Study Abroad
An indispensable experience for your life

School of Management, Economics, Law, Social Sciences and International Affairs
Library Building
Welcome to the University of St. Gallen (HSG)

It is my privilege to introduce you to the University of St. Gallen.
The University of St. Gallen - also known as HSG – today is one of the leading business schools and universities of economics, social science, law and international affairs in Europe. Founded in 1898 the university has a number of key qualities besides exceptional faculty, staff and students, that have helped to establish its outstanding reputation. A few highlights include:

Teaching and research: a symbiosis of theory and practice
Our students are taught by about 90 professors and more than 550 lecturers. Besides teaching, they also do research at the HSG’s 42 institutes and research centres. In addition, many are engaged in mandates with industry, public administration and political authorities. Long term research cooperations exist with leading companies like SAP, Bosch, Audi.

Pursuit of research and teaching with an integrative view
A unique feature of studies at HSG are the compulsory Contextual Studies: Students have to take courses in related fields of social science and humanities to understand that economic decisions are always part and parcel of a social, cultural and historical framework and must therefore be understood in an integrative manner.

Genuine internationality
HSG has had one of the highest numbers of international students for decades. Through its links with 200 partner universities worldwide, HSG offers many exchange and double degree opportunities. As a part of CEMS, PIM, APSIA, GBSN and UNICON networks, the university supports its global connections. Students from 80 different nations are represented in our international student population of 34%, and the 700 exchange students contribute to a truly international campus.

Recognised quality
The HSG’s aspiration to quality in research, education but also infrastructure. Today the University of St. Gallen is constantly ranked among the top business universities in Europe. EQUIS and AACSB international accreditations validate our commitment to quality education and our international focus. While the university has an important position in the local area, our ambitions go further, with the university maintaining an Institute in Singapore and has established three profile areas of global reach.

To learn more about our academic programmes, exchange opportunities, and our beautiful region between the Alps and the Lake of Constance, just turn the page... There is much more that makes us an excellent destination for studying abroad. We are looking forward to welcoming you.

Prof. Dr. Thomas Bieger
President of the University of St. Gallen (HSG)
Our vision

“As a leading business university we set global standards for research and teaching by promoting integrative thought, responsible action and an entrepreneurial spirit of innovation in business and society.”
The University of St. Gallen

The University of St. Gallen was founded as a business academy in 1898 – the heyday of the St. Gallen embroidery industry. It became a business Hochschule in 1911, and later, in 1938 achieved university status. Since its founding, the education and training offered by the University of St. Gallen (HSG) have been characterised by a close affinity to the working world. The practical application of innovative management theories, close ties to the business world, and the success of our graduates, have all contributed to our status as one of the leading business universities in Europe. Currently, more than 8'000 students in management, economics, law, social sciences and international affairs are pursuing their educational goals here.

Rankings and accreditations
The HSG is constantly ranked amongst the top business universities in Europe. In the Financial Times Global Masters in Management Ranking 2017 we are ranked 1st with the Master in Strategy and International Management and 9th with the CEMS Master’s in International Management. Our Master in Banking and Finance is ranked 10th in the Financial Times Masters in Finance Ranking 2017. In addition, the HSG has enhanced its reputation with the EQUIS and AACSB International accreditations.

www.rankings.unisg.ch

Schools
HSG runs five schools: the School of Management, the School of Finance, the School of Economics and Political Science, the Law School and the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. The schools ensure the pursuit of the basic objectives in teaching, research and executive education.

www.unisg.ch/schools

Executive education
The HSG has always seen executive education as one of its central functions along with degree courses and research. Thus HSG institutes organise certificate programmes and seminars in their respective fields. The Executive School of Management, Technology and Law (ES-HSG) offers an English-language full-time and part-time MBA and various part-time Executive MBAs.

www.es.unisg.ch/en

Institutes
Our university is primarily influenced by more than 40 institutes, research institutes and centers. They complement our five schools which teach and carry out research.

Well-known for high quality education and research as well as close links to national, international and private enterprises, the institutes prepare students for a career in management, economics, law and international law. The institutes provide opportunities for students to implement their knowledge on both the practical and research level, with over 100 spin-off companies attesting to the success of this concept.

