

*The following document is an English translation of the original and binding German language version of the document "Zulassungsrichtlinien für das Studienjahr 2025/2026»*

## Admission Guidelines for the Academic Year 2025/2026

Issued by the Vice Rector for Teaching and International Relations and approved by the Senate, based on § 44 Abs. 2 und § 18 Abs. 2 lit. f of the University statutes of December 13, 2023<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> SRL No. 539c

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## I. General information

### § 1.1 **Deadlines and procedures**

All applicants have to apply by the given deadline. The regular deadlines for applications are: April 30 for the fall semester and November 30 for the spring semester. For some degree programmes it is recommended to start in the fall semester or it is only possible to start in the fall semester. Detailed information is available from the Deans' Offices or the Faculty Student Advisors.

Late registration is possible (with an additional late registration fee) until 31 August for the fall semester (exception: 30 June for prospective students requiring a visa) and until 31 January for the spring semester (exception: no late registration possible for the spring semester for prospective students requiring a visa).

The admission procedure opens with the online registration via Uniportal. An application fee must be paid together with the application, which is due irrespective of the outcome of the admission procedure. It is not refundable in the event of withdrawal or a negative outcome of the admission procedure, nor can it be credited against other fees. If you *change your degree programme*, the admission procedure is restarted.

The Student Services carry out the admission procedure and check and decide on formal admission; the faculties are responsible for subject-specific or degree programme-specific admission; the special provisions for admission to the Joint Medical Master's programme of the University of Lucerne and University of Zurich remain reserved<sup>2</sup>. The University of Lucerne does not conduct any *sur-dossier* admission procedures.

The personal data of applicants and students are primarily processed in connection with the admission examination, enrollment and study matters. The University of Lucerne is authorised to process personal data that is suitable and necessary for the fulfilment of the tasks assigned to it by law. These tasks arise in particular from the University Act<sup>3</sup> and the University Statute<sup>4</sup>. Contact data may be used to send information about the services offered by the University of Lucerne or for research surveys. Processing is carried out in accordance with and in compliance with the applicable provisions of data protection law<sup>5</sup>.

Communication with applicants and students is usually carried out electronically. Until a *unilu* e-mail address is available, correspondence will be directed to the e-mail address given at the time of registration.

### § 1.2 **Compulsory registration for students**

Students must be registered at the University of Lucerne for those semesters in which they require university services (e.g. attending courses, completing examinations or having their work assessed). In justified cases, a written request for leave of absence can be submitted to the responsible Dean's Office<sup>6</sup>.

### § 1.3 **Compulsory registration for doctoral students**

Doctoral students must be enrolled for the entire duration of their doctoral studies. Students who do not make use of any personal or material services provided by the University of Lucerne may be exempted from the matriculation requirement. Students who wish to be exempted from the matriculation requirement must submit an application for exemption from the compulsory matriculation to the Vice Rector for Teaching and International

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<sup>2</sup> Admission to the Master's degree programme Joint Medical Master of the University of Lucerne and Zurich requires the decision on the allocation of study places by the Coordination Commission (§ 5 para. 1 Ordinance on the Allocation of Study Places in the Master's degree programme Joint Medical Master of the Universities of Lucerne and Zurich of 21 January 2020 [SRL No. 546d] in conjunction with § 13 para. 1 and § 15 para. 2 Implementation Agreement Joint Medical Master in Lucerne). § 13 para. 1 and § 15 para. 2 Implementation Agreement Joint Medical Master in Lucerne).

<sup>3</sup> Law on University Higher Education of 17.01.2000 (SRL No. 539)

<sup>4</sup> Statut University of Lucerne from 13.12.2023 (SRL No. 539c)

<sup>5</sup> In particular, the Cantonal Law on the Protection of Personal Data of 02.07.1990 (KDSG; SRL No. 38) and the Cantonal Data Protection Ordinance of 26.02.1991 (KDSG; SRL No. 38b). There is a right of access to the personal data held (§ 15 KDSG).

