Uni Guide
University of Basel.
Dear Students,

Congratulations on choosing to study at the University of Basel. With this Uni Guide, we want to welcome you to the city and show that you have made the right decision.

This brochure will make it easier to get started, allowing you to concentrate on your studies with peace of mind. The initial study period presents many questions: How do I get to grips with everyday student life? Where can I find an apartment? How much money do I need for my studies and where can I find a part-time job? As the best tips and tricks come from your fellow students, they will answer these questions themselves. Experienced students also know where the best places are to meet up after class to make the most of life outside the lecture hall – and Basel has plenty to offer!

I hope you enjoy our tips and I wish you every success during your time at our university.

Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Andrea Schenker-Wicki
President of the University of Basel
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When you start your studies, there will be a whole pile of changes and you may find yourself feeling a little lost. To make sure this doesn’t last too long, we have put together some tips. However, the most important thing is initiative! Talking with your fellow students and asking your lecturers and student committees will make things much easier.
“Errare humanum est, to err is human – even the ancient philosophers knew that. And if things don’t always run smoothly to begin with, that’s completely normal. The main thing is to stick with it. Didn’t do as well in your very first exam as you expected? Don’t worry. With a good schedule, mutual support and patience, you’ll soon get used to student life.”

Jaimy Vallapurackal
Law

“Don’t just focus on earning credit points in your subject during your studies – make the most of the extensive academic program to attend extra-curricular courses that interest you as well. This will give you a good insight into other fields and help you learn new things that could come in useful in your own studies. And don’t be afraid to speak to the lecturers if you have questions – that way you can be sure you’ve understood everything.”

Christopher Kolloff
Biology
Study

Dates

Teaching period

**Fall semester 2020**
September 14, 2020 to December 18, 2020

**Spring semester 2021**
March 1, 2021 to June 4, 2021

**Fall semester 2021**
September 20, 2021 to December 24, 2021

“Start Smart” Week:
The university is pleased to officially welcome all new students to the start of the semester on the morning of Monday, September 14. You will have the opportunity to learn about the many services offered by the university, including University Sports, the Language Center, Career Services and Mobility Programs, the various student organizations and Basel’s cultural institutions. To ensure a smooth start for new students, the “Start Smart” Week offers a wide range of introductory events. From Monday to Thursday, you can get more of an overview from a crash course on studying, to tours of the facilities including the University Library, and even from a bar tour through the city.

unibas.ch/start-smart

Teaching-free period

**Dies academicus:**
November 27, 2020

**Easter:**
April 1 – 5, 2021

**Ascension:**
May 13 – 14, 2021

**Whit Monday:**
May 24, 2021

Course registration

**Fall semester 2020:**
August 1 to October 12, 2020

**Spring semester 2020:**
January 1 to March 29, 2021
From Basel to the world

The Swiss government’s SEMP program awards mobility and exchange scholarships. The scholarships allow students to participate in one or two exchange semesters or an internship at a partner university. To register, the student must have completed two semesters and received approval from their subject coordinator. The Student Exchange team at the University of Basel’s International Office can help interested students organize their stay abroad.

unibas.ch/mobility

Global Study

The University of Basel is a member of several networks that enable bachelor’s students to spend a semester or year studying in Australia or the Midwestern United States. The University of Basel has also concluded bilateral agreements with various universities around the world that permit students to spend a semester or year abroad. The Student Exchange can help you organize this.

Eucor – The European Campus

is a free way for students at the universities of Basel, Freiburg, Strasbourg, Haute-Alsace and the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology to benefit from “internationalization at home.” Students can attend classes at partner universities, and use their libraries and other facilities. Travel expenses are reimbursed on a semesterly basis until a fixed sum is reached.

unibas.ch/eucor
eucor-uni.org

Swiss European Mobility Program

The Swiss government’s SEMP program awards mobility and exchange scholarships. The scholarships allow students to participate in one or two exchange semesters or an internship at a partner university. To register, the student must have completed two semesters and received approval from their subject coordinator. The Student Exchange team at the University of Basel’s International Office can help interested students organize their stay abroad.

unibas.ch/mobility
Student checklist

In the first week of the semester, you should:

- Visit an introductory event
- Read your study guidelines
- Draw up a schedule
- Activate your student accounts
- Attend a tour of the University Library
- Activate your UNIcard
- Read the Beast-Blog and the Sci Five-Blog at beast.unibas.ch and unibas.ch/scifive
- Like instagram.com/unibasel and facebook.com/unibasel

New to Switzerland?

Moving abroad to study is a huge step. These tips will help you feel at home in Basel:

- Look for an apartment markt.unibas.ch and wove.ch
- Register with the migration department (Migrationsbehörde)
- Check out the German language classes at the Language Center sprachenzentrum.unibas.ch
- Meet new people through University Sports unisport.ch
- Get a “colourkey” and discover Basel’s leisure activities colourkey.ch
- Explore Switzerland with “seven25” sbb.ch
**Group study rooms**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Work spaces without PC</th>
<th>PC work-stations</th>
<th>Cafeteria</th>
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<td>Lernoullianum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maiengasse Library</td>
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<tr>
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[unibas.ch/lernraeume](http://unibas.ch/lernraeume)

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**University marketplace**

Whatever you need, seek and you shall find. The University marketplace has everything imaginable – from jobs, to apartments, to car-sharing opportunities and offers of exchange. Many people even give things away. It’s always worth looking to see what’s available.

[markt.unibas.ch](http://markt.unibas.ch)
Study

ABC of studying

A

Academic quarter
The academic quarter is the time designated to allow students to get from one class to the next. Class times are generally specified as “ct” (cum tempore), which means that if the class is stated as starting at 8:00 am, it actually begins at 8:15 am.

