Dear International Student

Welcome to Switzerland and the FHNW School of Life Sciences! We are very pleased that you decided to do your exchange at our school.

Studying abroad requires preparation and organisation and presents many questions. This guide provides helpful information and hopefully answers the questions you have before getting here, when you arrive and during your stay.

We wish you a great and memorable time in Switzerland and look forward to meeting you soon!

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Getting here
In Basel, culture is lived, created, promoted and celebrated. Whether on a tour of one of the nearly 40 museums, a visit to the Musical Theatre or a long night at an open air festival, nowhere in Switzerland can culture be experienced in such a diverse way. The old town is one of the most intact and beautiful in Europe. The narrow alleys and hidden squares with over 300 fountains make it just as special as the many centuries-old buildings and eye-catching views.

Basel is the third largest city in Switzerland after Zurich and Geneva, and borders France and Germany. This ‘Dreiländereck’ is a unique meeting point of three countries, languages and cultures.

In summer, life shifts outdoors and the banks of the Rhine are transformed into a Mediterranean promenade with numerous cafés and bars while in winter the Basel Christmas market, one of the most beautiful in Europe, is a big attraction.

Basel Tourismus: [Website]

Basel is well connected and easily accessible thanks to its location. The EuroAirport is located just a few minutes outside the city centre. Three train stations offer excellent connections all over Switzerland and to the most important cities in Europe.

Basel has an extremely favourable climate. The sun shines for about 3,500 hours a year and the average rainfall is only 90mm per month. The maximum temperature can rise to more than 35°C in summer but the moderate humidity is always very pleasant. In the winter months, warm clothing, waterproof jackets and good shoes are a must. It is often damp and cold and it can snow from time to time.
Switzerland is a multilingual country with four national languages. The most widely spoken is Swiss German, the others being French, Italian and Romansh. The many foreign citizens living in Switzerland also contribute to the linguistic diversity.

Swiss German is spoken in Basel and is referred to as ‘Schwizerdüütsch’; it sounds very different from German. Swiss German is used for speaking, while German is used in writing.

Some important words and phrases that you will often hear in Switzerland:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>German</th>
<th>Swiss German</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hello</td>
<td>Guten Tag</td>
<td>Grüezi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goodbye</td>
<td>Auf Wiedersehen</td>
<td>Adieu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Ja</td>
<td>Jo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>Nein</td>
<td>Nei</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Please</td>
<td>Bitte</td>
<td>Bitte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thank you!</td>
<td>Danke</td>
<td>Danggschön</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My name is...</td>
<td>Mein Name ist...</td>
<td>Mi Name isch...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How are you?</td>
<td>Wie geht es Dir?</td>
<td>Wie goht's?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I'm very well</td>
<td>Es geht mir gut</td>
<td>Es goht mir guet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel ill</td>
<td>Es geht mir schlecht</td>
<td>Es goht mir schlächt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you speak English?</td>
<td>Sprechen Sie Englisch?</td>
<td>Rede Si Änglisch?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don’t understand</td>
<td>Ich verstehe nicht</td>
<td>Ich verstoh nid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where is …?</td>
<td>Wo ist…?</td>
<td>Wo isch …?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toilets/restrooms</td>
<td>Toilette</td>
<td>WC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Switzerland’s official currency is the Swiss Franc (abbreviations are Fr., Sfr. or CHF). Credit cards are accepted almost everywhere but it is still quite common to pay in cash.

Basel is an attractive city and a great place to live but unfortunately not cheap. CHF 1,500 – 2,000 per month should cover the costs for housing, food, transport and entertainment.

In order to enter Switzerland to study, a visa is required by most non-EU/EFTA citizens. It can take up to 3 months from the application until a visa is actually issued. It is your responsibility to apply for an appropriate visa within a reasonable timeframe. Citizens from Europe’s Schengen area, the European Union and EFTA do not require visas to enter Switzerland but must apply for a residence permit.

Please do NOT enter Switzerland with a tourist visa, as this cannot be changed to a student residence permit after you arrive. If you do not have a visa when you arrive in Switzerland, you will have to leave the country and reapply!

To find out if you need a visa, check the Website.
How do I register?

