### Information for Students on Exchange

| A. University | ETH Zurich (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology)  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.ethz.ch/index_EN">http://www.ethz.ch/index_EN</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Country</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Academics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i) Module Mapping &amp; Credits Transfer</td>
<td>Please ensure that your Study Plan is approved by the academics at your home faculty before the exchange. Modules approved in the past might not be offered by the host university or approved by your faculty when it is time for your exchange. Please check the latest course offerings at the host universities while you are preparing your Study Plan.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| ii) Academic Calendar | **Semester 1:** Mid September to End December (excluding examinations)  
| | **Semester 2:** Mid February to End of May/Beginning of June (excluding examinations)  
| | [www.ethz.ch/semester-dates](http://www.ethz.ch/semester-dates) |
| iii) Exchange Duration | One semester  
| | For more student exchange information, please refer to [http://www.incoming.ethz.ch](http://www.incoming.ethz.ch) |
| iv) Examination | Students are expected to attend the mandatory examination at the host university.  
| | If the exams overlap with the start of the new semester at NUS, you may request rescheduling or preponing certain exams under specific conditions. For more information on the preponement of exams, please refer to [https://www.ethz.ch/students/en/studies/performance-assessments/exchange/preponement.html](https://www.ethz.ch/students/en/studies/performance-assessments/exchange/preponement.html). |
| v) Curriculum Structure | Students need to obtain at least 20 ECTS per semester (excluding language courses). **Two thirds (for example 16 out of 24 ECTS credits) must be acquired in the department of enrolment.** Exceptions are possible for interdisciplinary study programmes such as Environmental Sciences, Earth Sciences, Health Sciences and Technology, etc. and must be approved by the department.  
| | ETH Zurich recommend taking between 20-26 ECTS per semester. If you wish to take more than 30 ECTS - which is not recommendable - discuss with your Departmental Exchange Coordinator at ETH Zurich. The academic pace at ETH Zurich is high |
and students are expected to work a lot during the semester and for the exams. Taking more than 30 ECTS per semester is not recommended.

Online registration for courses closes 2 weeks after the semester commences.

For more course information, please refer to:
Course catalogue: [http://www.courses.ethz.ch](http://www.courses.ethz.ch)


Note also the conditions and restrictions set by the departments: [www.ethz.ch/conditions-by-departments](http://www.ethz.ch/conditions-by-departments)

For SoC students: ETH will only accept students with CS as primary discipline with strong CS and Math background and that in total amount to at least 1.5 years of full-time studies prior to entrance at ETH Zurich.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>vi) Entry Requirements</th>
<th>(a) registered as a full-time undergraduate student of NUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(b) have successfully completed at least FOUR (4) semesters of study at NUS upon admission to the host university;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(c) not eligible for exchange in the graduating year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(d) a student of good standing at NUS with</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a minimum upper division second class honours or;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a minimum B average grade or;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a CAP of at least 3.0 (out of 5) for NUS students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Note the above are minimum and ETH Zurich may ask for higher results for some subject areas.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>vii) Language Proficiency Requirements</th>
<th>Students must have sufficient knowledge of English. German would be a benefit for some (mainly undergraduate) courses. Information about the language of instruction of each course can be found in the course catalogue of ETH Zurich.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>As a rule:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- Bachelor programmes are mainly in German*
- Master programmes are mainly in English** (exception: Architecture and Civil Engineering may offer very few courses in English only – if any)
  (see course catalogue)

*The undergraduate courses of the 1st and 2nd year Bachelor studies are normally taught in German at ETH Zurich, but many courses of the 3rd year are taught in English.

**Undergraduate exchange students are allowed to choose courses of Master programmes (taught in English, as a rule) if they fulfill the prerequisites. Students do not need to provide a language certificate, but ETH Zurich do require incoming students to have at least a B2 level in the teaching language(s), i.e. English and/or German, depending on their choice of courses. However, a C1 level is highly recommended.