Advice on integrity
Do you feel discriminated against, bullied or sexually harassed? Then please contact our Personal Integrity Coordination Office, where you will receive confidential support and advice on the options available to you. You can also contact the office at any time if you have any questions or would like further information.
unibas.ch/personal-integrity

C

Credit points
Credit points must be earned throughout your period of study. Generally, one point equates to around 30 hours of study. This system allows your university achievements to be calculated and compared with other universities around the world. But you won’t receive these valuable points until you’ve passed the course assessment (exam, essay, presentation, etc).

D

Dean’s Office
The Dean’s Office is the unit that runs a particular faculty. As a student, the most important place for you is the secretariat, as this is where your exams are organized and your degrees are awarded. Unfortunately, its opening hours are short and its queues are long.

F

Faculty groups
Faculty groups (FGs) bring together all students from a particular discipline and thus form the basis for the student representative body, skuba, which represents your interests at department level, organizes events and looks after first-semester students. If you have any questions, they can give you first-hand tips.
skuba.ch/fg-liste

G

“Green Holidays”
Some of you may find yourselves called upon to serve in the military during your studies – not exactly convenient if you’ve got an upcoming exam or an essay to write. To find out how to postpone your military service and where to obtain the necessary confirmation, go to:
unibas.ch/military-service
**Hiwi (Student assistant)**
Academic departments are always busy places. Student assistants – or “Hiwis” for short – retrieve books from the library, scan, copy mountains of documents, and also get to take a peek behind the academic scenes. Working as a “Hiwi” is a good part-time job and allows you to make contact with key people in your department.

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**IT Services**
IT Services are responsible for your email address and VPN access to the university network (among other things). You can also download software here and borrow projectors. The Neptune Project, which allows you to purchase laptops at a discounted price, is also very popular with students.

its.unibas.ch

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“The University of Basel has about 19,000 staff and students from more than 100 different countries. We are committed to treating one another with appreciation and respect. Breaches of personal integrity, such as discrimination, bullying or sexual harassment, are not tolerated at the University of Basel.”

Dr. Andrea Flora Bauer
Personal Integrity Coordinator
University of Basel
The Student Union of the University of Basel (skuba) is there for all the students at our university – that means for you too. We represent your interests in dealing with university management and policy, and we dedicate ourselves to student’s concerns. We also offer a range of services and run the student bar Verso as well as the Lernoullianum, where you can study comfortably and relax. Every student is free to get involved in our Student Union and have their say.”

Mélanie Schmutz
board member of skuba
You've passed your first semester and that longed-for break has begun. Despite your holiday mood, it’s very important that you don’t forget to register for the coming semester using MOnA. You will receive a reminder email from the university stating the period in which to register.

At services.unibas.ch, you can edit personal data such as your name and address, and you can generate your timetable. The portal gives you an overview of all lectures and seminars and direct links to the ADAM distribution platform. It is also where you register for the next semester – note that the registration period ends after the fourth week of lectures.

You will receive your UNIcard by post after your matriculation. You will have to reactivate it every semester once you’ve paid your tuition fees. You can use your UNIcard to borrow books from the University Library and pay for food in the canteens. And beyond the campus, UNIcard serves as your student ID.

This lists all courses taking place in a department in the current semester, and not only states the time and location of a course, but also describes its content in detail. You can use the online timetable to create a list of your courses and transfer this to MOnA during the registration period.

You can access the unibas-public WLAN in university buildings. An additional Virtual Private Network (VPN) is used to ensure that the network can only be accessed by members of the University of Basel. Instructions for installing the VPN client are provided on the UCC page.

Tutorials are classes in which the content of a lecture or seminar is explained and repeated in greater depth. The tutors are normally older students who can give you practical tips and advice.
Accommodation

Move out or stay at home? Commute or move to the city? And if so, where? Students choose their living arrangements for a wide variety of reasons. As in many cities, Basel’s housing market is tight, so make sure to plan ahead of time for your search!
From near and far

“I still live at home in Germany, so commuting is part of my daily routine. While that can be tiring, it also has a lot of benefits. Since I live very close to the border, I can take advantage of Basel’s cultural offerings while maintaining the friendships I already have. And I don’t have any major financial worries, since I don’t have to pay for accommodation.”

Danial Chughtai
Blogger at beast.unibas.ch
Physics

“I live in an old WoVe apartment in Basel with seven very different people. The wooden floor creaks and it gets cold in winter – but it was love at first sight. Once a week we eat together and catch up. There’s no place for boredom in our flat, so we always try to be as spontaneous and flexible as possible. Now I can’t imagine what life would be like without my seven dwarfs.”

Josefin Kaufmann
Blogger at beast.unibas.ch
Medicine
Accommodation

At home in Basel

The Rhine divides Basel into two parts, Kleinbasel in the north and Grossbasel in the south. The city has 19 residential districts, each with its own special character. The Canton of Basel-Stadt also includes the municipalities of Riehen and Bettingen. Basel is an extremely popular place to live. But despite the tight housing market, it is possible for students to find attractive accommodation.

Gundeli

The Gundeli district is located between the platforms of the SBB train station and Margarethenpark in the south of the city. Although slightly further from the center and the Rhine, advantages for students include lower rents and a direct connection to the SBB station. The district has developed greatly in the last few years and is now known as the “city within the city.” Its good location, many shops and cafés and cultural diversity make Gundeli a lively and attractive place for students.

Grossbasel

Grossbasel encompasses the whole of Basel on the left of the Rhine and, with the old town, also includes the city’s historic center. Grossbasel’s direct proximity to many university buildings and its location in the center of the city are beneficial for students.
Breite

The Breite district lies on the Grossbasel side in the east of the city. Part of the district sits directly on the banks of the Rhine and is particularly famous among students for the “Birsköpfli”, the park in which the Birs flows into the Rhine. In the summer, this is a great place to lie on a towel and relax in the sun, taking an occasional refreshing dip in the Rhine.

