INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE
Thank you for your interest in the bachelor’s program of the Institute of Interior Architecture, which is part of the Lucerne School of Engineering and Architecture. First of all, we would like to introduce you to the city and its surroundings before telling you about our program in the following pages.

Idyllically located on the shores of Lake Lucerne, locally known as the Vierwaldstättersee, with picturesque views of Alpine peaks, Lucerne is the largest city in central Switzerland and a hub of culture, tourism, and education.

Its attractions include a quaint historic city center with many traces from the Middle Ages and landmarks such as Mount Pilatus and Chapel Bridge. There is also a wide selection of cinemas, museums, theatres, restaurants, sports, parks, nature facilities, and places to hike, not to mention the internationally renowned KKL Culture and Convention Center designed by the French architect Jean Nouvel featuring impressive concert halls, amazing musical events, and spectacular rooftop views of the city and surroundings.

Not only is the city easily navigated by bicycle, but it is also interconnected by an efficient, reliable, and safe public transportation system extending throughout Switzerland and beyond its central location within Europe. Both international airports, one in Zurich and one in Basel, are less than one and a half hours travel-time away.

We would be happy to welcome you to study in Lucerne!

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SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURE

APPLIED INTELLIGENCE

The bachelor’s program of the Institute of Interior Architecture is part of the Lucerne School of Engineering and Architecture, where Applied Intelligence is the basis of education. This means that theory is grounded in holistic thinking applied to real-life situations. Students are thereby provided with theoretical and practical tools that can be immediately applied to solve complex problems in a way that not only is creative, but also entails an individual sense of social responsibility. With about 2,000 students and nearly 400 faculty members, the School offers bachelor’s programs in the following subjects at one location in Horw near the center of Lucerne:

- Bachelor of Arts in Architecture
- Bachelor of Arts in Interior Architecture
- Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Building Technology
- Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
- Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Business Engineering Innovation
- Bachelor of Science in Medical Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Energy Systems Engineering (conducted entirely in English)

The School is the only educational institution in Switzerland that offers bachelor’s programs in all the fields above at one location. There is extensive collaboration between the degree programs through shared topics, such as “Building as a System” and “Energy Solutions.” From Day One, all degree/ bachelor’s programs are based on innovative didactic concepts and authentic case studies.

Following a forward-thinking approach, the School exposes students to state-of-the-art technologies, which will continue to be relevant in the future. This includes involving students in research and development projects with professional and industrial partner.

Study is modular in nature, enabling students to put together a program that accommodates personal interests and goals, including part- and full-time options. After completing a bachelor’s program, graduates can continue their studies and pursue master’s programs at another university anywhere in the world.

The School can be conveniently reached by public transportation, bicycle, or car and is situated near the center of Lucerne in the suburb of Horw, which is close to the shores of Lake Lucerne. The Lucerne School of Engineering and Architecture is one of a total of six schools at the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts, which also includes Business, Information Technology, Social Work, Art and Design, and Music. Each School is pledged to cooperate with the other Schools in teaching and research. Thereby, students can complement the major field of study and broaden their horizons by choosing additional classes from an interdisciplinary spectrum. While offering all the advantages of a large institution, the University provides an intimate study atmosphere.
INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Background
A long tradition of high quality craftsmanship has shaped the profession of interior architecture in Switzerland with educational programs being first launched at the end of the nineteenth century. During the first half of the twentieth century, the approach was further developed on the basis of Modernist concepts especially borrowed from the Bauhaus and Werkbund movements, which broadened the field to address issues of industrial and mass production.

Today, the bachelor’s program of the Institute of Interior Architecture at the Lucerne School of Engineering and Architecture continues this tradition with its emphasis on the praxis, meaning that theory is aligned with actual approaches and trends of practicing professionals, as well as state-of-the-art construction and manufacturing methods.

Interconnected with related degree programs, such as Architecture, Building Technology, and Business Engineering Innovation under such common maxims as “Building as a System” or “Energy Solutions,” Interior Architecture provides its students with the opportunity to be part of interdisciplinary study projects right from the beginning of the studies and thereby actively encourages approaches characterized by diversity, one of the key factors of successful sustainable design.