The joint Language Center of the University of Zurich and ETH Zurich offers intensive German courses (scheduled 2 weeks prior to semester start) and semester German courses (held during the semester, usually 2h/week). Detailed information on registration fees as well as access to the online application for courses can be found here: www.sprachenzentrum.uzh.ch/index_en.php

viii) Faculties & Schools accepting exchange students
- Department of Agriculture and Food Sciences
- Department of Architecture
- Department of Civil, Environmental and Geomatic Engineering
- Department of Biology
- Department of Biosystems Science and Engineering
- Department of Chemistry and Applied Biosciences; Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Department of Earth Sciences
- Department of Computer Science
- Department of Health Sciences and Technology; Food Science
- Department of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering
- Department of Mathematics; Computational Science and Engineering
- Department of Materials Science
- Department of Mechanical and Process Engineering
- Department of Physics
- Department of Environmental Sciences; Agricultural Sciences

Please note that Department of Humanities, Social and Political Science (D-GESS) is NOT open for exchange. No enrolment is possible in this department, incoming students may only take individual courses (max 1/3 of all courses/ECTS) as electives.

ix) Module restrictions
Exchange students will be enrolled in one department as non-degree students, but they may pick and choose courses from different curricula, departments and years. As a general rule, 2/3 of the courses have to be taken
and pre-requisites

| in the department of enrolment. Exchange students are expected to acquire a minimum of 20 ECTS (not including the language course/s). The full workload for regular ETH students is 30 ECTS per semester. Study plans and selected courses are subject to approval by the departmental exchange coordinator of the department of enrolment at ETH Zurich. Modules from the department of Management, Technology and Economics (D-MTEC) are not open to NUS exchange students. |

In order to be accepted in the department of Mathematics (D-MATH) at ETH Zurich, a student must be enrolled for a degree in mathematics in his/her home university. Enrollment is not possible in the department of Social Sciences and Humanity (D-GESS) and students can only take the department’s courses as electives (max. 1/3 of courses). Please note that the department of Biosystems Science and Engineering (D-BSSE) is located in Basel, a city approximately 100 km away from Zurich, therefore the services of the Student Exchange Office might be slightly limited. Courses from the Bachelor’s programme in Human Medicine are not open to mobility students (course unit codes 377-xxxx-xxx). Note also the conditions and restrictions set by the departments: [www.ethz.ch/conditions-by-departments](http://www.ethz.ch/conditions-by-departments)

ETH Zurich reserves the right to reject NUS students that they feel will be unable to handle the rigour of the academic programmes at their institution.

### D. Application

i) Procedures

Students can apply for SEP one year in advance through their home faculty in NUS between September and June. Please look out for your faculty’s announcement regarding the application period.

Once you have been selected by your home faculty for SEP, your faculty will contact you and provide information regarding application with your host university. Please prepare the necessary documents before the start of the application period at your host university.

ii) Deadlines

All NUS student must abide by the internal application deadline set by their home faculty for exchange participation in the following academic year. After clearing the internal application and selection process, students have to take note of the application deadline set by the host university

Failure to submit a formal application to the host university will result your exchange being forfeited even if you have been selected by NUS for the exchange.

### E. Accommodations

i) University Accommodation

Student accommodation in Zurich is available through the Foundation for Student Housing. The Housing Office of the University and ETH Zurich
brokers accommodation on the private market. ETH Zurich has limited reserved housing for international students.

Single rooms are common. You find offers with or without cooking facility, apartment sharing, cleaning and washing service and bedding. All student accommodation in the city and the suburbs is located no further than 45 minutes from campus by using public transportation.

Housing is not guaranteed, but so far ETH has usually been able to find accommodation for all overseas exchange students who registered with ETH’s Housing Office within the set deadlines. After acceptance, students will receive information on registering for accommodation by email. They should read this information carefully and apply online within the set deadlines.

Please note:
- Students coming for research projects can only apply for housing if they are staying for the regular semester dates.
- Housing for students older than 28 years is very limited – students should contact ETH Zurich early on if that applies to them.
- Housing for students coming in the autumn semester is only available until 31 January and therefore not for the entire duration of the session examinations. Students staying for the full duration of the session examinations and having examinations in February would need to find alternative housing on their own for those 2-3 weeks. We may only be able to offer some partial financial support (subject to availability), yet this may not cover the full additional costs.
- Should a student initially only apply for one semester of exchange and then later on wish to extend for another semester, ETH Zurich may not be able to provide an accommodation, i.e. the student may need to find something on his or her own.

