STUDYING AT EPFL
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STUDY PROGRAMMES OPEN TO THE WORLD

Thirteen different engineering science programmes, customised PhD programmes, cutting-edge laboratories directed by internationally renowned professors, a modern, fast-developing campus spread over some 10,000m², satellite campuses in French-speaking cantons, close ties to industry:

the Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) offers an exceptional student experience to young people planning a higher education in science and technology.

EPFL has grown considerably since it was founded in 1853. Located on the shores of Lake Geneva in an extraordinary setting, today it resembles a small town where more than 13,000 students and employees from over 120 different countries live and work, making it one of the most cosmopolitan campuses.

Specialising in training engineers, providing them with a solid background in basic sciences, EPFL extended its fields of expertise to include life sciences at the beginning of the new millennium. Thanks to its excellence in several different research fields, it is an exceptional place for students. They have here not only the opportunity to interact with internationally renowned researchers but also, upon completing their undergraduate degree, they are able to work in over 300 laboratories equipped with cutting-edge equipment.

Strongly focused on its internationally renowned research (as evidenced by various top academic rankings), EPFL has long cultivated links with industry to facilitate the technology transfer of results obtained in its laboratories. This close relationship with the business world is promoted by the presence of an innovation park on campus, an ideal place for any innovative company – from start-ups to multinationals – wanting to collaborate and interact with EPFL.

Since EPFL is well aware of the role future graduates will play in contributing to a sustainable future, the school is not only involved in research on renewable energy but also participates in research toward an economical and environmentally sound building sector. The wide-ranging work carried out by its "Sustainable Campus" unit serves as a strong example.

Leisure activities are important while studying both for social interactions and for providing welcome relaxation in the midst of a curriculum that is widely acknowledged as being demanding. Thus, EPFL offers many extra-curricular activities, often in the form of clubs. Exchange programmes clearly provide rewarding academic experiences. EPFL therefore strongly encourages student exchange, particularly under the auspices of the numerous partnerships which it has set up with prestigious universities and institutions around the world.

Today, EPFL is a high-level polytechnic school, full of dynamism and open to the world.
**Programmes**

**The BSc**

Le diplôme de DEUG en génie est certifié par la Commission des titres d'ingénieur (CTI). Dès le premier semestre de l'année académique, il s'agit d'un programme de base général, qui couvre la plupart des principaux domaines de la science et de la technologie. Les étudiants peuvent ensuite choisir de poursuivre dans un domaine spécifique, ou d'élargir leur horizons en choisissant des cours d'option ou d'approfondissement. Les études de base sont généralement terminées après deux ans, mais les étudiants peuvent choisir de prolonger leur formation pour un troisième cycle, qui est principalement consacré à la recherche et à l'enseignement.

**The MSc**

Le diplôme de master en génie est également délivré par la CTI. Il est destiné à étendre le champ des études de base, en fournissant un niveau plus avancé de connaissance dans un domaine spécifique. Les étudiants peuvent choisir de suivre des cours de spécialisation ou d'approfondissement, ou de poursuivre une formation de recherche dans un laboratoire ou un institut d'enseignement supérieur. Les études de master sont généralement terminées après deux ans, mais les étudiants peuvent choisir de prolonger leur formation pour un troisième cycle, qui est principalement consacré à la recherche et à l'enseignement.

**The PhD**

Le diplôme de doctorat en génie est également délivré par la CTI. Il est destiné à étendre le champ des études de master, en fournissant un niveau plus avancé de connaissance dans un domaine spécifique. Les étudiants peuvent choisir de suivre des cours de spécialisation ou d'approfondissement, ou de poursuivre une formation de recherche dans un laboratoire ou un institut d'enseignement supérieur. Les études de doctorat sont généralement terminées après trois ans, mais les étudiants peuvent choisir de prolonger leur formation pour un troisième cycle, qui est principalement consacré à la recherche et à l'enseignement.
STRENGTHS

Open to the world

EPFL believes that the variety, flexibility and cross-disciplinarity it provides in its curriculum are necessary for contemporay society, where policies and technologies are endlessly evolving, sometimes in contradictory ways. Engineers play a crucial role: they must know the past and master the present in order to design the future. This is a task which requires both specialist knowledge and a good overview of general culture. This is why, for the past five years and with a view to training engineers who are "open to the world," EPFL requires that its students take classes in the fields of Social and Human Sciences (SHS). Taught by the College of Humanities, these classes cover a varied range of topics (cultures and civilization, aesthetics, philosophy, psychology and sociology, economics and society).

