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Rector's Welcome



Dear Reader,

This brochure introduces to you a variety of stimulating, and empowering study and research opportunities in an international and inspiring university environment. You have guessed it — we are talking about the University of Lucerne, situated in the heart of cosmopolitan Switzerland.

An ever-increasing number of visiting students from all over the world come together with local Swiss students to create a truly international atmosphere. This unique setup offers not only great learning, but also networking opportunities. You can make lifelong friends from all over the world and enjoy the stunning Alpine scenery of a city that is also a popular holiday destination.

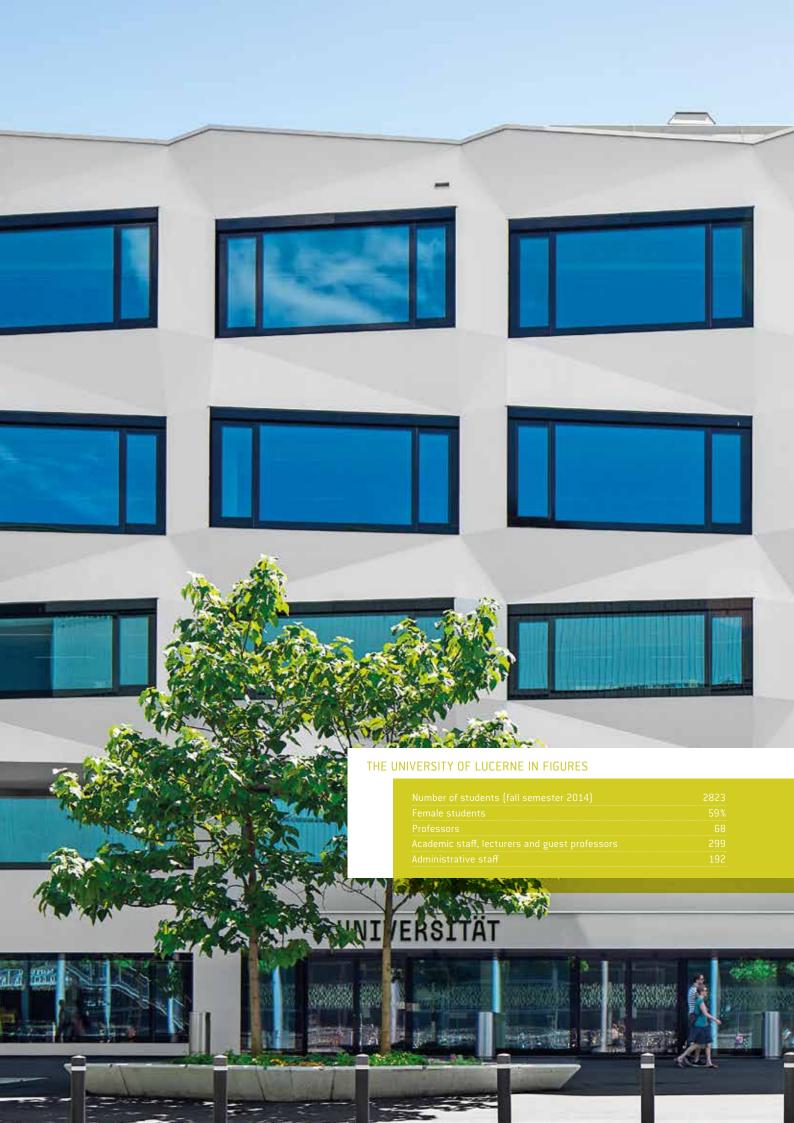
The University of Lucerne offers its affiliates and visitors a completely fascinating new university building in the heart of Lucerne. This building contains everything you need to organise your studies in the most efficient way, including infrastructure of the highest standard. One of the highlights is a large library that houses the books of all university faculties, and offers more than 670 workstations.

Our professors, as well as our academic and administrative staff are committed to the highest academic standards of excellence, which makes the University of Lucerne an innovative and unique institution of higher education and research, as well as a most attractive employer.

The University of Lucerne fosters its local and regional roots intensively, without forgetting about our international commitment to partner institutions all over the world. Like this, we stay connected with the local population and the world.

Dear Reader, we bid you a warm welcome to the University of Lucerne!