Focus
The program focuses on the design, planning, and construction of the immediate or small scale environment of the human being. This entails aspects of use and functionality including ergonomics; haptic, spatial, visual, and other levels of human perception and sensual experience, all in connection with notions of comfort, material characteristics, and specific atmospheres; and, of course, building technologies.

Research
As part of the School, the degree program encourages close collaboration between students, teachers, researchers, and partner firms through various projects during the course of studies. The outcome is a key element of success, not only for the School’s different Competence Centers of research and making the education of students more practical, but also for providing new impulses for innovative developments in association with the partner firms in related industries.

International Exchange Program and Internships
The fifth semester (advanced level) of the bachelor’s program of the Institute of Interior Architecture has been designated as the primary semester for international exchange and, if desired, can be completed entirely in English. A second option for international exchange is the fourth semester (intermediate level) which is offered in German. The total amount of possible credits which can be completed in one semester as part of the International Exchange Program is 21 to 30 ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) points.

Enabling particular insight into the everyday life of Swiss professional employment, a wide variety of educational projects combining one term of exchange study and a six-month internship in Switzerland are offered in collaboration with partner firms.
Modules of the degree program are usually one semester in duration, except for Intensive Week Courses. Some modules are compulsory, while electives can be chosen from all types of modules, making it possible for students to tailor their curricula to meet personal interests and goals.

There are four types of modules:

**Core Modules**
These modules are aimed to develop competence in the key subjects and methods of interior architecture. Amounting to one half of the total credits required to qualify for the Bachelor’s degree, at least 90 ECTS points must be earned in core modules.

**Project Modules**
Posing challenging, real-life situations in the field of interior architecture, these modules are intended to support students in learning not only to meet pre-given parameters, but also to develop personal design approaches.

**Related Modules**
These modules address a range of topics related to the field of interior architecture that are important to future employment.

**Complementary (Minor) Modules**
These modules extend the scope of the interior architecture education and enable students to integrate their knowledge and skills into larger societal, cultural, ethical, and economic contexts.
## Program Overview

### Core Modules

**Fall Semester**
- Interiors and Furnishings 6 ECTS
- Finishings and Details 6 ECTS
- "Achtung: die Schweiz" 3 ECTS
- International Project 6 ECTS
- Human Building 6 ECTS

**Spring Semester**
- International Project 6 ECTS
- Public Interiors 6 ECTS
- Study Paper 3 ECTS
- Neptune 3 ECTS
- Study Trip 3 ECTS
- Workshop 3 ECTS

### Project Modules

- Human Building
- Public Interiors
- International Project
- "Achtung: die Schweiz"

### Related Modules

- Study Paper
- Neptune
- Study Trip

### Complementary (Minor) Modules

- German Language Modules 3 ECTS
- Swissness - Swiss Language and Culture 3 ECTS
- Sustainability 6 ECTS
- Humanitarian + Development Engineering 3 ECTS
- Recycling and its impact on sustainability 3 ECTS
- Language Modules 3 ECTS
- Swissness - Swiss Language and Culture 3 ECTS
- Sustainability 3 ECTS

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*Exchange semesters

*Mandatory Modules*
BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MODULES TAUGHT IN ENGLISH

FALL SEMESTER

CORE MODULES

Interiors and Furnishings
6 ECTS Credits
Comprehensive investigation of dwelling and respective spatial concepts as a core competency of interior architecture; appreciation and knowledge of the cultural conditions generating meaningful interior spaces, appropriate furniture, suitable fittings and coherent furnishings; insights into historic and contemporary models of dwelling as the interplay between such aspects as representation and at-homeness, physiology of habitation and comfort as well as expression and function.

Finishing and Details
6 ECTS Credits
Study of the process of constructing interiors including space-defining surfaces, cladding and coatings; analysis of the effect and meaning of these elements; knowledge of the specific properties of materials and constructive systems of finishings; sustainability and building biology, tactile, visual and acoustical aspects, building physics; visits to construction sites in relation to the topics of the module.