Global and local initiatives
An international focus is essential for today’s universities. We are active on several levels: HSG hubs in Singapore and Sao Paulo, the Asia Research Center, the Sino-Swiss Management Training Programme and the Centro Latinoamericano-Suizo de la Universidad de San Gallen. We also support an array of local initiatives, such as providing the St. Gallen-Lake Constance region the impulse for numerous entrepreneurial ventures.
“An inspiring and international environment awaits you in a beautiful landscape right in the heart of Europe - St.Gallen, a city with lots of history but also a young and vibrant community. Here you will enjoy the collaborative working style in a welcoming and friendly atmosphere. Be a part of it!”

Nicole Gsell
Head of Student Mobility
University of St.Gallen, Switzerland

“The University of St.Gallen offers you the opportunity to acquire solid knowledge and practical training from our international faculty as well as the space for creative thinking way beyond disciplinary boundaries - and, of course, a campus life full of diversity, social life and fun. We are looking forward to welcome you here!”

Prof. Dr. Ulrike Landfester
Vice-President, External Relations
University of St.Gallen, Switzerland
I chose HSG due to its high-quality education system and its high-degree of commitment with students. Now I can say I’ve gotten lots of valuable insights, not only in terms of studies but also from the international family to who I belong now. In few words, it was amazing.

Ivonne Wu Sasco
Student from Universidad del Pacifico, Lima

The University of St.Gallen is also available to the general public with its wide range of open lectures, the popular Children’s University, and its involvement in local events. Moreover, we regularly host meetings for international dignitaries and high-level executives in the framework of formal and informal events such as the St. Gallen Symposium.

Maintaining a diverse population of international students is a component of our mission. Each year more than 650 guest students representing over 80 nationalities attend the University for an exchange term. With such a mix of students, a multitude of languages can be heard on campus at any one time. However the lingua franca is German and English.

Exchange Programmes

The University of St. Gallen has exchange partnerships with more than 200 universities worldwide. We are committed towards strengthening existing international ties and creating new networks and programmes. These agreements enable us to welcome guest students each year to one of the following programmes.

Exchange at Bachelor’s and Master’s levels with partner universities

The majority of guest students studying at HSG enroll for a semester either at the undergraduate (Bachelor’s) or graduate (Master’s) level. We offer a wide array of business courses as well as courses in other subjects including economics, political science and the humanities. Courses are taught in German and English which ensures that students have a broad selection to choose from in order to meet academic requirements and personal interest.

www.exchange.unisg.ch

ISP

The International Study Programme (ISP) is a three-month programme exclusively for MBA students from our partner universities. It takes place twice a year from September to November and from January to March. The programme focusses primarily on doing business in Europe. A number of company visits familiarise students with different types of business concerns in companies ranging from multinationals to local small businesses. The programme is conducted fully in English, however students may begin learning German in an optional language course.

www.isp.unisg.ch
CEMS MIM - CEMS Master’s in International Management

CEMS is a global alliance of 30 leading business universities, over 70 multinational companies and 7 social partners awarding the CEMS Master’s in International Management. Together, CEMS members offer a unique multi-country experience, blending academic excellence and real-life business practice. CEMS students from CEMS partner universities can spend one semester at the University of St. Gallen. Corporate Partners are strongly involved in various CEMS curriculum components such as block seminar, skill seminars and business projects. To make CEMS guest students feel welcome, the CEMS Student Club in St. Gallen organises a number of activities, bringing both local and CEMS guest students together.

[www.cems.unisg.ch](http://www.cems.unisg.ch)

### Double degrees

The University of St. Gallen offers students high quality double degree programmes. Ambitious students seeking opportunities to deepen their focus or broaden their knowledge during a full year abroad will find a range of challenging and rewarding double degree options to consider. After successful completion of specific degree requirements during 2 - 2.5 years of study, students are awarded two full Master degrees from the partnering institutions. Most graduate programmes in St. Gallen offer a double degree option. [www.unisg.ch/doubledegrees](http://www.unisg.ch/doubledegrees)

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Swiss Mobility
This programme promotes national exchanges, allowing any student enrolled at a Swiss university to spend one or two semesters at another university in Switzerland.