Professor Paul Richli, Rector



The University of Lucerne

A YOUNG UNIVERSITY

The University of Lucerne is the youngest university in Switzerland. Its roots stretch back as far as 1600, but it has only existed as a modern university since 2000. The number of students has grown in ten years from about 250 in the founding year to the current level of around 2700.

The University of Lucerne consists of three faculties: Theology, Humanities and Social Sciences, and Law, with a fourth faculty, namely the Faculty of Economics and Management due to open its doors in 2016. Particularly strong emphasis is placed on creating networking opportunities. In the areas of research, teaching and services it creates links between confessions and religions, times and cultures, philosophy, politics and law. It holds the leading position in tertiary education in Central Switzerland and is a key player in the realms of scientific research, education and continuing education. It helps to shape the economic life of Central Switzerland and is a driving force in regional and inter-regional development.

AN EXCEPTIONAL PROFILE

The University of Lucerne defines itself as a centre of research and teaching that provides focussed academic study programmes and shares its findings with the outside world. The university is a recognised partner of other research and teaching institutions, yet retains its own independent profile.

The university's study programmes focus on humanities, social sciences and law, and are designed in such a way that the subjects are exploited to their full potential while still allowing room for specialisation. Students are encouraged to develop academic and social skills, without neglecting the practical and occupational aspects of their education. The integration of the latest research findings into the university's teaching forms a solid foundation, and is the principle upon which the University of Lucerne is based. Integrated bachelor's and master's study programmes allow students to combine several subjects, giving the University of Lucerne a range of courses that is unique in Switzerland.

AN INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENT

The University of Lucerne actively promotes collaboration with international partner universities. Numerous affiliations with prestigious higher education institutions in Europe and overseas allow a constant exchange of research and foster the mobility of students, staff and researchers.

The internationalisation of all study programmes and services, the recruitment of the brightest PhD students, junior researchers and outstanding professors from all over the world, and the expansion of international alliances, are additional focal points of the university's international strategy.

Excellence in Research

PRIMARY FOCUS ON RESEARCH

Excellent academic research is the core task of the University of Lucerne. The university's faculties are dedicated to carrying out research in their respective fields. A large number of researchers and professors at the University of Lucerne have made a name for themselves in their particular subject areas on a national and international level. They publish articles in the best-known academic journals, actively participate in academic discourse, and encourage the dissemination of their research findings in order to generate additional social value. The University of Lucerne supports its academic staff by granting unrestricted freedom of research, providing a high quality infrastructure, and prioritising equal opportunities for all its members, irrespective of their gender or background.

PROMOTING YOUNG TALENT

The university's work is focussed primarily on future generations. By integrating the latest research findings and introducing students to research from the very early stages of their studies, the University of Lucerne ensures that research remains its clearly defined principle. Excellent students are prepared for a potential academic career and provided with structured support. Advanced researchers promote young academic talents by setting stringent demands, creating room for exploration, permitting participation in research and teaching, delegating responsibility and facilitating mobility. Independent research scholarships for talented young academics at the University of Lucerne facilitate the funding of scholars and projects, and ensure active support of young researchers when submitting research applications at home and abroad. These funding schemes ensure high-quality and active research activity.



INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH PRIORITIES

The University of Lucerne specifically supports interdisciplinary research between the faculties and with other universities. A current university priority research program and an inter-university research collaboration are excellent examples of this and are outlined below.

REGIE

The priority research programme Religion and Societal Integration in Europe (German: Religion und gesellschaftliche Integration in Europa – REGIE) involves collaboration between representatives from two of the current three university faculties. It officially started in November 2009 and after five successful years was extended to run until the end of 2016. The main focus of the research is on the role and importance of religion in the social and political integration of contemporary European societies. It poses questions related to the positive and negative impacts of religion on the cohesion and stability of democratic societies and their political institutions. These questions are currently being analysed in five sub-projects lead by researchers from the fields of political science, religious studies, and historical and systematic theology. Additional sub-projects, numerous publications, public lectures, an international conference in 2012 and a large research application are all part of the programme's seven-year span.

