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Zurich University of the Arts  
Information for International Students  
from A to Z

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## A to Z

Preface	→ 5
Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK)	→ 7
Courses	→ 11
Further Education	→ 17
Research	→ 17
International Office	→ 17
Partner Universities / Erasmus	→ 19
Application	→ 21
Language	→ 21
Visa / Accommodation / Health Insurance	→ 21
After Your Arrival in Zurich	→ 23

## Services

Addresses and Sites	→ 25
Academic Calendar	→ 25
Borrowing of Technical Equipment	→ 27
Media and Information Centre	→ 27
Buddy System	→ 29
Mac Shop and IT Support	→ 29
Museum of Design	→ 29
Mehrspur Music Club	→ 31
Sport	→ 31
Studying with Children	→ 33
Student Organisation SturZ	→ 33
Theatre of the Arts	→ 33
Cafeteria Food	→ 35

«Anyone wishing to comprehend the limitations of their homeland should travel»

Kurt Tucholsky

Dear Prospective Student,

The Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK) believes that interculturality drives renewal and helps redress the world's imbalances. Having an understanding of other cultures and conditions of cultural activities significantly increases the potential of future artists and designers. We welcome you warmly to Zurich in that spirit.

Exchanging the four walls around you for a semester or two and diving into something new is a wonderful opportunity that is open to you during your studies. As Max Frisch, writer and architect from Zurich put it, «That we meet people who do not think that they know us through and through so that we can learn what we are capable of in life – even that is little enough.» We offer that experience to our students who travel abroad for an exchange semester, and we would like to offer the same experience to you, prospective students, if you attend our university in Zurich for one or more semesters. The choice is vast at the Zurich University of Arts (ZHdK). All fields of the arts are taught in 7 Bachelors and 10 Masters programme, with a variety of specialisations and core subjects, including design, art, music, film, theatre, dance and art education. Having all disciplines under one roof also facilitates transdisciplinary projects

and courses. Learn more about what ZHdK has to offer and about life in Zurich, a small city with the features of a metropolis.

We look forward to welcoming you,

*Bettina Ganz, Head of the International Office*

## Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK)

On 1 August 2007, one of Europe's largest universities of the arts was founded in Zurich – the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK) with some 2,000 students. It was created from a merger of the Zurich University of Music and Theatre (HMT) and the Zurich University of Art and Design (HGKZ), and combines under one roof a unique range of courses in the fields of design, film, art, media, music, dance, theatre and art education.

The Zurich University of the Arts belongs to the Zurich Universities of Applied Sciences and Arts and is a state-owned university with a legal personality. It offers Bachelor's courses in art education, design, film, media & art, music, music and movement, and theatre, and Master's courses in art education, composition and theory, design, film, fine arts, music performance, specialized music performance, music pedagogy, theatre and transdisciplinary studies. In addition, there is a wide range of Master of Advanced Studies (MAS), Diploma of Advanced Studies (DAS) and Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) courses available.

The Zurich University of the Arts is the successor to time-honoured institutions. The Zurich Museum of Applied Arts was founded in 1875, followed by the Zurich School of Applied Arts in 1878. The latter became the Zurich School of Design, then the Zurich Higher School of Design, and in 2000 the Zurich University of Art and Design (HGKZ).

The Zurich University of Music and Theatre (HMT) since 1999 has combined the former conservatories of Winterthur and Zurich (founded as music schools in 1873 and 1875, respectively), which later became the Winterthur Zurich Music College, the Zurich Jazz School (founded in 1977), the Swiss Computer Music Studio (founded in 1985), the Stage Studio (founded in 1937), and the later Zurich Acting Academy, which became the Theatre College and the Swiss Ballet Vocational School (founded in 1986).

The ZHdK is spread over 40 sites in Zurich and Winterthur today. With the implementation of the Toni Campus project in the west of Zurich, the idea of a university of the arts that combines all fields in one location will become reality. In summer 2013, the ZHdK will move into the Toni Campus with over 800 lorry loads of equipment. Thousands of hours of work still lie ahead until then.

