



University of St.Gallen

INTERNATIONAL STUDY PROGRAMME (ISP)

The exchange programme for MBA students

2025/
2026

WHY UNIVERSITY OF ST.GALLEN (HSG)

The University of St.Gallen (HSG) offers its students not only purely subject-specific knowledge but also the prerequisites for personal development.

- integrative and practice-relevant education
- promotion of entrepreneurial spirit
- inspiring campus in the heart of Europe
- global networks
- life-long community (37'000 alumni)
- student life (190 clubs and associations)

Facts

- top-rankings and renowned accreditations
- > 90% of graduates would choose HSG again
- excellent employability rate: 4 out of 5 Bachelor's and Master's graduates have a job by the time of their graduation
- partnerships with over 200 universities around the world

#2

Financial Times Global Masters in Management ranking for Master in Strategic Management and International Management (SIM-HSG) 2023

#6

Financial Times European Business School 2023



PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

- 10-weeks (Spring) / 11-weeks (Autumn) intensive programme focusing on business
- All courses in English
- Five to seven company visits
- Outstanding international professors
- One week break for individual travel
- All required course material free of charge
- Ideal class size ranging from 25 to 35 students
- Free-of-charge accommodation during site visits
- Access to the St.Gallen's Career Services Center included
- Min./max. course load of 16/25 ECTS credits and 152/244 contact hours

professionals in some of the most dynamic companies in the region.

In recent years, visits have included:

- BMW, Munich
- Roche, Basel
- Nestlé, Vevey
- Bühler, Uzwil
- WEF, Geneva
- IWC, Schaffhausen
- Victorinox, Ibach
- Siemens, Zug
- Red Cross, Geneva
- United Nations, Geneva

CAREER SERVICES CENTER (CSC)

The University of St.Gallen has ongoing partnerships with various European and global organisations. Numerous leading multinational firms, management consulting companies and banks regard St.Gallen as preferred recruiting ground. Due to its excellent international reputation, the HSG hosts many on-campus career recruiting activities each year.

The Career & Corporate Services Center CSC provides specific workshops for the ISP students with insights about recruiting in Europe and valuable hints and leads.

PROGRAMME DATES

ISP Autumn 2025

9 September to 20 November 2025

ISP Spring 2026

6 January to 12 March 2026

DYNAMIC COMPANIES, MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS

A cornerstone of the ISP are the site visits, which expose the students to the possibility of meeting important and influential



Specialized Short-Term Exchange Programme for MBA students:

ISP – International Study Programme

The ISP is an intensive exchange programme for international MBA students from our partner universities.

Classes are small, teaching is interactive, and the requirements are substantial. Our well-known and respected professors will lead you towards a profound and enduring understanding of conducting business in Europe. In addition to the core curriculum, we integrate company visits and excursions into our programme. Visits provide you with the opportunity to broaden your horizons both personally and professionally, and in some instances, you will meet leaders of these dynamic institutions. Thus, the ISP provides a learning laboratory for those who aspire to a career in a volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous (VUCA) world.

We invite you to explore continental European business and economics through this programme offered in the dynamic setting of the University of St.Gallen.

Vibrant Learning Experience

The ISP is geared towards talented MBA students who are eager to learn more about doing business in continental Europe. The outstanding international faculty brings years of diverse experience to the classroom.

Class size is ranging from 20 to 35 students in order to encourage the development of an intense learning context and a vibrant group spirit, which are the foundation of a high quality and enduring experience.

European Business: Theory and Practice

The ISP offers students insight into

- European business theories in strategy, leadership and corporate governance
- European legal, economic and cultural business contexts
- European companies, through site visits and case studies

The ISP is taught entirely in English, but an intensive German beginner class is also offered to students interested in gaining a deeper understanding of the culture and having more fun during their stay in St.Gallen.