Inter-university research collaborations

The Competence Center for Research in Energy, Society and Transition (CREST) focusses on the legal, political and social questions raised by the Swiss Energy Strategy 2050 with its objectives of an exit from nuclear power and the decarbonisation of the energy supply. Together with economic questions this forms the agenda for CREST, as one of seven Swiss Competence Centers for Energy Research (SCCER). CREST was established in 2014 by Prof. Dr. Sebastian Heselhaus from the Faculty of Law together with colleagues in law as well as in economic, social and political science fields at the Universities of Basel (leading house), Zurich (ETHZ), St. Gallen, Geneva, Lausanne (EPFL), Neuchâtel, and Zurich University of Applied Sceinces (ZHAW) (co-leading house). At the Faculty of Law the research team is based within the Center for Law and Sustainability (Profs. Heselhaus, Mathis, Norer) and draws from the center's excellent academic background.

Teaching and Lifelong Learning

HIGHEST STANDARDS IN TEACHING

The study programmes at the University of Lucerne reflect the thematic focus on humanities, social sciences and law. Integrated courses combine all three disciplines against the backdrop of subjects that are relevant to society and research. Particular care and attention is given to the freedom of academic teaching. All necessary measures are taken to ensure that teaching meets the highest educational quality standards and takes full advantage of all opportunities for didactical and technological innovation.

Switzerland is signed up to the Bologna Process educational initiative and as such plays an active role in shaping the European Higher Education Area by implementing the three-tiered curriculum system. For the University of Lucerne this guarantees adherence to international standards of higher education and fulfils all requirements for recognition by other universities.

TEACHING DEVELOPMENT

With its two-semester teaching development programme "Ouverture", the University of Lucerne ensures that its junior lecturers gain confidence and expertise in teaching. This advanced training, which is organised and hosted by the university's own Teaching Development Center, focuses not only on improving participants' didactic skills, but also deals with the correlation between learning content, learning outcomes and learning methods. Furthermore, this successful programme highlights the university's commitment to good teaching and is also a key instrument for the successful training of junior researchers and lecturers.

A PERSONAL TEACHING ENVIRONMENT

A personal atmosphere, motivated lecturers and an attractive range of courses are the key strengths of the young University of Lucerne. Lecturers, teaching assistants and administrators help students with all aspects of their studies.

A personal tutor is on hand to provide help and guidance with planning individual courses of study. The compact size of the University of Lucerne and its ideal ratio of students to professors guarantee the best support network for helping students to achieve academic success.

LIFELONG LEARNING

The necessity of lifelong learning is accommodated through the provision of postgraduate study and continuing education programmes.

Along with these measures, the University of Lucerne also promotes learning irrespective of age in the form of its university for children and close collaboration with the university for senior citizens. The University of Lucerne aims to be a seat of learning and a meeting place for all generations.

Campus and Infrastructure

The new campus building, which was unveiled in 2011, provides a surface area of 23 000 m², an ultra-modern infrastructure, and spacious lecture theatres, working areas and social environments. The new campus is located in a prime position in the heart of Lucerne, right on the shores of Lake Lucerne (Vierwaldstättersee) and directly adjacent to the famous Culture and Convention Centre (KKL) and Lucerne central station. The building's modern architecture has quickly made it into an emblem of the city.

LIBRARY AND WORKSTATIONS

All faculty libraries are now located under one roof. The Main & University Library of Lucerne (ZHB) is the largest library in Central Switzerland and houses more than one million items. Members of the university and the general public have access to 300 000 reference volumes. The library also contains 670 ultra-modern workstations equipped with the latest technology. Members of the university also have electronic access to a large number of academic journals and articles.

UNIVERSITY SPORTS

The attractive programme on offer at University Sports allows students and staff to achieve the necessary balance between life and study. The centre offers courses in more than 30 different disciplines, including mountain and water activities, dance, yoga, and team sports. Sports facilities are either located on campus or close by. Mountain and water activities are conducted on nearby Lake Lucerne or in the beautiful setting of the Swiss Central Alps.

SOCIAL LIFE ON CAMPUS

The university orchestra, the choir, the amateur dramatics society and University Sports are all good places to meet other students, as are the on-campus foyer, cafeteria and café bar, which form the social hub of the university. The departments and student organisations actively help in all student matters, either as representatives on university committees, as representatives of the university itself, or as organisers of the numerous semester parties.



Lucerne - In the Heart of Switzerland

ROOTED IN SOCIETY

The university places great importance on internal and external communication. It releases regular and easily digestible updates on its work, any structural or strategic developments that have been made, and administrative matters. Our Corporate Communication Services department helps facilitate the transfer of knowledge and research findings to a wider public thus promoting the institution, both internally and externally, and increasing the understanding of its activities. As a young university town, Lucerne is proud of the strong academic and educational achievements of its university.