[www.zhdk.ch/index.php?id=10026](http://www.zhdk.ch/index.php?id=10026)

## Courses

### Department of Performing Arts

Bachelor of Arts in Film

Bachelor of Arts in Theatre

Specialization in Dramaturgy

Specialization in Directing

Specialization in Acting

Specialization in Scenography

Specialization in Theatre Education

Master of Arts in Film

Master of Arts in Theatre

Specialization in Artistic Leadership

Specialization in Acting

Training in Stage Dance

### Department of Design

Bachelor of Arts in Design

Specialization in Cast / Audiovisual Media

Specialization in Game Design

Specialization in Industrial Design

Specialization in Interaction Design

Specialization in Scientific Visualization

Specialization in Style & Design

Specialization in Visual Communication

Master of Arts in Design

Field of Excellence: Event

Field of Excellence: Interaction

Field of Excellence: Communication

Field of Excellence: Product

Field of Excellence: Trend

## Department of Cultural Analysis

### Bachelor of Arts in Art Education

Specialization in Aesthetic Education and Socioculture

Specialization in Teaching Baccalaureate Fine Arts

### Master of Arts in Art Education

Specialization in Curating and Museum Education

Specialization in Teaching and Learning

Specialization in Publishing Studies

### Master of Arts in Transdisciplinary Studies

## Department of Art & Media

### Bachelor of Arts in Media & Art

Specialization in Fine Arts

Specialization in Photography

Specialization in Media Arts

Specialization in Theory

### Master of Arts in Fine Arts

## Department of Music

### Bachelor of Arts in Music

Specialization in Instrument / Voice  
(Classical Music / Jazz / Pop)

Specialization in School Music

Specialization in Church Music

Specialization in Conducting

Specialization in Composition and Music Theory

- Specialization in Sound Engineering /  
Tonmeister
- Bachelor of Arts in Music and Movement
- Master of Arts in Music Pedagogy
  - Specialization in Instrumental / Vocal Music  
Pedagogy (Classical Music / Jazz / Pop)
  - Specialization in School Music (School Music I /  
School Music II)
  - Specialization in Music and Movement  
(Rythmics / Elementary Music Education)
- Master of Arts in Music Performance
  - Specialization in Instrumental / Vocal  
Performance (Concert / Orchestra / Opera)
  - Specialization in Conducting (Orchestral  
Conducting / Secular Choral Conducting)
  - Specialization in Church Music (Sacred  
Choral Conducting / Organ)
- Master of Arts in Specialized Music Performance
  - Specialization in Soloist
  - Specialization in Chamber Music (Piano  
Chamber Music and Song Arrangement /  
Ensemble)
  - Specialization in Conducting (Choral  
Conducting / Orchestral Conducting)
  - Specialization in Opera
- Master of Arts in Composition and Theory
  - Specialization in Composition  
(Composition / Composition for Film, Theatre,  
Media / Electroacoustical Composition)
  - Specialization in Theory
  - Specialization in Sound Engineering /  
Tonmeister

## MAS, DAS, CAS

In the spirit of «life-long learning», the Zurich University of the Arts offers courses of further study in a wide range of disciplines, specifically designed for students with professional experience. Thanks to practical and research-oriented teaching, the courses represent a form of adult-friendly further education.

[www.zhdk.ch/index.php?id=778](http://www.zhdk.ch/index.php?id=778)

## Research

In addition to teaching, the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK) is especially committed to research in art and design, as well as in closely related fields of cultural studies and technology. In order to reinforce, shape and focus research activities, research institutes were founded at the ZHdK where research ideas are initiated, projects and research programmes are implemented and the research activities of the university as a whole are supported and followed up.

[www.zhdk.ch/index.php?id=267](http://www.zhdk.ch/index.php?id=267)

## International Office

The International Office organises student exchanges jointly with the University Office and the various specializations. It will assist you with bureaucratic hurdles and problems of day-to-day life following your arrival in Switzerland. It organises the Welcome Days, arranges German

courses and operates a documentation centre with books and information about Zurich, Switzerland, and the German and Swiss German language. You can borrow city guides or special books about history from there.

