

Information On Our Courses

What Possibilities to Study exist in Switzerland?

ExamPrep stands for nearly ten years of professional Swiss University entrance exam preparation. Our student numbers have grown steadily, along with the range of courses we offer.

Thanks to our preparatory courses, countless ExamPrep alumni are now studying at or have graduated from The Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zurich), The University of Zurich, and a number of other colleges and universities here in Switzerland.

By deciding to pursue and earn a degree at a Swiss institution of higher learning, you profit from a high-quality, widely accepted and widely respected academic path, a fact supported by the high international rankings of Swiss Universities and Colleges. Degrees earned from Swiss Colleges have an excellent reputation worldwide and provide a solid basis for vast career possibilities.

For a comprehensive overview on general requirements for studying in Switzerland please visit the website of the organisation Swiss Universities:

<https://www.swissuniversities.ch/de/hochschulraum/studieren/studieren-in-der-schweiz/>

We regard and recommend the online brochure „Studying in Switzerland 2016/2017“, found under the same link, as especially helpful.

Swiss Universities and Colleges of Higher Education do not acknowledge most diplomas issued in other countries, necessitating additional specialized preparation prior to making application to a Swiss institution.

To be admitted, foreign students interested in applying to study in Switzerland generally need to take an entrance exam. The criteria for successful completion of these tests are institution specific, and therefore vary from school to school and can be quite challenging to the foreign student. Because of the multiple factors involved, we advise you to start planning your long range academic plans as soon as practicable.

The following issues must be carefully considered:

- Since colleges often have their own entrance exam, they tend to have different focal points. For instance, the entrance exam of ETH Zurich has a mathematical/scientific concentration, while in the ECUS-exam (to enter Colleges of Higher Education) is more languages focused.
- Candidates have to decide in advance between the entrance examinations of ETH Zurich and the ECUS-examination, since these two are held at the same time and cannot be taken simultaneously.
- Some programs of study are offered by more than institute (e.g. mathematics can be booked at ETH Zurich or University of Zurich but they each have different requirements). Candidates should therefore analyze which academy best matches with their interests and educational objectives. Some programs are institution specific (such as engineering, which you can study at ETH but is not offered at the University of Zurich). Each academy offers and typically holds a student advisory orientation that can assist in making your decisions:

<https://www.ethz.ch/en/studies/prospective-bachelors-degree-students/student-advisory-service.html>

<http://www.studienberatung.uzh.ch/en.html>

- Male Swiss candidates are kindly requested to be aware of and plan for compliance with the different ways of completing official duty (Swiss military) into account while planning their studies and to coordinate important milestones (such as preparation and completion of entrance exam, start and end of studies) in advance. The official Swiss Army website contains information for Swiss men abroad and for men interested in civilian service:

<http://www.vtg.admin.ch/>

Theses sites provide further tips on coordinating your studies with official duty (only in German):

<http://www.vtg.admin.ch/de/mein-militaerdienst/stellungspflichtige/studium-und-armee.html>

<https://www.ethz.ch/studierende/de/studium/administratives/allgemein/militaerdienst.html>

What do we offer?