If your stay is shorter than 90 days, you do not need to register with the local authority. If your stay is longer than 90 days, registration is mandatory. Please register within 14 days of arrival at the registration office of the city you live in:

- Basel [Website]
- Muttenz [Website]
- Riehen [Website]

The following documents will be required for your registration:

- Completed registration form (on the relevant websites or from the registration office)
- Valid passport or identity card
- ID picture (35 x 45 mm), not older than 6 months
- Admission Confirmation from the FHNW (available from the International Office)
- Proof of means of subsistence (bank statement or signed letter from parents/family confirming their financial support)
- Rental contract of your accommodation

At the end of your stay in Switzerland, you must notify the municipality of residence that you are leaving the country. They will then cancel the residence permit. [Website]
Do I need health insurance?

Basic health insurance is compulsory in Switzerland. If you come to live in Switzerland for more than 90 days, you must take out health insurance within three months of your arrival. However, as an international student, special provisions might apply to you and depending on your situation, an exemption is possible:

- General information about compulsory health insurance (Gemeinsame Einrichtung KVG).
  Website
- Exemption from the compulsory health insurance due to education and further education in Switzerland.
  Website
- Application for exemption:
  Website
What do I do in case of an emergency?

For minor emergencies or medical problems, you can go to the Medix Toujours medical center in Basel or Pratteln that is also open on evenings and weekends (no appointment required). These clinics are open 365 days a year. An experienced staff of general practitioners and internists with top-class equipment can diagnose and treat most non-hospital conditions. Both locations are close to the train stations in Basel and Pratteln.

Website

In Switzerland, you should not go to Accident and Emergency at a hospital unless you are severely ill, your condition is life threatening or you have been in a serious accident.

Emergencies
Universitätsspital Basel
Spitalstrasse 21/Petersgraben 4
4031 Basel
Website

For dental emergencies
There is a dental clinic near the SBB station, which is also open in the evenings and at weekends.
Website

Important emergency phone numbers
Emergency number: 112
Police: 117
Fire brigade: 118
Ambulance: 144
Toxicology Emergency Centre: 145
Crisis line (die dargebotene Hand): 143

Pharmacies
For minor medical problems, it is best to go to a pharmacy (Apotheke) first, as they can often diagnose a problem right away and provide appropriate treatment. In Basel and Muttenz there are plenty of pharmacies, open 8:30–18:30 on workdays. The following also have extended opening hours:

– Bahnhof Apotheke Drogerie
Centralbahnstrasse
Bahnhof 20
4051 Basel

– Notfall Apotheke Basel
Petersgraben 3
4031 Basel
Open during the night
How can I find accommodation?

Swiss universities do not usually have on-campus accommodation so students often organise their own shared flats („WG“ or „Wohngemeinschaft”), where people rent a flat together and share the rent. As in other cities, the housing market in Basel is tight so start looking for suitable accommodation early!

**WoVe**
We recommend contacting WoVe, the local student housing association that helps students find affordable accommodation. You can register for furnished or unfurnished rooms on the WoVe website, by email or in person.

[Website](#)

**STUWO**
Are you between 18 and 30 years old, studying or starting work, and looking for a suitable flat share?

[Website](#)

**UNIMARKT**
Online marketplace of the University of Basel.

[Website](#)

**WGZIMMER.CH**
Are you looking for a room in a shared flat?

[Website](#)

**Wohnheim Hofacker**
This student residence is in walking distance of the Campus and offers accommodation to 83 students.

[Website](#)

**Basel Student Residence Cooperative**
The Student Residence offers 99 single rooms. First priority is given to students of the University of Basel or to students of other universities.

[Website](#)

**Borromäum**
A home for students and apprentices. The house offers accommodation to 43 young people in training.

[Website](#)

**Katholisches Studentenhaus**
The Katholisches Studentenhaus offers affordable accommodation to 70 students.

[Website](#)

For a furnished or unfurnished single room with shared kitchen and bathroom, you should expect to pay CHF 400–900 a month.
Life in Basel
How to get around

In Basel people like to get around on foot, or by bike, tram or bus. Public transport in Basel and around Switzerland is safe, efficient and reliable and trains, trams, buses and boats cover the entire country. Daily services operate from 5:30 to midnight and run every 6 minutes at peak times. For an additional fare, special night buses get you home late on Friday and Saturday nights. The Basel ticketing system and the different travelcards might be overwhelming at first. Cantons Basel-Stadt and Baselland are divided into zones and the price of your ticket depends on how many zones you cross to reach your destination. But don’t worry! Go to the Tourist Information Desk at the SBB train station and ask for advice on how to get around and which travelcard to buy that fits your needs.