<sup>6</sup> [Guidelines for the leave of absence of students](#)

Relations, signed by the supervising member of the teaching staff and the responsible Dean's Office. Doctoral students must always be enrolled in the doctoral semester, even if there are reasons for exemption.

#### **§ 1.4 *Simultaneous enrollment at several universities or faculties***

Simultaneous enrollment at two Swiss universities (inter-university dual enrollment) is only possible with the approval of the Vice Rector for Teaching and International Relations (see [Richtlinie über universitätsübergreifende Doppelimmatrikulationen](#) dated 10 June 2024).

Simultaneous enrollment at two faculties or in two degree programmes of one faculty of the University of Lucerne (internal double enrollment) requires the approval of the dean of the respective faculty(ies) (see [Richtlinie über universitätsübergreifende Doppelimmatrikulationen](#) dated 10 June 2024).

The prerequisite for a double doctorate (simultaneous doctorate at two universities) is the conclusion of a cooperation agreement (see [Richtlinien für Doppeldoktorate an der Universität Luzern](#) dated 10 June 2024).

#### **§ 1.5 *Non-admission***

Study applicants are not admitted if they

- a) have been definitively excluded from further studies in the same field of study at a Swiss or foreign university or higher education institution due to unsatisfactory performance or are no longer permitted to continue their studies in this field of study;
- b) have been definitively excluded from further studies at another Swiss university or higher education institution for disciplinary reasons. Disciplinary exclusions from foreign universities or higher education institutions also lead to non-admission, provided that the reason for exclusion does not contradict the values of the University of Lucerne;
- c) have been convicted of serious criminal offences which also impair or endanger the interests of the University of Lucerne;
- d) have been guilty of disloyal conduct or have otherwise impaired or endangered the interests of the University of Lucerne;

In the event of the pendency of proceedings or the referral of a corresponding judgment to the next instance, the processing of the admission shall be suspended.

Admission and enrollment at the University of Lucerne is excluded in the event of urgent suspicion that the documents submitted as part of the application process are forged. Admission that has been wrongly granted due to an error or due to incorrect information or forged documents can be revoked (if necessary, simultaneous exmatriculation *ex officio*). In such cases, the student may be excluded from all degree programmes at the University of Lucerne for a maximum of six semesters.

#### **§ 1.6 *International guest students***

International guest students are students who are on leave from a foreign university and wish to study as guests at the University of Lucerne. They are not studying as part of an internationally recognized exchange programme or through a partnership between the University of Lucerne and a foreign university. Applicants need to have successfully studied at least two semesters at a recognized foreign university in order to be admitted as international guest students. The admission is restricted to the field of study of their previous studies and is conferred for a maximum of two semesters. International guest students are authorized to assessments of their academic achievements, in particular examinations with ECTS credit, but they cannot obtain leaving certificates.

#### **§ 1.7 *Auditor status***

Interested persons can be admitted to courses as auditors for a fee. Auditors can neither take examinations nor acquire ECTS credits, but they can obtain a certificate of the courses attended (testate, max. ten courses per semester).

## II. Admission to Bachelor Studies

### § 2.1 Swiss educational qualifications

The University of Lucerne differentiates between study entitlement certificates that allow general access to studies at the University of Lucerne and those that are only recognised for specific fields of study. At the time of enrolment, all applicants must be in possession of a corresponding educational qualification and have provided any additional proof required.

#### § 2.1.1 General admission

The following educational qualifications give admission to all Bachelor programmes at the University of Lucerne:

