

The following document is an English translation of the original and binding German language version of the document "Zulassungsrichtlinien für das Studienjahr 2026/2027"

Admission Guidelines for the Academic Year 2026/2027

Issued by the Vice President 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, 2023.¹

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1. General Provisions

§ 1 Application Deadlines and Fees

¹ Applicants are required to submit their applications within the prescribed deadlines. The regular application deadline for the fall semester is 30 April, and for the spring semester 30 November. For certain degree programmes, enrollment is recommended exclusively for the fall semester, or admission is limited to the fall semester only. Further information is available from the competent Deans' Offices or Faculty Student Advisors.

² Late registration is possible (with an additional 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: late registration is not possible for the spring semester for prospective students requiring a visa).

³ The admission procedure is initiated upon completion of the online application via Uniportal and payment of the application fee, including any applicable additional fee. The application fee payable upon submission (including any applicable additional fee) is due regardless of the outcome of the admission procedure. It is non-refundable in the event of withdrawal or an unsuccessful admission decision and may not be offset against other fees.² Any change of degree programme ([Studienfachwechsel](#)) requires the admission procedure to be recommenced.³

§ 2 Required Documents

¹ The following documents must be submitted with the application:

- a. A copy of an official identification document (passport or identity card) and, where applicable, a copy of the residence permit
- b. A passport photo (JPG format)
- c. A curriculum vitae (including all schools and higher education institutions attended, including those not completed)
- d. Proof of eligibility for admission to higher education (e.g., a secondary school leaving certificate or a Bachelor's degree)
- e. Additional documents relevant to the respective admission assessment, such as school transcripts from the final three years of schooling in the case of foreign secondary school certificates, proof of successful completion of entrance or supplementary examinations, higher education diplomas (Bachelor's/Master's degrees), transcripts of records, and diploma supplements
- f. Where applicable, proof of sufficient language proficiency (in accordance with Chapter V)
- g. Any additional documents required by the University of Lucerne on a case-by-case basis.

² Additional documents to be submitted by applicants who have previously been or are currently enrolled at another higher education institution:

- a. Confirmation of deregistration (exmatriculation)
- b. Documents relating to final rejections, suspensions, failed attempts at performance assessments or expulsions, if applicable
- c. Any additional documents required by the University of Lucerne on a case-by-case basis.

³ Additional documents to be submitted when applying for a doctoral programme:

- a. Confirmation of supervision
- b. Any additional documents required by the University of Lucerne on a case-by-case basis.

² § 1 Abs. 1 lit. a und b und § 20 Abs. 1 Schulgeldverordnung vom 3. März 2015 ([SRL Nr. 544](#))

³ See fact sheet «[Merkblatt Studienfachwechsel an der Universität Luzern vom 23. Juni 2024](#).»

⁴ Documents submitted with the application that are not written in German, English, French, or Italian must be uploaded to the application portal together with an officially certified translation. Official certification conducted by a certification officer is considered equivalent to notarization by a notary public. A translation is also deemed officially certified if it has been prepared by one of the following bodies and bears an official stamp and signature:⁴

- a. The institution that issued the original document (e.g., a translation of the transcript of records provided directly by the university)
- b. Registered or sworn translation specialist

§ 3 Admission Procedure

¹ The Student Services Office conducts the admission procedure, reviews and decides on formal admission. The faculties are responsible for subject-specific or degree programme-specific admission. The special regulations governing admission to the Joint Medical Master's programme of the University of Lucerne and University of Zurich remain reserved.⁵ The University of Lucerne does not conduct any *sur-dossier* admission procedures.

§ 4 Data Protection

¹ The personal data of applicants and students are processed primarily in connection with the admission procedure, enrollment and matters relating to studies. The University of Lucerne is authorised to process personal data that are appropriate and necessary for the performance of the tasks assigned to it by law. These tasks arise from the University Act⁶ and the University Statute.⁷ Contact data may be used to provide information on the services offered by the University of Lucerne or to conduct research surveys. Processing is carried out in accordance with the applicable provisions of data protection law.⁸

² Communication with applicants and students is usually conducted electronically. Until a *unilu*-email address is issued, correspondence will be directed to the email address provided at the time of registration.