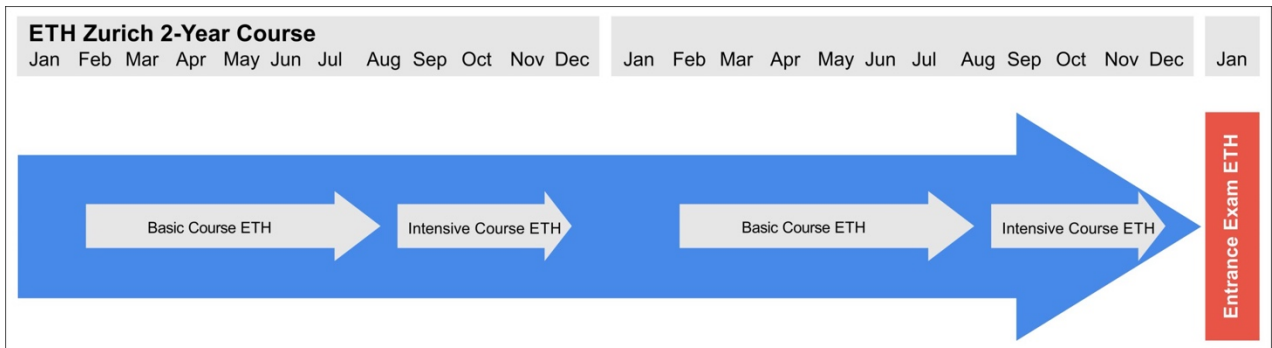
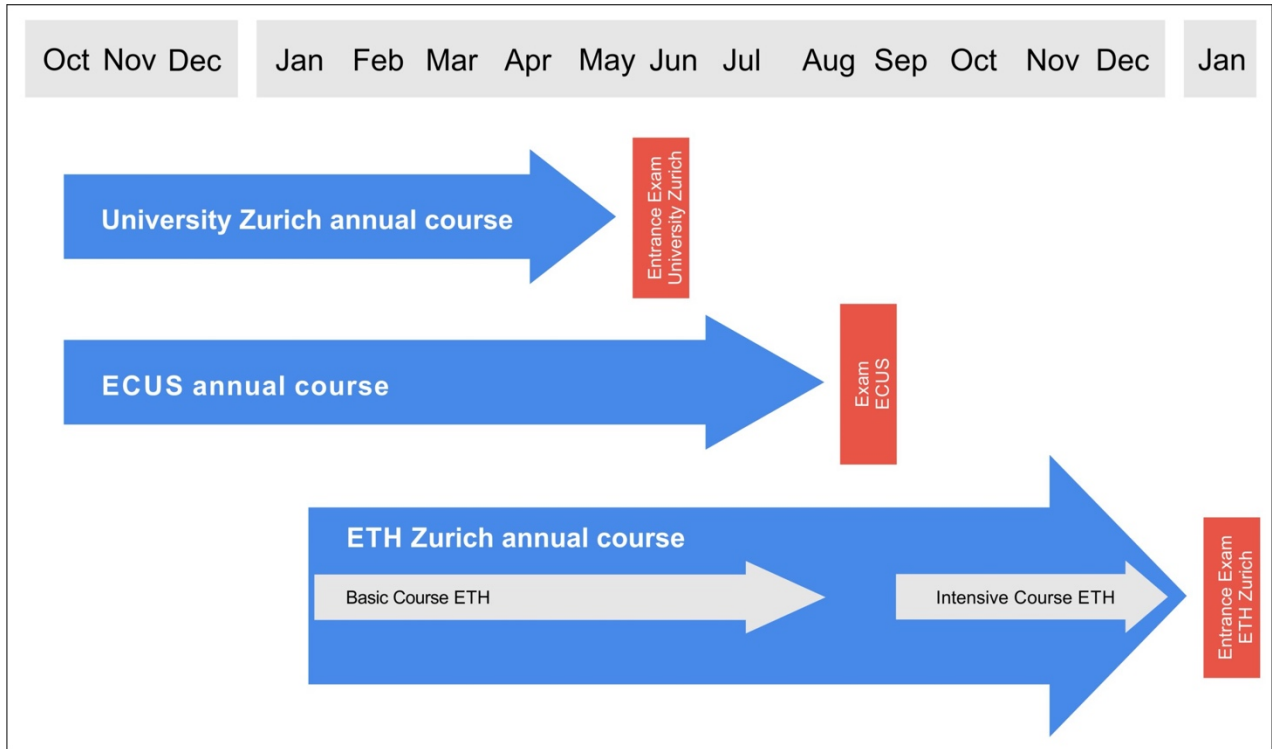
ExamPrep offers customized preparation courses for entrance exams to ETH Zurich, University of Zurich and the ECUS and the Passerelle exam. Course offerings are aimed at helping people who need to take an entrance exam to be admitted to study at their academy of choice. Also, our program is designed for people who need to improve their basic knowledge of a given subject(s) prior to pursuing the subject(s) at an advanced level.

Our courses can be booked as single attendance courses or compiled modularly according to your individual needs. Be it a 2-year-course in preparation for the comprehensive entrance exam of ETH, or combining single subjects or even individual lessons by correspondence course, or the 11-weeks-long intensive course –the possibilities are tailored to your needs.

You have the flexibility to change your booked course not only at the beginning but also at the middle of the course year, in the event that the college of interest has not yet granted a confirmed admission. Feel free to request our advice should these situations arise.

According to their educational requirements and initial German language skills, students should book the appropriate course modules and timeframes for an optimally successful exam preparation experience:

Type of Course (Duration)	Description	Targeted Exam Target Audience
2-Year-Course	Advanced + intensive course: Subjects spread over 2 years Blended Learning with correspondence course	<i>Exams: Comprehensive or Reduced entrance exams of ETH Zurich / ECUS / Federal high-school diploma</i> Candidates with average previous educational qualification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persons without federal high-school diploma, with US-high-school diploma • Employed persons & part-time students • Candidates for federal high-school diploma
One-Year-Course	Advanced + intensive course	<i>Exams: Comprehensive or Reduced entrance exams of ETH Zurich / ECUS / Federal high-school diploma</i> Candidates with accredited previous educational qualification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persons without officially recognized federal high-school diploma (“Matur”) • Persons with interest or necessity for continuing education • International schools (IB, Baccalauréat, foreign high-school degrees, partially accepted high-school degrees, A-Levels) • Refugees • Swiss abroad (ex-patriots) • As an alternative to ancillary pre-college testing (“Passerelle”)
Advanced course	Examination subjects treated intensively; training of oral and written tests with original exam questions	<i>Exams: Entry test of University in Zurich / Federal high-school diploma</i> Candidates with accredited previous educational qualification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates interested in studying at The University of Zurich • Candidates for the federal high-school diploma
Intensive course	Concentrated repetition of all subject matter; training and practice for oral and written tests with original exam questions	<i>Exams: Reduced entrance exams of ETH Zurich / Federal high-school diploma</i> Candidates with good previous educational qualification (especially in mathematics and physics): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students who attended our advanced course, who are proficient in a large part of the tested matter (esp. mathematics/ physics for ETH) and who wish to deepen their acquired knowledge • Students with good knowledge base (e.g. non-federal high-school degree, Abitur (Germany), A-Levels) • Completion of subject matter after a gap year or military service • Persons with a non-scientific (STEM) high-school degree
Correspondence course (duration according to your needs, from 1 month to 4 years)	Course (or course parts) completed by self-study. bookable as pure online course	<i>Exams: Comprehensive or Reduced entrance exams of ETH Zurich / Entry test of University in Zurich / ECUS / Federal high-school diploma</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Returners to work after sabbatical or raising a family • People requiring flexible scheduling around employment commitments • Final preparation for students from abroad (ex-patriots) before attending the intensive course



Further benefits

- All courses are bookable as **2-year-course terms**
- A **flexible choice of date for course entry** is possible anytime. This feature is especially suited for:
 - Students fulfilling single-term conscript (“Durchdiener”) in the Swiss Army
 - Persons who wish to return to study after a gap-year
 - Students who want to prepare for highly technical or professional fields (for example medicine)
 - Students who currently are abroad and want to prepare for our intensive course upon returning to Switzerland
 - Persons interested in repeating single-picked subjects only after a longer phase without working (for example for family or other personal reasons)
 - Employees who’d like to return to school to refresh and further their knowledge after having entered the workforce
- You can purchase a an annual **language license** for using the web-based language-learning program Rosetta Stone, with which you can learn any number of languages through self-study
- Missed course lessons are available on our **in-house video system**
- Course participants are automatically granted access to our **online learning system**, the latter featuring exercises and solutions, a testing tool and thousands of learning cards
- The number of possible course participants is limited. Registrations are prioritized according to the date of receipt of entrance course fees.

What are the course requirements?

The ideal course duration is determined by objective analysis and determination of your German language skills (CEFR) and your pre-existing knowledge concerning the course subjects.

- **Good skills in German** (level B2 at the beginning of the one-year course) since lessons as well as the entrance test are held in German
- **Good English skills** (level B2 at the beginning of the one-year course)
- Affinity and interest in **abstract thinking**
- A high level of **self-motivation** and **discipline**
- **About your educational background:**

For the **one-year course** a level slightly lower than the one of a federal high-school degree is expected; IB graduates with standard level in mathematics are recommended to book the entire one-year course. Please contact us for additional information should you have questions about specific requirements.

For the **intensive course** a level similar to the federal high-school degree is expected (such as South German Abitur, Austrian high-school degree), also good knowledge in mathematics and physics are required. Please contact us for additional information should you have questions about specific requirements.

The head of the school is ready to help you with choosing the appropriate course of preparation and study.

How do I register for a course?

- 1) Please determine at least four months in advance if you need a visa to attend the ExamPrep course and your future studies. If so, please immediately contact the head of school (Ms. Barbara Freimann) to co-ordinate your visa needs with respect to the school. Take a look at our PDF document on Visa for further information.
- 2) Choose your course; the head of the school is at your disposal to help you with the process.
- 3) Send us your pre-application documents (short CV, copies of the latest reports and diplomas, copies of your ID, such as your passport)
- 4) We will send you our document on Terms and Conditions, as well as an application form. Please fill in the latter, read and sign both documents and send them back to us (either per post or via e-mail as PDF scans)
- 5) Upon acceptance, you will receive an invoice for the course tuition; promptly paying the invoice will guarantee you a slot in your selected course; you will then receive a confirmation of registration for the course.
- 6) We are looking forward to welcoming you to our classroom – good luck!

When and where is my entrance examination taking place? Do I need attestations for German skills?