- a) Eidgenössische bzw. eidgenössisch anerkannte gymnasiale Maturität
- b) Eidgenössisch anerkannte kantonale gymnasiale Maturität
- c) Maturitätszeugnis der Schweizerischen Maturitätskommission
- d) Eidgenössische Berufsmaturität in Verbindung mit bestandener Ergänzungsprüfung (Passerelle) der Schweizerischen Maturitätskommission
- e) Gesamtschweizerisch anerkannte Fachmaturität in Verbindung mit bestandener Ergänzungsprüfung (Passerelle) der Schweizerischen Maturitätskommission
- f) Bachelordiplom einer schweizerischen universitären Hochschule, Fachhochschule oder pädagogischen Hochschule
- g) Masterdiplom oder Lizenziat einer schweizerischen universitären Hochschule
- h) Eidgenössisch nicht anerkannte kantonale Maturitätsausweise
  - 1. M-Matur des Kantons Basel-Land
  - 2. Abschlusszeugnis der Maturitätskurse für Berufstätige des Kantons Basel-Stadt (nur mit Abschluss der sprachlich-historischen Abteilung)
  - 3. Maturité artistique genevoise
  - 4. Baccalauréat littéraire général neuchâtelois (nur falls sich die Maturitätsprüfung neben Deutsch, Französisch und Mathematik - schriftlich und mündlich - noch über zwei Fächer aus dem Katalog Englisch, Italienisch, Geschichte, Geographie, Biologie, Physik, Chemie erstreckt hat)
  - 5. Maturité artistique jurassienne: analog 4.
  - 6. Lehramtsmatura des Kantons Zürich
- i) Certificates from other Swiss educational institutions
  - 1. Primarlehrerpatent mit fünfjähriger Ausbildung
  - 2. Diplom der Höheren Technischen Lehranstalten: Zulassung nach Umwandlung in FH-Diplom
  - 3. Diplom der Höheren Wirtschafts- und Verwaltungsschulen: analog i) 2.
  - 4. Sekundar- bzw. Bezirkslehrerpatent, sofern aufgrund einer Hochschulausbildung an einer schweizerischen Hochschule erworben
- j) Entrance and intermediate exams of Swiss universities
  - 1. Bestandene umfassende ETHZ- bzw. EPFL-Aufnahmeprüfung sowie bestandene Aufnahmeprüfung an der Universität Zürich
  - 2. Bestandene Hochschulzwischen- bzw. Vordiplomprüfung (Admission for previous degree programme)

### **§ 2.1.2 Admission to specific programmes**

The following educational qualifications only give admission to specific programmes:

- a) Handelsmaturität of the Scuola Cantonale di Commercio, Bellinzona: Faculty of Law, Faculty of Economics, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
- b) Diploma of the Kirchlich-Theologischen Schule Berne<sup>7</sup>: Faculty of Theology
- c) Diploma of the Religionspädagogisches Institut der Universität Luzern: Bachelor study programme of Religious Pedagogics at the Faculty of Theology

### **§ 2.1.3 Continuation of studies**

Students from another Swiss university who do not have one of the above-mentioned certificates are admitted (without examinations) to continue their studies if they have successfully completed at least four semesters and the respective faculty of the University of Lucerne approves their admission (the faculty decides on credits for studies already completed).

### **§ 2.1.4 Non-recognized qualifications**

Degrees of further education (or in-service training such as CAS, DAS, MAS, EMBA etc.) do not give admission to the University, even if they have been acquired at a recognized higher education institution.

## **§ 2.2 Foreign educational qualifications<sup>8</sup>**

In addition to the following provisions, the requirements regarding proof of sufficient language skills (see below under V.) must be observed.

### **§ 2.2.1 General requirements for all countries**

A foreign school-leaving certificate must fulfill the following conditions for recognition:

- correspond substantially to the Swiss Maturity Certificate
- be streamed in classical languages, modern languages, humanities and social sciences or mathematics and natural sciences
- be of general educational standard, which means applicants must have continuously studied at least six general education subjects in the final three years of schooling in accordance with the following list:

Category	Subject
1	First language
2	Second language
3	Mathematics
4	Natural sciences
5	Humanities and social sciences
6	Elective

<sup>7</sup> The Kirchlich-theologische Schule Basel (KTS) ceased operations in 2001. However, the earned degree from the KTS still entitles the holders to an admission to the Faculty of Theology.

<sup>8</sup> Based on the Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region of 11 April 1997 (Lisbon Convention), the Recommendations for the Assessment of Foreign Matriculation Certificates of the University Chamber of swissuniversities of 11.11.2021 and other bilateral agreements.

<sup>9</sup> These two subjects can only be accepted as a 6<sup>th</sup> subject, but they cannot be recognized as a subject in the humanities, social sciences or natural sciences.