§ 5 Matriculation

¹ Applicants may be matriculated only if they provide the required proof of eligibility for admission to higher education and submit all additional documents requested.

§ 6 Compulsory Matriculation for Bachelor's and Master's Students

¹ Students must be enrolled at the University of Lucerne for any semester in which they intend to make use of the University's services (e.g. attending courses, completing examinations or having their work assessed). In justified cases, a written request for a leave of absence may be submitted to the relevant Dean's Office.⁹

⁴ The University of Lucerne reserves the right to verify the authenticity of the documents submitted directly with the issuing institution and to reject inadequate translations or have their accuracy checked by the university's own departments.

⁵ 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 Abs. 1 Verordnung über die Zuteilung der Studienplätze im Masterstudiengang Joint Medical Master der Universitäten Luzern und Zürich vom 21. Januar 2020 [[SRL Nr. 546d](#)] i.V.m. § 13 Abs. 1 und § 15 Abs. 2 Ausführungsvereinbarung Joint Medical Master in Luzern).

⁶ Gesetz über die universitäre Hochschulbildung vom 17.01.2000 ([SRL No. 539](#))

⁷ Statut der Universität Luzern vom 13.12.2023 ([SRL Nr. 539c](#)).

⁸ Namentlich Kantonales Gesetz über den Schutz von Personendaten vom 02.07.1990 ([KDSG](#); [SRL Nr. 38](#)) und Kantonale Datenschutzverordnung vom 26.02.1991 ([KDSG](#); [SRL Nr. 38b](#)). Es besteht ein Auskunftsrecht betreffend die vorhandenen Personendaten (§ 15 [KDSG](#)).

⁹ [Richtlinien für die Beurlaubung von Studierenden](#).

§ 7 Compulsory Matriculation for Doctoral Candidates

¹ Doctoral candidates must be enrolled for the entire duration of their doctoral studies. Exemption from the enrollment requirement may be granted to those who do not make use of any personnel or material services of the University of Lucerne. Applicants seeking exemption from the enrollment requirement must submit a written request to the Vice President for Teaching and International Relations. The request must be endorsed by the supervising faculty member as well as the relevant Dean's Office. Doctoral candidates must, in any case, be enrolled during the semester in which they submit their dissertation, even if grounds for exemption exist.

§ 8 Simultaneous Enrollment at Several Universities or Faculties

¹ Simultaneous enrollment at two Swiss universities (inter-university dual enrollment) is only possible with the approval of the Vice President for Teaching and International Relations (see [Richtlinie über universitätsübergreifende Doppelimmatrikulationen](#) dated 10 June 2024).

² Simultaneous enrollment at two faculties or in two degree programmes of one faculty of University of Lucerne (internal double enrollment) requires the Dean's approval of the respective faculty or faculties (see [Richtlinie über universitätsübergreifende Doppelimmatrikulationen](#) dated 10 June 2024).

³ The prerequisite for pursuing a joint doctoral programme (simultaneous doctoral studies at two universities) is the conclusion of a cooperation agreement (see [Richtlinien für Doppeldoktorate an der Universität Luzern](#) dated 10 June 2024).

§ 9 Non-admission

¹ Study applicants are not admitted if they

- a. have been definitively excluded from further studies in the same field at a Swiss or foreign university or higher education institution due to unsatisfactory performance, or are no longer permitted to continue their studies in that field
- 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 grounds for exclusion do not conflict with the values of the University of Lucerne
- c. have been convicted of serious criminal offences that impair or endanger the interests of the University of Lucerne
- d. have engaged in disloyal conduct or have otherwise impaired or endangered the interests of the University of Lucerne.