#### International Office

Ausstellungsstrasse 60, PO Box  
8031 Zürich  
Office 423, 4th Floor

Exchange Coordinator: Markus Sutter,  
markus.sutter@zhdk.ch, Tel. +41 43 446 2058  
Head of International Office: Bettina Ganz,  
bettina.ganz@zhdk.ch, Tel. +41 43 446 2056

#### Open

Tuesday 2 pm to 5 pm  
Wednesday 2 pm to 6 pm  
Thursday 9 am to 1 pm and 2 pm to 5 pm  
[www.zhdk.ch/index.php?id=18587](http://www.zhdk.ch/index.php?id=18587)

### Partner Universities / Erasmus

The ZHdK has partnership agreements with an additional 140 arts universities abroad. The list of those institutions is available online. Cooperation within Europe takes place mainly in the framework of the Erasmus programme.

[www.zhdk.ch/index.php?id=7858](http://www.zhdk.ch/index.php?id=7858)

## Application

Students interested in spending an exchange or guest semester at the university must apply with a dossier including a portfolio.

### Application deadlines:

1 April for the following autumn semester

1 October for the following spring semester

Please see online for application details:

[www.zhdk.ch/index.php?id=466](http://www.zhdk.ch/index.php?id=466)

## Language

Basic knowledge of German is highly recommended. The language of teaching is German. If you have little German knowledge, your level of English must be very high. In the Department of Arts and Film, Specialization in Acting, very good oral and spoken German is required.

## Visa / Accommodation / Health Insurance

For your stay in Zurich you will need accommodation, health insurance and a visa where applicable. For more information, please refer to the relevant section of the International Reader.

## After Your Arrival in Zurich

The classes to be attended are published before the start of the semester in the lecture list. You will register your module together with the specialization secretariat.

[vorlesungsverzeichnis.zhdk.ch/semesters/12F](http://vorlesungsverzeichnis.zhdk.ch/semesters/12F)

In the week before the start of the semester, the International Office organises the Welcome Days (Thursday to Saturday). You are expected to be in Zurich then and to attend those events, ensuring that you will be well informed, will know your whereabouts and have already met some people.

During those days you can bring along all of your papers, register with the University Office (Office SQ 420 - Ausstellungsstrasse 60), collect your student pass, register with the district office, apply for a residence permit (see International Reader) and of course ask any question left unanswered. The Welcome Days also include a trip to the mountains or another city in Switzerland.

### Student Pass

Once you have completed all the paperwork, you will receive your student pass. It is an identity card, copy card and badge that allows you enter various rooms.

### ECTS

At the end of your stay you will receive the transcript of records from the secretariat of your

specialization. Your credits will be recorded in the ECTS European Credit Transfer System.

[www.zhdk.ch/index.php?id=587](http://www.zhdk.ch/index.php?id=587)

### Communication

As soon as you have a study place at the ZHdK, you will receive your own ZHdK email address. All the information you need for your studies will be sent to that address. In order to ensure smooth communication, everybody here is committed.

### Tuition Fees

As an exchange student you will remain enrolled at your home university and will pay tuition fees there. Here you are only required to pay the fees of the Academic Sports Association Zurich (ASVZ) and the cost of the student pass.

## Services

### Addresses and Sites

The ZHdK is spread over 40 sites in Zurich and Winterthur today. The addresses and locations of the various sites can be found online:

[www.zhdk.ch/index.php?id=standorte](http://www.zhdk.ch/index.php?id=standorte)

### Academic Calendar

The academic year is divided into two semesters. The autumn semester begins in September and the spring semester in February. For the exact dates, please see the website:

[www.zhdk.ch/index.php?id=359](http://www.zhdk.ch/index.php?id=359)

### Borrowing of Technical Equipment

The ZHdK allows students and employees to borrow an extensive range of equipment. From clapperboard and megaphones, through spotlights and microphones, to mixing desks and record players, everything needed for the production of art is available. In addition, the university also boasts a photography studio, a sound studio and video editing rooms. An information desk provides advice and assistance regarding events equipment and production technology and can help you in technical questions of all kinds.

