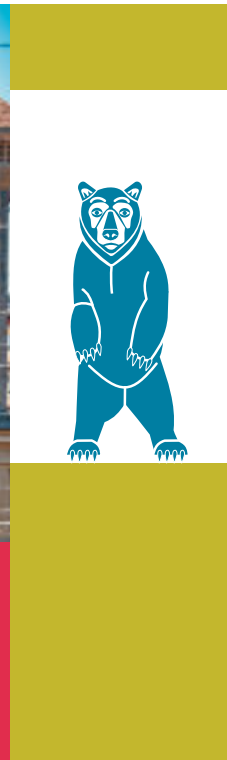
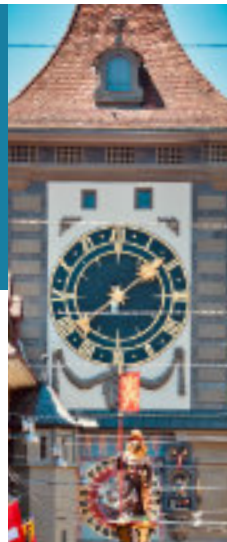


# Welcome to UniBE

## Information For Exchange Students





## 5 reasons to study in Bern

- 1. Academic excellence:** The University of Bern ranks in the top 1% of universities worldwide. UniBE is a global leader in a variety of research areas, including space and climate.
- 2. A broad study base:** UniBE is a comprehensive university offering a full range of courses and numerous degree programs across eight faculties: Business, Economics and Social Sciences; Human Sciences; Humanities; Law; Medicine; Science; Theology, and Vetsuisse.
- 3. Great flexibility:** We offer students the opportunity to make various study combinations, even across different faculties.

- 4. Rich student life:** A wide variety of education, sport and cultural opportunities make Bern an attractive place for undergraduates, graduate students, and researchers.

UniBE offers welcome & introduction events and a broad range of sport courses from Aerobics to Zumba, most of which are free of charge. In addition, the Erasmus Student Network organizes numerous activities and provides a 'buddy system.'

- 5. High standard of living:** Bern consistently places high in city rankings (e.g., Mercer Quality of Living Survey) and is a safe and very green city.

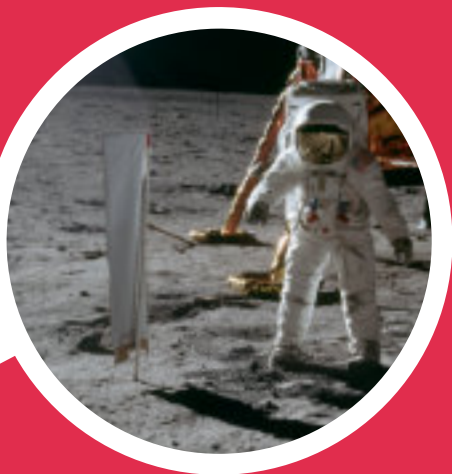
"Just do this exchange and you'll see, it will be the best decision you've ever made."

(Mehmet from Turkey)



# University of Bern

Before raising the US flag on the moon on 21 July 1969, Buzz Aldrin unfurled the **Bernese solar sail**, heralding the start of pioneering space research by the University of Bern. For the last fifty years, UniBE has played a leading role in space science, and is world class in climate sciences, international trade, fundamental physics, preventive medicine, and sustainable development research, amongst other fields. It was here that Albert Einstein received his physics professorship.



Today, the university has more than 19,000 students, around twelve percent of which are international, from 120 countries. Fifty percent of our staff is international. We provide our students from all disciplines with the very latest international, specialist knowledge and familiarize them with academic methods and thought processes. We also encourage them to undertake their own research as they study in the university's historic buildings and contemporary facilities, most of which are within walking distance of the celebrated city center.

The campus itself provides modern workspaces with excellent infrastructure, and a choice of on-site cafés offers plenty of places to eat and socialize.



Thanks to the highly motivated scientists who teach and research here, the University of Bern is ranked among the top universities worldwide.



# Study programs

The University of Bern is a comprehensive university with eight faculties and 180 institutes, offering more than 70 Master's and around 40 Bachelor's programs. There are courses in English at Bachelor's level (e.g., English, Biology, Business Administration, Economics, Social Anthropology, and Computer Sciences), however, the majority of courses in English are offered at Master's level. Most Master's courses are open to Bachelor exchange students.

We also offer the option of making various study combinations. You can even select courses from faculties and institutes outside your own study field (restrictions for Medicine and Veterinary Medicine). Whether you want to combine Economics with Archeology or Psychology with Computer Science, you won't be short of choices.