LIVING IN LUCERNE

Lucerne is located in the German-speaking region of central northern Switzerland. It is the capital of the canton of Lucerne and the largest city in Central Switzerland, with around 76 000 inhabitants. Lucerne has long been a destination for tourists due to its location on the shores of Lake Lucerne, within sight of the Pilatus and Rigi mountains in the Swiss Alps. One of the city's famous landmarks is the wooden Chapel Bridge (Kapellbrücke) which was built in the 14th century. Other famous attractions include the Lion Monument, the Culture and Convention Centre (KKL), and the Swiss Museum of Transport.

Despite its many visitors, the city of Lucerne remains intimate, whilst its cultural life is on a par with other world cities and includes innovative theatre, exhibitions in renowned museums, the international Lucerne Festival, concerts covering the whole musical spectrum, and Fasnacht (carnival).

IN THE CENTER OF EUROPE

Located in the heart of Switzerland and in the centre of Europe, Lucerne is a gateway to many exciting cities such as Milan, Paris, or Munich, which can all be reached within a few hours by train or plane. Zurich Airport, the largest airport in Switzerland with intercontinental services, is only a one-hour train journey from Lucerne. The city's central geographical location, countless tourists from Europe and overseas, and its mix of international researchers and students all unite to lend the city an international atmosphere, while preserving the aspects that are uniquely Swiss.





The Faculty of Theology

Theology is a multi-faceted and intrinsically interdisciplinary study area that comprises a broad spectrum of subjects: from philosophy to exegetics, systematic theology to religious pedagogy, and liturgical studies, to name but a few. These varied and methodologically differentiated approaches all focus on the central question of intellectual responsibility and the dissemination of Christian beliefs in the present day.

Study in the Faculty of Theology is open-minded, future-oriented and related to practice. The contextual specializations are determined by the four faculty-specific institutes amongst others, in the areas of Ethics (Institute of Social Ethics), Judaism (Institute of Judaic-Christian Research), Ecumenicism (Ecumenical Institute) and religious education (Institute of Religious Education). Numerous lectures and talks by guest professors who deal with topics such as media ethics or theological gender issues complete the course of study. Students can also supplement their studies with a variety of internships in social and ecclesiastical areas.

Since the Fall Semester of 2013 the Faculty of Theology offers students the opportunity to complete a Bachelor's in Theology by distance learning. This opportunity is aimed in particular at students who due to geographical, occupational or family reasons are unable to physically attend university

Graduates of the Faculty of Theology acquire the specialist, methodological and social skills necessary for a responsible role in the church and society as well as in the areas of education and public administration.

Joint Degree Master in Religion - Economy - Politics: A Not so Typical Programme

Religion has in no way faded away in modernity, but has instead proven to be influential in political developments and economic decisions. Likewise, politics and economy play a decisive part in shaping religions, their structures, ideas and societal alignments. In 2006 specialists in the study of religion, theology, economics and political science started to cooperate by founding the Centre for Religion, Economy, and Politics (ZRWP). The centre is a joint initiative of the Universities of Basel, Lausanne, Lucerne, and Zurich as well as the Collegium Helveticum. The ZRWP offers an integrated four-semester master's programme. The Joint Degree Master of Arts in Religion – Economy – Politics systematically combines the perspectives of several disciplines and teaching resources of the four universities. It also facilitates contact between students, doctoral candidates, postdocs and established researchers and professors. The Joint Degree Master qualifies its graduates for various challenges connected to a global economy, transnational politics and growing religious and cultural plurality.



The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences offers students a broad range of attractive subjects specifically designed to complement each other and permit different coherent paths of study.

The faculty is known for its innovative programmes that focus on today's challenges: "Social and Communication Sciences", "Studies of Culture", "World Society and Global Governance", "Religion — Economy — Politics", as well as "Political Economics". These programmes are structured around such transdisciplinary subjects as communication and media, the form and role of organisations, and conceptions of culture. In addition to its interdisciplinary programmes, the faculty also offers the classical major/minor combinations.

Students at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences benefit from the personal attention they receive and the flexibility that they have to shape their studies according to their particular interests. The combination of an innovative range of courses, personalised advice, and educational flexibility provides the foundation for motivating students to study intensively and successfully. They not only acquire the specific knowledge required in their chosen fields, but also the critical capacity to explore new intellectual terrain with confidence. They are therefore well qualified to meet the challenges presented by a broad variety of jobs in media and culture, international organisations, and the economic sector.

