

Information for Exchange and Project Mobility Students at D-BSSE

The ETH Zurich master's degree programme in Biotechnology is carried out at the Department of Biosystems Science and Engineering (D-BSSE) in **Basel** (not Zürich!). Commuting between Basel and Zürich takes about 1,5 hours door-to-door each way.

The following information relates to the canton of Basel-Stadt in which the city of Basel is located. For information on visa and entry requirements for the canton of Basel-Landschaft please visit the website of the [migration office at Basel-Landschaft](#). Please note that we cannot advise or assist you if you decide to take up residence outside the canton of Basel-Stadt.

Important

- Students who wish to undertake a research project/thesis: the project/thesis needs to be a compulsory part of your study programme at your home university and must be declared as such from the start of your application process.
- Students in Basel need to provide proof of adequate financial means – **required sum: CHF 1'800** per month (savings and/or scholarship).

Prior to arrival

Visa

EU/EFTA nationals:

Citizens of the [EU/ EFTA states](#) do not require a visa for studying in Switzerland and therefore need not to take action in this regard before their arrival.

Non-EU/EFTA nationals:

Please follow the instructions you receive from the Student Exchange Office regarding the student visa application.

Students from countries that require a visa to enter Switzerland (see [visa requirements for your nationality](#)), and are responsible for applying for their own visa, must submit a formal visa application to the nearest [Swiss consulate general or embassy](#) in their home country. Please ensure that you submit your visa application in good time, **i.e., 3 months before your desired start date**.

Note:

- Students who are responsible for their own student visa application need to keep in mind that they need to **apply for their student visa in canton Basel-Stadt** and NOT Zurich or any other canton.

Non-EU/EFTA nationals exempt from visa requirements for Switzerland

Non-EU/EFTA nationals exempt from visa requirements for Switzerland (see [visa requirements for your nationality](#)) must apply for an assurance of residence permit (*Zusicherung zur Aufenthaltsbewilligung*) **at least two months prior to their desired arrival date** to obtain formal confirmation of their residence permit. To do so, submit the required [documents](#) in one PDF via [contact form](#) (only available in German).

Upon arrival

Residence permit

If you wish to study in Switzerland as an exchange or project mobility student, you must apply for a residence permit within 14 days after moving to Switzerland / Basel-Stadt.

EU/EFTA nationals and Non-EU/EFTA nationals exempt from visa requirements for Switzerland

Students from [EU/ EFTA states](#) and students exempt from visa requirements for Switzerland (see [visa requirements for your nationality](#)) can request the residence permit via an [online form](#) or by sending the required documents to:

*Justiz- und Sicherheitsdepartement Basel-Stadt
Migrationsamt
Abteilung Einreisen
Spiegelgasse 12
4001 Basel*

The following documents are required for the registration:

- Extended Confirmation of Matriculation (available in myStudies)
- Proof of sufficient financial means, e.g., statement of account
- Scholarship confirmation (if applicable)
- Valid copy of your passport or ID card

More information can be found on the [website of the migration office](#).

Non-EU/EFTA nationals:

Non-EU/EFTA nationals need to register with the resident's registration office of the canton of Basel-Stadt in person **within 14 days upon arrival**. The office is located at:

*Justiz- und Sicherheitsdepartement Basel-Stadt
Einwohneramt
Kanton Basel-Stadt
Spiegelgasse 6
4001 Basel*

The following documents are required for the registration:

- Valid copy of your passport or ID card (including entry visa)
- Confirmation letter which you will receive via email (and can find in Mobility-Online afterwards)
- Printout of the extended Confirmation of Matriculation (available in myStudies)
- Copy of rental agreement
- Proof of sufficient financial means, e.g., statement of account
- Scholarship confirmation (if applicable)

More information can be found on the [website of the migration office](#).

Border region / cross-border commuting

Students from the border region holding EU/EFTA citizenship who do not intend to take up residence in Switzerland are not required to hold a residence permit.

Note:

- Cross-border commuting is not permitted for non-EU/EFTA nationals.

At the end of your stay

Students are obliged to deregister in person prior to their departure. You can do this at the residents' registration office where you registered at the beginning.

Project mobility students and mobility students at D-BSSE must complete and sign a leaving protocol and return their ETH Student Card at the Department Administration Service office, [building BSS](#), Klingelbergstrasse 48, office E 55.2 (ground floor).

General information about Basel & the D-BSSE

Courses

Note that courses starting with 636-05xx-xx are not offered by the D-BSSE, but by the University of Basel. Remember that at least 2/3 of your course credits/courses should be taken in the department where you are enrolled.

Taking courses at the University of Basel

To take elective courses at the University of Basel, you need to register directly at the University of Basel by submitting a signed registration sheet, along with a scan of a student ID or a confirmation of matriculation via the [online contact form](#).

The original transcripts of the courses you have taken at the University of Basel will be sent to you after completion of the respective semester. You are required to send the scanned transcript to the D-BSSE student administration (student-admin@bsse.ethz.ch) to transfer the results and credit points for your studies at ETH Zurich. If you plan to leave soon after the end of the examination period, please contact the study administration office of the University of Basel and ask for your original transcript to be sent directly to the D-BSSE study administration.

ETH Student Card

On your start day at D-BSSE, you must pick up your [ETH Student Card](#) at the Department Administration Service office, [building BSS](#), Klingelbergstrasse 48, office E 55.2 (ground floor). The student card is the access badge for restricted areas within the building – always carry it with you.

The student card needs to be validated each semester. There is one validation terminal in Basel at the left of the main entrance of building BSS, on the ground floor (left of the reception desk).

At the end of your stay, the student card must be returned to the Department Administration Service (see “at the end of your stay”).

Housing

Here are some links that might be helpful to find accommodation in Basel:

- <https://en.comparis.ch/immobilien/default>
- <https://www.flatfox.ch>
- <http://www.wgzimmer.ch>
- <http://www.wove.ch>
- <https://markt.unibas.ch/>

Hostels/Hotels in Basel:

- <https://www.youthhostel.ch/de/hostels/basel/>
- <http://de.easyhotel.com/hotels/basel.html>

Health Insurance

Exchange students refer to the following website for general advice: <http://www.ethz.ch/health-insurance-for-students>

Project mobility students refer to the following website for general advice:

<https://ethz.ch/en/studies/non-degree-courses/project/entering-switzerland/health-insurance.html>.

Note that since you are in the canton Basel-Stadt certain processes might slightly differ from the mentioned information on this website.

Basel-Stadt specific information on health insurance can be found in the Fact Sheet “healthcare” on the following website: <https://www.bdm.bs.ch/Wohnen/basel-for-new-arrivals/instructions.html>

Canteen, library, gym, language courses etc. of the University of Basel

Students at D-BSSE profit from a student discount on the menu in the department canteen and bistro (ETH Student Card required).

The neighbouring University of Basel allows a discount on the main menu for ETH students (ETH student card required) at the university’s canteen.

Additionally, ETH students may use the [University of Basel Library](#).

Student Associations

We are proud to host the Biotechnology Student Association (BSA) at the D-BSSE in Basel. All exchange and project mobility students are automatically members of the main ETH Zurich student association VSETH and therefore also of BSA.

For more information, please visit the website of BSA: www.bsa.ethz.ch

All exchange and project mobility students may participate in the events of the [Erasmus Student Network \(ESN\) in Basel](#). For example, in the first week of each semester ESN organises a Welcome Week with activities such as a welcome evening, a city tour and a pub crawl to give you the opportunity to mingle and have a smooth start in Basel. If you want to join, please register via the [ESN Basel facebook page](#) or [Instagram](#).