COURSE PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

ISP course programme Autumn 2025/ Spring 2026

Course type	Contact hours	ECTS credits
European Corporate Governance	core 18	2
European Culture and International Management	core 14	2
Leadership in European Companies	core 28	3
Team Building: Leadership and Team Competencies	core 8	–
Strategic Management: A European Perspective	elective 28	3
Europe's Business Environment:	elective 28	3
Rules, Reform, and Restructuring		
Global Managerial Communication	elective 28	3
Data Science and AI for Business (Autumn)	elective 28	3
OR International Entrepreneurship (Spring)		
Investment Banking	elective 28	3
German Language for Beginners	Optional 36	3
	152/244	16/25

COURSE CHOICE

CORE courses

ELECTIVE courses

OPTIONAL courses

Core courses are compulsory

Select a minimum of 3 elective courses

Select optional courses – if desired

The ISP course planning makes it possible to attend all offered ISP courses if desired. Courses do not overlap. After being admitted to the ISP programme, you will need to submit your course selection of elective courses and optional courses to isp-info@unisg.ch by the deadline stated in your acceptance letter.



CORE COURSES

European Corporate Governance.

Corporate governance refers to the system by which companies are directed, controlled and made accountable. Corporate governance matters to corporate executives, investors, business partners, employees, labour leaders, politicians and regulatory bodies. Within Europe, governance systems and philosophies vary across countries. Likewise, the question of what constitutes "effective" governance is a moving target, subject to alternative interpretations by different actors, as well as to changing interpretations over time. The primary responsibility of board members is to balance the interests of the company, shareholders and other stakeholders by pursuing long-term growth that is sustainable and profitable. This course will explore how and why national corporate governance contexts and board practices vary across Europe. We will discuss specific corporate governance cases and scandals, and explore their antecedents and consequences. At the end of this highly interactive course, participants will be able to appreciate the heterogeneity of European corporate governance contexts and better understand board-level strategic leadership of European companies. *2 ECTS*

European Culture and International

Management. International management practices are deeply rooted in Europe's cultural history. The course will introduce students to today's crucial challenges of management and economics from the point of view of cultural history and cultural theory. Its goal is to foster the deeper understanding and creative use of such practices. The first part of the course gives a

theoretical and historical introduction to different cultural spheres. The focus of the second part is on the cultural analysis of a practical business case. The following topics will be covered: Introduction to Switzerland, "Who is Europe?", "What is a City?", Mythology of Brands, Cultures of Leadership, Trust and Communication. *2 ECTS*

Leadership in European Companies.

Today's world is characterised by high volatility, uncertainty, and constant change. Organisations which are highly successful and celebrated today can be close to bankruptcy only some years later. This dynamic and fast-changing nature of today's competitive environment can be summarised by the term VUCA – Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity, and Ambiguity. Organisations which strive to be successful in a VUCA world are dependent on a new type of leader and a distinct leadership behavior. Within the broader framework of VUCA-related challenges, this course focuses on two specific, yet interrelated topics that European organisations currently struggle with: The effective management of diversity and inclusion in teams and organisations as well as fostering a healthy workplace in which leaders and employees can thrive and maintain a high level of work ability across their working life. *3 ECTS*

Team Building. Leadership and Team Competencies. This intensive training takes place in the first week of the academic term for ISP students. It offers an opportunity for students to get to know one another better while learning some valuable team and leadership skills. It takes place on campus and in the forest not far from the University of St.Gallen. *No credits*

ELECTIVE COURSES

Strategic Management. A European Perspective. The purpose of this course is to familiarise students with the activities, challenges, and tools of strategic leaders in an increasingly complex and uncertain environment. Content will focus on the theory, concepts, and frameworks associated with strategic analysis, corporate and competitive strategy, sustainability strategies, and strategic change. The classes will typically be divided into a section to discuss theoretical tools and frameworks and their subsequent application to real-world cases (mostly from European firms). *3 ECTS*

Europe's Business Environment. The objectives of this class are developing a deeper understanding of (i) the environment that firms face when operating in Europe, (ii) the range of choices available to savvy companies, and (iii) the critical perspective to evaluate the relative merits of those choices. This involves understanding the circumstances faced by Europe's firms, some of which are legacies of history and some which are changing faster than many think, and the effects of numerous government and EU initiatives to bolster European corporate performance. The perspective taken is always that of firm and their market and non market strategies and not of any particular European political or governmental organizations. As such this course blends insights from corporate strategy, international business, business economics, and European political economy. We will work methodically through the material discussing frameworks, case studies, and applications to real-world problems. *3 ECTS*