- have been acquired in an unabbreviated class-based course of study;
- be the highest possible secondary school leaving certificate available in the country of issue;
- permit admission to all university faculties and fields of study in the country of issue.

By request students must prove:

- that the admission to the intended course of study in Switzerland would also be granted to them in the country where their certificate was issued under terms no stricter than those in Switzerland;
- that a study place has been allocated for the intended course of study in Switzerland by the country that issued the prior education certificate and that this can be proven with proof of a study place (in the same or a similar field of study);<sup>10</sup>
- that they have not been excluded from another university as a result of examination failure or due to any other reason.

#### **§ 2.2.2 Additional requirements for specific countries**

For some countries the admission is tied to additional requirements. Detailed information of which upper secondary school-leaving certificate from which countries with which additional requirements entitle the holder to an admission can be found on the following website: [swissuniversities](#). On swissuniversities, the recognised upper secondary school-leaving certificate for each country are listed with the general provisions. This is followed by the additional admission requirements of the University of Lucerne.

Documents to be submitted with the application which are not in German, English, French or Italian must be uploaded to the application portal together with a copy of an officially certified translation. Official certification carried out by a certification officer is equivalent to notarial certification carried out by a notary's office. Furthermore, a translation is also valid as officially certified if it is made by one of the following bodies and provided with stamp and signature<sup>11</sup>:

- Institution that also issued the original document (e.g. translation of the transcript of records directly from the university, etc.);
- Registered or sworn specialist for translations

#### **§ 2.2.3 International Baccalaureat and European Baccalaureate**

The International Baccalaureate entitles the holder to admission to all Bachelor's degree programmes, provided that 32 out of 42 points (without bonus points) and six subjects according to the above-mentioned canon of subjects (§ 2.2.1) are shown. At least three subjects must be completed at Higher Level (one of which must be a mathematics/science subject)<sup>12</sup>.

The European Baccalaureate entitles the holder to admission to all Bachelor's degree programmes provided that six subjects, according to the above-mentioned canon of subjects, (§ 2.2.1) have been completed<sup>13</sup>.

#### **§ 2.2.4 Not recognized qualifications**

The following educational qualifications are not recognized, even if they give admission to a higher education in the country of issue:

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<sup>10</sup> For admission to the Psychology degree programme, this proof of admission in Psychology at a recognised university (with the right to award doctorates, not a distance learning university) is mandatory. It must not be older than one year.

<sup>11</sup> The University of Lucerne reserves the right to verify the authenticity of the submitted documents directly with the issuing institution and to reject inadequate translations or to have their accuracy verified by the university's own offices.

<sup>12</sup> Detailed explanations of the admission requirements can be found on the [swissuniversities](#) website.

<sup>13</sup> Detailed explanations of the admission requirements can be found on the [swissuniversities](#) website.

- Subject-restricted certificates and certificates specifically giving access to universities of applied sciences (vocational upper secondary school-leaving certificates);
- Certificates and diplomas from specialised upper secondary schools and universities of applied sciences, such as technical schools, engineering schools, business schools, teachers' colleges, chemistry and metal construction schools, art schools, agricultural schools, home economics' schools, nutrition science schools, universities of teacher training, music colleges, foreign languages' schools, schools for interpreters, and similar institutions;
- Distance education certificates, night school certificates and certificates not attained in a school class;
- Certificates from vocational or part-time high schools and schools offering vocational training as well as general education;
- Certificates obtained after having attended schools (at secondary level II) belonging to different education systems. These certificates are only recognised, if the last 3 years were attended at secondary level II and all 3 years were completed successfully;
- Entrance examination certificates from foreign colleges or universities.

If a credential is not recognised, the applicant must pass the full Swiss (or cantonal) maturity examination.

#### **§ 2.2.5 Foreign higher education degrees**

Applicants may be admitted to all degree programmes on the basis of a foreign university degree, irrespective of their educational background, provided that it is a university degree recognised at the University of Lucerne (degree certificate of a regular degree programme of at least three years' duration comprising 180 ECTS credits). The degree must be equivalent to a corresponding degree from a Swiss university.