The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences also offers master's programmes that focus on practical vocational needs and on furthering the intellectual skills acquired in a first degree.

Focus on Research — Dual Citizens: Hazard or Vanguard of Democratic Citizenship at Home and Abroad?

Does double citizenship pose a danger for democracy? Can a person really be loyal to two states at the same time? Or rather, do dual nationals contribute to a democratisation of the global world order because of the very fact that they are politically active in more than one country and can present the interests of external parties during national policy-making processes? These questions are the subject of a political science research project headed by Prof. Joachim Blatter and Dr. Andrea Schlenker, and funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation. In the first instance, the question of whether Swiss dual nationals and ordinary citizens differ in their political identity, solidarity and participation was investigated. This is indeed not the case, and thus the assumption that dual citizenship might undermine Swiss democracy is not substantiated. In the second half of the project, Swiss nationals living abroad (mostly with two passports) were surveyed. This survey showed that thanks to dual citizenship, people interested in political issues are simultaneously active in more than one country, and that they identify with, and are mindful of the interests of their host country as well as those of their country of origin. In the 21st century, dual nationals should therefore be classed as pioneers of democracy rather than be considered as potential threats.



The Faculty of Law

Founded in 2001, Lucerne Faculty of Law is the most recently established Swiss law faculty. It already enjoys a reputation for excellence in Switzerland, Europe, and throughout the world. At Master's level, we offer one of the broadest range of courses in English in the country. Students enjoy the freedom to select from extensive and supplementary developmental courses.

Some 1200 bachelor's and master's students and an additional 150 doctoral candidates make for a diverse and culturally mixed student body. The faculty, which consists of chaired professors, junior lecturers, and a distinguished group of adjunct faculty members, is energetic and focused on quality teaching with a distinctly global and interdisciplinary attitude.

The research agenda of the law faculty is ambitious and strives for excellence. Several research centres complement the research programmes of the various chairs. The faculty publishes extensively and is widely represented on international editorial boards and in scholarly associations.

Students at Lucerne Faculty of Law appreciate the significant numbers of distinguished visiting scholars each year. The classes given by these visiting lecturers, which are offered for credit, as well as the extensive involvement of the Law Faculty in international moot courts — we currently participate in five such moot competitions and frequently reach the final round — offer an exciting environment for those who want exposure to legal practice during their studies.

Focus on teaching – Human Rights Law/Public International Law

Human rights law and public international law constitute one of the primary focus areas in the teaching undertaken by the Faculty of Law. In accordance with the international nature of these subjects, the lectures are mainly held in English. Alongside the lectures, the faculty also offers various workshops in which students can choose a topic that they would like to research in greater depth and to present. The focus of these different teaching methods lies in a practice-related knowledge transfer and a problem-oriented discussion of current humanitarian and human rights questions. Special consideration is given to the embedding of legal aspects within historical, political and social contexts as well as to the discussion of cross-sectoral issues from various fields of law, like for example, the validity of human rights within the framework of military sanctions. Finally, close attention is given to the opportunities for and limits of effective implementation of international and human rights claims.



The Faculty of Economics and Management

In Autumn 2016 the Faculty of Economics and Management will open its doors for the first time. The new faculty will offer a general education in economics and management at an international level. Students will gain all the necessary problem-solving and application-orientated skills necessary for a successful career start in the field of economics. The versatile nature of the programme guarantees that graduates will be able to apply themselves to a variety of different careers and will also be equipped with the necessary competencies to run their own business. The faculty also places great importance on preparing students for further studies at Masters or PhD level.

In addition to the general education programme at Bachelor level, the Faculty of Economics and Management will offer a variety of innovative and stand-alone options at Masters level: political economy, human resource management, an entrepreneurial school, as well as integrated options in health management and health economics.

The Faculty of Economics and Management regards itself as being interdisciplinary in nature and thus cooperates with the faculties of Law and Humanities & Social Sciences in both teaching and research.

Focus on Research: Droughts, Riots, and Civil War – A Disaggregated Empirical Analysis

Over the past decade, understanding the determinants of internal conflict has become a central concern for academics and policy makers alike. So far, however, researchers have mostly focused on large-scale internal conflicts between organized groups, such as rebellions or civil wars. Little attention has been paid to smaller – yet hardly less important – manifestations of internal conflict. For instance, we know very little about violent riots, a phenomenon that is particularly widespread and harmful in poorer countries.

