

Guidelines for Students with a Visa Requirement

- Please submit your visa application in person at the [Swiss diplomatic mission](#) (embassy or consulate general) in your country of residence or contact the [Federal Office of Migration](#) **at least three months before you plan to enter Switzerland.**
- Students require a national "D" visa. This visa permits you to enter Switzerland once. Do not enter Switzerland on a tourist visa under any circumstances! A tourist visa can **NOT** be converted into a residence permit once you have entered Switzerland!
- After entry, you will receive a residence permit for Switzerland. With this permit and your valid passport, you can stay up to three months per half-year in any Schengen country.
- Please note that your application must be submitted with all of the documents listed below. **Missing documents may cause a delay of several weeks.** Should the Swiss representation in your country of residence request further documents, please enclose these as well.
- Please be aware that an **English language certificate** may be requested by the Swiss representation in your country, although this is currently not an admission requirement for Health Sciences.

Important: Although Switzerland is an associated member of the Schengen/Dublin agreement, a Schengen visa from another state only entitles its holder to enter and travel through Switzerland, but not to take up residence. To do so, you need a national "D" visa.

1 Cover Sheet for Visa Application

Please use the checklist as a cover sheet for your visa application. This helps to ensure you have included all the requested documents. It also helps the Swiss authorities when handling your application file. Your visa application will be handled by the cantonal migration office of the canton in which you take residence.

- See additional document "Checklist Visa application UNILU"

2 Visa Application Form

The visa application form is provided free of charge by the local Swiss representation in your country of residence. Alternatively, it can be downloaded from the Internet in PDF format. Usually, it must be

submitted in triplicate. Most Swiss representations require you to present yourself in person, so please make sure in advance whether or not this is the case in your country of residence.

[Link to visa application download](#)

3 Passport

A copy of the first few pages of your passport (with identification information). Your passport must be valid for at least 3 months beyond the planned duration of your stay.

4 Passport Photos

3 recent passport-sized photos (Swiss regulation size)

5 Confirmation of Admission to the University of Lucerne

Please enclose the „Confirmation of Admission“, which you received from the Admissions Office of the University of Lucerne. If needed, the Health Sciences Administration Office will issue an additional letter of confirmation, stating the duration of the program.

6 Curriculum Vitae | Foreign Language Skills

A short curriculum vitae/résumé in German or English, personally signed. Please list your foreign language skills in detail. If desired, you may use our sample CV:

→ [See Sample CV](#)

7 University and School-Leaving Diplomas

Copies and officially certified translations of said documents in German.

8 Letter of Motivation | Future Plans

Please write, if possible in German, a personal (short!) statement in which you declare the following:

1. The reasons why you want to study in Switzerland. Please also mention why the Master program in Health Sciences at the University of Lucerne is the next logical step in your studies and why it is important for your professional future.
2. Outline your future plans after completing your studies.

9 Written Statement Confirming Plans to Exit Switzerland

You must confirm in writing (in German or English) that you will leave Switzerland upon completing your studies. If desired, you may use our sample letter:

➔ See Sample Declaration to leave Switzerland

10 Proof of Sufficient Financial Means

You must provide proof of sufficient financial means to stay and study in Switzerland. This can be done by submitting bank statements and/or scholarship awards. As a rule, cantonal migration authorities require confirmation from a bank with a branch in Switzerland (foreign bank with a branch in Switzerland or a Swiss bank with a branch in your home country). You should be able to provide evidence of having CHF 21'000 at the beginning of each year of your studies. **The account must be registered in your own name and the currency must be Swiss francs, euros or US dollars.** **Please note:** Even large and well-known international banks are not accepted if they do not have a branch in Switzerland.

Supporting letters of parents or relatives are NOT accepted.

Alternatively, you can hand in a so-called "guarantee declaration". This means that a solvent person living in Switzerland (Swiss citizen or foreigner with B or C permit) underwrites to cover the costs of up to CHF 21'000.- for your living expenses, including accidents and illness, in addition to your return trip. The appropriate form will be sent on request to your home address by the cantonal migration office (**once your visa application is received**).

11 Evidence of Payment of Semester Fee

Some Swiss embassies or consulates require for the visa application an evidence of the payment of the semester fee. As a rule, the bills for the semester fee are sent out in July before the program start. The deadline for the payment of the semester fee at the University of Lucerne is at the personal matriculation (i.e. after you entered Switzerland). If you are requested to bring this evidence earlier, you can refer to the finance department of the University of Lucerne (frw@unilu.ch) and request an early invoice.

12 Fees

Three different fees are levied during the visa procedure:

- When you apply at the consulate/embassy for a visa, you must pay the visa application fee.
- The cantonal authorities in Switzerland responsible for processing your visa application, e.g. the Migration Office in Lucerne, charge fees for the document that entitles you to be issued with a visa.
- The communities charge a fee for the residence permit.