High-level science

EPFL makes a point of including all the necessary ingredients needed for developing academic research at the highest level. This desire for excellence is also reflected in the cutting-edge equipment found in its laboratories. Eager to ensure that students make the most of them, they are offered rapid access to those laboratories within the framework of their projects or their work.

EXCHANGES WITH

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK, USA.

Change of scenery

Since it maintains many partnerships with prestegious schools around the world, EPFL hosts a lot of students from these institutions. It also encourages its students to carry out a portion of their studies at a partner university. As well as expanding cultural horizons, such an exchange offers the unique opportunity to make valuable contact with professors and students from other prestigious institutions. Provided that students have obtained a high grade point average in their 1st year, exchanges become possible during the 3rd year of the BSc. To ensure that the exchange is pedagogically useful, we recommend that EPFL’s study plan is examined carefully and that a host university which offers a comparable programme is selected. To help applicants make their selection and organise their exchange, they can rely on the assistance of EPFL’s student exchange department and on the support of the exchange coordinators in every department.

For the MSc, exchanges are only authorised within the context of the final-year project. In order to gain the maximum benefit from an exchange, it is then essential students take time to meet with the EPFL professor specialised in their chosen field. In this way, they can best benefit from EPFL’s contacts with partner universities, which will help facilitate their departure for and integration within their host university. During their study abroad, students remain enrolled in EPFL and an exchange does not normally extend the duration of their studies.

Contact with the business world

Even though it is essentially a place of academic research, EPFL never forgets that its identity as an engineering school also relies on close contacts with the business world. These links are particularly reflected in the importance that it gives to internships in companies, which are a mandatory component of all engineering programmes. This focus on the business world is also seen in the programmes which have been set up to facilitate students’ transition into the professional sphere. The Career Center offers an internship database, along with individual trainings and assessments to enable every student to prepare for their employability and start their career in the best conditions.

HUMANISTIC EDUCATION

The College of Humanities (CDH) subscribes to the view that EPFL’s high-level programmes also require the development of expertise in social and human sciences. Today, this community is comprised of around 80 professors, most of whom are affiliated with the University of Lausanne, but who are also from EPFL or other partner institutions such as the École centrale d’art de Lausanne (ECALE), and the Haute école d’art et de design in Geneva (HEAD).

"A PhD not only gives you the opportunity to acquire knowledge – which you do a lot of – but also, in a certain sense, to expand the field of knowledge. This is something that I find extremely interesting and also very rewarding. (,) I am affiliated to the Transportation Center and through this center I can directly interact with partners from Industry. This is a unique opportunity to do high level research and, at the same time, understand what is going on in practice and to exchange with practitioners."

FLURIN HÄNSELER
PHD STUDENT CIVIL ENGINEERING PROGRAMME

"THE EPFL FORUM"

A massive job fair that takes place every year, the "EPFL Forum" is a unique opportunity for students to meet representatives from some 200 companies, including many with long-standing links to EPFL. The EPFL Forum enables young graduates and PhD students to learn about job market expectations and to find out more about the companies in attendance, with a view to landing a job which best matches their skill sets. Other students can benefit from this event by researching internships and gathering information that can help them plan the remainder of their studies.
Language proficiency is often the gateway to a successful professional life. Proficiency in two languages is now a professional requirement, and increasingly employers want language classes all year round to its students through the Centre optimal working conditions to sustainable development, which is why it has established a Student-housing availability and hydroelectricity.