“achtung: die Schweiz” - (Switzerland in focus)
3 ECTS Credits
Understanding a building as a whole through the interaction of technical requirements, artistic expression, and cultural meaning and focusing on the Swiss architectural period 1945–1970. Interaction of design, construction technology, and the significant value of Swiss crafts in the execution of projects during the specific cultural environment of the post-war period as well as during the years of strong economic growth in Switzerland. Influence of these projects on contemporary Swiss architecture and notions of tradition.

PROJECT MODULES

International Project
6 ECTS Credits
Hands-on introduction to the design thinking method. Execution of a design project within a team to solve a real-life challenge provided by an industry partner. Application and deepening of problem solving, project management, and professional competencies. Creation of convincing professional documentation and presentation of the results.

Human Building
6 ECTS Credits
Design scheme process for an interior architecture project in the context of using and representing businesses and institutions; highly complex analysis of the functional requirements, technical specifications and interior architecture "Gestalt"; methodological deepening of concept, project and detailing up to the concrete materialization.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MODULES TAUGHT IN ENGLISH

SPRING SEMESTER

PROJECT MODULES

International Project
6 ECTS Credits
See the module description on page 12.

Public Interiors
6 ECTS Credits
Development of projects dealing with public space interiors. The design process entails constructive, technical, and functional analyses as well as specific design and detail planning of spaces and their furnishings. The end presentation is based on fragments of rooms and sampling in detail scale.

RELATED MODULES

Study Paper
3 ECTS Credits
Research, development, and production of an academic paper focusing on a relevant professional topic drawn from a discipline/s such as the history of architecture or art, the sociology of housing, etc. This module is supervised and supported by a docent.

COMPLEMENTARY (MINOR) MODULES

Language Modules
3 ECTS Credits
Expansion, development and enhancement of language skills with a focus on actively using the language, i.e., speaking and writing. This modules are intended for non-native Swiss as well as international exchange students.

Swissness – Swiss Language and Culture
3 ECTS Credits
Introduction to the culture of Switzerland: politics, the economy, languages, the arts, leisure and other aspects of Swiss culture are examined; foster an understanding of the host culture; includes 1-2 excursions and discussions with invited experts; competencies in methodological, social and academic aspects.

COMPLEMENTARY (MINOR) MODULES

English for Interior Designers and Architects
3 ECTS Credits
This practice-oriented module is based upon carefully selected teaching materials from interior design, architecture, and English linguistics. The course is intended for Swiss as well as international exchange students who intend to hone their oral communication skills and expand their specialist English vocabulary. The objective is to gain in-depth experience conducting and participating in professional discussions.

Neptune
3 ECTS Credits (intensive week)
Project in the field of the built environment with strong strand of sustainability. Integration of disciplinary knowledge, practical, social and linguistic skills (English) within a multinational, multi-professional and multilingual team. Attending key-note lectures related to problem dealt with during the project period. Presentation of final results with a jury of experts and representatives of municipality and/or companies involved.

Workshop
3 ECTS Credits
Introduction to model building in the architectural design process; differentiated handling of various model typologies and dimensions. Safe handling of machines and materials in analog and digital working.
BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MODULES TAUGHT IN ENGLISH

SPRING SEMESTER

Language Modules
3 ECTS Credits
See the module description on page 12.

Humanitarian + Development Engineering
3 ECTS Credits
The module deals with 5 technical topics: water, waste/sanitation, energy/heating, infrastructure, and food/agriculture. In addition there is a focus on providing jobs and building self-sustaining communities. Cultural, technical business, and management aspects of international aid are discussed for short-term aid and long-term development.

Swissness – Swiss Language and Culture
3 ECTS Credits
See the module description on page 13.

Recycling and its Impact on Sustainability
3 ECTS Credits (intensive week)
Resource needs and energy use associated with products that are recycled worldwide. Lectures also introduce students to novel areas, including the new world of sustainable biomaterials. The course answers questions, such as: How sustainable are the technologies and practices employed in recycling? Can renewable energies and different business models make recycling more sustainable? How does recycling affect local and global carbon footprints? Based on case studies, a framework is developed for a system modeling approach to product cycles and recycles. Finally, the ideas from ecodesign and biomaterials are introduced in the context of sustainable processes.

