

## Research Abroad at a Top European Research University



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## University in the spotlight: the University of Zurich

### Why Zurich?



*Photo credit: University of Zurich; Ursula Meisser*

Zurich is the largest city in Switzerland and one of the country's major economic and cultural centers. There are excellent opportunities for shopping, sports, and leisure activities, as well as a unique and broad variety of cultural institutions and events in Zurich. Situated in the heart of Europe, the city's location is uniquely convenient – and attractive, with Lake Zurich and the Swiss Alps at its doorstep. Zurich is also considered one of the safest cities in Europe and earned top marks in a recently published worldwide ranking by the British magazine *The Economist*.

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## About the University of Zurich



Photo credit: Maoz Sharabi

Founded in 1833, the University of Zurich is Switzerland's largest university, with a current enrolment of over 25,000 students. UZH is among Europe's most prestigious research universities, and many distinctions highlight the University's international renown, including twelve Nobel Prizes. Its scholars are pioneers in the fields of medicine, immunology, genetics, neuroscience, structural biology, and economics.

Over 5,000 highly qualified members of the teaching staff, including some 660 professors, teach and conduct research at one of the seven faculties: Science; Medicine; Veterinary Medicine; Business, Economics and Informatics; Arts and Social Sciences; Law; and Theology. The university places great value on diversity: approximately 18% of the student body and 38% of the teaching staff are of foreign nationality, thus contributing to the university's international character.

In addition to the excellent academic programs, students at UZH can take advantage of an extraordinarily wide range of sporting and leisure activities. The Academic Sports Association Zurich (ASVZ) is a non-profit organization run jointly by ETH Zürich, UZH, and the Zurich University of Applied Sciences. ASVZ provides a sports program to all registered students (including visiting students), employees, and alumni. The ASVZ program contains an extremely varied range of courses, with over 120 kinds of sports. Training sessions, courses, and camps are prepared and supervised by a team of qualified sports coaches, and 900 professional instructors are responsible for carrying them out.

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## Recent Highlights at UZH

### UZH launches initiative for the Digital Society

Buzzwords like Industry 4.0 or Big Data and the massive spread of digital technology, such as smartphones, apps, or vehicles with state-of-the-art computers, all show one thing: thanks to digitization, our society, our world of work, and our free time are in the throes of a fundamental transformation. This process calls existing patterns of thought and behavior

into question, enables novel forms of research and teaching in science, and demands new skills in a rapidly changing social reality. In order to study/view this digitization process with a critical eye and shape it in a forward-looking way, UZH has recently created the [UZH Digital Society Initiative](#). The research initiative is aimed at pooling together and building on UZH's expertise for critical, interdisciplinary reflection and innovation across the board in the digitization of society and science. Consequently, UZH is assuming a pioneering international role and looking to develop new research fields in the next few years.

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#### Discovery Semester for Refugees

UZH offers a first discovery semester for 20 refugees, to be held in the 2017 Spring Semester. Refugees have the opportunity to attend lectures as auditors, free of charge, and experience student life at UZH. Student mentors will support the refugees. The aim of the "discovery semester" is to give refugees the chance to gain an understanding of the course programs and requirements for studying in Switzerland. This allows them to prepare for a later application to the University of Zurich, should this be an option. The project is organized by the Association of Students at UZH (VSUZH) in collaboration with the Amnesty International Student Group Zurich. The International Relations Office of UZH supports the project.

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#### International Physics Olympiads

[The International Physics Olympiads \(IPhO\)](#) is a competition for high-school students whose interest in physics goes beyond school activities. Participants are chosen based on a national selection process where the five best students from each country may participate in the IPhO. The IPhO is organized in a different country every year. Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein were chosen to be the host countries of the IPhO 2016. The UZH was proud to welcome 398 participants from 84 countries and a total of 654 guests, making IPhO 2016 the largest IPhO in history.

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#### North American University Representatives visit at University of Zurich, November 6-8, 2016



The University of Zurich took pleasure in welcoming a delegation of 10 representatives from several US Universities from November 6-8, 2016. UZH was proud to have the opportunity

to introduce the delegation to some of UZH's EuroScholars projects, such as "Molecular and cellular mechanisms regulating sleep and biological clocks" and "Illicit economy and violence: The effect of opium cultivation on the geography of conflict in Afghanistan" as well as research facilities, such as the Center of Experimental Rheumatology & Clinic for Rheumatology, the Department of Physics, and the Institute of Medical Genetics.

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### Mid-Stay at UZH

Every semester, students in the EuroScholars program are invited to one of the participating universities for a "Mid-Stay Meeting." This spring, the event was held at the University of Zurich, from April 19-22. Fifteen students from the program have presented their projects, shared experiences, and got to know UZH and the city of Zurich.

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### EuroScholars Projects at UZH

EuroScholars students at UZH can currently choose from [15 research projects in different fields](#), including physics, medicine, pharmacology, psychology, big data and business analytics, and political science.

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### What the students say

*"I don't know how to put it into words. This experience improved my scientific knowledge drastically and made me infinitely more confident. It also expanded my worldview and opened up many options for my future."* - Audrey Schult, Sleep and Chronobiology Research, Spring 2015. Audrey is currently a master's student studying Biomedicine at UZH.

*"The time that I spent in Zurich was the most amazing experience of my life. Learning to ask questions, to engage in stories, and to live and grow with so many cultures are qualities that make me unique and prepared for the continuous learning and development that medical school and the medical profession promote."* - Anthony Salvatore, Center for Experimental Rheumatology, Spring 2013.

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## New research projects

### University of Zurich:

- [Narrative in Rap / Rap as Narrative](#)
  - [Crossmapping](#)
  - [Literature and Economics](#)
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## Upcoming conferences 2017

### NAFSA - Los Angeles – CA

[www.nafsa.org](http://www.nafsa.org)

Some of the members of the EuroScholars Consortium will attend the NAFSA. Would you like to schedule a meeting, please contact: Ms. Usha Mohunlol ([u.c.mohunlol@sea.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:u.c.mohunlol@sea.leidenuniv.nl))

## Conference on UR Programs: Undergraduate Research Collaborations 2017 - Northern Arizona University

June 27-29, 2017

[www.cur.org/events/ur\\_programsundergraduate\\_research\\_collaborations\\_2017](http://www.cur.org/events/ur_programsundergraduate_research_collaborations_2017)

Elizabeth Erbeznik (ISA, International Studies Abroad), Marisa Moazen (University of Tennessee, Knoxville), and Usha Mohunlol will give a presentation. Should you like to schedule a meeting, please contact: Ms. Usha Mohunlol ([u.c.mohunlol@sea.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:u.c.mohunlol@sea.leidenuniv.nl)).

## EAIE (European Association for International Education), Seville (Spain)

September 12-15, 2017

[www.eaie.org](http://www.eaie.org)

Some of the members of the EuroScholars Consortium will attend the EAIE. Should you like to schedule a meeting, please contact: Ms. Usha Mohunlol ([u.c.mohunlol@sea.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:u.c.mohunlol@sea.leidenuniv.nl)).

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