The triggers of violent riots take centre stage in a research project conducted by Prof. Manuel Oechslin, in collaboration with researches from the University of Bath, United Kingdom, and the University of Geneva, Switzerland. This research project is empirical in nature and uses data from Sub-Saharan Africa. A novel element of the project is that it relies on data with a very fine temporal and geographical resolution — a feature that accords well with the observation that riots are short-lived and local events. One of the key findings of the project is that weather anomalies are an important trigger of riots: A specific region must expect a significantly higher number of violent riots if weather conditions are unusually dry for the season. Moreover, the effect of drought on the level of rioting is stronger in regions with a higher agricultural activity and in regions which are closer to an urban centre.

Future topics of this research project include the identification of channels by which unusually dry conditions may trigger riots; and the identification of circumstances under which a series of riots is more likely to escalate into a full-blown rebellion or civil war.

Study Programmes

BACHELOR'S PROGRAMMES

Faculty of Theology

Bachelor of Theology

Bachelor of Arts in Religious Education

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Bachelor of Arts in Cultural and Social Anthropology

Bachelor of Arts in Cultural Studies

Bachelor of Arts in History

Bachelor of Arts in Jewish Studies

Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy

Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE)

Bachelor of Arts in Political Economics

Bachelor of Arts in Political Sciences

Bachelor of Arts in Social and Communication Sciences

Bachelor of Arts in Sociology

Bachelor of Arts in the Study of Religions

Faculty of Law

Bachelor of Law

Faculty of Economics and Management

Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Management

MASTER'S PROGRAMMES

Faculty of Theology

Master of Theology

Master of Arts in Religious Studies

Master of Theology in Liturgical Music

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Master of Arts in Cultural and Social Anthropology

Master of Arts in Cultural Studies

Master of Arts in Cultural Studies with a major in Science Studies

Master of Arts in Health Sciences

Master of Arts in History

Joint Master of Arts in History at the Universities of Lucerne and Neuchâtel

Master of Arts in Jewish Studies

Master of Arts in Philosophy

Master of Arts in Political Economics

Master of Arts in Political Sciences

Master of Arts in Religion - Economy - Politics

Master of Arts in Social and Communication Sciences

Master of Arts in Sociology

Master of Arts in Public Opinion and Survey Methodology

Master of Arts in Study of Religions

Master of Arts in World Society and Global Governance

Faculty of Law

Master of Law

Joint master's in Bilingual Law at the Universities of Neuchâtel and Lucerne (French/German)

DOCTORAL PROGRAMMES

Theology

Law

The following programmes are offered by the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Lucerne (GSL):

Cultural and Social Anthropology

Cultural Studies

Cultural Studies with a major in Science Studies

Economics

History

Jewish Studies

Philosophy

Political Economics

Political Sciences

Sociology

Study of Religions

Health Sciences and Health Policy

ADVANCED STUDIES

Faculty of Theology

Postgraduate Introduction to the Profession for Theologians

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Certificate of Advanced Studies in Philosophy and Medicine Master of Advanced Studies in Philosophy and Management Master of Advanced Studies in Philosophy and Medicine

Faculty of Law

Certificate of Advanced Studies in Agricultural Law

Certificate of Advanced Studies in Arbitration

Certificate of Advanced Studies in Business Management and Law for Board Members

Certificate of Advanced Studies in Civil Litigation

Certificate of Advanced Studies in Criminal Business Law

Certificate of Advanced Studies in Forensics

Swiss Judicial Academy – Certificate of Advanced Studies "Judiciary"

Certificate of Advanced Studies in Law, Management and Leadership in Health Care

Master of Advanced Studies in Forensics



General Information

Semester dates

Spring semester mid-February – end of May
Fall semester mid-September – mid-December

Application dates

Spring semester 30 November Fall semester 30 April

Tuition fees

Regular Swiss students CHF 810 per semester

Regular non-Swiss students CHF 1110 per semester (approx. USD 1160)

Regular Swiss PhD students CHF 190 per semester

Regular non-Swiss PhD students CHF 490 per semester (approx. USD 500)

Open days

Annually in November.
For further information please visit our website www.unilu.ch/en/



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