Note: Campus Muttenz is part of “Zone 10”.

By car

People from abroad may drive in Switzerland for private purposes for up to a year as long as they are old enough to drive in Switzerland (e.g. 18 years old to drive a passenger car) and hold a valid national or international driving licence. If no international driving permit (which serves as a translation of the original licence) can be presented with the original national driving licence, the driver must carry a translation of their national driving licence.

Website
By tram, bus & train

Tickets
Tickets can be purchased at the green (tram & bus) or blue (train) ticket machines located at every stop (NB: some machines only accept coins). There is also a ticket app (SBB Mobile) that allows you to buy tickets quickly and easily.
> Website

The U-Abo
This ticket is great if you use public transport in the Basel region. It allows holders to travel throughout the entire TNW region whenever and wherever they wish. It even includes travelling to certain places in Germany and France that are close to the border.

More information on prices and how to buy:
> Website U-Abo Subscription
> Website Purchasing a U-Abo

Half-Fare Card
If you want to travel around Switzerland a lot during your stay then buying the Half-Fare Card could make sense. With this, you get your train ticket for half price. You also benefit from discounts on many other trains, ships, trams and buses.
> Website

Seven25 Card
If you are under 25 and like to go out in the evening, you could benefit from the seven25 season ticket. Buying this gives under-25s free travel on SBB trains and most other railways as well as on many forms of public transport in Switzerland from 7pm.
> Website

More information on costs, timetables or ticket purchasing:
Swiss Federal Railways (SBB):
> Website

Basler Verkehrs-Betriebe (BVB):
> Website

Note: In almost all cases, tickets must be purchased before boarding trains and buses. Not doing so generally carries a fine of at least CHF 100.
By bike

Basel is a cycling city: there are many cycle lanes and paths that make cycling safe and pleasant. Travelling by bike is a good alternative to public transport.

Second-hand bikes
If you want to buy a second-hand bicycle („Velo“ in Swiss German), the following online marketplaces can help:

- Schwarzes Brett FHNW  & Website
- Basel University buy & sell & Website
- Ricardo.ch & Website
- Tutti.ch & Website
- Velomarkt.ch & Website

You can also visit one of the following shops in Basel:

- Bike Outlet & Website
- Second Hand Velos & Website

Bike rental
Only need a bike from time to time to get around Basel and the surrounding area? You can rent one by showing a valid ID. For pick-up points, prices and opening hours check the & Website.

Please note that taking your bike on trams, buses and trains is only allowed with a valid bike ticket, which you have to buy at the ticket office. Otherwise you will be fined over CHF 100.
Basel is a shopper’s paradise with a wide range of stores – but unfortunately not cheap! The old town has large department stores, speciality shops, small boutiques and design shops. Along the Freie Strasse to Marktplatz you will find a variety of clothes and book shops, as well as drugstores and more. If you prefer to have everything under one roof, the St. Jakob Shopping Center offers a good selection.

St. Jakob Park Shopping Center
St. Jakobs-Strasse 397, 4052 Basel
Website (in German).

Shop opening hours are generally from 09:00–18:30 Monday to Friday and 08:00–17:00/18:00 on Saturday. Shops in central Basel stay open until 20:00 on Thursday and Friday. Most shops are closed on Sunday except for the railway station shops and shops at petrol stations. Smaller shops and those outside the city centre may also close over lunch.

Second-hand shops
You like second-hand shops and are looking for something for a smaller budget? Maybe you’ll find what you’re looking for here:

- Vintageria Bonnie & Kleid
  Spalenvorstadt 3, 4051 Basel
  Website

- Chemiserie
  Kybeckstrasse 50, 4057 Basel
  Website

- Sahara Secondhand
  Gerbergasse 20 (1st floor), 4001 Basel
  Website

- Fizzen
  Pfluggässlein 1, 4001 Basel
  Website

Charity shops
There are also good charity shops in Basel and Muttenz where you can find second-hand furniture, clothes and household items. These are some but there are many more:

- Blaukreuz-Brockenhalle
  Hofackerstrasse 12, 4132 Muttenz
  Website

- HIOB Brockenstube
  Kybeckstrasse 91, 4057 Basel
  Prattelerstrasse 25, 4132 Muttenz
  Website

- BROCKINO
  Breisacherstrasse 45, 4057 Basel
  Website
Where do I buy groceries?