www.exchange.unisg.ch

Freemover
Students enrolled at universities outside of our partner university exchange network interested in a term in St. Gallen can apply as Freemover. A limited number of places are available.

www.exchange.unisg.ch

Doctorate/Ph.D.
Doctoral students from partner universities may spend a term in St. Gallen to conduct research or attend doctoral seminars. The exchange of Ph.D. students is an important academic asset for the University of St. Gallen as a leading business and management school. The demand for exchange possibilities for Ph.D. students is increasing year by year.

www.exchange.unisg.ch

Faculty exchange
The Faculty Development Programme at the University of St. Gallen is a programme whose mission is to assist and support faculty in their professional development and international development and to help both shape and realise our goals in the areas of teaching and research. As part of our internationalisation process, we seek motivated and renowned guest lecturers to spend time at our university.

www.exchange.unisg.ch

PhD Global School in Empirical Research Methods (GSERM)
The PhD Global School in Empirical Research Methods welcomes PhD students and postdocs from partner and non-partner institutions. GSERM at the University of St. Gallen, Switzerland, is a new and high-calibre 3-week integrated flagship programme teaching methodology for PhD students and postdocs from leading universities all over the world.

The GSERM offers an attractive course-based learning atmosphere on different aspects of empirical research. Participants can choose from different courses offered as block seminars by international renowned lecturers.

Due to the enormous success of GSERM it will expand worldwide in the coming years. www.gserm.ch
Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships (ESKAS)
The Swiss government awards university scholarships to provide qualified students and researchers of all fields with the opportunity to pursue PhD studies or research in Switzerland at a publicly funded university or recognised institution.

www.exchange.unisg.ch

Management in Europe
“Management in Europe” aims at providing insight into the financial and entrepreneurial system of Switzerland and the European Union. Although the course is organised primarily for 30 students from Singapore Management University, it is also open to both exchange and local students. In return, St. Gallen students can go abroad on exchange as part of the HSG Asia Term in Singapore.

www.exchange.unisg.ch

An Exchange Term at the University of St. Gallen - Basic Information

Applying for an exchange semester
If you are enrolled at a partner university, you must be nominated by your home university’s study abroad office. As a nominated student you will receive further information about your exchange term directly from the Student Mobility Office at the HSG. Other students should consult the relevant information on our website about our programmes and applying.

www.exchange.unisg.ch

Living expenses
Although Switzerland is not famous for its affordability, St. Gallen is one of the less expensive cities in Switzerland. You can expect monthly expenditures of about CHF 2’000.00. This includes rent, food, texts and travel expenses, but can vary depending on individual needs.

Scholarships
Erasmus – Switzerland is not part of the Erasmus+ programme but offers scholarships in the framework of the Swiss-European Mobility Programme. If you are a student from a European partner university, Student Mobility will provide you with all necessary information.

Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships – Qualified students interested in these scholarships must contact their nearest Swiss Embassy. Early application is required.
When I reflect back on the last couple of months, I realize I had one of the best times of my life in St. Gallen. Worked together with top talents of the CEMS network on challenging projects. Never disregarded having fun either. For those who are looking for a similar experience, I would suggest to put St. Gallen as the first school for their preference list.

Emir Çetinel
CEMS student, Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey

Orientation programme
Before the start of each semester an orientation programme introduces you to all aspects of your exchange term. The programme includes information on both academic and administrative requirements as well as German language classes. Social events are also planned to give students a chance to get to know one another before the term begins. While the German classes are optional, all students are required to attend the orientation programme activities.

Course selection
As a guest student, you may select courses from nearly all of our undergraduate and graduate courses, depending on your level of study at your home university. After examinations and coursework are completed, we issue each student a transcript.

Language of instruction
The languages of instruction at the University of St. Gallen are German and English. A broad variety of Bachelor and Master Programmes are offered in English.

German language
You have the opportunity to take German language classes throughout your semester at the University of St. Gallen. While the intensive German course during the orientation programme may be your first experience with the language, we encourage you to continue learning the language during the semester in one of the many German language courses.

