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News on the Swiss education scene

Swiss universities and institutes of technology enjoy a good reputation world-wide. The wide range of university courses on offer attracts a large number of students from Switzerland and abroad who are interested in a degree from a Swiss institute of higher education.

The term "university institutes" covers ten cantonal universities, two federal institutes of technology and several university-level institutions. The present university system is the product of a long tradition of education in Switzerland. Currently around 100,000 students are enrolled at Swiss universities. Courses cover everything from theology, humanities, economics, social science, medicine and natural science.

To be eligible for a university course, candidates must have a



View of the main building of the University of Berne.

federally recognised maturity diploma or an acceptable equivalent. Persons with non-Swiss educational qualifications are therefore often confronted with the problem of having their diploma recognised. In many cases an additional pre-university course is demanded. This, along with the biannual acceptance examinations

for students with foreign diplomas ("Aufnahmeprüfungen für Studierende mit ausländischem Diplom"), is held in Fribourg. Language skills often present an additional obstacle. A thorough knowledge of at least one national language is an essential requirement for every university course. Candidates without such

skills must attend language courses.

Since Swiss universities and institutes of technology are public, Swiss citizens pay relatively low fees – generally between CHF 500 and 700 per semester. Living costs vary from student to student, depending on personal needs and the place of study. However, students should reckon on roughly CHF 16,000 to 24,000 per year for such costs.

In the ideal case, the period of study for an initial degree (Ordinary or Masters) is between four and five years. A doctorate will take another one to two years.

Additional information:

AJAS

Alpenstr. 26

CH-3000 Berne 16

Tel: +41 31 351 61 40

Fax: +41 31 351 61 50

E-mail: ajas@aso.ch

Swiss universities website: www.crus.ch

Summer vacations with the Youth Service

The millennium offers of the Youth Service were a resounding success: an added incentive for us to continue with our concept of mix and match modules.



Fitness plays a key role in the Youth Service's active vacations.

We offer attractive, entertaining summer vacations in Switzerland. Here is a brief summary of the options:

Sports & Fun

Our summer camps offer active holidays with easy-going people from all over the world. A visit to a show dairy or a cave add variety to camp life and an insight into the characteristics of the region.

- Summer camp in Appenzell

- A) 16.7.–28.7.2001 and/or

- B) 29.7.–11.8.2001

ages 15–21

CHF 750

"Switzerland Mobile" is a module for young people who don't like to stay in one place too long. While the trip through the Grisons Alps may appeal to the more sporty participant, the encounter with our four national languages is aimed at all cosmopolitan-minded young people.

- "Switzerland Mobile"

- A) 19.8.–26.8.2001

- Grisons Alps and/or

- B) 26.8.–2.9.2001

Encounter with our four national languages

ages 20–25

CHF 850

Visit our web site: www.aso.ch

Living with a host family

"Swiss Ping Pong" offers people the chance to stay with hospitable families in Switzerland.

• 28.5.–14.10.2001

One to six weeks

ages 15–25

CHF 200 per host family

(usually two weeks with the same family)

Learn & Progress the easy way

Where can you best learn a language? In an environment where you can also practice what you are taught. We teach German and French with the emphasis on fun!

• Language courses

A) 18.6.–29.6.2001

B) 2.7.–13.7.2001

C) 13.8.–24.8.2001

ages 15–25

CHF 970 (incl. staying with a host family)

We provide a glimpse behind the scenes of a Swiss company.

• Company visits

11.6.–2.9.2001

ages 15–25

CHF 680

(incl. staying with a host family)

A workshop provides the opportunity to increase our knowledge through interactive games and present our experiences at the Congress of the Swiss Abroad in Davos.

• Workshop at Congress of the

Swiss Abroad

13.8.–19.8.2001

ages 15–25

CHF 620 (incl. accommodation)

Every year Swiss Abroad participate in the Federal Youth Session.

• November 2001

One week

ages 15–21, Free

Additional information:

Organisation for the Swiss Abroad

Youth Service

Alpenstrasse 26

CH-3000 Berne 16

Tel: +41 31 351 61 00

Fax: +41 31 351 61 50

E-mail: youth@aso.ch

SJAS Summer Camp

Once more the Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad (SJAS) is holding eight 14-day summer camps for children aged between 7 and 14. The aim of these camps is to acquaint children more closely with past and present Switzerland and its geography and show them the most interesting sights. At the same time children attending these camps are given the opportunity to make friends with children of the same age but from

a wide range of countries and linguistic regions. The camps will be held between 25 June and the end of August. Some still have available spaces. For further information, contact:

SJAS

Alpenstrasse 26

CH-3000 Berne 16

Tel: +41 31 351 61 60

Fax: +41 31 351 61 50

E-mail: sjas@aso.ch

Website: www.aso.ch

2001 Congress of the Swiss Abroad in Davos



Photo: Bildagentur Baumann

This year the 79th Congress of the Swiss Abroad will be held in Davos (GR) from 17 to 19 August. The topic of discussion is the relationship between Switzerland and the United Nations. A number of well-known public figures will be taking part in the debates and round-table discussions, and explaining

our country's role and its active contributions to special organisations within the UN system. Through their activities in international organisations various participants, including several representatives of the Fifth Switzerland, represent different aspects of our country's foreign policy. Hence the

congress will help to increase public awareness of the importance of the Fifth Switzerland in Swiss foreign policy. The congress will con-

clude with the traditional address by a member of the national government to our compatriots abroad.

Please send me documentation on the 79th Congress of the Swiss Abroad!

Online registration possible under: www.aso.ch

in German

in French

(Please use block capitals!)

Surname: _____

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Country: _____

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Please send the completed coupon to the following address by 31 May 2001:
 Organisation for the Swiss Abroad, Congress Organisation, Alpenstrasse 26,
 CH-3000 Berne 16, E-mail: congress@aso.ch