Overview

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Information for Incoming Exchange Students
About Lausanne
EPFL Clip

Semesters Available: Spring, or Academic Year
Language of Instruction: English; French
Note: Bachelor’s level classes are taught in French only; Master’s classes are in English. You may take classes in either program.

Academic Calendar:
Spring Semester—mid-February-early June
http://sac.epfl.ch/academic-calendar

Through an agreement between École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) at Cornell University, CALS undergraduate students may apply to enroll directly in any field of study at EPFL for a semester or a year. Students study alongside EPFL students and are eligible to participate in the many activities sponsored by EPFL and its student body.

This exchange program is primarily open to undergraduate CALS students of sophomore or higher standing, and is awarded on first-come, first-serve basis.

Areas of Study

For a full list of courses, click here
Key areas of study relevant to CALS majors:

- Environmental Science and Engineering
- Communication Systems
- Life Sciences and Technology
- Bioengineering

Getting There

Genève-Cointrin is the nearest airport (40-60 minutes). The train from Zürich Unique Airport takes approximately 2h 30m to go to Lausanne. From these airports, you can take a train to Lausanne, then the Lausanne metro (Gare CFF > Gare du Flon > line M1 direction Renens). For additional methods of transportation, visit this site.

Classes

Students are required to take 30 ECTS credits per semester at EPFL (equal to 15 US credits).

Study plans (which list the classes offered in each area of study) can be found here.

Housing

Housing is guaranteed for all CALS exchange students. Swiss universities do not usually have on-campus housing. Students of the EPFL and of the University of Lausanne can apply to live in one of the seven student residences that are located in different parts of Lausanne.
The International Exchange Coordinator at EPFL will arrange housing for our students--no application is necessary. The rent for rooms varies from CHF450-680 per month. The rooms offered are single and always simply furnished. Kitchen and bathrooms are shared.

Social Life
Our students report that the Erasmus Student Network (ESN) at EPFL offers exchange students an excellent social program throughout the entire semester.

AGEPOLY is the general association of the EPFL students, located on the Esplanade: http://agepoly.epfl.ch

Student can participate in a variety of club activities: cabaret, mountaineering, photography, drama, sailing, astronomy, chess club etc. There are many more associations which can be found on the website: http://associations.epfl.ch

Lausanne offers many theater performances, concerts and music festivals. Your student card gives you various discounts at cultural events. In addition, Lausanne is a city of culture with more than 18 museums open Tuesdays - Sundays: http://www.lausanne.ch/musees


Student Visa
It is important that you deal with the immigration formalities before entering Switzerland. A visa is compulsory and must be applied from the Swiss representation (embassy or consulate) closest to your home.

The visa procedure can take up to 3 months so you must begin the process as soon as you receive your acceptance packet from EPFL.


Program Costs
Students are billed their regular CALS tuition, with no added administrative fees. Students purchase plane tickets and pay remaining costs such as housing, meals, student visa application fees, local travel, and personal expenses. Some partner institutions charge student activity fees and/or health insurance plans which students are also responsible for.

Financial aid travels with students going abroad. Students must complete with grades equivalent to a Cornell “C” or better. Financial aid for study abroad is need-based, consistent with university and government policies and covers all costs relevant to study abroad, including tuition, all mandatory program fees, housing, meals, books, personal expenses, and round-trip airfare. If you are currently receiving financial aid, your aid package will be adjusted based on your determined level of need and the projected costs for your study abroad program. University grant aid and loan awards may be either increased or decreased to meet study abroad need. The normal work-study component of aid packages will be converted to student loans.

How to Apply
You will apply to the exchange after meeting with the CALS study abroad and exchange advisor in 140 Roberts Hall. All application materials will be returned to CALS-not the university directly.