ELECTIVE COURSES

Global Managerial Communication. The course on global managerial communication introduces students to one of the most frequent tasks in management – leading effective dialogues. It provides an overview on the rich theory on managerial communication, particularly in knowledge-intensive, complex, and intercultural situations, and sensitises students to the challenges of management communication, ranging from leading interdisciplinary teams, giving feedback, asking the right questions to spark innovation, to leading meetings in different cultural settings or interacting with potential clients, or conducting negotiations. The main goals of the course are thus to allow students to build a theoretical understanding of the key mechanisms that shape effective managerial communication in a global context and that allow to understand the potential pitfalls, as well as to learn about effective practices of leading communication on an interpersonal and group level. 3 ECTS

Data Science and AI for Business (only in autumn ISP classes). The overall goal of the course is to improve the data literacy of students in order to help them excel in a data-driven world. The course will familiarise students with the basics of business analytics, data science and applied machine learning to enable them to apply these approaches to business-related problems. The course introduces the main concepts and technologies as well as selected analysis methods and tools in detail. These will be applied by students to real world case studies of leading

online companies, such as Facebook, LinkedIn, Netflix, Orange, Zalando or Airbnb. Among others, these case studies include the prediction of product demand and future customer behaviour, the creation of recommendations, or the automated identification of fake news. 3 ECTS

International Entrepreneurship (only in spring ISP classes) The ability to understand the link between entrepreneurship and value creation has become crucial to succeeding in today's business world. The course is designed to provide students with insights from the latest strategy, innovation and entrepreneurship thinking to better understand how individual entrepreneurs and entrepreneurial companies create value with a special emphasis on the European perspective. Upon completion of the course, the participants should be prepared to act on this understanding, start their own ventures or support organisations in developing and implementing value-driven innovation strategies. 3 ECTS

Investment Banking. The lecture will provide you with first insights into Investment Banking activities and has a strong emphasis on corporate finance-related topics. In detail, the lecture focuses on initial public offerings, M&A transactions, restructuring situations and Private Equity investments. By doing so, it combines technical expertise with industry insights based on various case studies and real-world examples. It is expected that students will work on different case studies and discuss their findings in class. 3 ECTS

OPTIONAL COURSES

German Language. The course is designed as an introductory course to the German language for students with little or no German skills. While developing all language skills (speaking, listening, reading and writing), the strongest emphasis will be put on speaking and listening skills, given the unique opportunity provided by the setting. 3 ECTS



LIVING EXPENSES

Housing

Housing Office provides off-campus housing for guest students if requested.

- Non-refundable application fee: CHF 250 (required)
- Housing price per room: CHF 700 to 1050 or higher per month, depending on personal requirements
- Liability insurance: approx. CHF 10
- Students may arrange housing on their own

HOUSING OFFICE

T: +41 71 224 22 00
housing@unisg.ch

Monthly living expenses

Accommodation (rent plus utilities) CHF 700–1050; Food CHF 600; Communication (telephone, internet, TV) CHF 70; Transport (public and private) CHF 140; Insurances (liability, health) CHF 100–280; Leisure activities CHF 150; Other CHF 100–150

Transportation

In Switzerland, travelling by public transport is very convenient and it is encouraged. Students are advised to obtain the Swiss Federal Railway half-fare card in order to save 50% on all tickets for trains, buses, trams, ferries. It is available for CHF 190 and valid for one year. sbb.ch/en



STUDENT SERVICES

Student Mobility Services

Student Mobility Services handles all administrative issues related to guest students. exchange.unisg.ch

Special Needs

Students with a disability or a chronic illness may face particular challenges during their studies and may require special assistance. Careful reflection and early planning are crucial for an exchange term to be successful. Contact Student Mobility at the University of St.Gallen well in advance. unisg.ch/en/university/about-us/advisory-offices/special-needs/

BuddySystem

The BuddySystem organises various events for guest students bringing local and international students together and promoting Swiss culture. ressortinternational.ch/buddysystem

Career Services Center

Guest students have access to information on internships and may participate in recruitment fairs. hsgcareer.ch/en

Library

565'005 volumes; 409'064 E-books; 1127'178 E-journals
unisg.ch/en/university/library/

Sports Office

Sports activities on- and off-campus. Gym and workout rooms, tennis, beach volleyball, football field. Off-campus recreation facilities nearby for skiing, sailing, golfing, climbing, etc. sport.unisg.ch

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

The **Student Union** is the official student representative body at the University and the umbrella organisation of all the student associations and initiatives. Its representatives and the students work towards the realisation of their ideas and contribute to the development of the University. shsg.ch

Student associations & initiatives

About 120 student associations and initiatives contribute to a rich and diverse university life. These include the BuddySystem and many cultural and sporting activities.