*pz.zhdk.ch*

### Media and Information Centre

The Media and Information Centre (MIZ) houses a comprehensive collection of materials on all disciplines taught and researched at Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK). MIZ holdings include books, journals and periodicals, online text and image databases, manifold archival materials, DVDs, CDs, musical scores, e-journals, and Webstreams. Our archives include documents concerning the history of ZHdK, as well as a media archive of the arts and a materials archive. We also offer information retrieval courses and provide academic staff and students with the support needed for successful teaching and research.

*miz.zhdk.ch*

### Buddy System

You will be assigned a buddy to support you. Usually this is a student from the same specialization. He or she will assist you especially during the initial period here in Zurich and will answer the hundreds of questions that you are bound to have.

### Mac Shop and IT Support

The Mac Shop (MacITZ) of the ZHdK is popular with students. There you can buy Apple computers and software packages at unbeatable prices. The service is run by the Information Technology Centre (ITZ), which also develops software for the ZHdK and maintains the university's IT infrastructure. The employees of the ITZ are available if you have any computer problems. Students also have the opportunity to enhance their IT skills by taking training courses on subjects including Photoshop, video editing and musical notation.  
*itz.zhdk.ch*

### Museum of Design

The university's own Museum of Design Zurich is an internationally renowned museum, specialising in design, visual communication and architecture. Its predecessor was the Zurich Museum of Applied Arts, founded in 1875. The Bellerive Museum is also a branch of the Museum of Design.

Between nine and eleven temporary exhibitions per year, as well as various small shows and projects, explore design-related topics. The museum's collections in the fields of poster art,

graphics, design and applied arts are of international significance. The museum is involved in teaching and research at the university. As a student of the ZHdK, you are granted free entry to the museum.

[www.museum-gestaltung.ch](http://www.museum-gestaltung.ch)

### Mehrspur Music Club

Since 2005 concerts in genres ranging from jazz and funk through trip hop and pop to classical and electronic music have been held in the university's own Mehrspur Music Club. The club promotes up-and-coming musicians in all styles of music. It is a popular meeting place for music lovers and students of all universities and subjects.

The Mehrspur Music Club is open on Wednesdays (Jam Night) Fridays (Jazz Night) and Saturdays (Mehrspur Night) from 8pm. At the weekend DJs hit the decks after the concerts. Drinks and snacks are reasonably priced and entry is free.

[www.mehrspur.ch](http://www.mehrspur.ch)

### Sport

Students of the ZHdK automatically become members of the Academic Sports Association Zurich (ASVZ). Students can attend courses and train in sports from football and boxing to fencing and yoga. Fitness rooms and gyms are also available at the ETH Centre (Polyterasse), at the Irchel University and at ETH Höggerberg.

The ZHdK offers a yoga course on Mondays and fitness training on Wednesdays at Ausstellungsstrasse under the motto «Sport at Lunchtime»  
[www.asvz.ch](http://www.asvz.ch)

### Studying with Children

The ZHdK has a quota of nursery places at the Minimuus nursery in Neugasse in District 5. The offer is available to all members of the ZHdK who need care for their children from the age of 6 months to pre-school.

[www.zhdk.ch/index.php?id=580](http://www.zhdk.ch/index.php?id=580)

### Student Organisation SturZ

The student organisation SturZ represents the interests of the students in the various bodies of the university. It escalates questions and issues to the right people and promotes the exchange of experiences among students.

[sturz.zhdk.ch](http://sturz.zhdk.ch)

### Theatre of the Arts

With the Theatre of the Arts in Gessnerallee, the ZHdK has three stages for public performances. The performers are not only theatre specialists, but also students from other departments. The stages of the Theatre of the Arts are equipped with state-of-the-art technology. Stage sets, props and scenery are made in the university's own workshops. Entry to the Theatre of the Arts is free.

[www.theaterderkuenste.ch](http://www.theaterderkuenste.ch)

## Cafeteria Food

Low-cost lunch offers are available to students in the cafeterias at Ausstellungsstrasse 60, in Florhof and on the Media Campus.

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