² In the event of the pendency of proceedings or the referral of a corresponding judgment to the next instance, the processing of the admission may be suspended.

³ Admission and matriculation at the University of Lucerne is refused in the event of urgent suspicion that the documents submitted as part of the application process are forged. Admission that has been erroneously granted due to an error, incorrect information, or forged documents may be revoked (if necessary, resulting in *ex officio* exmatriculation). In such cases, the student may be excluded from all degree programmes at the University of Lucerne for a maximum of six semesters.

§ 10 International Guest Students

¹ International guest students are those 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 recognised exchange programme or through a partnership between the University of Lucerne and a foreign university. Applicants must have successfully completed at least two semesters of study at a recognised foreign university to be admitted as international guest students. Admission is restricted to the field of study of their previous studies and is granted

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 are not eligible to receive leaving certificates. Participation as an international guest student is not permitted in the Joint Medical Master's programme.

§ 11 Auditor Status

¹ Interested individuals may be admitted to courses as auditors for a fee. Auditors are not permitted to take examinations or earn ECTS credits; however, they may receive a certificate of attendance (*Testat*) for the courses attended, subject to a maximum of ten courses per semester.

§ 12 Recognised Universities

¹ Swiss higher education institutions are considered recognised if they are listed as recognised or accredited universities by [swissuniversities](#).

² Foreign higher education institutions are recognised 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 recognised 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).¹⁰

§ 13 Non-recognised Qualifications

¹ Degrees from foreign universities of applied sciences or foreign teacher education colleges, as well as degrees from non-academic programmes (except as specified in §28), are not recognised.

² Degrees from recognised higher education institutions are not recognised if more than 20% of the study credits were earned at non-recognised institutions (see §12).

³ Degrees obtained through distance learning programmes are generally not recognised¹¹. Recognition may only be granted if the distance learning programme meets the same requirements as the on-campus programme with respect to admission, examinations, and academic rights. 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.

⁴ Degrees obtained through study programmes involving multiple institutions (e.g., decentralized higher education, dual degree, joint degree, transnational education, etc.) can only be recognised if both the teaching institutions and the degree-awarding institutions are recognised higher education institutions.

⁵ Postgraduate studies or part-time continuing education qualifications (e.g., CAS, DAS, MAS, EMBA, etc.) do not qualify for admission to a degree programme, even if obtained from a recognised higher education institution. The same applies to Bachelor's and Master's degrees awarded by continuing education institutions.

¹⁰ Exception: A U.S. higher education institution (university or college) is recognised if it is accredited by one of the following seven regional accrediting organizations: ACCJC, HLC, MSCHE, NECHE, NWCCU, SACSCOC, or WSCUC (see [Council for Higher Education Accreditation \(CHEA\)](#)). This applies even if the institution does not have the right to award doctoral degrees.

¹¹ An exception are the degrees of the Universitäre Fernstudien Schweiz in Brig and the Fernuniversität Hagen in Germany, whose diplomas are recognised.

2. Admission to a Bachelor's Programme

§ 14 Principle

¹ The prerequisite for admission to a Bachelor's programme is a recognised qualification for higher education. In this context, the regulations concerning recognised higher education institutions (§12) and non-recognised degrees (§13) must be observed.

2.1. Swiss Educational Qualifications

§ 15 General

¹ The University of Lucerne distinguishes between qualifications that confer general access to study at the University and those that are recognised solely for specific fields of study.

