# Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (EPFL), Lausanne, Switzerland

## Partner Institution

![EPFL Logo](image)

**ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE FÉDÉRALE DE LAUSANNE**

## Semesters Available

<table>
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<th><strong>Spring Academic Year</strong></th>
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EPFL's fall semester ends in February, making it nearly impossible to complete exams prior to leaving. As such, only in rare instances where classwork can be completed by the start of Cornell's spring semester will fall be approved.

## Language of Instruction

ENGLISH and FRENCH (although students can take all classes in English, a minimum of beginner level French is recommended to navigate the local area)

## Overview

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.

## Program Costs

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<th><strong>CALS students:</strong> Pay current Cornell tuition with no additional administrative fees.</th>
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**College of Engineering students:** A special arrangement is possible for Cornell's Engineering students to attend EPFL through the CALS Exchange. Applications are handled by CALS, but permission from your college is required. Students pay the customary tuition and fees to Cornell University, as well as a $500 out-of-college administrative fee to CALS (billed to students' Bursar bill).

For all students: Students are responsible for their own living expenses including travel, accommodation, meals, healthcare, books and supplies during the exchange period. Standard financial aid packages apply and are adjusted to cover cost of living in host country and student visa & travel.

## About EPFL

Definitely check out the Videoclip!

EPFL is located in the Lausanne, the French-speaking part of Switzerland with a population of 135,000. It is the seat of the International Olympic Committee and offers many opportunities for studies, business, shopping, culture, sport and medical care.

EPFL, in its idyllic location on the shores of Lake Geneva, brings together a campus of more than 10,000 people. By its novel structure, the school stimulates collaboration between students, professors, researchers and entrepreneurs. These daily interactions give rise to new and groundbreaking work in science, technology and architecture.

Students, professors and collaborators of more than 110 nationalities make EPFL one of the world's most cosmopolitan campuses.

Information about studying at EPFL can be located at [http://studying.epfl.ch/](http://studying.epfl.ch/).

Download a Powerpoint slideshow of EPFL exchange.
### Programs of Study
Masters Programs are taught in English but Bachelors are not. You may take classes at either level.
- Architecture
- Civil Engineering
- Environmental Science and Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Microengineering
- Materials Science
- Electrical and Electronics Engineering
- Communication Systems
- Computer science
- Mathematics and Applied Mathematics
- Computational Science and Engineering
- Physics
- Nuclear Engineering
- Chemistry and Chemical Engineering
- Life Sciences and Technology
- Bioengineering
- Management, technology and entrepreneurship
- Financial Engineering

### Academic Calendar
http://sac.epfl.ch/academic-calendar

**Spring:**
Courses take place from mid-February to the first week of June. The examination period is from mid-June to the beginning of July. Some courses are evaluated during the semester. It is difficult to know now when the last exam will take place, as it depends on the choice of courses. Students have to be prepared to stay in Lausanne until their last exam.

For information about intensive French classes before classes begin, please visit http://langues.epfl.ch/page66768.html.

### Class Requirements
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.

### Language
Although you can take all of your classes in English, a basic familiarity with French will make your stay in the Lausanne area much more rewarding.

### 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.

### 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.


### 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.
### 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](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](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](http://www.lausanne.ch/musees)


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<tr>
<th>APPLYING FOR THE PROGRAM</th>
<th>You will apply to the exchange after meeting with the CALS study abroad and exchange adviser in 140 Roberts Hall. All application materials will be returned to CALS.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FINANCIAL AID</td>
<td>If you are currently receiving financial aid, your package will be adjusted based on your determined level of need and the projected costs for your exchange program.</td>
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