The largest and most common supermarket chains are Coop, Migros and Denner. In Coop ('Supercard') and in Migros ('Cumulus' card) there are customer cards with which you can get discounts or other benefits when shopping. They will ask if you have one, but you don’t need it to shop there. Migros does not sell alcoholic drinks or tobacco.

There are many other food and speciality shops in Basel and the surrounding area. The best thing to do is to find out about them in your area or look on the internet for shops that interest you.

Looking for a souvenir from Basel?

Basler Läckerli
Sweets with freshly ground almonds and hazelnuts, honey and fine spices. Shops in Basel: Gerbergasse 57 / Greifengasse 2 / Bahnhof SBB
You can also visit the exhibition in the Läckerli Huus factory and taste different sweets! Website

Läderach Schokolade
FrischSchoggi (fresh chocolate) or pralines? Shops in Basel: Marktplatz 18 / Greifengasse 36 / Bahnhof SBB. Website

Go shopping across the border in Germany or France?

Many Basel residents take advantage of the opportunity to shop in neighbouring countries (tram line 3 to France or line 11 to the French border; tram line 8, bus lines 38 and 55 and train S6 to Germany).

This adds to what’s available locally and is attractive for the student budget! The Saturday morning market in Saint-Louis is very good for fruit & vegetables, cheese, fresh bread, etc.
Basel has a wide range of restaurants with food from all over the world. You can always find something suitable – even for a more limited budget.

**Sandoase**
Beach feeling in summer with palm trees, sand, water, cocktails and delicious burgers!
Website

**Markthalle**
In the old market hall under the big dome you will find food stalls with dishes from all over the world. A great place to get together with friends. Everyone will find what their stomach desires!
Website

**KLARA**
Nine kitchens, one bar! KLARA is a place to meet friends, have lunch and get to know new people.
Website

**Gabri's Pasta**
Fine pasta and delicious ice cream! A cosy restaurant with Italian charm.
Website

**Walliser Kanne**
Looking for Swiss specialities? Try a Fondue or Raclette at the Walliser Kanne.
Website

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It can be cheaper to eat out across the border in France or Germany. There are a lot of places in Saint-Louis, Huningue, Weil am Rhein and Lörrach, as well as other villages.

**1456 Arber**
Great burgers in Germany.
Website

**Oishii Sushi & Grill**
Sushi in Germany.
Website

**Sushi's**
Sushi in France.
Website

**El Gaucho**
Fine steaks in Germany.
Website

**Pizzeria Giusa**
Pizzas in Germany.
Website
What can I do in my free time?

Basel is not only rich in culture but also offers many other leisure opportunities. Day trips to cities such as Zurich, Bern and Lucerne are easy thanks to good public transport connections.

In addition to internationally renowned cultural institutions such as the Stadttheater (Basel Theatre), the Basel Art Museum and the Fondation Beyeler, there are countless smaller museums, theatres, restaurants, bars, discos etc. to enjoy.

Some of the museums offer a happy hour: the last hour in the day is free. Some museums can be visited for free on the first Sunday of the month. This offer applies for example to the Historical Museum, the Art Museum, the Natural History Museum and the Museum of Cultures.

Basel’s cinemas are very popular. You can find the current programme at the [Website].

Basel Tourism [Website]

Basel nightlife [Website]
Enjoy the summer at its best

Basel offers many opportunities to enjoy the summer. With festivals, street parties as well as open-air music and cinema, the city shows its full potential at this time of year. The Rhine promenade with its various bars and restaurants invites you to swim, relax or have a barbecue.

**Rhine swimming**
On hot summer days, the clean and refreshing Rhine water beckons! Buy or borrow a Wickelfisch bag and let yourself be carried by the current through the old town. Follow the river safety instructions and the map with the entry and exit points.  