§ 16 Certificates with General Access to all Bachelor's Programmes

¹ The following Swiss secondary and higher education qualifications qualify for admission to all Bachelor's programmes at the University of Lucerne:

- a. Federal or Swiss maturity certificate (Swiss Gymnasium Maturity Certificates)
- b. Federally recognised Cantonal Gymnasium Maturity Certificate
- c. Federal professional maturity certificate or specialized maturity certificate recognised in all of Switzerland in combination with proof of passing supplementary examinations of the Swiss Maturity Commission
- d. Degree certificate from a Swiss university (Bachelor, Master, Licentiate, or equivalent). This does not include continuing education qualifications (MAS, DAS, CAS, EMBA, postgraduate diplomas, etc.).
- e. Degree certificate of a regular Bachelor's degree programme lasting at least three years at a university of applied sciences or university of teacher education, as defined in the Federal Act on the Funding and Coordination of the Swiss Higher Education Sector
- f. Swiss University of Applied Sciences (Fachhochschule) degree obtained retrospectively, provided that a corresponding decision has been issued by the competent authority. Recognition solely for professional access is not sufficient
- g. Not federally recognised Cantonal Maturity Certificates:
 1. M-Maturity Certificate of Canton Basel-Land
 2. Degree certificate from the Maturity Courses for Working Adults of the Canton of Basel-Stadt (only with completion of the linguistic-historical track)
 3. Maturité artistique genevoise
 4. Baccalauréat littéraire général neuchâtelois (only if the Maturity examination, in addition to German, French, and Mathematics - both written and oral - also covered two subjects from the following catalogue: English, Italian, History, Geography, Biology, Physics, Chemistry)
 5. Maturité artistique jurassienne (equivalent to 4)
 6. Specialized baccalaureate certificate in education (Lehramtsmaturitätszeugnis) of the Canton of Zürich.
- h. Certificates from other Swiss educational institutions:
 1. Primary Teaching Certificate with Five-Year Training
 2. Diploma from Higher Technical Schools: admission granted after conversion into a University of Applied Sciences diploma
 3. Diploma from Higher Schools of Business and Administration (equivalent to 2)
 4. Teaching diploma for lower secondary level (Sekundar- or Bezirkslehrerpatent) provided it was obtained based on a university-level education at a Swiss higher education institution.
- i. Entrance and intermediate exams of Swiss universities
 1. Certificate of having passed the comprehensive entrance examination for a Federal Institute of Technology or the entrance examination at the University of Zurich
 2. Successful Completion of Intermediate or Preliminary University Examination (admission based on a previous degree programme).

§ 17 Access to Specific Fields of Study

¹ The following educational qualifications confer admission exclusively to specific programmes:

- a. Commercial Maturity Certificate of the Scuola Cantonale di Commercio, Bellinzona: Faculty of Law, Faculty of Economics, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
- b. Diploma of the Kirchlich-Theologische Schule Berne:¹² Faculty of Theology
- c. Diploma from the Religious Education Institute (RPI) of the University of Lucerne: admission to the Bachelor's programme in Religious Education at the Faculty of Theology (subject to the conditions required by the faculty).

§ 18 Continuation of Studies

¹ Students from another Swiss university who do not hold one of the above-mentioned certificates may be admitted to continue their studies without taking entrance examinations, provided they have successfully completed at least four semesters and the relevant faculty at the University of Lucerne approves their admission. The faculty determines the recognition of credits for previously completed courses.

2.2. Foreign Educational Qualifications^{13 14}

§ 19 Admission with Non-Swiss Upper Secondary School Leaving Certificates

¹ A non-Swiss upper secondary school leaving certificate must correspond essentially to a Swiss Gymnasium Maturity Certificate (in terms of educational objectives, content, and duration). It must satisfy the following criteria for recognition:

- a. be in the fields of classical languages, modern languages, humanities and social sciences or mathematics and natural sciences
- b. include a general education curriculum, meaning that applicants must have continuously studied at least six general education subjects in the final three years of upper secondary school, chosen from the following list:

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

¹² 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.

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ In addition to the following provisions, the requirements regarding proof of sufficient language proficiency (see Chapter 5) must be observed.

¹⁵ These two subjects can only be accepted as a sixth subject, but they cannot be recognised as a subject in the humanities, social sciences, or natural sciences.