Located in the Rolex Learning Center, another recent and spectacular development is the building of new engineering buildings, including the library. EPFL is fully aware of the example it must set with regards to sustainability on campus. These initiatives have notably resulted in the vigorous promotion of sustainable development, which is why it established a Student-housing availability and events and markedly increase student-housing availability and accommodate the growing number of students. In addition to being able to hold major projects, the Rolex Learning Center, which is mainly made up of classes, and you have to do projects naturally aim to reduce the social and environmental impacts of the school, but they also have the aim of making the campus a lively and friendly place both inside and outside of the "A sustainable campus".

At EPFL, the BSc provides you with the tools to appreciate what working in industry is like. Everyone can build up their own style and do their project the same way as me. You learn a lot about other cultures, other ways of working.

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"A sustainable Campus"

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There are several businesses located on campus, such as a bank, a post office, and a pharmacy. Medical and accident insurance is mandatory in Switzerland. All foreign students must obtain coverage through an insurance company that is approved by the Swiss government. Students or residents can contact the Grant Office to obtain further information on their options. Students should set aside at least CHF 2,000 per semester as an emergency supply, as is frequently the case in university education.

Housing

Epfl is located about an hour from Geneva Airport. Lausanne offers a wide range of housing options, including student residences, private housing, and homes in the suburbs of Lausanne. It is therefore best to start looking for housing as early as possible. The EPFL housing office provides valuable information on the various options available. There is a highly-developed public transportation system in Lausanne, which offers travel by train, bus, and metro across the entire city and suburbs of Lausanne. You can use the same ticket to travel by train, bus, and metro. EPFL is located about an hour from Geneva Airport. Lausanne has a highly-developed public transportation system, which offers travel by train, bus, and metro. The cycling network is also well-developed, and EPFL has 1’500 secure and free parking spaces for bikes. Members of the community can borrow a bike using their CAMIPRO card.

Public transport

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Residences and Shops

Residences and shops

Help

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Medical care

Medical care

Housing

Housing

Public transport

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Residences and Shops

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Residence permit and visa

Residence permit and visa
Culture and events

EPFL directly organises special cultural events on campus. culture.epfl.ch

Lausanne and the surrounding area offer a wide range of cultural activities and several internationally renowned museums, such as the Musée de l'Elysée, devoted to photography, the Collection de l'art brut, the Contemporary Applied Art and Design Museum, and the Hermitage Foundation. There is also no shortage of stage productions, notably at the Théâtre de Vidy and the Ballet Béjart.

Music is also well represented. The capital city of Vaud houses several concert venues, such as the Docks. Two of the largest European music festivals are held every summer not far from Lausanne: the Montreux Jazz festival and the Paléo festival in Nyon.

It is sometimes good to unwind with a drink, listening to music, or dancing. EPFL's iconic location is undoubtedly the Satellite, where you can enjoy a drink, listen to some music, or attend a concert.

Every spring, the Balélec festival transforms the campus into a place of celebration with bars, dance floors, and concerts. The event attracts some 20,000 spectators every year.

Sports

Sports are not only for exercise. They also make it possible to form friendships. EPFL and the University of Lausanne (UNIL) share a common sports centre. Benefiting from an exceptional location on the shores of Lake Geneva, the centre offers facilities for over one hundred different individual and group sports. There are several university sports clubs, according interested students the chance to participate in university-level championships. sport.unil.ch

Clubs

There is a vast range of clubs and community-related activities at EPFL. The school has some 60 clubs offering a variety of activities which allow newly arrived students the chance to become integrated into campus life, including: sports, board or online games, festivals, theatre, singing, music, and even preparation for the workplace. associations.epfl.ch

AGEPOLY is EPFL's general student association. It is responsible for safeguarding their interests within the school, in particular with respect to governance, and it oversees events on campus. agepoly.epfl.ch.

