

u^b

**UNIVERSITÄT
BERN**

International Office

www.int.unibe.ch



Information for Erasmus Students



Erasmus stay at the University of Bern



Bern

The City of Bern is listed among the cities that offer the best quality of life in the world. The people of Bern are welcoming and peaceable, and the old town of Bern, nestling in a breath-taking setting surrounded by the Swiss Alps, is listed as a UNESCO world heritage site. The Swiss capital with its 130,000 inhabitants also has an outstandingly broad range of cultural activities. The mixture of Old and New makes Bern a particularly charming city. There are plenty of green areas in which to relax, and, for the local, there is nothing more vivifying than a daily dip in the Aare river. Its central location makes Bern a perfect starting-point for winter and summer excursions into the Alps and the Bernese Oberland. Most of Switzerland can be explored in day-trips.

University of Bern

The University of Bern offers top quality across the board: it enjoys special recognition in leading-edge disciplines, is reputed for the excellent quality of its teaching, offers a delightful setting, and a campus environment intimately linked to the social, economic and political life of the city. The university's comprehensive offering includes 8 faculties and some 160 institutes that date back to the 16th century. With 14,300 students, it is

of mid-range size among Swiss universities. It retains a human dimension and a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Requirements for an Erasmus stay

The University of Bern has Erasmus agreements with over 240 universities across Europe. A prerequisite for your application as an Erasmus student is an Erasmus agreement between your home university and the University of Bern in your field of study. A list of all partner universities can be found at www.int.unibe.ch → *Incoming* → *Erasmus* → *Partner universities*.

Application

Apply online for an Erasmus stay at www.int.unibe.ch.

After receiving your online application we will send you an E-mail with a PDF file. Print out the document, have it signed by the Erasmus coordinator at your home university and send it back to the International Office of the University of Bern.

Application deadline is 31 March for autumn semester and 30 September for spring semester (exception Veterinary Medicine 31 March for autumn and/or spring semester).

Discuss your planned study programme with your study coordinator. List the courses you plan to attend in your learn-

ing agreement and have it signed at your home university. It should guarantee that your studies abroad will be recognized by your home university.

Studying in Bern

The course catalogue is published online at www.evub.unibe.ch in June. More information concerning the courses is also available on the websites of the relevant institutes.

For each field of study there is an Erasmus subject coordinator who will help you with academic questions. The contact details can be found at www.int.unibe.ch
→ *Incoming* → *Erasmus* → *Partner Universities*.

Swiss Entry Requirements

You are requested to submit an application for residence permit to the Migration Office of the city of Bern (or the relevant residential municipality). The International Office will provide you with the relevant form.

Citizens from non-EU/EFTA countries additionally have to apply for a visa at the Swiss embassy in their home country. Tourist visas do not authorize to study in Switzerland.

Finances

You must allow for approx. 1,500 CHF per month (approx. 1,000 Euro) to cover your living expenses in Switzerland. A relevant proof must be enclosed to your application for a residence permit (e.g. bank statement, grant confirmation, confirmation letter from your parents).

As a foreign student you are allowed to work a maximum of 15 hours per week.



Accommodation

There are several student halls of residence in Bern. You can apply for a room online. More information is available at www.vbsl.ch. The rooms are very popular, so apply as soon as possible! Should you prefer to stay elsewhere have a look at the website of the students' union of the University of Bern (SUB). They list offers of short-term private accommodation and flat shares: www.sub.unibe.ch → *Wohnvermittlung*. The availability of affordable accommodation is limited.

Health Insurance

Health insurance is compulsory in Switzerland. You have to prove that you are sufficiently insured during your stay in Switzerland (according to Swiss law). If you are from an EU/EFTA country and are insured with a public insurance request the European Health Insurance card from your insurance company.

If you are from a non-EU/EFTA country and/or are insured with a private insurance have an application for exemption from obligatory health insurance signed by your insurance company. The relevant form will be sent to you by the International Office.

A travel insurance is not sufficient for health insurance coverage in Switzerland.

Introduction Days for Exchange Students

In the week prior to the start of the semester the International Office organises Introduction Days for exchange students.

Participation is compulsory for Erasmus students. The different events and activities should make the start at the University of Bern easier for you. You get to know other exchange and local students, we show you the university and the city of Bern, the Erasmus student network ESN and the students union SUB introduce themselves, you get information about sports facilities at the university, the library system and many more useful tips to living and studying in Bern. A day trip will end the Introduction Days. After the start of the semester a reception for exchange students is organised.

Social Activities and Events

During the semester the Erasmus Student Network ESN organises a programme with various social activities and events for exchange students. The programme includes excursions to other Swiss cities, international dinners, ski trips, pub crawls or the visit of a chocolate factory. ESN also offers a buddy system for exchange students. For more information please see www.esnbern.ch

Language courses

Prior to the semester the Centre for Language Competence ZSK organises a two-week German language course for exchange students. Besides conversation and the repetition of selected grammatical subjects the course also contains the training of learning skills and orientation



activities about Switzerland and Bern. During the semester various German language courses are offered as well. Further information is available at www.zsk.unibe.ch

Sports facilities

The university of Bern has achieved a good balance between studies and leisure: The university's sports programme offers training sessions, courses, competitions and camps in around 100 sports disciplines – ranging from aerobics to yoga. More information is available at www.sport.unibe.ch

Further Information

www.int.unibe.ch → Incoming → Erasmus





Contact Erasmus Incoming Students

Martina Thürig
Erasmus coordinator
International Office, University of Bern
University Main Building, 3rd floor East
Hochschulstrasse 4, 3012 Bern

martina.thuerig@int.unibe.ch
Tel. +41 31 631 34 71

Office Hours Tuesday and Thursday
10 am – 1 pm or by appointment

www.int.unibe.ch