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

²Upon request, the following additional proof must also be provided:

- a. that the programme of study intended to be pursued in Switzerland could also be undertaken in the country that issued the qualification and not under more stringent conditions than those in Switzerland
- b. that a study place has been allocated for the programme intended to be pursued in Switzerland by the country that issued the qualification, and that this can be demonstrated with proof of a study place (in the same or a similar field of study)¹⁶
- c. that the applicant has not previously been expelled or dismissed from another university due to failed examinations or for other reasons.

§ 20 Country-Specific Admission Requirements

¹ For certain countries, additional requirements apply for admission. Detailed information on which upper secondary school leaving certificates from which countries qualify for admission, and the specific additional requirements, can be found on the [swissuniversities website \(Admission requirements by country\)](#). On the swissuniversities website, each country's recognised upper secondary school leaving certificates are listed with general provisions. Following this, additional admission requirements specific to the University of Lucerne are provided. If the [ECUS supplementary examination \(Examen Complémentaire des Hautes Écoles Suisses\)](#) is required, application is only possible for the fall semester.

§ 21 International Baccalaureate and European Baccalaureate

¹ The International Baccalaureate (IB) qualifies for admission to all Bachelor's programmes, provided that at least 32 out of 42 points (excluding bonus points) were achieved and six subjects according to the general subject curriculum (§ 19 (1b)) have been completed. At least three subjects must be completed at Higher Level (including at least one mathematics or science subject).¹⁷

² The European Baccalaureate qualifies for admission to all Bachelor's degree programmes, provided that six subjects according to the general subject curriculum (§ 19 (1b)) have been completed.¹⁸

§ 22 Not Recognised Qualifications

¹ The following qualifications are not recognised, even if they grant general university entrance in the issuing country:

- a. Subject-specific certificates and certificates specifically giving access to universities of applied sciences (vocational upper secondary school-leaving certificates)
- b. 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 for interpreters, and similar institutions
- c. Distance education certificates, night school certificates and certificates not attained in a school class

¹⁶ The proof of a study place must be issued by a recognised university (with the right to award doctoral degrees, not a distance-learning university; see §12 and § 13(3)). It must not be older than one year. For admission to the Psychology degree programme the proof of a study place is mandatory.

¹⁷ Detailed explanations of the admission requirements can be found on the [swissuniversities](#) website.

¹⁸ Detailed explanations of the admission requirements can be found on the [swissuniversities](#) website.

- d. Certificates from vocational or part-time high schools and schools offering vocational training as well as general education
- e. Secondary school leaving certificates obtained after completing education (upper secondary level) in multiple education systems. These certificates are only recognised if the final three years were completed at the upper secondary gymnasium level, all three years were successfully passed, and the general education subject curriculum (see §19(1b)) was continuously fulfilled during these three years
- f. Entrance examination certificates from foreign colleges or universities.

² For non-recognised qualifications, a full Swiss (or cantonal) Maturity Certificate may be obtained as a supplementary qualification.

§ 23 Foreign Higher Education Degrees

¹ Applicants may be admitted to any degree programme based on a foreign university degree, regardless of their prior secondary education qualification, provided that the degree is a university qualification recognised by the University of Lucerne (i.e., degree certificate from a recognised higher education institution (see §12) for a regular programme of at least three years' duration comprising 180 ECTS credits). The degree must be equivalent to a corresponding degree awarded by a Swiss university.

² Applicants holding degrees from foreign universities of applied sciences or foreign teacher education institutions that are recognised by the University of Lucerne and originate from countries with which Switzerland has bilateral agreements on the equivalence in higher education (Germany, Austria, France, and Italy) may be admitted to any degree programme.

³ Applicants are responsible for providing proof that they meet the required admission criteria. The University of Lucerne does not obtain recognition of qualifications.

3. Admission to a Master's programme

§ 24 Principle

¹ The prerequisite for admission to a Master's programme is a Bachelor's degree from a recognised university, or an equivalent higher education qualification, comprising 180 ECTS credits. In this context, particular attention must be paid to the provisions regarding recognised higher education institutions (§12) and non-recognised degrees (§13).