Kleinbasel

Kleinbasel is the area to the right of the Rhine. It is a very popular residential area among students, with lower rents than Grossbasel and a very active nightlife. The district’s greatest attraction, however, is the Rhine riverfront, where Basel’s residents spend much of their free time in the summer. Numerous “buvettes” (refreshment stands) between the different bridges and Dreiländereck (border triangle) invite you to while away the time.

Wettstein

The Wettstein district can be found in Kleinbasel on the banks of the Rhine. It houses the premises of the pharmaceutical group Hoffmann-La Roche and gained a new trademark with the Roche Tower, Switzerland’s tallest building, a few years ago. The Wettsteinplatz transport hub provides very good connections to numerous tram and bus routes and to the SBB and Badischer Bahnhof train stations.
Accommodation

Apartment hunting

Links

• You can post a small ad free of charge on the University of Basel “marketplace”.
  markt.unibas.ch

• The association for student housing WoVe helps students to find affordable places to live in Basel.
  wove.ch

• Online database for flatshares (WG-Zimmer) where you can post your request for free.
  wgzimmer.ch

• Genossenschaft Studentenheim Basel: This student residence is on Mittlere Strasse 33 and provides 100 furnished rooms. Contact:
  studentenheim-mittlere-strasse@unibas.ch

• This independent cost calculator shows you in which district in Basel you should look for a place to live and where you can save the most on rent.
  wohnungsrechner.ch

WoVe

Looking for accommodation can be a real challenge for students. Luckily, you have the Association for Student Accommodation – or WoVe – on your side. Since 1970, this non-profit organization has been promoting the letting and placement of fair-priced accommodation for young people.

wove.ch

Why should you register with WoVe?
It’s easy to find a room through WoVe. Depending on size, comfort level and amenities, rents run between CHF 350 and 790.

How do I go about finding accommodation through WoVe?
You can register for furnished or unfurnished rooms on the WoVe website, by email or in person. If you decide on an unfurnished room, you can contact households with free rooms directly to arrange an inspection and get to know the other residents. If it all works out, WoVe will draw up the rental agreement. If you would prefer a furnished room, you can choose from a list and draw up a rental agreement with the WoVe team. Everyone is free to come and get advice during our office hours. You can find our opening hours and further information on our website.
What kind of accommodation can WoVe arrange?
WoVe can offer lodgings through the “Wohnstiftung für Studierende” (student accommodation foundation) at very reasonable rates. It can also arrange interim use of properties as student lodgings – an ideal solution that is always very reasonably priced. Then there are the special types of residence such as the student house in the Rennbahklinik in Muttenz.

New house for students
In summer 2019, WoVe opened the new student residence in the Erlenmatt quarter, providing highly popular rooms in shared apartments. Grouped around a courtyard, the 16 apartments are accessed via an open stairway and exterior corridors. Each apartment provides accommodation for four to seven individuals. If you’re interested in a room in this new student residence, write to: info@wove.ch.
For many students, earning money alongside their studies is a financial necessity. Others simply want to gain practical experience and enhance their CVs. Be it an internship, student job or student assistant position, combining work and studies is always a challenge.
Supplementing your budget

“When I began my studies, my initial training at a bank came in useful. I was able to work there each summer and concentrate on university during the semester. I now work as a freelance photographer alongside my studies. This involves a huge amount of work – especially at the beginning, before everything is set up – but it also gives me a lot of freedom and plenty of opportunities to develop my skills independently.”

Evelyne Marty
Egyptology

“Alongside my studies, I work at Veranda Pellicanò at Birsköpfli during the summer months. This summer, I took on the role of head bartender alongside a colleague for the first time. Not only does the work give me an important supplementary income, but the relaxed atmosphere offers a great change to the intellectual strains of student life.”

Marco Güntert
Geography and Political Science
Internships

Participating in internships during semester vacations can help launch your career. They allow you to apply what you have learned in real life situations. You won’t make a fortune, but you will be investing in your future.

markt.unibas.ch
kulturmanagement.unibas.ch

Let’s work abroad!

The international student network AIESEC organizes internships in companies and schools. With its global volunteering program, AIESEC also offers young people the chance to spend several weeks abroad working for a social project or organization, helping them broaden their horizons on a personal and professional level, put the knowledge from their studies into practice, and build up an international network.

aiesec.ch

Student jobs

Delivering food and packages as a bicycle courier, taking on night shifts in private care facilities or working as a student assistant in teaching and research: Students in Basel have plenty of options to work alongside their studies. Many need to work to remain financially independent, while others want to gain practical experience during semester vacations. Whether and how much you can work differs from person to person and greatly depends on the phase of your studies, which may allow you to take on larger or smaller responsibilities. However, employers are generally quite understanding about fluctuating workloads and student budgets tend to be fairly flexible too. Nevertheless, combining work and studies remains a challenge.

You can find good jobs at:

markt.unibas.ch, ronorp.net/basel/jobs
Student trainees

Some of Basel’s largest companies (such as the Baloise Group) employ student trainees. In contrast to many other student jobs, these positions relate to what you are studying and the workload can usually be adapted to fit in with exams and semester vacations. Employers often support bachelor’s and master’s theses too. The best thing to do is consult the company’s website directly.

Career Service Center

So you’ve finished university – what next? The Career Service Center (CSC) will help you get your career off the ground. The CSC offers personalized careers advice, workshops, events and information to make it easier for our students to launch, plan and steer their professional lives. Good application documents and a professional interview are crucial to starting your career successfully. A detailed and intensive check-up will put your application portfolio under the microscope. If necessary, they can also help you to reflect on your situation and outline your prospects. To arrange an appointment, simply email csc@unibas.ch.

