



Life Sciences and
Facility Management

An aerial photograph of a Swiss town, likely Zug, situated on a lake. The town is densely packed with buildings and surrounded by green fields and forests. In the background, there are rolling hills and a range of snow-capped mountains under a clear blue sky.

**International
Exchange
Guide**

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Broaden your horizons!

Are you ready to expand your knowledge of your specialist area, meet inspiring people and make memories that last for a lifetime? Then it is high time to complete a student exchange with us!

The School of Life Sciences and Facility Management (LSFM) is part of the Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW), one of the leading Swiss universities of applied sciences, and offers seven Bachelor's and five Master's degree programmes in the disciplines of Chemistry and Biotechnology, Food and Beverage Innovation, Natural Resource Sciences, Applied Simulation as well as Real Estate and Facility Management. Our specialist knowledge combined with a focus on practical approaches as well as state-of-the-art equipment is unique and valued a lot. All of this is complemented with modern facilities, a one-of-a-kind campus and passionate researchers and staff, creating an inspiring atmosphere. But the benefits are not limited to a professional and scientific level; you are certain to also grow personally during your exchange here.

While studying in Wädenswil, where the ZHAW LSFM is located, you will not miss out on the leisure time component either. A huge variety of activities such as language courses, sports and events are on offer here. Last but not least, you can explore all the hidden corners of our beautiful and fascinating country, and dive into Swiss culture during lecture-free periods and on the weekend.

There is no doubt that an international exchange abroad is an unforgettable, life-changing experience and we are here to help you through the process – questions, queries or issues, get in touch.

Your International Office Team LSFM

Questions?

✉ international.lsfm@zhaw.ch

→ [Check our FAQ](#)





“Living this experience changed my mentality and developed my life skills like no other previous experience in my life. I learned how to be 100 % independent and it will also affect my future life and perspectives.”

Riccardo

Università degli Studi dell' Insubria
Italy

An exciting place to study!

The Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW)

Where theory meets practice: All of the ZHAW's activities and services are both practice-oriented and science-based. Our research and development concentrates on important societal challenges, with a particular focus on energy and social integration. Expertise in sustainable development and digital transformation allows us to impart forward-looking knowledge and take an active part in shaping how society evolves. Our **eight Schools** and **over 50 study programmes** offer a diverse, unique range of modules, as well as excellent infrastructures and a variety of services and activities. With **three locations** in the Greater Zurich area – **Wädenswil, Winterthur and Zurich** – and collaborations all over the world, the ZHAW is also well established and esteemed regionally and internationally.



The School of Life Sciences and Facility Management (LSFM)

Practical, creative, passionate and reflective – that is the ZHAW LSFM in a nutshell. Our expertise in life sciences and facility management enables us to make a vital contribution to solving social challenges and improving quality of life. Our **our five institutes as well as our Department Transversalis** provide an industry-focused and innovative environment with top-notch laboratories and production facilities. The up-to-date knowledge and application-oriented research methods imparted in our attractive degree programmes guarantee a seamless transition from theory to practice and optimally prepare students for their professional careers. We are located in **Wädenswil**, a charming small town on the bank of Lake Zurich. Its proximity to the vibrant city of Zurich and various leisure areas offer many excursion possibilities and make Wädenswil a particularly attractive place to live and study.

Our degree programmes at a glance

Bachelor of Science (BSc)

Applied Digital Life Sciences • Biomedical Laboratory Diagnostics • Biotechnology • Chemistry • Facility Management • Food Technology • Natural Resource Sciences

Master of Science (MSc)

Circular Economy Management • Life Sciences • Preneurship for Regenerative Food Systems • Real Estate & Facility Management • Environment and Natural Resources

⚠ Our programmes are either taught in English or German and you need **at least a B2 level** in the applicable language of instruction. Please also note that for a one-semester exchange, you have to select modules worth at least 15 ECTS points.



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But there is more!

Facilities



Our locations

Find out more about our beautiful locations

→ **Campus Grüental**

→ **Campus Reidbach**



University Library Wädenswil

Our → **specialised library** offers a wide range of media, such as specialist journals, electronic and audio-visual media, or maps that can also be ordered from other universities.



Canteens

Enjoy delicious, seasonal meals and snacks at student-friendly prices or bring your own food and use the microwaves provided.