3.1 Swiss Qualifications

§ 25 Swiss Academic Qualifications

¹ Holders of a Bachelor's degree from a Swiss university are admitted to the consecutive university Master's programmes in the corresponding field of study without further requirements. Assignment to a field of study is determined by whether at least 60 ECTS credits in the Bachelor's programme were completed in the relevant subject area.

² **Admission with conditions:** Holders of Bachelor's degrees in other fields of study may be required to acquire additional knowledge and skills prior to admission to non-consecutive university Master's programmes. Such conditions are determined by the relevant faculties if essential general or subject-specific knowledge and skills required for successful completion of the Master's programme are lacking. Any conditions imposed must be fulfilled at the beginning of the studies and serve as preparation for the Master's programme. Affected students are admitted to a Master's preparatory phase. Where academic suitability is demonstrated, the faculties may permit attendance of courses from the regular Master's programme. However, formal admission to the Master's programme is granted only after the conditions have been successfully fulfilled.

³ For admission to specialised Master's programmes, the faculties may impose additional requirements that apply uniformly to all applicants.

⁴ **Admission with obligations:** Admission may be made dependent on the acquisition of additional knowledge and skills that were not obtained in the completed Bachelor's degree programme. Obligations are imposed by the faculties where knowledge and skills are lacking that are expected of graduates of the relevant Master's programme and that can be acquired in parallel with the Master's studies. These requirements must be fulfilled no later than prior to completion of the programme.

⁵ The additional required knowledge and skills required are defined by the relevant faculty in terms of content and scope (measured in ECTS credits) and documented in writing as part of the equivalence examination. In total, the additional requirements (conditions and/or requirements) may not exceed 60 ECTS credits. If the total volume of additional coursework requirements exceeds 60 ECTS credits, no admission will be granted.

§ 26 Other Swiss Qualifications

¹ Holders of Bachelor's degrees from a different type of higher education institution¹⁹ are admitted to a consecutive Master's study programme according to the [Konkordanzliste](#)²⁰ maintained by the Conference of Swiss University Presidents.²⁰ In addition, the faculty of the corresponding Master's study programme may set a minimum final grade as admission requirement. In such cases, admission is always subject to conditions. If additional coursework (conditions and/or requirements) exceeding 60 ECTS credits must be completed, the corresponding university Bachelor's degree programme must be completed prior to admission to the Master's degree programme.

¹⁹ For example: Swiss University of Applied Sciences or University of Teacher Education

²⁰ 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](#))

² In addition to the provisions on admission with conditions set out in §25, the following minimum requirements apply to non-consecutive Master's degree programmes: Holders of Bachelor's degrees from a different type of higher education institution²¹ 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 programme director of the respective Master's programme as part of the case-specific equivalence assessment. If additional coursework (conditions and/or requirements) exceeding 60 ECTS credits must be completed, the corresponding university Bachelor's programme must be completed prior to admission to the Master's programme.

3.2. Foreign Qualifications²²

§ 27 Foreign Academic Qualifications

¹ A Bachelor's degree²³, or an equivalent higher education degree in an academic field from a recognised foreign university (see §12) qualifies for admission to a Master's programme at the University of Lucerne, provided that the degree also meets the content-related prerequisites for the respective Master's programme. Holders of a foreign university Bachelor's degree from a recognised institution are admitted to consecutive university Master's programmes in the corresponding field without additional conditions. Assignment to a field of study is determined by whether at least 60 ECTS credits in the Bachelor's programme were completed in the relevant subject area.

² For this purpose, the content of the foreign Bachelor's programme is reviewed by the relevant faculty to assess its equivalence to the content of the University of Lucerne's Bachelor's programme. Only after this equivalence assessment and confirmation of academic suitability formal admission to the Master's programme may be granted.

³ In such cases, admission may be subject to conditions and/or requirements (see §25). If additional coursework exceeding 60 ECTS credits must be completed, admission is only possible to the Bachelor's programme.