**Website**

**The «Wickelfisch»**
The “Wickelfisch”, a unique Basel invention, is a watertight sack that keeps your clothes dry whilst swimming. You can float along the Rhine without having to leave your clothes behind. They can be bought at the Barfüsserplatz tourist information centre or online.

**Website**

**Ferries and ships**
Don’t feel like walking the long way round to cross the Rhine? Take one of the four ferries, which will transport you comfortably across the river for a small fee (payable directly to the ferryman). Would you rather take a larger boat? Basler Personenschifffahrt offers various boat tours, such as Sunday brunch, a romantic dinner or a sightseeing tour in the afternoon.

**Website**

**IMFLUSS**
For many years the IMFLUSS festival has been bringing Mediterranean flair to summers in the city. The raft – as it’s called by the natives – is a floating stage topped by a large sail. Only the river is between the artists and the audience. The river and the good times flow …

**Website**

**Parks**
Thanks to its many parks, tree-lined avenues and gardens, Basel is a leafy city. These green spaces are great places to walk and linger in the summer months.

**Website**

**Barbecues**
In summer, the people of Basel are drawn outside to the barbecue! Popular barbecue locations can be found along the Rhine, at the Birsfelden power station, at the Birsköpfli or at Lange Erlen in the meadow in the middle of the forest.
During the cold season, much of life takes place indoors. People enjoy a tour of one of the many museums, warm up with a cup of coffee or tea in a café or stroll among the stalls at the autumn fair or the Christmas market.

**Herbstmesse**
The Basel Autumn Fair is the biggest and oldest fair in Switzerland. In October and November numerous stalls and funfairs are set up all over the city.

[Website](#)

**Christmas Market**
Basel’s Christmas market is one of the largest and most beautiful in Switzerland. Barfüsserplatz and Münsterplatz are transformed into a Christmas wonderland in December. Enjoy a mulled wine or a fondue at one of the many stalls.

[Website](#)

**In the snow!**
The very cold winter days mean heading off to the ski slopes, the ice rink or the toboggan run! In Switzerland, outdoor activities such as hiking in the mountains, skiing and much more are very popular. The Alps can be reached within a few hours.

In winter, Swiss Railways (SBB) offer special packages that include a return trip, an overnight stay and ski lift tickets in various ski resorts. You can find more information on the [Website](#).

**Museums Night**
The Basel Museums Night takes place every January. Take a nocturnal stroll and buy a single ticket that for one night gives you access to around 200 events in 38 museums and cultural institutions in Basel, Münchenstein, Riehen, St. Louis and Weil am Rhein.

[Website](#)

**Fasnacht**
Every February, Basel is in a total state of uproar for three days each year. The people of Basel speak of the “drey scheenschte Dääg” (the three most beautiful days)! With colourful costumes and masks, piccolos and drums, individuals and groups parade through the streets and alleys of Basel. The Basel Fasnacht is known as the biggest folk festival in Switzerland.

[Website](#)
Good to know

Can I drink the tap water?
In Switzerland, tap water in your flat or student room, in public buildings and from the numerous drinking fountains can be drunk without hesitation; it meets the strictest hygiene and safety guidelines.

How do I throw rubbish away?
In Switzerland, a fee is charged for waste disposal. In some places you have to buy a specific waste bag (e.g. the “Bebbi-Sagg” in Basel) or a sticker to put on a rubbish bag. This varies from place to place. Find out more about this at your place of residence! The waste sacks or stickers can be bought from supermarkets. The Swiss are efficient and conscientious about recycling. They have myriad rules and regulations for disposing of various types of materials. Recycling collection points for glass, plastic, aluminium, textiles and batteries are widely available.
Where will I study?

**FHNW Muttenz Campus**
Some 4500 people study, conduct research and work at the FHNW Muttenz Campus. The FHNW School of Life Sciences provides a first-rate academic environment with state-of-the-art research facilities and a modern infrastructure. The spacious and attractively designed campus park with its broad selection of cultural and sporting activities provides students and staff with excellent opportunities for leisure and recreation. The campus also benefits from a library and restaurant (both open to the public), a canteen and lounge.

Your FH-card gives you round the clock access to the campus building.

→ More about your FH-Card

To help find your way round the building, it is divided into the four points of the compass. All rooms are systematically numbered: floor, direction, room number.