→ **Mensa Campus Grüental**

→ **Mensa Campus Reidbach**



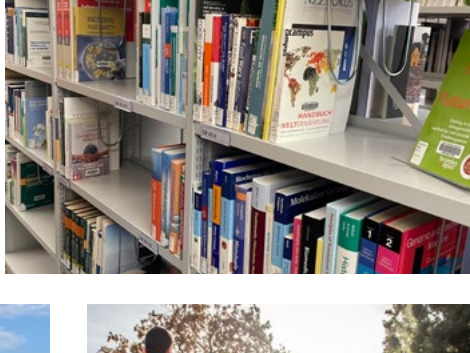
Gardens

The → **unique gardens on Campus Grüental** are home to over 5,000 different plant species and a perfect place to relax and enjoy nature. There are even some guided tours and special events.



Accommodation

There are several options in and around Wädenswil for all budgets: living with local families, alone or with other people in a shared flat or at the → **WOKO dormitory**.



Leisure time



Academic Sports Association Zurich (ASVZ)

Train your body, not only your brain and get sweaty at the Sport Center Wädenswil or enjoy over 120 mostly free sports across the whole canton of Zurich thanks to the

→ **ASVZ**. There is something for everyone!



Language courses

Want to improve your language skills?

Join one of our → **free courses** in English, French, Italian or Spanish. We even offer a

German course worth 2 ECTS points.



Other activities

You are welcome to take part in other

→ **interesting, free activities** such as our choir, the theatre and drawing/painting groups or collective gardening.



Weekly meet-ups

The → **“Studitreff”** is a popular spot for

ZHAW students from all fields of study and a great place to meet new people. Activities,

parties and events of all sorts are organised there weekly.



Events by International Office LSFM

The several events we organise for our incoming students such as a get together,

a summer or winter event and a farewell evening, are a great opportunity to stay in

touch with us and share your experiences with the other incomings.



Erasmus Student Network (ESN)

The → **ESN’s** activities and events are great for exploring all kinds of places, experiencing

Swiss culture and meeting new people.

Additionally, they have a helpful → **buddy system**.



«I got to see beautiful meadows, crystal clear lakes, astonishing architecture and marvellous mountains. Delightful experience that will last for many years to come.»

Kanwal

National University of Sciences & Technology
Islamabad, Pakistan

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So why Switzerland?



Get ready to explore

Despite being small, Switzerland is one of the most spectacular and diverse countries in the world and trust us, there is a lot to discover. Everything can be reached within a few hours and its location in the heart of Europe offers a great opportunity to visit the neighbouring countries Austria, France, Germany, Italy and Liechtenstein too. We could spend hours telling you about the beautiful landscapes, snowy mountains, historic sites and lively cities of Switzerland, but nothing beats exploring all the hidden corners yourself.

From A to B in no time

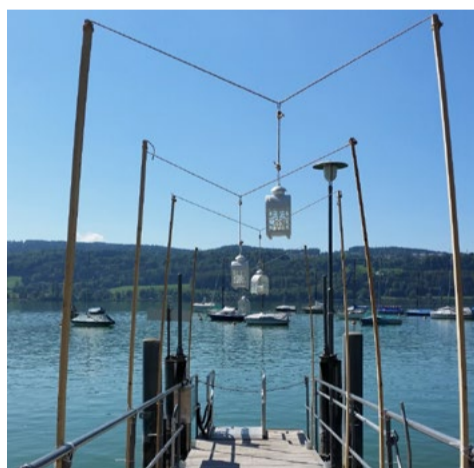
The most convenient way to get around is by using public transport. The high network density means that most places can easily be accessed by either train, bus, ship or mountain railway – even some of the remotest villages. It might not be the cheapest, but our public transport system is very reliable and with a few tricks and occasional special fares, ticket prices can be reduced significantly.

Just a few highlights to look forward to



Climb, bike or hike to the top for stunning views

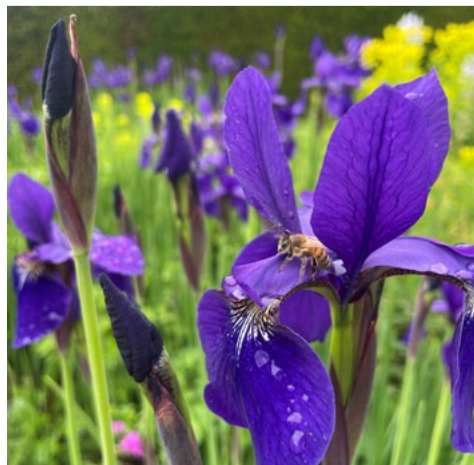
Spish, splash – in and on hundreds of lakes



Indulge in chocolate, cheese, wine and other culinary delights



Discover an abundance of flora and fauna



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What exchange options do I have?

