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.
About PHSG

The PHSG employs more than 340 teachers and lecturers who train about 10,000 students for pre-primary, primary, and secondary school teachers. The PHSG campus encompasses four sites: in the city of St. Gallen, Rorschach and Gossau, Marlbe9 and Stella Maris in Rorschach, and Hadikw in St. Gallen, are buildings of historic importance that offer a unique learning atmosphere. The Hadwig building is located in the city of St. Gallen’s attractive ‘museum district’. With its four national languages and cities of Bregenz, Munich and Zurich are all within easy reach. With its four national languages and mountain scenery of Appenzell and the Graubünden recreational areas on Lake Constance, the beautiful range of leisure activities, including wonderful restaurants, cafes and shops. St. Gallen is an economically important region and its university campus encompasses four sites: in the city of St. Gallen, Rorschach and Gossau, Marlbe9 and Stella Maris in Rorschach, and Hadikw in St. Gallen, enjoys an outstanding reputation for being the ‘cradle’ of the Swiss economy.

Our degree programmes:

• Bachelor degree for pre-primary education (both in German and English)

• Bachelor-Master of Science in Education (both in German and English)

• Bachelor-Master of Arts in Secondary Education

Our integrated teacher training emphasizes the importance of combining theory and practice. The programme includes 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 teaching 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 work experience for new teachers, the PHSG offers a comprehensive range of advanced teaching 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 work experience for new teachers, the PHSG offers a comprehensive range of advanced teaching 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 work experience for new teachers, the PHSG offers a comprehensive range of advanced teaching training opportunities for people already in the profession.

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)

About the Programme

The PHSG’s programme is designed 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

• Acquire basic German language skills

• Gain first-hand insight into pedagogical practices in the Swiss public school system

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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)

• The opportunity to plan a short-term internship at a local school

• The opportunity to enrol in a small-scale, educational and social project (e.g. sport, industry around Lake Constance, Swiss culture and its natural environment)

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 60 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 400–500 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.ch.ch (see “Study in Switzerland”) and www.crus.ch (see “Health and Social Security”)

Credit evaluation:

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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.

Applications:

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.