Applicants with degrees from foreign universities of applied sciences or foreign universities of teacher education from countries with which bilateral agreements on equivalences in higher education exist (Germany, Austria, France and Italy), which are recognised at the University of Lucerne, may be admitted to all degree programmes.

Applicants must prove that they meet the required conditions themselves; the University of Lucerne does not obtain recognition.

### III. Admission to Master's Studies

#### Precondition

The required qualification for admission to Master's studies is a Bachelor's degree (or an equivalent higher education degree) with at least 180 ECTS credits from a university recognized by the University of Lucerne.

#### § 3.1 *Swiss academic qualifications*

Holders of a Bachelor's degree from a Swiss university are admitted to the **consecutive university Master's degree programmes** in the corresponding field of study without further conditions. Assignment to a field of study is determined by whether the corresponding proportion of learning outcomes in the Bachelor's degree programme comprises at least 60 ECTS credits.

**Admission with conditions:** The admission of students with a Bachelor's degree in other fields of study may be required to acquire additional knowledge and skills prior to admission to **non-consecutive university Master's degree programmes**. Corresponding conditions are imposed by the respective faculties if basic or subject-specific knowledge and skills are lacking which are required for the completion of the Master's study programme in question. If conditions are imposed, they must be fulfilled at the beginning of the degree programme and are understood as preparation for the Master's degree programme. The students concerned shall be admitted to the Master's preparation. In the case of subject-specific suitability, attendance of courses from the regular Master's programme may be approved by the faculties. However, entry into the Master's programme is only possible after successful fulfilment of the condition.

For admission to specialised Master's programmes, the faculties may impose additional requirements that are identical for all applicants.

**Admission with obligations:** Admission can be made dependent on the acquisition of further knowledge and skills that were not acquired in the completed Bachelor's degree programme. Obligations are imposed by faculties if knowledge and skills are lacking that are expected of a graduate of the Master's degree programme in question and can be acquired parallel to the Master's degree programme. The requirements must be fulfilled at the latest before completion of the Master's programme.

The additionally required knowledge and skills are to be determined in terms of content and quantity (extent in ECTS credits) by the faculty concerned and recorded in writing within the framework of the equivalence examination. In total, the additional requirements (conditions and/or requirements) may not exceed 60 ECTS credits. If these additional coursework requirements exceed a total of more than 60 ECTS credits, no admission will be granted.

#### § 3.2 *Other Swiss qualifications*

Holders of Bachelor's degrees from another type of higher education institution<sup>14</sup> are admitted to the **consecutive Master's study programme** according to the [Konkordanzliste](#) maintained by the Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities<sup>15</sup>. In addition, the faculty of the corresponding Master's study programme may stipulate a minimum final grade for admission. In these cases, admission is always subject to conditions. If study achievements (conditions and/or requirements) amounting to more than 60 ECTS credits have to be made up, the corresponding university Bachelor's degree programme must be completed before entry into the Master's degree programme.

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<sup>14</sup> For example, Swiss University of Applied Sciences or University of Teacher Education

<sup>15</sup> Art. 9 the Ordinance of the University Council on the Coordination of Teaching at the Swiss Universities of 29.11.2019 (SR 414.205.1);

In addition to the provisions on admission with conditions set out in § 3.1, the following minimum requirements apply to non-consecutive Master's degree programmes:

Holders of Bachelor's degrees from another type of higher education institution<sup>16</sup> are admitted to **non-consecutive Master's degree programmes** subject to conditions, provided they have completed their Bachelor's degree programme with a minimum final grade of 5.0. The conditions amount to at least 20 ECTS credits and are determined in writing by the relevant faculty or the head of studies of the relevant Master's degree programme within the framework of the individual equivalence assessment. If study achievements (conditions and/or requirements) amounting to more than 60 ECTS credits have to be made up, the corresponding university Bachelor's degree programme must be completed before entry into the Master's degree programme.