→ Website

How do I get there?

The FHNW Muttenz Campus is well served by public transport:

**By train**
From Muttenz train station a six-minute walk via Hofackerstrasse or Grenzacherstrasse and through the campus park.

**By bus**
Bus 47 or 63 to the “Fachhochschule” stop.

**By tram**
Tram 14 to “Zum Park”, then a 10-minute walk via Zwinglistrasse and Kriegackerstrasse.

**By bike**
More than 500 covered and open cycle parking spaces are available on Campus.

→ To “How to get around”
→ To “Map”
IT Services

All FHNW students receive an e-mail address ending with @students.fhnw.ch. If you are doing your Bachelor’s or Master’s thesis or an internship with us, your email address will end with @fhnw.ch.

WLAN

Eduroam (education roaming) is a global network that enables people at higher education institutions to access the internet from their current campus. This means that next time you visit another university, you will be able to use their campus network without any problems. Simply connect to the eduroam WLAN and follow the instructions.

Problems with your laptop or need IT Support? Contact the IT Service Desk on the 7th floor (07.O.01).

P +41 61 228 50 50
M it-support@fhnw.ch

Library

The library is a public university library located on the 3rd floor. It provides specialist literature and journals, access to electronic books, journals and specialist databases, teaching aids and teaching materials. Use of the library is free of charge. In addition to the physical stock, it offers a wide range of electronic resources (e-books, e-journals, databases). Via the platform swisscovery: Website you have access to the entire scientific media stock of Switzerland. Website
**Lockers**

There are a total of 950 lockers in the building; just find an unoccupied one. You need to provide your own padlock.

**Smoking areas**

Smoking (including e-cigarettes or vaporizers) is prohibited in the entire building.

**Medical assistance on Campus**

First aid dispensers are available throughout the campus, for example there is a first aid cabinet by the main entrance and the south side lifts. Injured people can be accommodated in first-aid rooms (U2.O.9 and 07.O.08). In case of an emergency please report to the reception. For more serious events, dial 112.

**Where can I study?**

At the FHNW Campus Muttenz you have many places where you can study. Here are a few:
- In the library with meeting areas
- In the lounge
- In the cafeteria
- In the meeting rooms and classrooms during the non-teaching period or as an open workplace depending on the project. Reserve your room max. 24h in advance.

**Website**

[Website]

**How to print?**

Printers are available throughout the campus. Use your FH-Card to pay for copying and printing. For larger formats (maximum A1 landscape / A0 portrait) use the two large format printers on the 7th floor (room 07.M.02) and 11th floor (room 11.M.16).
Food and Drink on Campus

With the campus restaurant on the ground floor, the canteen on the gallery floor and the lounge (with entrance to the roof garden) on the 12th floor, the FHNW Campus Muttenz offers very attractive catering options for students, staff and visitors. You can pay with FH-Card, cash or credit cards in all three facilities, although the discounted price for students and staff only applies with the FH-Card. They serve different lunch menus (meat & vegetarian), salads, sandwiches, burgers, desserts and more at affordable prices.

You can heat your own meals in the microwaves in the canteen and in the 12th floor lounge.

There is a Coop supermarket on the ground floor of the building.

Food and Drink around the Campus

As well as the in-house catering, there are also eating options outside the FHNW campus:

Restaurant Käppeli Imbiss
Hofackerstrasse 15
Website

Bea`s Imbiss
Hofackerstrasse 79
Website

Yok Yok Döna Budde
Hofackerstrasse 46
Would you like to do acrobatics to Brazilian music, go off-piste in deep powder snow or bring your body into equilibrium?
The FHNW sports programme includes an attractive and varied programme with workshops, competitions, regular training sessions and tournaments:

Website

The Muttenz campus gym has a good selection of fitness and cardio equipment, weights machines and a small free weights area. To use the gym, you need a half-year or full-year subscription, which you can buy at the reception.

As an FHNW student you are also eligible to take part in the sports programme of the University of Basel.

Website

FH-Card
If you are going to study with us, you will receive your FH-Card from the International Office. If you are doing your Bachelor’s or Master’s thesis or an internship, the FH-Card will be sent directly to your internal mailbox. Your FH-Card serves as your key, library card, copy card and as a means of payment for the Restaurant & Lounge and the canteen.