The course catalogue is available at: [www.ksl-vv.unibe.ch](http://www.ksl-vv.unibe.ch)



"The professors are highly qualified, engaged and super enthusiastic. You really feel that they're not only there to teach you stuff, but they're equally interested in engaging with you as a student."  
(Christine from Denmark)

"The quality of the classes is outstanding, and I really enjoyed the capacity of the professors to make you think outside the box. The university promotes an independent study methodology as well as it reinforces group work."  
(Pol from Spain)

"In general, I was very impressed by the quality of teaching at the University of Bern. Most of the lecturers are not only well versed in theory, but also run exciting research projects and can show a lot of practical experience."  
(Thorsten from Germany)



# Language courses

German language courses will enrich your time in Bern and can be comfortably incorporated into your daily routine, allowing you to communicate more easily with university colleagues and chat more freely with locals.

At the same time, you can take English courses to improve your language abilities to read, write, and study in English at the university.

These opportunities will not only enhance your experience of Bern, but they will also reward you with skills you can take into the future.

German courses cover levels A1 through C2, English courses are from levels B1 through C2, and are in accordance with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

All courses are free of charge.





Study exchange is one of the most exciting opportunities for students. UniBE International ensures that you get the most out of it, even before you arrive. There are **stimulating online events** during which you meet fellow exchange students and acquire lots of valuable information. When you arrive in Bern for the introduction week itself, there are **lots of activities** to participate in. You will get to know both the university and the fascinating city, and will also meet fellow students, local and international, all of whom are here to share this **unique experience**.

Pre-arrival

**Getting ready for Bern**  
An online information session to prepare for your stay in Bern and online opportunities to get to know other international students.

Settling in

**Introduction Week**  
The introduction week takes place the week before the start of semester. Among other opportunities, the program includes an information event, a university tour, a city tour, and a full day's outing.

During the exchange

**Dive into UniBE**  
An online module to deepen your knowledge of Unisports, the library, etc. Connect with local students and get to know the Bernese students who will visit your home university in a later semester.



"I really enjoyed the introduction week and getting to know other exchange students from other study fields. To have planned activities at the start was great since it really made my transfer easier."  
(Elsa from Sweden)

"In my opinion, the University of Bern is a place of passionate study — both on the part of the students and the teachers. Culturally, Bern also leaves nothing to be desired. Both musically, creatively and socially, it is sprouting on every corner."

(Lucca from Germany)

## Life on campus

### Clubs and associations

During the semester, the [Erasmus Student Network \(ESN\)](#) Bern organizes a program of various social and cultural activities for exchange students. There are regular excursions to other Swiss cities, hikes in the mountains, international dinners, ski trips, pub crawls, and a visit to a chocolate factory, among others. ESN also offers a ['buddy system'](#) for exchange students.

There are many more [clubs and associations at UniBE](#), e.g., the university choir, university orchestra, and theater club.

"UniBE offered us a home, and ESN made us a family."  
(Yifei from China)

"I think getting a 'buddy' at the Erasmus Student Network Bern (ESN) is a good choice, not just because he or she can give useful information, but because the buddy might be the first friend one makes, even before arrival."  
(Sohyun from South Korea)



### Unisport

The university sports program, Unisport, offers training sessions, courses, competitions, and camps in more than 150 sports disciplines ranging from A (Aerobics) to Z (Zumba), including alpine sports and climbing, fitness, martial arts, running and cycling, dance, and water sports. Most sessions and courses are free of charge for students. There are also two gyms with the latest strength-training and cardio equipment.

[www.sport.unibe.ch](http://www.sport.unibe.ch)

### Accommodation

There are several student halls of residence in Bern. We will provide you with information on available student accommodation and you can apply for a room online, as well as find opportunities for flat-shares with other students.

[www.incoming-accommodation.unibe.ch](http://www.incoming-accommodation.unibe.ch)



**Bern** is a [UNESCO world heritage site](#) listed among the cities offering the best quality of life and safety in the world. Maybe that's why its residents are so welcoming and easy-going. Bern's charm is also reflected in the wide range of cultural activities on offer: Its many relaxing green areas, unique shopping arcades, sports possibilities, museums, arts venues, cafés and bars (with its 176 breweries and microbreweries, Bern is considered the 'beer capital' of Switzerland). And if you want to do what the locals do, why not take a daily dip in the Aare river?

Nestled in the stunning Swiss capital is the medieval Old City with its unique sandstone architecture and breathtaking views of the Swiss Alps, which can be easily reached all year round. In fact, most of Switzerland, including the Bernese Oberland, can be explored in day trips.

The average walking speed of the Bernese is 1.5 meters per second, which apparently makes Bern the most laid-back city in the world.

The Evening Standard newspaper chose Bern as "most instagrammable winter city in the world" although we believe Bern is beautiful all year round.