Sustainability
3 ECTS Credits (intensive week)
Every day we buy and consume many food products without knowing how and where they are made. A product’s sustainability very much depends on its life cycle. This course focuses on how we can become better informed about the impact food products have on the environment and the people who produce them. In addition light will be shed on economic interrelations in the food sector. Several keynote lectures will provide the necessary background on global food affairs and the sustainable approaches of different organizations.
**Photographic Studio**
Interior Architecture students have free access to three professionally equipped workstations in the Photographic Studio, which they can use, e.g., to document their models. Preliminary training includes an introduction to camera and studio techniques.

**Materials Library**
In the field of interior architecture, the relationship between materials and components, on the one hand, and spatial structures and surfaces, on the other, are of primary importance. In teaching and research, the physical presence of materials acts as a stimulus for design development. The on-campus library of the Lucerne School of Engineering and Architecture contains not only an extensive collection of material samples that are openly accessible, but also electronic data sheets, which can be downloaded from www.materialarchiv.ch.

**FabLab**
A branch of the worldwide linked FabLab is located directly on site at the Lucerne School of Engineering and Architecture. All available options, such as use of a 3D printer, CNC dresser, laser cutter, and hot wire cutter, can be booked and used for free or a small fee.

**Buddy for Incoming Students**
Even before arrival at the Lucerne School of Engineering and Architecture, every new incoming international exchange student is put in touch with a Swiss student already situated in the same study program. He/she will support the incoming exchange student in making all of the arrangements necessary for living in Switzerland as well as for dealing with administrative issues concerning the upcoming study program. Buddies can also accompany new exchange students during leisure time to explore the fantastic landscape and share in discovering the most recent interesting highlights of cultural life in Switzerland.
EXCHANGE STUDENT ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES

Application Deadlines
International Exchange Student applicants to the bachelor’s program of the Institute of Interior Architecture from partner institutions should apply through the International Exchange Office of their own home university before April 30 for the fall semester or before October 31 for the spring semester. Other applicants can respectively apply according to the same schedule but through the International Office of the Lucerne School of Engineering and Architecture:

https://www.hslu.ch/en/lucerne-school-of-engineering-architecture/degree-programmes/international/

Application Procedure
As soon as you have contacted either your home university or the Lucerne School of Engineering and Architecture about your interest in doing an exchange semester at our Institute, you will be assigned an advisor who will accompany you throughout the entire application process.

More detailed information about the following topics can be found at this link:


- About Lucerne
- Accommodations/ Housing
- Public Transportation
- Sports
- Scholarships/ Financial Assistance
- Financial Aid
- Academic Calendar
- Health Insurance
- Visa, Entry, and Residence Permit

ACTIVITIES AND EXPENSES

Leisure
As already mentioned at the beginning of this brochure, the city of Lucerne has a great deal to offer and has long served as a hub for international visitors. Furthermore, the spectacular, pristine landscapes, not to mention down-to-earth people, personal safety, and summer and winter sports in the Alps, make Switzerland one of the world’s most attractive destinations.

Sports
The Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts’ comprehensive sports and recreation program with activities such as badminton, soccer, biking, and much more is open to all its students. For further information see (in German only): https://www.unilu.ch/uni-leben/sport/

Housing
Reasonably-priced rooms and flats are available through an internet portal StuWoLuzern (Verein Studentisches Wohnen Luzern): http://stuwoluzern.ch/index.php/en/; or by contacting the Lucerne School of Engineering and Architecture, International Exchange Office: sandra.sommer@hslu.ch

Approximate Monthly Expenses
Rent and food can be relatively expensive in Switzerland. Nevertheless, living expenses greatly depend on personal lifestyle. The following estimate is therefore intended as a general guideline:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approximate Expenses</th>
<th>CHF per Month</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rent</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Insurance</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Transportation</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Expenses</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: CHF 1,500

Detailed information will be provided by our International Office after definite approval of the application.
CONTACT INFORMATION

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LINK TO PREVIOUS STUDENT YEARBOOKS

https://issuu.com/hslu/docs/jahrbuch_ia_06_web_ver__ffentlicht
https://issuu.com/hslu/docs/jahrbuch_iia_n__7