How do I load money on my card?
You can either use the cash loading station in the foyer (at the entrance on the left) or the Polyright Cashless web platform. On the platform, you can check your current balance, block your card if you lose it and top up with your credit card:

Website
**Language Courses**
The FHNW offers German and English language courses. If you are interested, please contact the international office (international.lifesciences@fhnw.ch). FHNW students also have access to the Language Centre of the University of Basel: [Website](#).

**Grading System**
Degree programmes use the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS). 1 ECTS credit corresponds to a student workload of 25–30 hours. In full-time study, the academic year corresponds to an average workload of 1,800 hours or 60 ECTS credits. Competence acquisition in a module is assessed with one or more achievement certificates. The assessment of the performance records (performance evaluation) is carried out on a scale of 6 or 2. The 2-point scale comprises the levels “fulfilled” and “not fulfilled”, whereas on the 6-point scale 4.0 is the lowest passing grade and 6.0 the highest grade.

**Student Organisation**
The Erasmus Student Network (ESN) is a non-profit network that organizes cultural & social events and informs and supports international students. Join the FHNW ESN and meet other students from around the world who study at Campus Muttenz: [Website](#).

**FHNW Welcome Week**
At the beginning of the autumn semester, the FHNW invites all international students to a Welcome Week, which introduces them to Swiss culture, economy, politics and social structures. In addition, it is a wonderful opportunity to get to know other students. Please contact the international office (international.lifesciences@fhnw.ch).

**WhatsApp group for international students @ HLS**
The WhatsApp group for our international students allows easy communication between the international office and international students, as well as amongst the students themselves. Questions can be answered quickly and informal get-togethers can easily be set up. If you want to join, please send your mobile phone number to international.lifesciences@fhnw.ch.
FHNW Campus Muttenz
Hofackerstrasse 30
4132 Muttenz
T +41 61 228 55 55
empfang.muttenz@fhnw.ch
www.fhnw.ch

Arriving by public transport
A. From Muttenz railway station
   A continuation on or walk via Hofackerstrasse or Grenzacherstrasse and through the campus park
B. Bus 47 (from Bottmingen) or 63 (from Dornach) to the ‘Fachhochschule’ stop, then a 10-minute walk
C. From the Zone Park train stop in Muttenz
   Train 14 from Basel and Pratteln, then a 10-minute or so walk via Zwinglistrasse and Kriegackerstrasse

Arriving by road
A. Hagnau junction, A18 towards Delémont
   Follow Muttenz Nord exit

Parking Münsterareal
Walking route from train/tram

Published in March 2021
Checklist

Before arriving in Basel
- Arrange accommodation.
- Passport (incl. copy of the page with your photo and personal data).
- Visa.
- Confirmation of registration from the FHNW School of Life Sciences.
- European Health Insurance Card (EU / EFTA citizens).
- Check with your current health insurance company about health insurance in Switzerland.
- Liability insurance certificate, if available.
- Proof of funds: either a letter of confirmation from your parents or a bank statement.
- Passport photos.
- Notify the International Office of your address in Switzerland and the date of your arrival.

After arriving in Basel
- Meet the International Office for the introductory meeting.
- Register with the relevant local authority (within 14 days of arrival).
- Take out a health insurance policy or arrange the exemption.

Before leaving Switzerland
- Meet the International Office for the final interview.
- Inform the Student Administration Office of your address abroad so that the Transcript of Records can be sent to you.
- Cancel your tenancy agreement.
- Cancel all insurance contracts.
- De-register with the relevant local authority (this is especially important if you want to return at a later date).
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<th><strong>Useful Links</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Welcome to the FHNW School of Life Sciences</strong></td>
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<td>Website</td>
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<td><strong>Study in Switzerland</strong></td>
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<td>Useful information for international students about living, studying, universities.</td>
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<td><strong>Basel Tourism</strong></td>
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<td><strong>SwitzerlandMobility</strong></td>
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<td>A free platform for creating an active leisure programme.</td>
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<td><strong>Hello Switzerland</strong></td>
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<td>Website for people who move to Switzerland.</td>
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<td>Swiss information and news channel in 10 different languages.</td>
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