The exact dates are usually published in January of the exam year, at the latest. The specifications found in the following table are representative examples only. Always consult the proper institutional websites for key dates, application requirements and exact exam regulations. The links to those sites are listed on the next page.

Different attestations of German are requested for every entrance exam (see table below) and with each form of exam a different subject composition is tested (see next page).

Type of exam	Date SS = summer session WS = winter session	Location	German attestation (if not acknowledged as first language)
ETH: Reduced / Comprehensive entrance exam	Jan	Zurich	C1, Prädikat »gut« <u>To be attested before registering to the entrance exam!</u>
ECUS exam	AUGUST	Zurich	University of Teacher Education: C2, Prädikat »bestanden« Colleges of Higher Education: C1, Prädikat »bestanden« or C1 in German exam
University in Zurich	MAY/JUNE	Zurich	C1, Prädikat »bestanden«
Ancillary testing ("Passerelle")	FEBRUARY/MARCH (SS) AUGUST/SEPTEMBER (WS)	Berne, Basel, Zurich	no attestation needed
Federal Maturity Exam (Eidgenössische Maturitätsprüfung)	DECEMBER (WS) JUNE (SS)	Berne, Basel, Zurich	no attestation needed

All entrance exams are given in German. Good German skills are needed for you to understand the oral and written exam questions. This will enable you to fully concentrate on the content of the questions and to give your answers competently. Teachers at ExamPrep conduct their lessons in German (except for English courses) to make sure you have exposure to the topic in German, as German is the language you will be tested and subsequently taught in. You'll learn all the technical terms, definitions and concepts in the exam speech – from the start.

Feel free to book additional German lessons.

Exemplary timetable of our school:

Stundenplan Aufbaukurs 2016 / 2017							Stundenplan Intensivkurs 2017							
	Mo	Di	Mi	Do	Fr	Sa		Mo	Di	Mi	Do	Fr	Sa	
08:15-09:00	D C1	D Lit	Ch	Bio	D Aufsatz		08:15-09:00	Gg	Bio	Ch	Bio Test	Ph Üb		
09:15-10:00	D C1	D Lit	Ch	Bio	D C1	Ch	09:15-10:00	Gg	Bio	Ch	Bio	Ph Test	Ch	
10:15-11:00	Ph	Bio	Ph	Ph Üb	M Üb	Ch	10:15-11:00	Ph	Ph	Ph	Bio	M Üb	Ch	
11:15-12:00	Ph	Bio	Ph	Ph Test	M Test		11:15-12:00	Ph	Ph	Ph	Ph	M Test	Ch	
13:15-14:00	M	M	M	G	M		13:15-14:00	M	M	M	M	M	Reserve	
14:15-15:00	M	M	M	G	M		14:15-15:00	M	M	M	M	M	Reserve	
15:15-16:00	E	Ph	E	G	D C1		15:15-16:00	E	D Lit	M1	E	G	M 2	Reserve
16:15-17:00	E	Ph	E	Gg	D C1		16:15-17:00	E	D Lit	M1	E	G	M 2	Reserve
17:15-18:00			D C1	Gg	D C1		17:15-18:00					G		
18:15-19:00			D C1				18:15-19:00							

If necessary we take the liberty to hold additional lessons, to change the numbers of lessons or to exchange lessons between subjects.

What subjects are part of my entrance exam?

ETH Zurich

ETH reduced entrance exam	M	Ph	Ch	Bio	evtl. D	
ETH comprehensive entrance exam	M	Ph	Ch	Bio	E	G Gg D D Lit

Link to entrance exam regulations:

<https://www.ethz.ch/de/studium/anmeldung-bewerbung/bachelor/andere-qual/eth-aufnahmepruefung.html>

ECUS (for German-speaking universities, colleges of higher education, universities of teacher education)

ECUS	obligatory:	M	D	D Lit	E	G	*Jus
	1 elective:	Ph	Ch	Bio	Gg	* Oek in block courses	

On the website of ECUS and the organisation "Swiss Universities" you find general information on this entrance exam:

<http://www.ecus-edu.ch/home/home-de/>

<https://www.swissuniversities.ch/de/services/zulassung-zur-universitaet/ecus/>

Each college of higher education holds its own set of criteria regarding exam regulations. For information on admission and registration of the ECUS-exam, please consult directly the website of the institution of your choice:

<https://www.swissuniversities.ch/de/hochschulraum/anerkannte-schweizer-hochschulen/>

University in Zurich (for direct entrance exam)

UNI direct	obligatory:	M	D	D Lit	E	G
	4 electives:	Ph	Ch	Bio	Gg	* Jus and Oek in block courses

Link to entrance exam regulations:

<http://www.uzh.ch/studies/application/bachelor/entranceexamination.html>