



International Class

Experience of a Lifetime

PH ^{SG}

Pädagogische Hochschule
des Kantons St.Gallen

University of Teacher Education
St.Gallen · Switzerland



Welcome to Switzerland!

During the spring semester the University of Teacher Education St. Gallen (PHSG, www.phsg.ch), Switzerland, Faculty of Preprimary and Primary Teaching Education, will offer an International Class.

PHSG welcomes teacher education students from all national and international partners of the university. This is a unique opportunity not only to go and study abroad, but to get teaching experience in preprimary or primary classes in Switzerland.

You are warmly invited to take part in the PHSG International Class.

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 around 9,000, enjoys a privileged location directly on the shores of Lake Constance.

Exciting, central location:

People come from far and wide to visit the town and stroll along the lake promenade. Like other Swiss towns and cities, Rorschach has excellent public transport. The surrounding region offers a virtually limitless range of leisure activities, including wonderful recreational areas on Lake Constance, the mountain scenery of the Graubünden Alps and the Alpstein/Säntis massif, and cities such as Bregenz, Munich, Zurich and St. Gallen – all within easy reach. There is also plenty on offer for lovers of culture, including the abbey library (now a UNESCO World Heritage Site) and cathedral of St. Gallen, and numerous galleries and museums. St. Gallen is an economically important region and its renowned business school, the University of St. Gallen, enjoys an outstanding reputation far beyond Switzerland.



About PHSG

PHSG employs more than 150 teachers and lecturers who train 900 students to be preprimary and primary school teachers. The PHSG campus encompasses four sites in St. Gallen, Rorschach and Gossau. Three of these, Mariaberg and Stella Maris in Rorschach, and Hadwig in St. Gallen, are unique and historically valuable buildings in their own right.

Our degree programmes:

- Bachelor of Arts in Preprimary and Primary Education
- Master of Arts in Secondary Education
- Master of Science in Secondary Education

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



In addition to providing training courses and introductory work experience for new teachers, PHSG offers a comprehensive range of advanced teacher training for people already in the profession. PHSG also plays an important role in addressing educational problems and issues by running one of Switzerland's leading centres of competence for research, development and consulting. 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, which means that courses, teaching activities, excursions, interviews and follow-ups are all organised from the perspective of future preprimary and primary school teachers.

The objectives of the course are for participants to:

- interact with students, teachers and staff from other countries, cultures and backgrounds
- make progress in essential primary school subjects
- improve and progress in English and – as an optional subject – German
- practise acquired competencies and skills in preprimary and primary schools

Special features of the programme:

- Unique blend of academic courses and practical activities (e.g. arts and crafts, teaching knowledge of English, survival course in German, and sports)
- One external day a week on a different subject (e.g. Switzerland's official languages or industrialisation around Lake Constance)
- International Class participants join domestic students for two trans-curricular weeks
- Participants get to do a two-week internship in a primary school or kindergarten

Admission requirements:

- Candidates must have completed their first year of university studies in their home country
- Students must stay for the whole term, i.e. from early February until the end of May
- Candidates must have good skills in English, both oral and written (at least level B2 of the Common Reference Levels described in the European Language Portfolio, which corresponds, for example, to the Cambridge First Certificate of English)
- Candidates must make a formal application
- Applications must include a letter in English giving reasons for wanting to attend the course
- Students must have their own portable computer
- Experience of teaching children will be welcome



Credit evaluation:

PHSG uses the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). One credit corresponds to 25-30 hours of workload. Over the course of the entire semester, students can gain up to 30 ECTS, depending on the number of compulsory and optional 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 (about CHF 300/EUR 260 per month). The International Office will endeavour to help you find 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")

www.ch.ch (see "Health and Social Security")

Arrival:

The programme runs from early February to the end of May. It is highly recommended for students to arrive in ample time before the beginning of the semester (preferably not on a weekend) to plan their study programme and make the most of their opportunities.

Pädagogische Hochschule des Kantons St. Gallen

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