The CSC organizes a series of interesting career events under the label “meet&connect.” At workshops and panel discussions students can meet directly with future employers. November 12, 2020 is a date you should already enter into your calendar. The Long Night of Careers will take place at several Swiss institutions of higher education. The event features everything from interview training to style coaching.

unibas.ch/csc

Sirop

Researchers from all over the world use this online portal to publicize their internships, projects and vacant doctoral and postdoctoral positions. Students and graduates can perform targeted searches for interesting academic projects and submit applications online. The platform bridges the gap between academics looking for qualified workers and students wishing to take part in interesting research projects.

sirop.org
While it is crucial to get a handle on your studies, what happens outside the lecture hall is just as important. And this is what makes Basel the perfect choice: Not only is it a great place to study, it’s also a great place to live.
Away from the lecture hall

“In Switzerland, we have the privilege of having access to educational institutions, which is not a given. Together with the Open Auditorium, I am committed to ensuring that refugees have equal educational opportunities. We provide them with a first insight into everyday university life and try to support them with all means possible to continue their education in Switzerland.”

Aylin Laubscher
Law

“Alongsideny studies, I also lead the choir at the Faculty of Theology. It’s important for me to get away from university life sometimes. Singing helps you forget about stress, a looming exam or your next deadline – you can just live in the moment and have fun with other people. Making music stimulates the brain and unleashes your creativity. So, if I could give one piece of advice to all students, it would be: sing! Not only in a choir but also in the shower, on your bike or while cooking dinner. People often say: ‘But I can’t sing!’ That’s not true. Everyone can sing – you just have to build up confidence in your voice and get to know it.”

Marius Imholz
Musicology and Political Science
Traffic

The University of Basel’s various sites are close together in the city center. The short distances are best covered using the well-established public transport system. The green Basel “Drämmli” (or trams) are well known. And the “U-Abo” pass enables you to travel cheaply to the Frick Valley and into Germany. An even better option is to take your bicycle. Well-constructed cycle routes will get you from A to B in no time at all.

Mobility Carsharing

When bulk buying for you and your flatmates or moving house, a set of wheels can prove really useful. Students at the University of Basel can join Mobility at a special rate.

University Sports

Effortless pirouettes at the barre, long drives on the golf course, sweaty push-ups in Crossfit or a quick Eskimo roll in a kayak: University Sports offers you a program of over 100 sports and body awareness activities. In addition to weekly training sessions from Monday to Saturday, University Sports organizes camps, weekend events, workshops, tournaments, and offers consultations. Whether you’re a beginner, an all-rounder or a top athlete, we have the right course for you.

If you prefer to train alone, you can take advantage of the modern 1,400-square-meter fitness center, which offers very reasonable prices for members. The center is run by a committed and professional team who will help you with your training.

Most training sessions are free of charge and do not require advance booking. If you do need to book in advance, please visit our website or the office. Some courses are very popular and quickly become fully booked. We recommend that you register as early as possible. As a student of the University of Basel, your student ID allows you to participate in University Sports disciplines. Remember to take it with you every time because cards are often checked at the entrance. You can find out more about the sports on offer as well as other useful information in our brochure or online at

unisport.ch
instagram.com/unisportbasel
facebook.com/unisportbasel
Social Media

#unibasel

The University of Basel has a varied presence on social media. Six different channels and two blogs provide insights into university life, the latest research findings and events. Take a look and tag us in your posts using the hashtag #unibasel!

instagram.com/unibasel
facebook.com/unibasel
twitter.com/unibasel
twitter.com/unibasel_en
youtube.com/unibasel
linkedin.com/school/unibasel

Beast-Blog

On Beast, the University of Basel’s German-language blog, students report on their life in Basel. They write about their experiences of studying, offer insider tips about Basel, and conduct interviews on careers after finishing university.

beast.unibas.ch

Sci Five-Blog

On Sci Five, the University of Basel’s English-language blog, young researchers write about exciting projects, unique experiences in the world of science, and unusual paths in life.

unibas.ch/scifive
Student organizations

A

AIESEC
AIESEC is the world’s largest international student organization. Its members take an interest in global problems, leadership, and management.

aiesec.ch

Akademische Turnerschaft Alemannia zu Basel
Akademische Turnerschaft Alemannia is a dueling (fencing) society that accepts students from the University of Basel and the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland FHNW.

alemannia-basel.ch

Akademische Verbindung Froburger Basel
Orange, white and green – Froburgers show their colors when studying, working, and at leisure. Students at the University of Basel can share their once-in-a-lifetime university experience with us, making friends across faculties and generations in the process.

avfroburger.ch

Akademischer Alpenclub Basel
The Akademischer Alpenclub Basel is a group of adventurous mountaineers who enjoy planning and leading their own routes. The club has more than 100 members, of whom most – but not all – are students and doctoral researchers at the University of Basel.

aacbasel.ch

AKV Rauracia
AKV Raurica is Switzerland’s largest academic association. Its members come from all disciplines. This student society promotes lifelong friendship, scholarship, and social polish. It has a history stretching back 150 years.

rauracia.ch

Alevitische Studierendenverbindung Universität Basel
The Alevitische Studierendenverbindung Universität Basel, ASUB for short, is committed to a secular, contemporary, humanistic, solidary, environmentally friendly and democratic society against the background of Alevi values. An academic examination of Alevism is at the centre of ASUB’s activities.

as-ub.ch

Amnesty Students Basel
Do you want to campaign for human rights? Are you interested in working for an international NGO? Amnesty Students Basel helps to keep human rights issues in the public eye.

facebook.com/ai.basel/

Association des Francophones des Étudiants de Bâle
The Association des Francophones des Étudiants de Bâle (AFEB) aims to bring together all the French-speaking students at the university in order to establish a link between students from different faculties and to facilitate their integration.

instagram.com/afebunibas
Do you want to make an active contribution to the integration of foreign children and young people? Do you enjoy explaining things and helping people to learn? Are you motivated, committed and reliable? Can you imagine yourself providing remedial education to children and young people? Then you’re in the right place.