Programmes

Swiss-European Mobility Programme (SEMP)

This is the Swiss programme for Erasmus+ on a tertiary level. The ZHAW LSFM has around 80 SEMP partner universities and if you are enrolled at one of them, you are going to receive financial support for your exchange with us. The amount of the so-called SEMP grant depends on the type of mobility (see table below), the country of the home institution and the duration of stay.

Bilateral exchange

We have bilateral agreements with some institutions outside of Europe. If this applies to your home university, you can complete an exchange at the ZHAW LSFM without having to pay any tuition fees here.

Free Mover

If the ZHAW does not have any kind of partnership with your home university, there is the option for an exchange as a so-called Free Mover. Admission is decided on an individual basis.

! In all three programmes, you will have to register in our online tool called Mobility Online and complete all mandatory steps before, during and after the exchange. You also need to be enrolled at your home university for the whole duration of stay.



Types of student mobility



Attend modules

Student Mobility for Studies (SMS)

You attend modules at the ZHAW LSFM during your exchange. At the end of the mobility, you receive a Transcript of Records (ToR) containing all completed modules, respective grades and ECTS points acquired.



Write your thesis

Student Mobility for Traineeships (SMT)

You write your thesis at the ZHAW LSFM during the exchange, which requires a supervisor here. After the mobility, the ECTS points are awarded by the home university.

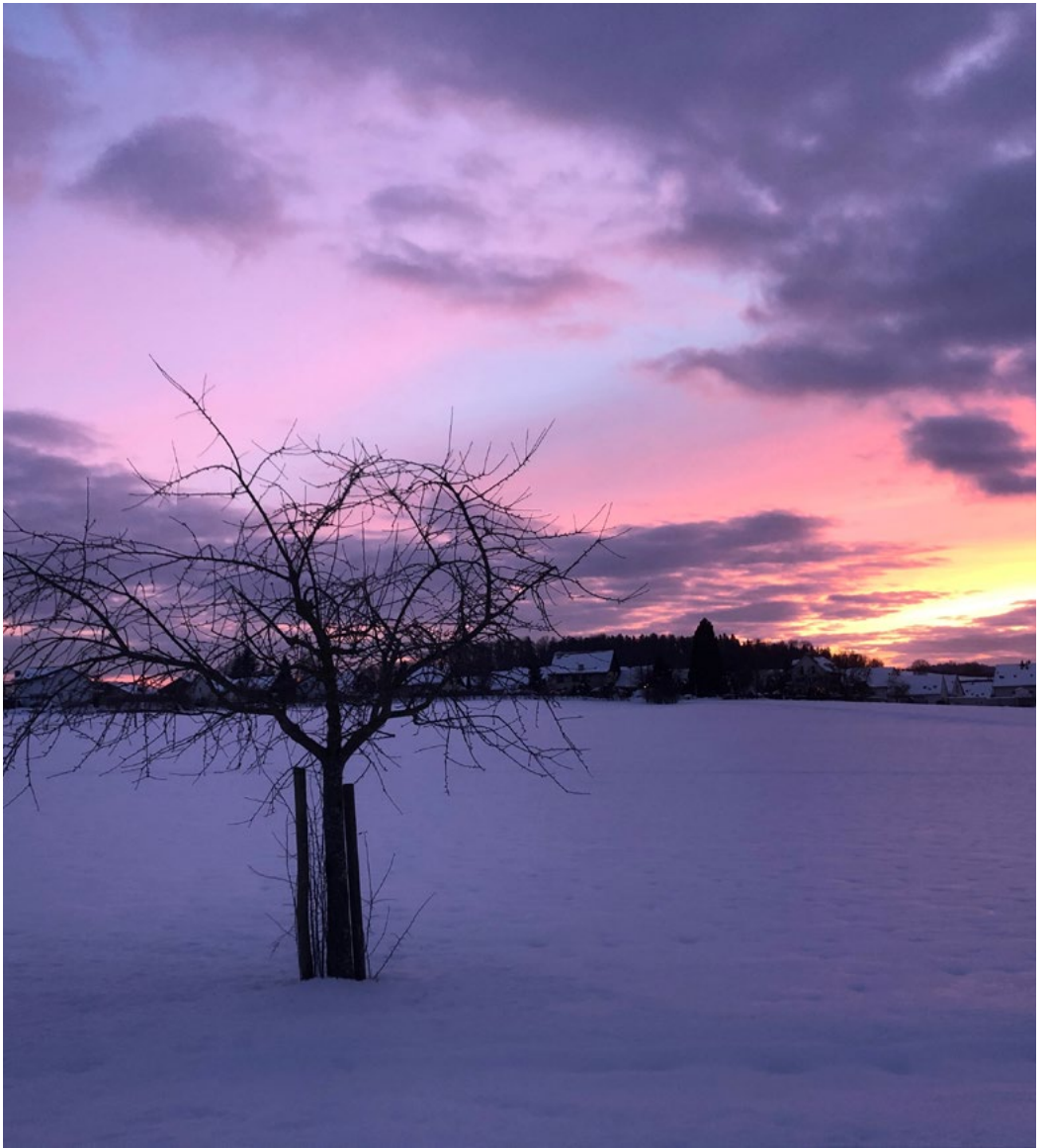
! For both types of mobility, the minimum duration of stay is **two** months, and the maximum is **twelve** months.