Semester dates
Autumn semester:
September to December
Spring semester:
February to May

ISP programme
Autumn:
September to November
Spring:
January to March
Academic Studies

Study levels

Bachelor’s level
Undergraduate study at the University of St. Gallen begins in the first year with the Assessment Year. Students acquire familiarity with the foundations of disciplinary and scholarly investigation, enabling them to confront and solve theoretical and practical problems. Courses of the Assessment Year are not open to visiting students. Students then proceed to their Bachelor’s studies, where they complete the remaining two years of their studies and achieve a Bachelor of Arts degree.

www.unisg.ch

Bachelor of Arts HSG (B.A. HSG)
Business Administration
English and German
Economics
English and German
International Affairs
English and German
Law
German
Law and Economics
German

Master’s level
At the graduate level, the University of St. Gallen offers 13 Master’s programmes that provide students with a focused academic programme and preparation for confronting both theoretical and practical challenges.

Master of Arts HSG (M.A. HSG)
Business Innovation
German
Marketing, Services, Communication Management
English and German
Accounting and Finance
English and German
Banking and Finance
English
Strategy and International Management
English
Business Management
German
Management, Organization Studies and Cultural Theory
German
Economics
English and German
Quantitative Economics and Finance
English
International Affairs and Governance
English and German
International Law
English
Law
German
Law and Economics
German

The Master’s programmes can begin either immediately following completion of the Bachelor’s degree or after a few years’ experience in the business world. A Master’s programme takes three to four semesters to complete.

www.unisg.ch

Ph.D. level
Our Ph.D. programmes prepare graduates for careers both in academics and applied fields. In addition to offering exceptional teaching, the University of St. Gallen is committed to international degree recognition.

www.unisg.ch

Ph.D. Programmes
Management (several areas of specialisation)
English and German
Economics and Finance
English
Finance
English
International Affairs and Political Economy
English and German
Organization Studies and Cultural Theory
English and German
Law
German
Three levels - three pillars
Degree programmes at the HSG are structured based on three levels and three pillars (3x3). The three academic levels are the Assessment Year, the Bachelor’s level and the Master’s level; and the educational pillars are Contact Studies, Independent Studies, and Contextual Studies. With this model, the HSG fulfils the needs of both society and the economy for graduates with intellectual flexibility and intercultural competence.

Contact Studies
Contact Studies are traditionally taught courses that consist of lectures, exercises and seminars in the core subjects. Taught by members of the faculty, these courses are offered only when the University believes that it is the easiest and quickest way to learn a subject.

Independent Studies
Independent Studies means that students learn on their own or in small groups with a variety of aids. Students are provided with exercises and solutions, texts from journals or textbooks with questions about them, and they are given an opportunity to attend different kinds of virtual courses.

Contextual Studies
The goal of the contextual studies program is to embed the core knowledge into a broader social and cultural context. Decisive accomplishments are not sustainable without a reflection about the social, cultural and historical context, and remain empty without critical thinking. Students will earn 25% of their credits in the contextual studies at all levels.
Facts & Figures

Founded in 1898

5 schools and ES-HSG

Students: more than 8,000 students from over 80 nations

HSG Alumni: over 24,000 members in 174 clubs on 5 continents

Academic degrees: B.A. HSG | M.A. HSG | Dr. HSG | Ph.D. HSG

www.unisg.ch
Services for Exchange Students

Student Mobility
Our office coordinates study abroad terms for guest students at the HSG and assists new students with all aspects of their exchange, including assistance with visas and course enrolment. Before students arrive, we provide information about the upcoming term and guide students through the steps leading up to arrival. At the start of each semester, we collaborate with other relevant departments to organise an informative and fun orientation programme to introduce guest students to their new environment. Our office is available for assistance with any questions or concerns throughout the entire term.

Housing
A comfortable living environment is a key component of a student’s term abroad. As the HSG does not offer on-campus housing, the Housing Office assists guest students with finding suitable accommodation based on each student’s feedback. Guest students usually live with other students but can request specific types of living arrangements. All students have their own room but normally share common areas with their flat mates.