beraber.ch

CAMPUS live
CAMPUS live is a student society at the University of Basel. They use various events such as lectures and seminars to provide inspiration for study and life in general and tackle current topics. They also provide a forum for considering the Christian faith and what it stands for.

campuslive.ch/standort/bs

Christian University Association (VBG Basel)
VBG Basel is the meeting point for students from all subject areas at the University of Basel and the region’s universities of applied sciences. They believe that the Christian faith encompasses and shapes all areas of life. They therefore encourage each other to express their Christianity in their everyday student lives.

basel.vbg.net

Choir and orchestra at the University of Basel
They give you the opportunity to make music with other students, members of the University, and anyone else who wants to come along. It’s also an opportunity to strike a balance between mind, body, and soul and to meet students from other faculties.

coub.unibas.ch

ELSA
The European Law Students’ Association – ELSA for short – is a politically neutral, independent, and non-profit association for law students and young legal professionals.

facebook.com/elsabasel

English Seminar Choir
The English Seminar Choir was founded in 1989 to give students the opportunity to practice their English through the medium of song. The choir has become a major part of the University of Basel and of cultural life in Basel. The English Seminar Choir is open to all enthusiastic singers, both students and non-students.

esc-basel.ch

ESN Basel
The Erasmus Student Network (ESN) Basel offers exchange students leisure activities that allow them to socialize and learn more about Switzerland and its culture.

instagram.com/esn_basel

foraus
foraus’ regional groups allow people with an interest in foreign affairs to meet in their area, network and help shape constructive foreign policies for Switzerland. If you wish to learn more about foraus, the regional groups are the first point of contact.

foraus.ch/#!/regiogruppen/bs
Graduate Consulting Club
The goal is to promote the consulting industry and to provide a platform for the members to develop their consulting career. To reach that goal, the Graduate Consulting Club is bringing together students from the University of Basel and ETH Zürich and providing them with a framework to prepare for case interviews.
g_graduateconsultingclub.org

Helvetia Basel
The Helvetia Basel student society is part of Helvetia, the Swiss student association. It brings together current and former students of the University of Basel and aims to encourage political and historical understanding among its members.
h_helvetia-basel.ch

IAESTE Switzerland
IAESTE is an international exchange organization that arranges placements abroad for students in engineering and science faculties. IAESTE Switzerland offers internships in more than 80 countries.
iIAESTE is an international exchange organiz iest.ch/lokale-komitees/join-us/lc-basel

Jurassia Basiliensis
Jurassia Basiliensis is a color-wearing (farbtragend) student society at the University of Basel that offers lifelong membership. They have made it their mission to cultivate and cement friendships between their members.
j_jurassia.ch

Katholische Universitätsgemeinde Basel
As a Catholic university community, they are open to students and teaching staff of all ecumenical and religious leanings. Searching for answers themselves, they allow themselves to be challenged, inspired, and supported by the Christian faith.
k_kug.unibas.ch

Marxist Society Uni Basel
The Marxist Society Uni Basel aims to tackle questions relating to the theory and practice of politics that will bring change to society. The reading groups focus on classic Marxist texts.
m_marx-unibas.ch

Mind-Map
The aim of the association is to promote public awareness of mental health and mental illness in everyday university life.
m_mindmapstudents.jimdofree.com

Multilingual Toastmasters
Toastmasters has more than 270,000 members in 13,000 clubs worldwide, who meet regularly for training sessions to improve their rhetorical skills and leadership qualities. Members meet on a regular basis in the Collegiate Building of the University of Basel. Guests are always welcome.
M Multilingual Toastmastersclubs.org

MUN Team Basel
Model United Nations is a simulation of the main bodies of the UN. Students from all over the world meet for conferences around the globe and debate current issues affecting world politics.
m_munbasel.ch
**Muslim Students Association**
**University of Basel**
The association aims to foster communication and exchange among Muslim students and between Muslim and Non-Muslim students as well as to help its members balance their academic life through the organization of several activities.
facebook.com/msa.basel

**NEO Network Basel**
The NEO Network is a student think tank and network dedicated to explore and to address tomorrow’s challenges with the leading industry experts, scientists and entrepreneurs at the largest Swiss universities.
neonetwork.ch

**Offene Bühne**
Offene Bühne is a platform for theater, poetry, music, and other fringe events. The stage is located in the lovingly restored cellar of the historic Engelhof building, which also houses the University’s Department of German.
offene-bühne.ch

**Offener Hörsaal**
The project Open Auditorium (German: Offener Hörsaal) aims at promoting refugee participation in the existing student auditing program at the University of Basel. The student auditing program is open to everyone and includes around 500 courses in German, French and English.
offener-hoersaal.ch

**Officers of the University of Basel**
Are you looking for the camaraderie of the military at the university? The officer’s association regularly organizes events aimed at the preservation of basic military skills and further topics regarding the army, politics, history and economics.
facebook.com/of2unibas.ch

**Queer Students Basel**
The Queer Students Basel society serves as a meeting point for all LGBT students at the University of Basel, offering direct and uncomplicated contact.
facebook.com/queerstudentsbasel

**Reformiertes Pfarramt beider Basel an der Universität**
The Reformiertes Pfarramt sees itself as bridging a gap between the university and the Evangelical Church. The university chaplaincy is a service provided by the Reformed Church of the canton of Baselland and the city of Basel for students, assistants, and teaching staff.
unipfarramt.unibas.ch

**Schweizerischer Akademischer Skiclub Sektion Basel**
Do you enjoy winter sports? Are you a student? Then the Schweizerischer Akademischer Skiclub (SAS) is the right place for you. The SAS offers a professional environment and supports ambitious athletes through to their participation in winter “Universiaden”.
sas-ski.ch
**Schweizerischer Studentenverein**
The Schweizerischer Studentenverein is a society of Christian, color-wearing students and former students who come together to cultivate amicitia (friendship), scientia (science) and virtus (virtue).
[Schw-stv.ch](#)

