



## **Degree Programs**

This study placement is open to Language and Social Sciences students who study German.

## **Number of places: 2**

This document provides basic information about the university. **Please do your own research before applying.**

## **Application Process**

To apply for this opportunity you must submit an online application.

Link to the online application can be found in the **How to Apply** section in each university ad. Online application form requires registration, please register with your Aston University e-mail.

Please note that you can submit one application only. As a part of the application, you must provide three universities in order of preference, which should also be specified in your motivation letter.

You are required to submit one motivational letter, which must be focused on your first priority.

**Please do not contact the partner university directly as all the applications are processed by Aston's International Projects Team.**

## The University

Pfingstweidstrasse 96

8005 Zürich

Switzerland



The Zurich University of Applied Sciences is one of the largest Swiss universities of applied sciences. Almost 12,000 students are currently studying for Bachelor's and Master's degrees at its eight different Schools and a further 6,000 are pursuing continuing professional development courses. Applied research is an important activity for many of the university's staff and students, and the results of this research feed back into the courses offered as well as providing answers to questions posed by businesses, organisations and society in general.

## Websites

[University website](#)

[Exchange Video ZHAW](#)

## Location

Winterthur has just over 110,000 inhabitants and is famous for its green spaces, its cultural venues and its film and music festivals. Frequent trains whisk visitors and commuters to Zurich Airport in twelve minutes, and the city of Zurich, which holds a host of further attractions, is just



twenty minutes away. Winterthur is an attractive city in its own right and is also a living example of the Swiss population's enthusiasm for combining the traditional and the modern in most aspects of life. Just a few minutes' walk from the cobblestones and street cafes of the old city centre, former industrial buildings now house modern apartments, business parks, entertainment centres and public facilities such as the recently opened centralised

ZHAW library. Five of the ZHAW's eight Schools are located in Winterthur, giving this historical city the relaxed, contemporary feel that is typical of a university town.

### **Academic calendar**

At the ZHAW School of Applied Linguistics, the academic year is divided into two 18-week semesters. Each of these semesters consists of a 14-week teaching period, which is followed by two reading weeks and two exam weeks. The academic year begins with the autumn semester, which starts in September, in the 38th calendar week of the year. This is followed by the spring semester, which begins in February, in the 8th calendar week of the year.

### **Courses Available**

A full list of the courses available to incoming students by following the link below and then clicking on Courses for incoming students (BA in Applied Languages) in the section entitled Incoming. You will also find the application form and the learning agreement in the same section.

[ZHAW website: information for incoming students](#)

For general information on Bachelor's degree programme, with its three different specialisations, visit the link below:

[ZHAW website: information on the BA in Applied Languages](#)

[ZHAW website: information for incoming students](#)

Modules in the BA in Applied Languages and the MA in Applied Linguistics are offered in German, English, French, Spanish and Italian. If you intend to follow courses in the programme which are given in German, you will need to have reached B1–B2 level in German before you arrive in Switzerland.

If necessary, further tuition in the German language will be provided at the ZHAW. At the School of Applied Linguistics, this additional practice takes the form of an intensive course made up of four extra periods of German a week.

Additional German language courses, some of which lead to Goethe-Institut diplomas, are also available at the Language Competence Centre (LCC) of the School of Applied Linguistics. Please note that extra fees are payable for language courses and exams offered by the LCC.

You can also practise your German (and other language) skills while studying at the ZHAW by making use of the language tandem system. In this system, two people with different

mother tongues get together for an hour a week and help each other to improve, often by conversing in an informal setting.

## **Workload**

The credit system used at the SML is based on the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). The workload of a full-time student at the SML equals 30 ECTS credits per semester, with one credit requiring 25-30 hours of study. The number of credits an incoming student must acquire is determined by his or her home university. However, the SML expects all incoming students to earn between 15 (min.) and 45 (max.) ECTS credits during their exchange semester.

## **Living in Switzerland**

Type of expenses (per month)	in CHF
Rent and utilities	500–800
Food and drink	400–700
Public transport	50–100
Leisure	150–250
Course materials	40–50
Other	100–200 T
Total living expenses in CHF per month	1,240-2,130
Rent deposit (will be refunded)	800–2,000

## **Accommodation**

Most Swiss students rent rooms in shared apartments, known as WGs (*Wohngemeinschaften*), which they often find out about from friends, notice boards or internet sites. It is a good idea to apply early, because the number of rooms is limited. More information is available from:

[Student accommodation: SWOWI](#)

Another option is to rent a room in one of the two student houses in Winterthur that are managed by WOKO. These houses are near Winterthur railway station, and rents range from CHF 555 to CHF 760 a month. WOKO also rents rooms in Zurich. You will find more information at the link below.

[Student accommodation: WOKO](#)

[Student accommodation: studentenwohnen](#)

Other links [www.students.ch](http://www.students.ch) [www.wgzimmer.ch](http://www.wgzimmer.ch) [www.homegate.ch](http://www.homegate.ch)

## **Transport**

Switzerland has a very good public transport network, but you should make sure that you look for special reductions for students before buying tickets. If you find accommodation in Zurich, you will have to take transport costs into account.

## **Insurance information**

Under Swiss law, everyone who resides in Switzerland for more than three months is required to have health and accident insurance. Liability insurance is also recommended. You can buy a basic insurance plan from any Swiss health insurance provider, and our International Office can assist you with this task.

If you have sufficient cover in your home country, you may be able to apply for exemption from this requirement. For example, if you are a citizen of an EU or EFTA country, you can apply for a European Health Insurance Card, which will entitle you to receive medical treatment in Switzerland.

## **Next steps if you are successful**

1. You will be invited for a face-to-face or phone interview with the Placements Team
2. You will be nominated by us to the partner university
3. Following the nomination you must in most cases, complete a registration online.
4. The International Placements Team will contact you about this.
5. Read the Study Plan available on Blackboard from June
6. Complete a Learning Agreement once your modules have been approved by your Placement Tutor.

## Visa

As a foreign student, you will fall into one of three groups under Swiss law:

Group 1	EU/EFTA citizens
Group 2	Foreign nationals who are not EU/EFTA citizens and require a visa
Group 3	Foreign nationals who are not EU/EFTA citizens and do not require a visa (citizens of Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand and Singapore)*

If you are an EU/EFTA citizen, you do not have to apply for a visa. If you belong to Group 2 above, you will need to apply for a visa at the Swiss embassy or consulate in your country.

If you belong to Group 3 above, you are advised to contact the Swiss embassy or consulate in your country to ask about the current entry and residence requirements and formalities. The link below gives an overview of which citizens require visas. Please note that everybody (people in all of the groups described above) must apply for a residence permit within 14 days of arriving in Switzerland (see below).

[State Secretariat for Migration SEM](#)

# Careers + Placements

[www.aston.ac.uk/careers](http://www.aston.ac.uk/careers)