Student clubs and initiatives
HSG students are involved on campus in a number of ways. This includes any of the more than 150 student clubs and associations which guest students are encouraged to join.

www.shsg.ch

BuddySystem
As a division of the Student Union, the BuddySystem is a group of student volunteers who help out new guest students at the University with guidance and information from a student’s perspective. The BuddySystem matches local students with guest students, so that students can contact each other before even setting foot in St. Gallen. Once guest students arrive, they can then look forward to the Buddy System’s full calendar of social activities. Excursions to other Swiss cities, international dinners, ski trips and even visits to chocolate factories provide unforgettable memories and a chance to forge lasting friendships. Guest students can join TANDEM, which brings together two students with different linguistic backgrounds who teach each other their respective language in an informal setting.

www.ressortinternational.ch

„I had a fantastic experience at St.Gallen. The courses are enlightening and helped me gain valuable insight into many new subject areas. I particularly enjoyed the diversity of courses and the ability to study with such a diverse group of people.“

Natalie Frost
Student from University of Queensland Faculty of Business Economics and Law, Brisbane
Sports and leisure activities
To keep body and mind in balance, the University provides a gym, weights rooms, football pitch, tennis, basketball and beach volleyball courts. The University’s attractive location between Lake Constance and the Alps makes St. Gallen an ideal setting for all kinds of leisure activities, such as rock-climbing and sailing. The so-called “Three Ponds” are only a few minutes’ walk from the city centre: the three small lakes on a hill on the outskirts of the city serve as public swimming pools in the summer and as ice rinks in cold winters. The Peter and Paul Wildlife Park is situated near the University and is popular with students who want to go jogging and walking.

www.sport.unisg.ch

Career Services Center
The Career Services Center of the University of St. Gallen is the central contact point for our students with regard to their entry into professional life. The CSC team consists of coaches and career advisers who have extensive know-how from various industries and fields. Their aim is to support students in their career planning and in the realisation of their career steps according to their requirements.

www.csc.unisg.ch

HSG Talents Conference
The HSG TALENTS Conference is the HSG’s official recruiting event. It provides our students with the excellent opportunity to establish contact with more than 100 national and international companies, to market themselves and to extend their network. The HSG TALENTS Conference is one of the biggest events of this type in the German-speaking area.

www.hsgtalents.unisg.ch

St. Gallen Symposium (ISC)
Seeking to promote dialogue that crosses the boundaries of cultures, generations and interest groups, the annual St. Gallen Symposium is organised exclusively by the International Students’ Committee (ISC), an independent student initiative at the University of St. Gallen. This conference has gained world-wide recognition for providing a neutral platform for critical and constructive debate on issues of global concern. Participants include key figures from business, politics, academia and selected students.

www.stgallen-symposium.ch
HSG Alumni
HSG Alumni is the official organisation of former students of the University of St. Gallen. With 24,764 members and 174 Alumni Clubs on 5 continents, it is one of Europe’s leading associations of this type. It reinforces the alumni’s lifelong bonds with the University, as well as the networks among its members, by means of numerous events and information platforms.
www.alumni.unisg.ch

University facilities
The University of St. Gallen offers the latest facilities and services to support individual and collaborative learning, including web-based communication platforms and wireless LAN. The Library maintains the best traditions of its trade, yet is up-to-date and modern in design: it has more than 550,000 books, journal volumes and non-books (DVDs, audiobooks, CDs), more than 150,000 e-books and 42,000 licensed e-journals.

On the main campus, a university restaurant offers a wide selection of meals for large and small appetites. There is also a student bar and several cafeterias where you can enjoy a pleasant coffee break.
International Networks

CEMS - The Global Alliance in Management Education
CEMS is a strategic alliance of leading business schools, multinational companies and NGOs. Its first mission is to set a global standard of excellence for pre-experience Master’s in management. Founded in Europe in 1988, the CEMS Master’s in International Management (CEMS MIM), is one of the top ranked Master’s programmes of its kind according to the Financial Times. Today, CEMS is the global league of leaders on the Master’s market and it cannot be equaled in terms of reputation of its members: 30 world-class academic institutions collaborate together with more than 70 corporate partners and 7 NGOs to offer international postgraduate students a unique blend of high-quality education and professional experience. At the University of St. Gallen the CEMS MIM is a double degree programme that tops off the home degree and is open to all students enrolled in one of our Master programmes.