**Schwizerhüsli Basiliensis**
The Schwizerhüsli Basiliensis society offers students from all faculties and universities a refreshing change from everyday university life. The society meets once a week at its local bar – the legendary “Crocodil” – close to the Spalentor gateway.
[Schwizerhuesli.ch](#)

**Science Slam Club Basel**
The aim of the Basel Science Slam Club is to bring the research undertaken at the University of Basel to the public in an entertaining yet scientifically accurate way, in the form of the annual “Science Slam.”
[Scienceslam.unibas.ch](#)

**Skuba**
The Studentische Körperschaft der Universität Basel (skuba) speaks on your behalf, that is, about student needs and interests.
[Skuba.ch](#)

**STAB Studenti Ticinesi a Basilea**
Studenti Ticinesi a Basilea brings together students from the canton of Ticino and supports them in their transition to the University of Basel.
[Facebook.com/STAB.basilea](#)

**Stiftung Calcutta Project Basel**
Would you like to demonstrate your commitment to society in a forward-looking, intercultural, fascinating and diverse field? Then the Foundation Calcutta Project Basel is the right place for you.
[Calcutta-project.ch](#)

**Students for Sustainability at the University of Basel (SDUBS)**
Students for Sustainability at the University of Basel (SDUBS) is a group of students dedicated to making the University of Basel more sustainable.
[Facebook.com/sdubs.sustainability](#)

**TRESA**
TRESA is a trinational economic student organization. Representing economic departments of the EUCOR partner universities in Germany, Switzerland and France, TRESA is fostering exchange among students and international organizations in the heart of Europe.
[Facebook.com/TRESAEU](#)

**UniGärten Basel**
The university gardens allow students and staff at the University of Basel to get to know and try out alternatives to supermarket shopping. The gardens are a platform for learning and exchanging ideas, a space to experiment and a green meeting place all rolled into one.
[Unigaerten.unibas.ch](#)

**Uni-T**
Uni-T means “Uni(versität) t(anza)nt” and is pronounced as the word “unity.” The two parts of the name are representative of the philosophy of the 25-person dance group. A passion for dance and close camaraderie is what connects the members of the Uni-T family – something that is apparent not only during practice, but on stage as well.
[Uni-t.ch](#)
The “Frauenstadtrundgang” association brings the city’s history to life. For 30 years, students and trained scientists have been developing walking tours that take a gender-specific look at the various neighborhoods and wider region of Basel, leading visitors to sites of witch hunts, uncovering traces of the protests of 1968, or recounting tales of ferry women and “Father Rhine.”

There are now 16 tours in which members of the association regularly slip into the roles of historical figures, bringing the stories to life from a very personal perspective. Whether you’re new to the city or a long-term resident, a women’s city tour will help you see a different side of Basel.

frauenstadtrundgang-basel.ch

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**Unitheater**
The Unitheater Basel aims to put on one annual production with professional direction or support from 2014 onwards. UniTheater is open to all members of the University of Basel.

unitheater.ch

**Uniwyy Basel**

Uniwyy Basel organizes tastings and events to promote wine culture and social exchange among students of all faculties.

uniwyybasel.ch

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**Zofingia Basel**

Zofingia is Switzerland’s oldest student society and currently has 400 active members and 3,000 former members. Each Swiss university has its own chapter, which then forms part of the overall society.

zofingia-basel.ch
Life

Food and Drink

Mensa & Cafeteria

The University of Basel student cafeteria at Bernoullistrasse 16 is open year-round and serves various lunch menus daily at affordable prices (don’t forget your student ID). Outside lunch hours, you can use the cafeteria as a study space. The university also has several cafés serving food and drinks. The café in the Main Building is the perfect spot for a break between lectures. The top floor of the University Library offers a small snack bar and is a good place to enjoy your coffee – and the view from the rooftop terrace. The Department of Physics has a student cafeteria located at St. Johans-Ring 25. Just around the corner at Klingelbergstrasse 70, the Biozentrum/Pharmazentrum student cafeteria serves lunch to its many hungry guests. Law and business students can stop off at La Strada, at Peter Merian-Weg 8.

universitaet-basel.sv-group.ch

Lunch

The “Reformiertes Pfarramt beider Basel an der Universität” offers a lunch menu at the university. During the semester, students cook for students every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at Leonhardskirchplatz 11. The meal costs 7 Swiss francs and includes a salad, main course (always with a vegetarian option), dessert and coffee. Sign up online: unipfarramt.unibas.ch
Cantina E9

This restaurant at Eulerstrasse 9 is open every lunchtime from 11:00 am to 2:30 pm and offers three new menus each day (including soup, salad, a main course and dessert). As a student, you can eat here from as little as 11 Swiss francs and support a social project at the same time.  
cantina-e9.ch

Ristorante Borromeo

Run by a cooperative, this restaurant at Byfangweg 6 serves two menus including soup, salad and dessert each day (with a vegetarian option) from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm. Make sure to try the homemade pasta!  
borromaeum.ch

Verso

The University of Basel’s student bar offers a weekly haven after another week of brave studying. Thursday evening is all about fun – both gastronomically and culturally. All students have the option to rent the Verso space. The Verso team can help you with this – bureaucracy-free and budget-friendly!  
versobar.ch  
facebook.com/verso.basel  
instagram.com/verso_basel
Alongside the tuition fees charged by the University of Basel, your studies will involve a few other expenses: books, insurance, rent and (of course) living costs. The following pages provide a guide to the types of costs incurred when you live away from home.
My Budget

Compared to other Swiss cities, Basel is a relatively cheap place to live. The most important thing is to draw up a personal budget at the very start – this can save you a few headaches later on.