For more information about accommodation, please refer to [http://www.wohnen.ethz.ch/index_EN](http://www.wohnen.ethz.ch/index_EN)

| F. Visa | Consular/Visa Regulation | All visa applications are processed by ETH Zurich. *(Exception: Students applying for D-BSSE in Basel who want to undertake a research project must apply for their visa on their own)*

Students will be informed after their acceptance about the further procedures. See: [www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/reps.html](http://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/reps.html) for Swiss embassies.
Everyone staying for more than 90 days (irrespective of whether they required a visa or not) is required to obtain a residence permit. Instructions on how to apply for it will be provided to students when they register in person at ETH Zurich’s Student Exchange Office helpdesk. Students need to follow the instructions and apply for their residence permit within 14 days after arrival.

Visa and residence permit fees usually amount to approx. CHF 400.

### G. Safety, Health & Medical Insurance

#### i) Health/Medical Insurance

All registered NUS students are covered under the university health insurance and the blanket travel insurance. For more information on the university health insurance coverage, please refer to [http://www.nus.edu.sg/uhc/healthservice/insurance-schemes/undergraduate-scheme.html](http://www.nus.edu.sg/uhc/healthservice/insurance-schemes/undergraduate-scheme.html).

For more information on the blanket travel insurance, please refer to [http://www.nus.edu.sg/finance/InsuranceCoverforOfficialNUSTrips.html](http://www.nus.edu.sg/finance/InsuranceCoverforOfficialNUSTrips.html)

[www.ethz.ch/health-insurance-for-students](http://www.ethz.ch/health-insurance-for-students)

Basic health insurance is mandatory for all persons living in Switzerland. If the insurer is acknowledged by the Swiss authorities, students may be exempted from having to take out compulsory health insurance in Switzerland. However according to our experience it is very unlikely to be exempt by the cantonal health insurance authorities. In this case, some insurance companies offer special packages for foreign students.

Please note: ETH Zurich do help students to fulfil the requirements of the Swiss health insurance authorities (finding insurance, filling out contracts etc.) but they will no longer be able to help students who want to be exempted from the mandatory health insurance, as they cannot recommend this procedure.

The Student Exchange Office invites accepted exchange students to attend a special information event on health insurance in the first two weeks of the semester start.

**Personal Liability Insurance:**

Although with a high franchise (amount paid by the person involved), ETH Zurich is insured against material and property damage. If students damage instruments and equipment belonging to ETH through negligence (e.g. in practical courses, during semester projects/conducting thesis work), ETH Zurich has the right to make the persons involved accountable for the damage costs.
ETH Zurich therefore highly recommends its students to take out a personal liability insurance to cover unintentional damages caused to third parties both inside and outside ETH Zurich. Not having personal liability insurance may result in considerable expenses, e.g. damage to property in rented rooms or flats, injury or other damage to a person’s health, etc.).

For more information on health and insurance, please refer to [http://www.ethz.ch/health-insurance-for-students](http://www.ethz.ch/health-insurance-for-students)

### ii) Emergency Number at host university

+41 44 632 20 86 (working hours, Myriam Keller, Student Exchange Office)

+41 44 342 11 88 (Emergency Desk of ETH Zurich, around the clock)

### H. Cost of Living

#### i) Estimated Monthly Living Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breakdown of Costs</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation</td>
<td>CHF450 – CHF850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>CHF500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>CHF61 – CHF90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others (Entertainment, clothes)</td>
<td>CHF425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly Estimate</td>
<td>CHF1,750</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


*Students should budget approximately CHF 1750 per month (requirement of migration authorities)*, see also section ‘expenses per month’ at [www.ethz.ch/en/studies/non-degree-courses/exchange-and-visiting-studies/living-in-zurich.html](http://www.ethz.ch/en/studies/non-degree-courses/exchange-and-visiting-studies/living-in-zurich.html)