### **§ 3.3 Foreign academic qualifications**

A Bachelor's degree<sup>17</sup> (or an equivalent higher education degree) in an academic subject from a recognised foreign university (see 3.6) entitles the holder to study for a Master's degree at the University of Lucerne if the content requirements for the corresponding Master's degree programme are also met. Holders of a foreign university Bachelor's degree from a recognised foreign university are admitted to the consecutive university Master's degree programs in the corresponding field of study without further conditions. Assignment to a field of study is determined by whether the corresponding proportion of learning outcomes in the Bachelor's degree program comprises at least 60 ECTS credits.

For this purpose, the contents of the foreign Bachelor's degree programme are checked by the relevant faculty for equivalence to the contents of the student's own Bachelor's degree programme: only after this equivalence check can formal admission to the Master's degree programme be granted if the student is suitable for the subject.

In these cases, admission can be linked to conditions and/or requirements (see 3.1): if study achievements amounting to more than 60 ECTS credits have to be made up, only admission to the Bachelor's programme is possible.

### **§ 3.4 Other foreign qualifications**

The same provisions apply to degrees from foreign universities of applied sciences or foreign universities of teacher education from countries with which **bilateral agreements** on equivalences in higher education exist (Germany, Austria, France and Italy) as apply to Swiss FH- or PH degrees (see also 3.2).

### **§ 3.5 Non-recognized qualifications**

Degrees acquired at foreign universities of applied sciences or foreign universities of teacher education, as well as degrees of non-academic study subjects, are not recognized (see 3.4).

Degrees from distance learning programmes are also generally not recognized<sup>18</sup>: only if the requirements for admission, the mode of examinations and the academic rights of the distance programme are identical to those of the presence learning program may the admission be granted. In addition, the qualification must allow full access to further studies (at the next higher level) in the relevant education system, including on-campus studies.

Degrees acquired in types of study programmes involving different higher education institutions (decentralized study programmes, dual degrees, joint degrees, transnational education etc.) are only admissible if both, the teaching institutions and the awarding institutions, are officially recognized universities.

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<sup>16</sup> For example, Swiss University of Applied Sciences or University of Teacher Education

<sup>17</sup> According to the standard curriculum of full-time degree programs, the corresponding study comprises at least three years (180 ECTS credits or equivalent workload) and the diploma as well as all credits credited to the diploma were acquired at a recognised university.

<sup>18</sup> An exception are the degrees of the Universitäre Fernstudien Schweiz in Brig and the Fernuniversität Hagen in Germany, whose diplomas are recognized.

### § 3.6 *Recognized universities*

Swiss higher education institutions are considered recognized if they are listed as recognized or accredited universities by [swissuniversities](#).

Foreign higher education institutions are recognized, if their recognition is regulated within a convention with Switzerland or within an agreement with the University of Lucerne. Equally, foreign higher education institutions are recognized, if they are officially approved or accredited by the national education authorities in their country and have the academic right to award doctorates. (i.e. the right to offer academic doctorates (PhD) and award the corresponding degree).

## IV. Admission to Doctoral Studies

### Precondition

The prerequisite for admission to the doctorate is a Master's degree from a recognised university (or an equivalent university degree)<sup>19</sup> with a minimum overall grade determined by the faculty. Admission to the doctorate with a further education degree is excluded

#### **§ 4.1 Doctorate at the Faculty of Theology, the Faculty of Law, the Faculty of Economics and Management, the Faculty of Health Sciences and Medicine and the Faculty of Behavioural Sciences and Psychology**

- The regulations of the Faculty of Theology are listed in their Doctoral Regulations [Promotionsordnung](#).
- The regulations for the doctorate at the Faculty of Law can be found in the general regulations named [Information for Doctoral Candidates](#).
- The regulations of the Faculty of Economics and Management can be found in their [Doctoral Regulation](#).
- The regulations of the Faculty of Health Sciences and Medicine are listed in their [Doctoral Regulations](#).
- The regulations of the Faculty of Behavioural Sciences and Psychology are listed in their [Doctoral Regulations](#)

Those interested in doing a doctorate must first contact a member of the teaching staff at the relevant faculty and present their dissertation project. Only when a supervisor has been found can a registration or admission examination be carried out, as the confirmation of supervision must be submitted with the registration documents.