Events of international significance

organised by HSG students

- The St.Gallen Symposium – symposium.org
- The oikos Model WTO – model-wto.org
- HSG TALENTS Conference – hsgtalents.ch
- START Summit – startsummit.ch

HSG promotes entrepreneurship. Start-ups provide innovative solutions for society and strengthen the economy. HSG actively supports entrepreneurship with numerous consultations and events. startuphsg.com

GRADE TRANSCRIPTS

An electronic notification of grades and Academic Record will be published on our student platform Compass.

Autumn semester

Notification of grades	Mid-December
Academic Record	End-December

Spring semester

Notification of grades	Mid-April
Academic Record	Late April

NOMINATION BY PARTNER UNIVERSITY

Nominations must be entered in our online portal Mobility-Online using the personal login provided. Login data should be kept on record for future nominations.

Nomination period:

ISP Autumn 2025

15 April

ISP Spring 2026

15 September

STUDENT APPLICATION

After a nomination is entered in the Mobility-Online portal, Student Mobility will provide the student with further instructions and information about completing the online application.

Application period:

ISP Autumn 2025

1 February to 15 May

ISP Spring 2026

15 August to 30 September

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

All ISP courses are in English. Non-native English speakers must have minimum TOEFL score of 89(itb) or IELTS score 6.5. This requirement is waived for students enrolled in an English-taught MBA at the home university.

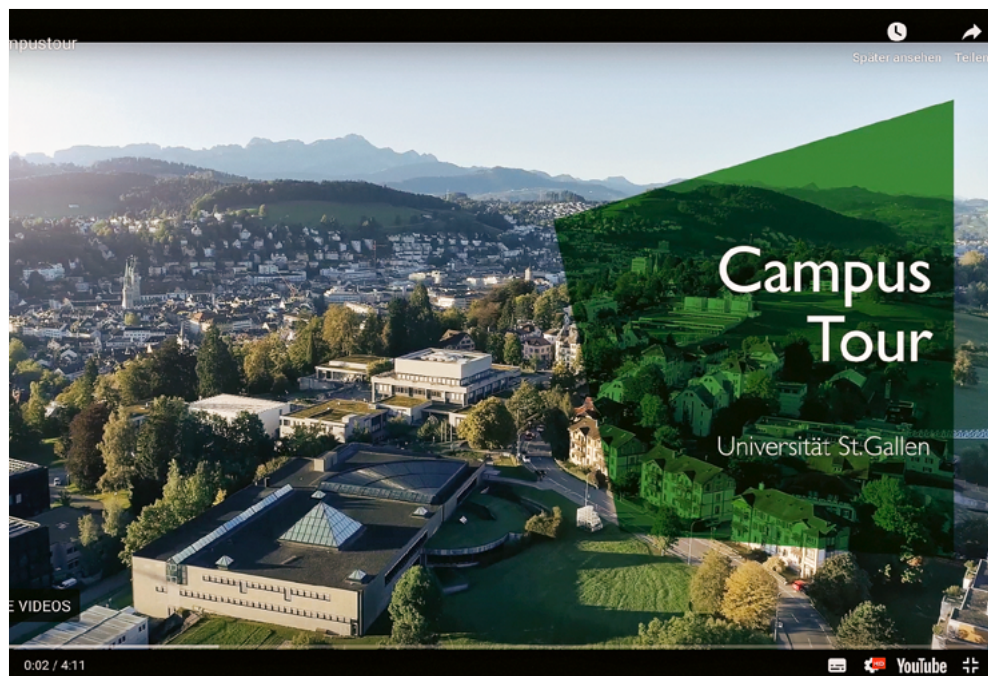
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ACCREDITATIONS



MEMBER OF

