to the Swiss diplomatic representation in their own country in order to complete the necessary administrative procedure. It is very important that these formalities are started within the time limits set, i.e. 2 to 3 months before their arrival in Switzerland. Students coming from the countries of the European Union do not have to complete these formalities. **Important:** It is impossible to change a tourist visa into a student permit once the student has arrived in Switzerland. Thus, the exchange student must apply for a national visa (Visa D) designed for a stay of more than 90 days.

Residence permit

Upon arrival in Switzerland, the student must go personally to the Foreign Registration Office (*Bureau des étrangers*) of his/her town of residence.

More information

www.unil.ch/international/comingtolausanne

COST OF LIVING

The cost of living in Lausanne for students all included is around CHF 2,100 per month (incl. accommodation: CHF 700 to 900). More information: www.unil.ch/immat

PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

Services available to exchange students	General advising and support	Ms Frédérique Auger or Ms Maria Velasco studentmobility@unil.ch , +41 21 692 21 13
	Academic counselling	www.unil.ch/international/advisers
	Peer programme	ESN-UNIL: http://unil.esn.ch/
	Life on campus	www.unil.ch/etudiants
	Culture	www.unil.ch/scms/home/menuinst/culture.html
	Sports	http://sport.unil.ch
Student card and Student ID	Each student will receive a student card (Campus card), an ID (username and password), and an email address. www.unil.ch/campuscard	
University Library	www.bcu-lausanne.ch The Campus card is required to borrow a book.	
Recommended arrival dates (arrival date depends from the Housing Contract students receive about one month before the beginning of the semester)	Autumn semester:	First week or beginning of the second week of September
	Spring semester:	Second week of February
Airport pick-up service	The ESN student association can organize pick-up at Geneva airport or Lausanne train station. Contact: esn@asso-unil.ch	

USEFUL WEBSITES

International relations	www.unil.ch/international
Programmes and courses	www.unil.ch/programmes
Information for exchange students	www.unil.ch/international/incoming