#### **§ 4.2 Doctorate at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**

Those interested in a doctorate should first contact the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Lucerne (GSL), as admission to a doctoral programme is regulated by the GSL Board. Those who take up a doctorate at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences automatically become members of the GSL. The relevant admission requirements can be found in the [doctoral regulations](#) of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

#### **§ 4.3 Admission with a Master's degree from another type of higher education institution**

Admission to the doctorate generally requires a university master's degree and the doctoral programme is designed on the basis of master's studies from an academic university. However, admission to the doctorate would also be possible with a master's degree of another type of higher education institution (such as a university of applied sciences or university of teacher education), if the scientific qualification is judged sufficient. In these cases, the admission would be tied to the acquisition of additional knowledge and skills. These additional requirements have to be determined by the concerned faculty / department, with regards to the exact extent and to the detailed content. In total, the additional requirements must not exceed 60 ECTS credits.

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<sup>19</sup> For degrees from signatory states, the provisions of the [Lisbon Convention](#) must be observed. For degrees from Germany, France, Italy and Austria, the bilateral agreements with Switzerland also apply.

## V. Proof of Language Proficiency

German is the main language of instruction at the University of Lucerne. For this reason, the University requires future students from all faculties to be fluent in German. Prospective students with a university entrance qualification in a language other than German must therefore provide proof of sufficient German language skills, both for admission to the Bachelor's programs, and in principle, for admission to the Master's programmes. Exceptions are made for the Master's degree programmes, which can be completed entirely in English. Proof can be provided either in the form of a language certificate or a successfully completed university degree in German. Also considered as proof is the completion of at least three years of secondary education (I and/or II) in Switzerland<sup>20</sup>, through the medium of German.

Proof of language proficiency is not required from students with a Swiss university entrance qualification.

### § 5.1 *German language certificates*

The following language certificates are recognized as proof of adequate competence:

- Goethe-Zertifikat C1
- Goethe-Zertifikat C2: Grosses Deutsches Sprachdiplom
- Zentrale Oberstufenprüfung des Goethe-Institutes (ZOP)
- Kleines Deutsches Sprachdiplom des Goethe-Institutes (KDS)
- Deutsche Sprachprüfung für den Hochschulzugang ausländischer Studienbewerber (DSH), Ergebnisklassen 3 und 2
- Deutsches Sprachdiplom der Kultusministerkonferenz (KMK), Zweite Stufe
- Zertifikat telc Deutsch C1 Hochschule
- Test Deutsch als Fremdsprache (TestDaF) mit einem Ergebnis von durchschnittlich TDN 4 und mindestens TDN3 in allen Prüfungsteilen
- Österreichisches Sprachdiplom (ÖSD), Niveau C1
- Österreichisches Sprachdiplom (ÖSD), Wirtschaftssprache Deutsch (WD), Niveau C2

The language certificate does not necessarily have to be available at the time of application, but at the latest at the time of enrolment. It is however recommended that the language diploma is submitted with all other application documents, if it is already available.

### § 5.2 *Dispensation*

International guest- and exchange students do not have to provide proof of sufficient German language skills. Doctoral students are also exempt from providing proof of German language skills if their language skills are judged to be sufficient by the supervising member of the teaching staff and the relevant dean's office. Irrespective of this, the proof may be waived if the dissertation is written in another language.

Students of a degree programme in which several universities are involved (joint degree) and whose main language of instruction is not German may be exempted from the proof of German if other language requirements apply at the partner universities involved.

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<sup>20</sup> Comparable school visits abroad (e.g. Germany or Austria) can be checked for their equivalence in individual cases.

### **§ 5.3 *Other language requirements***

The admission to a programme, whose language of instruction is only English, may be tied to a proof of English language proficiency. The corresponding regulations are specified in the Studien- und Prüfungsordnung of the Faculty (or in the 'Wegleitung' to the 'StuPo').

## **VI. Legal validity**

These guidelines come into force on January 31, 2025.

Lucerne, January 30, 2025

The Vice Rector for Teaching and International Relations: Professor Gisela Michel, PhD