### Minimum

- **Rent**: CHF 1600.–
- **Food, household, clothing**: CHF 600.–
- **Insurance, health care**: CHF 90.–
- **Transportation**: CHF 150.–
- **Study material**: CHF 140.–
- **Tuition**: CHF 220.–
- **Culture and leisure**: CHF 60.–

Total: CHF 2000.–

### Average

- **Rent**: CHF 2100.–
- **Food, household, clothing**: CHF 1500.–
- **Insurance, health care**: CHF 200.–
- **Transportation**: CHF 150.–
- **Study material**: CHF 140.–
- **Tuition**: CHF 140.–
- **Culture and leisure**: CHF 60.–

Total: CHF 2100.–
Scholarships: Where to ask

Switzerland has a decentralized system of scholarships, which means that each canton has its own rules and regulations. University education is essentially financed either by a student’s parents and/or the canton in which the parents are eligible to pay tax.

**Basel-Stadt**
The Office for Educational Grants is responsible for the allocation of scholarships and loans to those eligible in the canton Basel-Stadt.

[hoechschulen.bs.ch/stipendien.html](hoechschulen.bs.ch/stipendien.html)

**Basel-Landschaft**
The Office for Vocational Training and Careers Advice, Educational Grants Department, provides information on scholarships and loans for the canton Baselland.

[baselland.ch](baselland.ch)

**Aargau**
The Department of Education, Culture and Sport supports those students who cannot finance their university education themselves.

[ag.ch/stipendien](ag.ch/stipendien)

**Solothurn**
The Department of Education and Culture, Scholarships Department, advises students on all issues related to financing University education.

[so.ch](so.ch)

**Scholarships for international students**
There are no specific scholarships available for international students at the University of Basel.

Financial support

The Social Services office of the University of Basel can advise you in all financial matters during your studies. For students with very limited resources, the university offers financial aid through its scholarship funds.

[unibas.ch/sozialberatung](unibas.ch/sozialberatung)

Swiss scholarship system

This page provides an overview of the most important information related to the system of scholarships in Switzerland.

[stipendien.educa.ch](stipendien.educa.ch)
When starting their studies, most people probably don’t give any serious thought to insurance and leave their parents to sort out such tedious matters. However, it’s high time you took responsibility to avoid any nasty surprises later on. The Social Services at the University of Basel can provide personal advice about insurance and has produced a useful leaflet on insurance tips for students, which is available at unibas.ch/sozialberatung

Students are essentially responsible for their own insurance. Everyone resident in Switzerland is required to take out health insurance unless they are eligible for exemption (for further information, visit kvg.org or unibas.ch/sozialberatung). The hardest part is to choose from the numerous providers. The various premiums can be compared on comparis.ch. It’s vital that your health insurance also includes accident cover – unless you work more than eight hours a week and are therefore covered by your employer. All students enrolled at the University of Basel are provided with automatic and free insurance cover against the consequences of an accident causing permanent damage – however, this does not include medical costs, but is a one-off capital payment in the event of disability due to an accident.

As a student residing in Switzerland, you are obligated to contribute to AHV (old-age and survivors’ insurance) as of January 1 of the year in which you celebrate your 21st birthday. The minimum annual contribution is 496 Swiss francs (as in 2020) and must be paid in full. So don’t be surprised if an invoice from the compensation office drops through your letterbox. This can only be avoided if you have already paid the minimum amount, for example through deductions from the wages for your part-time job.
Support

To complete your studies successfully, you will also need to deal with many administrative matters and obtain information from various places. The University of Basel has a range of offices that can advise and support you on a wide variety of matters, from admission to your Unibas email address.
**Student Administration Office**

The Student Administration Office is a source of general information. If you have a question about admission, registration, matriculation, or semester registration, you’ve come to the right place. Some time ago, the Student Administration Office introduced a ticket system, so rather than walking straight in, you need to wait outside and take a number. However, many questions can be resolved without actually going to the office in person. You can use MOnA to change your address and register for courses, semesters, etc., online.

[unibas.ch/studium](http://unibas.ch/studium)

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**Students Without Barriers**

The Students Without Barriers (StoB) service point provides information and advice to help students with disabilities complete their studies unimpeded.

[stob.unibas.ch](http://stob.unibas.ch)

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**University Library**

The University Library (UB) is probably the true heart of the University of Basel. It can prove somewhat confusing for first-semester students, which is why we recommend taking part in a tour of the library at the start of the semester. You are automatically registered with the UB through your UNIcard, which allows you to make use of the library’s services. By the time the exams arrive, things are in full swing here and work spaces become increasingly rare. Coats, bags, and food items are not permitted in the reading rooms of the UB; all items must be handed in at the cloakroom or stored in one of the lockers by the entrance.

[ub.unibas.ch](http://ub.unibas.ch)
Student Exchange

Your university studies present you with a once in a lifetime opportunity to spend one or two semesters either at a foreign university or at another Swiss university. The University of Basel offers various programs that you should definitely check out. The Student Exchange coordinates the programs on offer and is your first point of contact when you feel the urge to travel. Start considering early on whether and when you want to schedule a semester abroad and find out the deadlines for applications.

unibas.ch/mobilitaet

Student Advice Center

Many important questions may arise during your studies. What is the best way to plan my studies? What should I do after my bachelor’s degree? Would it be better to swap degree programs? For all questions concerning your studies, you can arrange a free consultation at the Student Advice Center. The study and career advisors guide you through the decision making process, support you in difficult situations and have an open ear for personal issues.

studienberatung.unibas.ch or +41 61 207 29 29

Pastoral Counseling

Would you like to speak confidentially with a trained pastoral counselor? The University of Basel offers two possibilities: catholic and reformed.