Make your exchange greener!

Sustainability being a very relevant and ever-present matter, we urge you to skip the plane for your journey to Switzerland whenever possible and opt for a means of transport with low CO₂ emissions, such as the bus, train or carpool. Make sure you live sustainably during your exchange too; small changes in your daily routine already make a difference!

→ [Helpful tips for a sustainable exchange](#)



«If you are still doubting whether to choose Switzerland as your exchange destination, I have to tell you that you definitely should!»

Jennifer

Universitat de Girona
Spain

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What next?

Five steps for a successful start

1 Nomination

Contact the International Office at your home university so they can officially nominate you through international.lsfm@zhaw.ch and consider the corresponding deadlines.

2 Registration

Once your nomination has been confirmed, you will receive the registration link for Mobility Online, the online tool the ZHAW uses to process all mobilities.

3 Visa and insurance matters

Should you need a visa, start the application process early, as it may take up to three months. If possible, get your European Health Insurance Card from your health insurance at home or check whether your cover is equivalent to Switzerland's.

4 Accommodation

Because accommodation options are limited, we recommend starting your search as soon as possible – please always keep an eye out for fraudulent adverts.

5 Module selection and Learning Agreement

Browse through the ZHAW LSFM's → **wide range of modules** and choose the ones that best fit your study plan.



Anything else worth knowing?

Cost of living

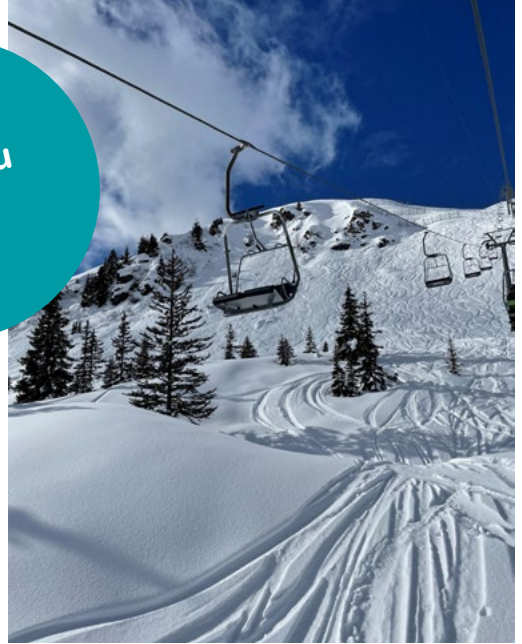
We are not going to sugarcoat it: Switzerland is expensive. That said, you can expect a very high standard of living and an excellent quality of life. To give you an idea of possible costs, we have compiled a helpful overview, however, please note that **the amounts may vary significantly** depending on your personal way of living.

Matter of expense	Monthly costs in CHF
Accommodation & utilities	500 – 1,000
Sustenance (food, drink, etc.)	100 – 350
Public transport	50 – 200
Leisure time activities and excursions	200 – 500
Fees for registration/residence permit	55 – 200
Swiss health insurance (if applicable)	80 – 100
Total	900 – 1,930

ⓘ There may be additional one-off costs, such as fees for the visa application process (if applicable) or a rent deposit (usually refunded).



See you soon!



Contact

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Questions?

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