Academic calendar

• 2 semesters
• 1 semester = 14 weeks
• Autumn semester: 20 September - 23 December 2011
• Winter session exams: 16 January - 4 February 2012
• Spring semester: 20 February - 1st June 2012
• Summer session exams: 18 June - 7 July 2012

➢ Problem for students coming only for the Autumn semester. In North America the Winter term starts in January. Not possible to pass exams at EPFL before the session of January.
Courses for exchange students

• Courses in different faculties and level (bachelor and master programmes), as far as the student meets the required prior knowledge.
Course language

• Bachelor programme : in French
• Master programme : most courses in English

• On campus and in Lausanne : French, but communication in English possible with most professors.
• A sound knowledge of French is strongly recommended for an exchange at the EPFL.
Examinations

- Tests during the semester
- Tests during the examination periods (oral and written)
- No exams resit

- Official transcript of record is sent to the student
Grades system

- ECTS (European Credit Transfer System)
- Grade scale: from 1 to 6
  - 6 = excellent (A)
  - 5.5 = very good (B)
  - 5 = good (C)
  - 4.5 = satisfactory (D)
  - 4 = pass (E)
  - 4 ≤ fail (F)
  - NA = absent
Workload

• Workload of a full-time EPFL student:
  – Presence hours per week: 30 hours (incl. courses, exercises-lab)
  – 30 ECTS per semester (= 6-8 courses per semester)
  – 60 ECTS per academic year

• 1 ECTS = 1 hour course per week + 1 hour work at home per week = 30 hours work per semester.
Application procedure

• Application entirely on-line. No documents to be sent.
• The home university exchange coordinator receives an automatic message requesting him/her to validate on-line the nomination of his/her student.
• Deadlines : 1st April and 1st November
• Information on our website http://sae.epfl.ch/exchange-incoming
Visa

• The visa procedure takes up to 3 months. Apply for a Swiss visa early enough.

• If the student has applied in the timeframe, EPFL can put pressure on the Swiss authorities. We can inform the Swiss authorities of the urgency of the request, but we cannot guarantee the visa is issued on time.
Accommodation

- Exchange students from North America have a room in one of the students residences (FMEL).
- 7 residences. Locations.
Accommodation

• furnished **dorm rooms** with a private bathroom + shared equipped kitchen and living room on the same floor.
• furnished **rooms in shared apartments** with 1-2 bathrooms shared by 3 or 4 persons, equipped kitchen and living room in the apartment.
• CHF 550-700 per month ($ 700-900)
French Intensive Course

- 3 weeks, 3 periods per day
- Mid-August
- EPFL language Center
- Free of charge for the students
- The student must apply for it
Scholarships

• EPFL grants CHF 500.- (= $ 660) per month to exchange students from North America.
• Exchange students from partner universities are exempted from the EPFL tuition fees.
Information sessions

• Beginning of each semester
• All information for a good start at EPFL
  – Registration for courses, for exams
  – Student card
  – Residence permit
  – Insurance
  – ...

Integration activities

• Integration days (1 week before the semester starts):
  – Academic issues
  – Information on insurance by an insurance broker
  – Intercultural workshop
  – Tour of Lausanne
  – Welcome dinner
• Ski camp in Winter
• Xchange activities
• Sport activities
Sport Center
Sport Center

a wide range of sports