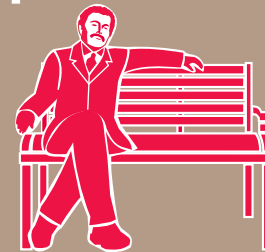
Green areas make up fifty percent of Bern, making it Europe's second greenest capital.

Legend has it that the bear, which can be seen all over Bern, became the Bernese heraldic animal after Duke Berchtold V of Zähringen decided to name the city after the first animal killed in the surrounding forests.

Toblerone is one of the best known Swiss chocolates in the world. One of the university buildings was once the Toblerone factory and the building's name is proof of its history: [Unitobler](#). It's worth a visit, even if you don't attend courses there.



## Things to do in Bern



Take a selfie with physicist Albert Einstein. Einstein lived in the Swiss capital from 1902 to 1909 and formulated his theories on special relativity here. Today you can visit four sculptures of Einstein in Bern, including one on a bench next to the main university building. You can also check out his [former apartment](#) in the Old City or the [Einstein Museum](#) where you will learn more about his life and work.

Try at least three different flavors of ice cream at [Gelateria di Berna](#).

Go ice skating in front of the parliament building. Drink mulled wine on one of Bern's Christmas markets.

Ride an inflatable boat from Thun to Bern and enjoy the scenery.

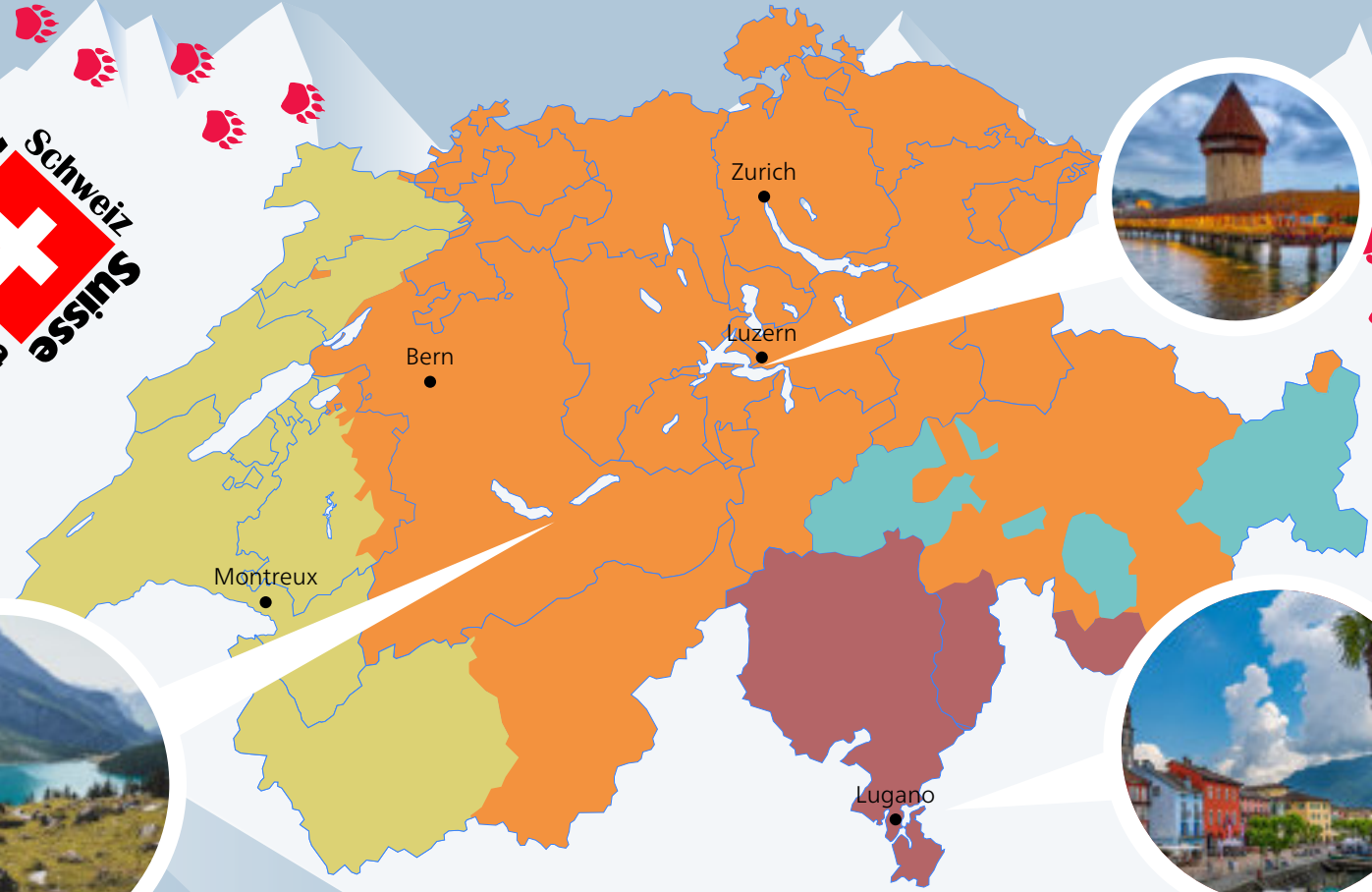
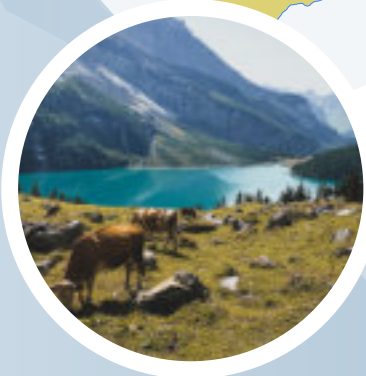
Go shopping in the Old City in one of Europe's longest covered arcades.