kug.unibas.ch
unipfarramt.unibas.ch
Language Center

Nothing would ever get done without language(s). Learning another language not only expands your horizons, it also makes life and working and studying with other students easier. The Language Center offers affordable language courses with different objectives to meet a student’s individual needs. For completed courses, credit points can be acquired for complementary coursework.

sprachenzentrum.unibas.ch

Social Services

Whether you have financial worries, health-related problems or difficult family circumstances, the University’s Social Services will be there to listen. The team will also answer questions relating to the Day Care Center, assist students with disabilities and chronic illnesses, and support students in making applications for scholarships. Consultations are free of charge and unbureaucratic. Simply phone up to arrange a personal meeting.

unibas.ch/sozialberatung

Swimming bag, t-shirts and more

The stylish way to swim: Keep your belongings dry with the University of Basel’s watertight swimming bag. The bags are available to buy for 28 Swiss francs from the Unisport desk in the Kollegienhaus. You can also get your hands on bags, t-shirts, hoodies and other uni products.

unibas.ch/merchandise
**ADAM**

The ADAM distribution platform is a web-based tool to provide access to files and internet links, for example to make lecture notes available or submit seminar papers. Documents can either be publicly accessible or restricted to specific people.

[adam.unibas.ch](http://adam.unibas.ch)

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**Eduroam**

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.

[mobile.unibas.ch](http://mobile.unibas.ch)

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**My Online Account (MOnA)**

The University of Basel offers its students online self-service under the name “MOnA”. You can log on via [services.unibas.ch](http://services.unibas.ch) using your Unibas email address and the corresponding password. You can find this information on the personal data sheet posted to you by the IT Services after matriculation. Among other things, MOnA covers the following online services:

**Registration**

Towards the end of the preceding semester, students and doctoral students already matriculated at the University of Basel (not newly registered students) receive an email at their Unibas address reminding them to register for the next semester. Registration takes place solely via the MOnA Web application.

**Course registration**

Course registration takes place online. The registration period begins on January 1 or August 1 and ends after the fourth week of lectures. Registering for courses is extremely important because if you do not register for your courses at the start of the semester, you will not receive any credit points for them.

**Access to academic achievement account**

To obtain an overview, you can use MOnA to access your account containing your academic achievements (courses completed successfully/unsuccessfully including grades, credit points and further details). You can also download an up-to-date overview of your achievements in PDF format at any time and see the current status of your studies.

**Change of address**

You can change your address and that of your parents/guardians and emergency contact online at any time.

[services.unibas.ch](http://services.unibas.ch)
Software for students

The IT Services provide the Asknet software portal for downloading software. To log in, you will require your email address and password. As part of campus contracts, the University is able to offer software at a reduced price or free of charge. All available offers are listed in the Web shop. You can also use the portal to order software not covered by the campus contracts.

asknet.unibas.ch

Hardware for students

The Neptune Project is a real favorite among students. During two sales windows each year, certain laptops can be ordered online at a reduced price. To find out when the next promotion is due to start, go to

projektneptun.ch

If your laptop decides to go on strike right in the middle of a paper or project, or you desperately need a projector for your next presentation, you can borrow a device from the URZ. These devices are solely intended to help out in the event of shortages or breakdowns and are only to be used for teaching and research. They can be borrowed for a maximum of 30 days.

its.unibas.ch
As the oldest university in Switzerland, Basel has a rich and fascinating history in teaching and research dating back more than 560 years. Since it was founded in 1460, our university has been constantly evolving and developing.
The university at a glance

Students
Humanities and Science are Basel’s largest faculties.

1460
Founded

7
Faculties

378
Professors

6400
Employees, of whom

4700
are scientists

776
Million annual budget (CHF)
Students

3913
Master’s students

5994
Bachelor’s students

1680
First-year students in Fall semester 2019

Level of study
With 23% doctoral students, Basel has a high proportion of early career researchers.

International

122
Nations are represented at the university

24
Percentage of international students and doctoral students

Origin
Around one quarter of students and doctoral students come from abroad.
1543 The Anatomical Museum of the University of Basel houses the world’s oldest prepared skeleton, which was produced by Andreas Vesal in 1543.

1688 The term “nostalgia” appears for the first time in the dissertation submitted by Johannes Hofer in 1688 to the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Basel.

1460 The University of Basel opens with a ceremony in Basel Minster.

1590 The collection of the university library is expanded by 2700 books from the former monastic libraries.

1527 Physician, alchemist and philosopher Paracelsus teaches at the University as Professor of Medicine.

1588 An anatomical theater and a “hortus medicus” (later the botanical garden) are built.

Did you know?

The university: A chronicle

Foundation ceremony in Basel Minster: on April 4, 1460, Bishop Johann von Venningen appoints Georg von Andlau (left, kneeling) as the first Rector and presents Mayor Hans von Flachslanden with the deed of foundation.
1661
Together with the university, Basel city acquires private art and book collections. The so-called “Amerbach Kabinett” is opened to the public in 1671.

1822
The university course directory is no longer published in Latin but in German.

1869
Friedrich Nietzsche assumes the chair as Professor of Classical Philology.

1890
Emilie Louise Frey becomes the first woman admitted to study (medicine).

1938
Elsa Mahler, associate professor for Russian linguistics and literature, is the first woman to be appointed as professor at her Alma Mater Basiliensis.

1939
The University gains a new main building in the form of the Kollegienhaus on Petersplatz.

1950
Tadeus Reichstein, Professor of Organic Chemistry, receives the Nobel Prize for Medicine.

1965
The new University Library is completed.

1971
The Biozentrum provides an interdisciplinary center for the life sciences.

1978
Microbiologist and geneticist Werner Arber receives the Nobel Prize for Medicine.

2003
The Faculty of Psychology is founded, the seventh faculty at the University of Basel.

2010
The University celebrates its 550th anniversary.

2021
Opening of the new Biozentrum.