

## EXCHANGE PROGRAMME INFORMATION SHEET SPRING 2026

### Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies

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Switzerland

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#### CONTACTS

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#### APPLICATION PROCEDURE

##### Application Deadlines

Spring Semester 2026: **1 November 2025**

Only candidates nominated by the Institute's academic partners are considered. Nominations should be communicated 2 weeks prior to the application deadline. Nominees will be contacted directly and given access to the online application form. In addition, applicants are required to send their supporting documents by email to [exchanges@graduateinstitute.ch](mailto:exchanges@graduateinstitute.ch). More details on the Institute's admission process and conditions are available from the [website](https://graduateinstitute.ch).

#### LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

##### English

The minimum requirements for admission are:

TOEFL IBT: 100

IELTS: 7

CPE (Certificate of Proficiency in English of the University of Cambridge): A-B-C

CAE (Certificate of Advanced English of the University of Cambridge): A-B

The Graduate Institute has a bilingual policy that gives students the right to express themselves in class, and submit written work, in either English or French, regardless of the language through which the course is taught. The majority of classes at the Institute, however, are taught in English. Knowledge of French is not required.

## ACADEMIC CALENDAR

### Spring Semester:

Classes start on Monday 16 February 2026 and end on Friday 29 May 2026.

[Click here](#) to access the full academic calendar.

## COURSE OFFERINGS & ENROLMENT

Full details of our programmes and courses are available on the [online course catalogue](#).

Most courses are open to exchange students, except those indicated as compulsory for our regular students, research electives and workshops. Course registrations are subject to spaces available and can be adjusted during the first week of classes.

## WORKLOAD

Exchange students should determine the number of courses they will follow in consultation with the academic advisers of their home institutions. It should be noted that an average workload at MA level is 5 weekly courses, corresponding to 30 ECTS credits.

## STUDENT VISA

Most non-EU citizens require a visa to enter and study in Switzerland. A visa request should be filed with the local Swiss embassy further to receipt of the confirmation of admission. **Please note that it can take up to 3 months to process visa applications.** Additionally, all non-Swiss students must apply for a residence permit on their arrival in Geneva. Residence permits are issued by the Office Cantonal de la Population (OCP). Details of the visa and residence permit procedures will be provided to admitted students.

## HOUSING

Exchange students may apply for housing in one of the [Institute's Student Residences](#).

## LIVING EXPENSES

1'800CHF – 2'000CHF per month will allow for a modest student lifestyle in Geneva. A [Monthly Student Budget](#) estimate compiled by the Graduate Institute's Students Association (GISA) provides an overview of living costs in Geneva. Please note that exchange students are not required to pay tuition fees to the Graduate Institute.

## HEALTH INSURANCE

Health and accident insurance are compulsory in Switzerland. Details of requirements and regulations are available on our [website](#).