



ZHdK Factsheet

Incoming Student Mobility

1 Institution

Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK)

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2 Team

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3 ZHdK Degree Programmes

With around 2100 Bachelor's and Master's students, ZHdK is one of the largest arts universities in Europe. Our wide-ranging offerings include [Bachelor's and Master's programmes in the following fields](#):

Art Education – Cultural Critique – Dance – Design – Film – Fine Arts – Music – Theatre – Transdisciplinary

At ZHdK, incoming students apply for a Major. In most cases they also get to choose modules from other available degree programs, to deepen or expand their major skills and knowledge across disciplines. This wide choice of courses is unique in Europe and enables students to develop and sharpen their individual profile.

4 Important Dates Semesters

The academic year at ZHdK is divided into two semesters:

Autumn semester: September – January
(calendar weeks 38 – 3)

Spring semester: February – June
(calendar weeks 8 – 23)

Music Department: calendar weeks 38 – 4 and 8 – 25

Deadlines

For the following autumn semester

Nomination: 15 February – 15 March

Application: 15 February – 1 April

For the following spring semester

Nomination: 15 August – 15 September

Application: 15 August – 1 October

Notification of admission to the study programme is sent out approximately 5–6 weeks after the application deadline.

5 Application Process

The documentation required for an application differs depending on the chosen area of specialization. [More detailed information is listed on our website, by individual department.](#)

The entire application process is administered through Mobility-Online.

Exchange Students

Visiting students from one of ZHdK's partner institutions are considered "exchange" students. Exchange students remain registered at their home institutions.

How to apply

- 1 Student's home institution nominates student
- 2 Student receives a link for their registration
- 3 Student submits their application

Students cannot nominate themselves. They must be nominated by their home institution.

Europe: Nomination for an exchange under a SEMP agreement
[German / English](#)

All other countries: Nomination for an exchange under a bilateral agreement
[German / English](#)

Guest Students / Free Mover

Visiting students from a university that ZHdK does not have an exchange agreement with are considered "guest" students / free movers. Those students must register at ZHdK and pay tuition fees (CHF 1250).

How to apply

- 1 Student applies using the link below
- 2 Student receives a link for their registration
- 3 Student submits their application

Application for a guest semester as a free mover (all countries):
[German / English](#)

6 Language

Classes at ZHdK are generally taught in German. **A sound knowledge of German (B2) is strongly recommended.** If a student has little or no knowledge of the German language, it is highly recommended that they have very good English skills (Minimum Level B2, FCE, IELTS 5.5 or TOEFL 70).

ZHdK offers [German language courses](#), they are free of charge for exchange and guest students / free movers.

7 Costs

Exchange students do not pay tuition fees.
Guest students do pay tuition fees (CHF 1250).

All students need to cover the cost of the student card (CHF 35 per semester). The student card gives them access to the university buildings, including the facilities of the Academic Sports Association (ASVZ).

Students should allow approximately CHF 2'000 to CHF 3'000 per month for living costs. Sharing rent with roommates comes out to CHF 500-1000 per month and person. ZHdK does not provide any housing. It is the responsibility of the student to [find accommodation](#).

8 SEMP Stipend

Students whose European home institution is an official [partner institution of ZHdK](#) automatically qualify for a SEMP-mobility stipend. Depending on the country of the home institution, the stipend comes out to **about CHF 400 per month**. Students receive the first rate (80%) of the stipend once they arrive in Zurich. The second rate (20%) is paid upon completing the semester and submitting all necessary documents.

9 Health Insurance

Health care and accident insurance are compulsory in Switzerland: **Every person staying in Switzerland for more than 3 months is required to have basic health care and accident coverage.** This also applies to students who come for 1 semester to Switzerland. [Students are responsible for taking out adequate insurance coverage or to file a claim for exemption from health insurance within one month of entering the country.](#)

Students can file for exemption if they already have health insurance in their home country and that insurance covers medical costs and accidents in Switzerland. Please note: The Swiss Ministry of Health determines compatibility of foreign insurances.

10 Visa

Students from countries in the European Union do not need a visa. Students from all other countries must apply for a visa at the [Swiss Embassy or Consulate in their country of residence](#). To get the visa process started, students need to bring a ZHdK letter of acceptance to the embassy/consulate.

It is crucial to apply for a visa in time: Depending on the country of residence it usually takes about 3 months to get a visa. Entry into Switzerland is only possible with a valid student visa.

All students must report to the City of Zurich's Student Registration Office within 14 days of their arrival in Switzerland.