

OPEN TO SWITZERLAND AND THE WORLD

The University of Neuchâtel has been very active in encouraging student mobility. It has signed numerous partnership agreements with other universities in Switzerland and abroad. In Switzerland, the university is party to several agreements allowing students the choice of different disciplines (BeNeFri and Triangle AZUR) or to spend one or two semesters at another university (CH-Unimobil).

At an international level the university has signed almost a hundred bilateral agreements with other European universities as part of the ERASMUS scheme, thus facilitating the exchange of students and teaching staff within Europe. The university is also a member of the CREPUQ student exchange programme in Quebec and the AUF scheme for French-speaking universities. In addition the university has signed various cooperation agreements with selected partners, including Columbia Law School, Université de Montréal, University of Kentucky, University of Utah, Université de Galatasaray, University of Newcastle and Universidad de Los Andes in Bogotá.

THE NEUCHÂTEL REGION

The city of Neuchâtel is situated in the heart of Europe, positioned between lake and mountains. With a population of 32,000, Neuchâtel has all the conveniences of a city while at the same time preserving a town-like friendliness and charm. It offers numerous sporting and cultural activities as well as reasonably priced accommodation. Neuchâtel is therefore an ideal base for students wishing to attend a full-length course or carry out top-level research.



RESEARCH

More than one third of the University of Neuchâtel's annual budget is earmarked for research, carried out by 860 teachers, researchers and academic staff.

Areas of research include, for example, Plant Biology, Hydrogeology, Ethnology, Prehistoric Archaeology and Health Law.



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Université
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THE UNIVERSITY
OF NEUCHÂTEL

AT A GLANCE

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TEACHING

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

With 1,700 students, the Faculty of Humanities is the largest faculty at the University of Neuchâtel. It offers numerous and diverse fields of research and study, both at Bachelor's as well as Master's degree level: Classical and Medieval Languages and Cultures, Archaeology, History, Art History, Museology, Philosophy, Logic, Logopedics, Science and Practice of Sport, as well as German, English, French and Hispanic Language and Literature.

In the area of social sciences, the Center for the Understanding of Social Processes (MAPS), which comprises the institutes of Anthropology, Geography, Sociology, Psychology and Education in addition to the Swiss Forum for Migration and Population Studies (SFM), encourages collaborative work on interdisciplinary research projects.

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

This faculty has around 900 students working towards Bachelor's and Master's degrees and boasts ultramodern facilities. The faculty's laboratories are used in various fields of research, such as Biology, Biogeosciences, Hydrology, Geothermy, Computer Science and Mathematics. The Faculty of Science is home, in particular, to the National Centre of Competence in Research (NCCR) for «plant survival in natural and agricultural ecosystems».

Students also have the option of choosing a multidisciplinary Bachelor's degree: in Biology and Ethnology or in Science and Sport; these are programmes that are especially aimed at students wishing to pursue a career in teaching.

FACULTY OF LAW

This faculty numbers around 560 students and offers a very diverse range of courses comprising a Bachelor, a Master and six Master specialisations: Business Law, International and European Law, Public Law, Health and Biotechnology Law, Sports Law, and the Law of Judicial Professions. Students also have the option of following a bilingual Master's course in collaboration with the University of

Lucerne. Another programme which is unique in Switzerland is the International Master in Management Law and Humanities of Sport. This Master's degree was initiated by the international governing body of football FIFA and is coordinated by the International Center for Sport Studies (CIES) which is based in Neuchâtel. It is taught at three locations: De Montfort University (Leicester, UK), SDA Bocconi School of Management (Milan, IT) and the University of Neuchâtel. The Faculty of Law is also home to many institutes and centres such as the Health Law Institute and the Centre for the Study of Work Relations (CERT).

FACULTY OF ECONOMICS

This faculty, which has 400 students, offers a Bachelor's programme in economics with three specialisations: Political Economics, Management and Information Systems. It also provides a number of Master's courses: Finance, Work and Organisational Psychology, Public Economy, Public Management and Politics, International Business Development, Statistics, Information Systems and Journalism. The latter is unique in Switzerland and was proposed by the Academy of Journalism and Media (AJM). It has been designed by professionals in the field and centres on the new requirements of media companies. In addition to education, the faculty's many institutes actively take part in research programmes at both a national and international level. Several of these institutes regularly carry out projects for businesses and the public sector as well as for international organisations.

FACULTY OF THEOLOGY

Together with the prestigious «Bibliothèque des Pasteurs», the Faculty of Theology is housed in a small historic building. The universities of Neuchâtel, Geneva and Lausanne form the Federation of Faculties of Theology and offer a joint Bachelor's degree (the teaching of which is undertaken by the universities of Geneva and Lausanne). At Master's level, the University of Neuchâtel has been selected as the centre of excellence for Practical Theology. Research therefore centres on the methods of communicating the Christian faith in contemporary society and on the design of pastoral action.

COMPATIBILITY OF DEGREES

At the University of Neuchâtel all faculties offer degrees that are compatible with the Bologna model for tertiary studies, structured in three levels: Bachelor, Master and Doctorate.

The Bachelor's degree involves a basic education in a specific academic discipline consisting of 180 ECTS credits (around three years of study). This degree then allows students to either pursue a Master's degree or to enter the world of work. The aim of the Master's is, by definition, to provide an opportunity to specialise in a particular field. However, it also gives candidates a high-level understanding of the subject in general. The Master's comprises 90 or 120 ECTS credits and is taught over three or four semesters.

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

The main language used at the University of Neuchâtel is French, although the teaching of modern foreign languages is conducted in the language concerned. Plus, certain Master's programmes and postgraduate courses are instructed in both French and English or exclusively in English.

THE APPEAL OF DIVERSITY

LEARNING FRENCH AT THE INSTITUTE OF FRENCH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE (ILCF)

The Institute of French Language and Culture at the University of Neuchâtel specialises in teaching French to non-native speakers. The courses of study offered by the institute are designed for foreign students who wish to extend their knowledge of French, its literature and its culture. There is a choice of a one-year programme leading to the «Certificat d'études françaises» (certificate of French studies) or a two-year programme leading to the «Diplôme pour l'enseignement du français langue étrangère» (diploma in teaching French as a foreign language). ILCF also offers a special French course for non-French speaking students in addition to a summer course in French language and culture for students at all levels.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

The University of Neuchâtel acts as a bridge between the world of work and academic centres of excellence. It offers a number of courses of varying length that are designed to address the current needs of the marketplace. Continuing Education courses are geared towards professionals who have university degrees or equivalent knowledge and experience, and can be followed alongside employment.

SPORTS...

Health and well-being are important at the University of Neuchâtel. Every year, the university's sports facilities offer a broad range of sporting activities, including team and individual sports, camps, championships and tournaments – all either free or at a modest fee.

... AND CULTURE

Two theatre troupes, the «Groupe de théâtre antique» and the «Théâtre universitaire neuchâtelois», a film club, the university's concert society, choir and orchestra, and the ancient music ensemble Pange Lingua, all offer various cultural diversions that members of the university are invited to enjoy.



FIVE FACULTIES

The Academy of Neuchâtel was founded in 1838 and became the University of Neuchâtel in 1909. The university has 5 faculties – Humanities, Science, Law, Economics and Theology – which between them offer around forty disciplines. Renowned for its excellent support and the great receptiveness of its teaching staff, the university now attracts nearly 4,000 students, among them more than 500 PhD students.

