

Welcome to Switzerland!

The University of Teacher Education St. Gallen, Switzerland (PHSG, www.phsg.ch), offers a special course of study for future primary and secondary school teachers.

This one-semester study abroad programme especially welcomes teacher education students from our national and international partner institutions. The International Class is a unique opportunity to gain insight and experience in Swiss primary and secondary education while getting to know Swiss culture on a first-hand basis.

We warmly invite you to take part in the PHSG's International Class.



Pädagogische Hochschule des Kantons St. Gallen
International Office, Seminarstrasse 27
CH-9400 Rorschach, Switzerland

Institutional Coordinator / International Office:
Barbara Wolfer, lic.phil. (MA)
E-mail: barbara.wolfer@phsg.ch
Tel.: +41 (0)71 844 18 67 (direct)
+41 (0)71 844 18 18 (administration)
Fax: +41 (0)71 844 18 19

www.phsg.ch

International Class

The Experience of a Lifetime



Pädagogische Hochschule
St. Gallen

University of Teacher Education
St. Gallen · Switzerland



About the Region

The university's historic Mariaberg building is located in the town of Rorschach, around five minutes from the town centre and railway station. Rorschach, with a population of approximately 9,000, enjoys a privileged location directly on the shores of Lake Constance. People come from far and wide to visit the town and stroll along the lakeside promenade. Like other Swiss towns and cities, Rorschach has excellent public transport.

The Hadwig building is located in the city of St. Gallen's attractive 'museum district'. With museums, libraries, the theatre and the concert hall right on the periphery of the town centre, this location offers direct access to a wide variety of the arts and to the vibrant life of central St. Gallen. There is plenty on offer for lovers of culture, including the abbey library (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) and cathedral of St. Gallen, as well as numerous galleries, restaurants, cafes and shops. St. Gallen is an economically important region and its renowned business school, the University of St. Gallen, enjoys an outstanding reputation far beyond the borders of Switzerland.

For more information on regional tourism, please see the following link:
<http://www.st.gallen-bodensee.ch/en>

Exciting, central location:

The surrounding region offers a virtually limitless range of leisure activities, including wonderful recreational areas on Lake Constance, the beautiful mountain scenery of Appenzell and the Graubünden Alps as well as the Alpstein/Säntis massif. The cities of Bregenz, Munich and Zurich are all within easy reach. With its four national languages and language-regions, Switzerland is home to a very unique and rich cultural diversity.



About PHSG

The PHSG employs more than 250 teachers and lecturers who train about 1000 students to be pre-primary, primary and secondary school teachers. The PHSG campus encompasses four sites: in the city of St. Gallen, Rorschach and Gossau. Mariaberg and Stella Maris in Rorschach, and Hadwig in St. Gallen, are buildings of historic importance that offer a unique learning atmosphere.

Our degree programmes:

- Bachelor of Arts in Pre-primary and Primary Education
- Bachelor-Master of Arts in Secondary Education
- Bachelor-Master of Science in Secondary Education

Our integrated teacher training emphasizes the importance of combining theory and practice. The programmes include a substantial practical and classroom experience component to give prospective teachers ample opportunity to practice what they have learned.



In addition to providing training courses and introductory work experience for new teachers, the PHSG offers a comprehensive range of advanced teacher training opportunities for people already in the profession. The PHSG also plays an important role in addressing educational problems and issues by running one of Switzerland's leading centres for research, development and consulting in pedagogy. You will find more information on our website:

www.phsg.ch

About the Programme

The main aim of the programme is to get to know Switzerland 'from the inside' as a student of teacher education. Courses, teaching activities, excursions, interviews and tandem work are all designed to prepare future pre-primary, primary and secondary school teachers.

The objectives of the International Class are for participants to:

- Interact with local co-students, teachers and staff
- Expand their knowledge and specialization in pedagogical studies
- Strengthen skills for teaching in English
- Acquire basic German language skills
- Gain first-hand insight into pedagogical practices in the Swiss public school system

Special features of the programme:

- A unique combination of academic courses and practical activities (e.g. language teaching skills, course in basic German language skills, English literature, film studies, arts and design, and sports)
- One field-day per week on a new subject (e.g. Switzerland's official languages, industry around Lake Constance, Swiss culture and its natural environment)
- International Class participants join domestic students for two intensive trans-curricular weeks
- The opportunity to plan a short-term internship at a local school
- The opportunity to enrol in a broad range of pedagogical and (for secondary students) natural science courses for incoming students with German language skills

Admission requirements:

- Candidates must have completed their first year of university studies at their home institution
- Students must stay for the whole term, from early February until the end of May
- Candidates must have good oral and written English language skills (at least B2 of the Common Reference Levels described in the European Language Portfolio; on par with the Cambridge First Certificate in English)
- Candidates must submit a formal application
- Applications must include a letter in English explaining reasons for wanting to take part in the International Class



Credit evaluation:

The PHSG uses the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). One credit corresponds to 25-30 hours of work. Over the course of the entire semester, students can accumulate up to 30 ECTS credits, depending on the number of courses they take.

Accommodation:

PHSG students often share flats. Exchange students might find a place in one of these flats, or they can rent private accommodation (approx. CHF 450/EUR 350 per month). The International Office offers assistance in finding suitable housing.

Health insurance:

For international students coming to Switzerland, it is compulsory to have appropriate health insurance. For further information on Swiss health insurance requirements, please consult: www.crus.ch (see "study in Switzerland") and www.ch.ch (see "Health and Social Security")

Arrival:

The programme runs from early February to the end of May. Students should arrive with ample time before the beginning of the semester to get settled, plan their study programme and make the most of their opportunities.