www.cems.org

PIM
PIM (Partnership in International Management) is a union of business schools founded in 1973 by Ecole des Hautes Etudes Commerciales (HEC), New York University (NYU), and London Business School (LBS). Its goal was then and is now today, to bring together individual business schools through the support of student exchanges among the institutions. The worldwide PIM network currently consists of 63 business schools and enables students to participate in an exchange. In addition, the PIM partner institutions also engage in exchanges dealing with instruction, curriculum, and administration, in an effort to sustain high academic standards in the future.

www.pimnetwork.org

APSIA
The Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs (APSIA) has 67 member schools in the US, Europe and Asia. It was established in order to dedicate itself to the improvement of professional training in the area of International Relations, to thus help promote international understanding, prosperity, peace, and security. APSIA members work together to exchange information among themselves, with other universities and with the public regarding the area of international relations.

www.apsia.org

GBSN
Since 2003, the Global Business School Network has been a leader in promoting management education as a critical component in successful international development strategies. GBSN fosters a network of emerging business leaders who are committed to using the power of business to create a better world. The next generation of skilled managers will have a positive impact on society through-out their professional careers and beyond.

www.gbsnonline.org
St. Gallen is “young”

St. Gallen is very popular among young people and is among the cities with the youngest population in Switzerland. According to the Statistical Yearbook, St. Gallen, with 17.2% of its population in the 20-29-year age bracket, is even the frontrunner in this respect. With approx. 14%, bigger cities like Zurich and Basel are clearly lagging behind.

Thomas Scheitlin’s three favorite places in St. Gallen:

• The red lounge of Pipilotti Rist, because it is an expression of innovation and creativity.

• I also like the Lokremise, which combines modernity, tradition and urbanity.

• And third, there are the three ponds which reflects the quality of life of this city.

Together, all three create a complete picture of St. Gallen.
St. Gallen

**Living in St. Gallen**

St. Gallen offers its approximately 80,000 inhabitants a historically valuable old town. The narrow streets with many shops, cosy restaurants and bars at every corner create an atmosphere you can’t help falling in love with. The Abbey District, with the baroque cathedral and Abbey Library, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and thus of international significance. Further cultural highlights include performances at the City Theatre, the Concert Hall, the St. Gallen Festivals, as well as exhibitions in numerous museums. Particularly popular with students is the St. Gallen Open Air, a three-day music festival which transforms the Sitter Valley into Switzerland’s biggest tent city. For a relatively small city, St. Gallen has an international atmosphere. 30% of its residents come from other countries and it is home to several international clubs and restaurants.
**History**

St. Gallen became affluent through the textile trade. Although textile production has since moved to other parts of the world, St. Gallen is still a centre for textile design and prototype development. Once 90% of worldwide embroidery production was traded by St. Gallen’s merchants. The need for professional education soon became evident. In 1898, St. Gallen merchants established a commercial school, which is today the University of St. Gallen.

www.stadt.sg.ch/
www.st.gallen-bodensee.ch

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**Facts & Figures**

Situated in north-eastern Switzerland, in the German-speaking area

Population **80,000**

**30% international residents**

Abbey District, **UNESCO**

World Heritage Site

Short distances to Swiss Alps and Lake Constance

Only **1** hour’s journey to Zurich/Zurich Airport

www.stgallen-bodensee.ch
St. Gallen from above
Mühleggbahn

The Mühleggbahn funicular is the oldest intra-urban public means of transport and belongs to one of the oldest corporations in east Switzerland that was founded in 1893. It connects the historic center to another city part called St. Georgen and is part of the local transport network.

Originally the funicular was powered by pure force of gravity. To move the wagons, water was filled into a tank below the vehicle in the upper station, while the vehicles at the valley station were empty. The weight of the water moved the two vehicles. Since 1975 the Mühleggbahn is powered by an electric drive.

Drei Weieren

In 1610, three ponds were created just above the city at Dreilinden. They mainly supplied the bleaching works, the mills in the Steinach gorge, and served for firefighting. Today the ponds with their Art Nouveau bathing house make up one of the most beautiful natural lidos in Switzerland – easily reached by the Mühleggbahn funicular. If the winter gets cold enough, it is possible to go ice skating on one of the artificially created ponds called Buebenweiher. There is an entrance fee for the lido Frauenweiher whereas the Mannenweiher pond as municipal lido is free of charge.
Switzerland has an area of 41,285 square kilometres (15,940 square miles). It measures 220 kilometers (137 miles) from north to south and 350 km (217 miles) from east to west.