§ 28 Other Foreign Qualifications

¹ For degrees from foreign universities of applied sciences or foreign teacher education institutions in countries with which Switzerland has [bilateral agreements](#) on higher education equivalence (Germany, Austria, France, and Italy), the same provisions apply as for Swiss universities of applied sciences or teacher education institutions (see §26).

²¹ For example: Swiss University of Applied Sciences or University of Teacher Education.

²² In addition to the following provisions, the requirements regarding proof of sufficient language proficiency (see Chapter 5) must be observed.

²³ According to the standard curriculum of full-time degree programmes, the corresponding programme comprises at least three years (180 ECTS Credits or equivalent workload) and both the degree and all coursework credited toward the degree were completed at a recognised university.

4. Admission to a Doctoral programme

§ 29 Principle

¹ The prerequisite for admission to a doctoral programme is a Master's degree from a recognised university (or an equivalent university degree)²⁴ with a minimum overall grade determined by the faculty. In this context, particular attention must be paid to the provisions regarding recognised higher education institutions (§12) and non-recognised degrees (§13).

§ 30 Regulations of the Individual Faculties

¹ The regulations of the individual faculties regarding doctoral studies may be found in the following documents:

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

² Prospective doctoral candidates in the faculties listed in §1(a) and (c)–(f) must first contact a faculty member of the teaching staff at the relevant faculty and present their dissertation project. The application or admission procedure may be conducted only once a supervisor has been secured, as confirmation of supervision must be submitted with the application documents.

³ Prospective doctoral candidates of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (§1(b)) must first contact the [Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences \(GSL\) at the University of Lucerne](#), as admission to a doctoral programme is governed by the GSL Board. Anyone undertaking a doctoral programme at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences automatically becomes a member of the GSL.

§ 31 Admission with a Master's Degree from a Different Type of Higher Education Institution

¹ Although admission to a doctoral programme generally requires a university Master's degree, and the doctoral studies are therefore designed based on university-level Master's programmes, access may also be granted with a Master's degree from a different type of higher education institution, provided the candidate demonstrates sufficient academic qualification. In such cases, the relevant faculty may impose content-related and quantitative requirements (measured in ECTS credits) for additional coursework. The total additional requirements may not exceed 60 ECTS credits.

²⁴ 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.

5. Proof of Language Proficiency

§ 32 Proof of German Language Proficiency

¹ German is the primary language of instruction at the University of Lucerne. Therefore, the University requires all prospective students across all faculties to be proficient in German. Applicants whose secondary school leaving certificate is not in German must provide proof of sufficient German language skills for admission to both Bachelor's and Master's programmes. Master's programmes that are entirely taught in English do not require proof of German proficiency. 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 German as the language of instruction in Switzerland.²⁵

² Proof of language proficiency is not required from students with a Swiss university entrance qualification.

§ 33 German Language Certificates

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

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

² Proof of sufficient German language proficiency does not need to be submitted with the application; however, it must be provided by the start of the programme.

§ 34 Dispensation

¹ International guest and mobility students are not required to provide proof of German language proficiency. Doctoral candidates are also exempt if their German skills are assessed as sufficient by their supervising faculty member and the relevant Dean's Office. Regardless, the requirement may be waived if the dissertation is written in a language other than German.

² Students enrolled in a programme involving multiple universities (joint degree), where the primary language of instruction is not German, may be exempted from the German language requirement if the partner universities apply different language requirements.

²⁵ Comparable school visits abroad (e.g., Germany or Austria) can be reviewed for their equivalence in individual cases.

§ 35 Proof of English Language Proficiency

¹ For programmes taught entirely in English, proof of sufficient English language proficiency may be required. The specific requirements are outlined in the study and examination regulations of the relevant faculty (or in the corresponding guidelines to those regulations).

6. Legal validity

These guidelines come into effect on 31 January 2026.

Lucerne, 28 January 2026

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