

## EXCHANGE PROGRAMME INFORMATION SHEET 2026-2027

### The Geneva Graduate Institute

Chemin Eugène-Rigot 2  
1211 Genève  
Switzerland  
[graduateinstitute.ch](https://graduateinstitute.ch)

#### CONTACTS

#### Exchange Programme Manager

Elisabeth Cini  
Tel. + 41 22 908 43 83  
[exchanges@graduateinstitute.ch](mailto:exchanges@graduateinstitute.ch)

#### APPLICATION PROCEDURE

##### Application Deadlines

Autumn Semester 2026: **1 April 2026**  
Spring Semester 2027: **1 November 2026**

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 allows students 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

##### Autumn Semester

Classes start on Monday 14 September 2026 and end on Friday 18 December 2026

## Spring Semester:

Classes start on Monday 22 February 2027 and end on Friday 28 May 2027

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

### COURSE OFFERINGS & ENROLMENT

Each academic department of the Institute selects classes for which exchange students will be able to register for. Generally, electives are open to exchange students, but not compulsory courses, research method electives and workshops.

Exchange students are not affiliated with a specific department. They can register to max. 5 classes irrelevant of the department.

Course registrations are subject to spaces available and can be adjusted during the first week of classes.

Access the current [online course catalogue](#)

### 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. The visa request must be submitted online (NOT the local Swiss embassy) further to receipt of the confirmation of admission. The procedure is described [here](#). **Please note that, upon submissions, 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 et des Migrations (OCPM).

### HOUSING

Exchange students may apply for housing in one of the [Institute's Student Residences](#). Please note that housing should be secured before applying for a visa.

### 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](#).