EPFL Alumni is the association for graduate students. Its members get access to an exclusive international network of contacts, and maintain a strong and sustainable connection with their school. epflalumni.ch

I studied in Brazil, and I've been in Switzerland for two years. The level of studies at EPFL is very high and the atmosphere is wonderful. Given that there's no competition between students, we all help each other, and the lecturers are ready to lend students an ear. I'm the president of Baramine, a club which raises funds for the study-abroad programme in the third year by having a bar set up during events organised at EPFL. The bar offers cocktails specially created using our grounding in chemistry.

The reason I chose to come to EPFL was because of its prestige, the level of education that it provides, the campus, and the atmosphere here.

CHARLES POIROT
BSc IN CHEMISTRY
INTEGRATION

Welcome activities

To help newly arrived students integrate, EPFL has coaches available to facilitate embarking on university life. Welcome activity programmes for international students are also offered.

sae.epfl.ch/coaching
sae.epfl.ch/internationals-welcome

Freshers’ Week is organised during the week prior to the start of the academic year in September by EPFL’s general student association, AGEPOLY.
agepoly.epfl.ch/agepoly/animation/si

Welcome day is held on the Friday before the start of the academic year. Attendance is required for all new students.
sae.epfl.ch/welcome-day

Language Centre

For learning three of the four national languages – French, German and Italian – and English, EPFL’s Language Centre offers various options through modules: specific, intensive, independent (multimedia zone), and in tandem classes, etc. Intensive modules in French are specifically tailored for new non-French-speaking students before the start of the Fall term.
langues.epfl.ch

More about Switzerland

If you are from another country, you must likely want to learn about Swiss culture and differences. This can also be a good time to make contact with local people. Switzerland has four official languages: German, French, Italian and Romansh. There is a large population of foreign residents. Each language region has a special relationship with its neighbouring country. Since the Swiss live in a multilingual environment, they are accustomed to diversity.
swissworld.org
myswitzerland.com

Childcare

Studies can fit alongside parenting. PhD students and other students with children may contact EPFL’s two childcare centres: Croquignole and Polychinelle. As with elsewhere, demand is much higher than supply, so it is advisable to apply ahead of time.
sae.epfl.ch/childcare

Access for everyone

EPFL is committed to facilitating the integration and well-being of individuals with disabilities, who can, for example, request special arrangements for their schedule. The school also provides advice and contact details for assistance with access, legal and personal issues, especially accessible apartments, and transport.
sae.epfl.ch/disabled-persons
UNIQUE PLACES ON CAMPUS

- Lausanne
- Bassecourt
- Lausanne Flon
- EPFL station
- Archizoom exhibition
- Swiss Tech Convention Center
- Satellite Bar
- Esplanade Central Square
- Frequence Banane Radio Studio
- Agepoly Office
- Rolex Learning Center
- Library
- Electromagnetics and Acoustics Laboratory
- Innovation Park
- Tommak
- Sports Centre
- STCC
- QI
- CROCUS Nuclear Reactor
- Swiss Space Center
- LeMA
- Lema Electromagnetics and Acoustics Laboratory
- Solar panels
- Microengineering Cleanrooms
- Lake Geneva
- Panoramic Terrace
- Cafeteria
- Solar panels
- Innovation Park
- Tommak
- Sports Centre
- STCC
- QI
- CROCUS Nuclear Reactor
- Swiss Space Center
- LeMA
- Lema Electromagnetics and Acoustics Laboratory
- Solar panels
- Microengineering Cleanrooms
- Lake Geneva
- Panoramic Terrace
- Cafeteria
USEFUL ADDRESSES

EPFL, CH-1015-Lausanne,
Phone: +41 21 693 11 11
epfl.ch
prospectivestudent.epfl.ch

“Student Services”
helpdesk for all questions
you might have
Phone: +41 21 693 43 45,
student.services@epfl.ch

Study programmes,
guidance & advisory
bachelor.epfl.ch
master.epfl.ch
phd.epfl.ch

Funding studies,
scholarships & grants,
housing, health insurance
Student Affairs Office,
sao.epfl.ch

Cours de mathématiques
spéciales
Phone: +41 21 693 22 95,
cms@epfl.ch
cms.epfl.ch