Switzerland has a population of 8 million. Population density is high, with 193 people per square km (500 per square mile) of the productive area.

Highest point: Dufour Peak, in the Monte Rosa mountain range, 4'634 m (15'203 feet)

Lowest point: Lake Maggiore (Ticino) 193 m (633 feet)

Lakes: 1'484

Glaciers: 140
Switzerland

Few countries of Switzerland’s size can boast such a panorama of landscapes and settings, from the cosmopolitan centres of Zurich and Geneva to dramatic alpine mountain ranges to the tranquil lakes of the Mediterranean-like Tessin. Switzerland, while of course famous for chocolate, watches, and banks, offers other facets to be discovered. Sport and outdoor enthusiasts will not lack for activities regardless of the season. The culturally inclined will find a country with a rich and varied history and any number of cultural events and venues to enjoy. Four national languages - German, French, Italian, and Romansch - distinguish the Swiss landscape, with cultural and linguistic identity closely intertwined. While this multilingualism underlines the country’s long tradition of unity in diversity, today’s global trends are also influencing Switzerland’s demographics: 23% of the 8 million residents are international and many Swiss themselves have ethnic roots beyond Switzerland’s borders.

Switzerland is located literally in the heart of Europe. A reliable and extensive national train and bus system provides access to just about every corner of the country and also easy connections to neighboring countries. Three international airports in Zurich, Basel and Geneva serve as hubs for those seeking more distant destinations for a weekend getaway. With its steady economy and stable political climate, Switzerland offers a high living standard within a safe environment. Students seeking a study abroad opportunity will find Switzerland the perfect setting in which to experience an unforgettable stay. Unique to this small country is its strong federalism. This is expressed in two ways: In the strong autonomy of the 26 cantons and their municipalities, as well as in their direct participation in political decision-making. It is not only the cantons that have a major influence – the individual citizens also do. This is the result of the country’s direct democracy: People’s initiatives and referendums (polls held every quarter) give citizens the chance to influence the government.
Trains & Alps
One of the most spectacular ways to cross the Alps: the Bernina Express from Chur to Tirano (via St. Moritz) links up regions with different languages and cultures. The railway winds its way gently through splendid scenery. On the highest railway across the Alps, the Bernina Express climbs up to the glistening glaciers before descending to the palms of Italy far below. The train negotiates the 55 tunnels, 196 bridges and inclines of up to 70 per mille with ease. At the highest point on the RhB, 2,253 metres above sea level, you will find the Ospizio Bernina. Here, visitors can delight in the cultural and natural surroundings and enjoy the Alps at their most impressive.

Zermatt
The Matterhorn, the king of mountains, is the most-photographed mountain in the world. It is myth and emblem for Alpinists and photographers alike, as well as Switzerland’s most famous landmark and symbol. 38 mountains are gathered here all of which are over 4,000 m. A true paradise for alpinists. The names are familiar: Monte Rosa, Weisshorn, Dom, Täschhorn, Liskamm. Alpinists can reach 38 four thousand-metre peaks from Zermatt. Zermatt is a challenging place to visit in summer and winter time.

Lucerne
The Chapel Bridge is Lucerne’s landmark and the most frequently photographed monument in Switzerland. This octagonal tower - over 34 meters high (111.5 ft.) - was built around 1300 as part of the city wall and used as an archive, treasury, prison and torture chamber. From its roof to the ground, the water tower measures 34.5 m. Believe it or not, it is actually wider than it is high; its circumference is 39 m. In its long history, the enormous structure has served various purposes. First, it was a defence and watchtower and later it was used as an archive, treasure and preparation chamber.
Facts & Figures

41,285 km² of beautiful landscape

Traditional, yet very modern

Safe environment

4 national languages (German, French, Italian, Romansh)

In the heart of Europe

Internationally recognized neutral nation

Federal republic with semi-direct democracy

26 cantons

www.myswitzerland.ch
Have a look at the HSG film!

University of St. Gallen's corporate image film, „Love, Loss, and Other Lessons Learned“, won a Gold Dolphin Award at the Cannes Corporate Media & TV Awards 2014.
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Pictures
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