Visit the bears at the [Bear Park](#).

**Switzerland** is a unique country of rich, incredibly diverse experiences. It's also right at the heart of Europe making it the perfect springboard for further travels.



Not only are there **four official languages** here in Switzerland — German, French, Italian, and Romansh — the regions themselves are also very distinct. Less than an hour's drive from the impressive signature architecture of Bern are the Jura region and Lake Neuchatel where you will believe that you are in France. In the mountains and meadows of the Bernese Oberland you will find yourself walking from one awe-inspiring picture postcard view to the next. Head further south and you will encounter palm trees and a mediterranean atmosphere.



Talking of walking, did you know that there are **65,000 km of hiking trails** to guide you through Switzerland's breathtaking landscapes? Whether hiking and cycling in summer, or skiing, snowboarding, and sledding in winter, the Swiss love to spend their leisure time outside, no matter the time of year. And you won't even need a car: Every lake, mountain, historic city, and tourist destination in Switzerland's 26 cantons is serviced by the well-developed **public transport system**.

German
French
Italian
Romansh





Hidden in this picture is Bern's heraldic animal. Can YOU spot it?

Where's the **bear**?





### Semester dates

**Fall Semester:** Mid-September through mid-December.  
**Spring Semester:** Mid-February through end of May.

There is no fixed exam period. Exams often take place after the lecture period.

### Language of instruction

**German or English** (except language departments). Students should have sufficient proficiency in German and/or English to be able to follow courses and write exams (CEFR level B2; CEFR level C1 for courses at the English Department).

### Credit system

The University of Bern uses the European Credit Transfer System ECTS. 1 ECTS credit is equivalent to 25-30 hours of work (student workload). A full-time study workload per semester is 30 ECTS. For exchange students a credit load of 20-25 ECTS is recommended.

### Application deadlines

**30 April** for fall semester/academic year.  
**30 September** for spring semester.

### Application steps

1. Students must be nominated by their home university.
2. Students fill in the online application and submit their application dossier before the deadline.
3. Students receive a notification by UniBE International on the outcome of their application and information regarding further steps.

### Cost of living (approx. per month in Swiss francs)

Accommodation	620-800
Health / Health insurance	180-400
Food / Household	400-500
Public transport	100
Course materials	100
Miscellaneous	100-300
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1500-2200</b>

**PHOTO CREDITS:** Alin Andersen, Mary Appell, Felix Brönnimann, Natasha Cortinovis, Zoe Deal, Afonso Ferreira, Andreas Fischinger, Danielle Hamilton, Tsz Yan Ma, Pauline Musembi, NASA, Manou Smith, University of Bern, Mariel Yap.

**DESIGN:** [www.richardlittler.com](http://www.richardlittler.com)





## SUPPORT

### STUDENTS FROM EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

Austria, Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Turkey:

Ms. Michaela **SOLTAN** ([michaela.soltan@unibe.ch](mailto:michaela.soltan@unibe.ch))

All other European countries:

Ms. Martina **CAROLUS** ([martina.carolus@unibe.ch](mailto:martina.carolus@unibe.ch))

### STUDENTS FROM NON-EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

China, Russia & Taiwan:

Ms. Lenka **FEHRENBACH** ([lenka.fehrenbach@unibe.ch](mailto:lenka.fehrenbach@unibe.ch))

All other countries:

Ms. Henriette **GRAF** ([henriette.graf@unibe.ch](mailto:henriette.graf@unibe.ch))

### ISEP STUDENTS

Ms. Cornelia **STUBER** ([cornelia.stuber@unibe.ch](mailto:cornelia.stuber@unibe.ch))

## VISIT US ONLINE AT

[www.incoming.unibe.ch](http://www.incoming.unibe.ch)