

Practical tips for preparing a StAR application

Schedule

- Preparing your application well takes time: the clearer and more complete your documents and information are, the better.
- Admission to a university is mandatory for the visa. Since there is little time between the selection of scholarship recipients (end of January) and the admission deadline (usually end of February), the sooner you start this process, the better.
- The time between the StAR-application date and possible entry into Switzerland can last until September of the following year. This long waiting period can usually not be shortened, not even for people in acute dangerous situations.

Choice of study

- Please indicate in your application which degree program you would like to enroll in. Be realistic when choosing a degree program—especially with regard to the teaching language, your previous academic background, and previous degrees. Suitable degree programs can be found on this website (filter by teaching language): <https://studyprogrammes.ch/en/start>
- At the bachelor's level, most programs are offered in the respective national language (German, French, Italian). At the master's and doctoral levels, there are more courses offered in English, especially in technical and scientific subjects.
- Consider how your planned studies fit in with your career plans.

Recognition of diplomas

- To study in Switzerland, you need a recognized foreign high school diploma that is roughly equivalent to a Swiss high school diploma. On this list of countries from [swissuniversities](#), you can find out which high school diplomas are accepted and what requirements you have to fulfil to be admitted to a bachelor's program.
- To enroll in a master's or doctoral program, you need a bachelor's or master's degree from a state-recognized university. You can check whether your degree is from a recognized university in the German database [Anabin](#) (instructions can be found [here](#)). If you are unsure, you can inquire directly at the university or at [Swiss ENIC](#).

- To make it easier to assess diplomas you have already obtained, it may be helpful to include a transcript of your grades with course descriptions (course content) and a grading scale, if possible with a grade conversion table from your previous university.
- Only certified copies of your diplomas and translations will be accepted.
- The respective university will ultimately decide whether your diploma and previous academic achievements will be recognized for admission to your planned degree program. VSS-UNES can only make an assessment in this regard.

Language skills

- You must be sufficiently proficient in the language of teaching for your desired degree program. Find out early on about the language requirements for your desired degree program and clarify whether your certificate is sufficient, what results are required, and, if necessary, whether the university offers alternative tests.
- Refugees can request information about the possibility of taking free language tests through the partnership between the [UNHCR and IELTS](#).

University admission

- It is advantageous to have already clarified your admission with the university or faculty (at the time of application). Find out about the requirements directly on the websites of the universities/institutes and, if necessary, contact the faculty's student advisory service so that they can help you with any clarifications (e.g., whether certain courses/certificates can be made up).

Visa

- A coherent study plan and the professional relevance of your studies are important for the visa. If you have specific career plans, mention them.
- Support networks can also be helpful in the visa process.

Useful information

- If you already have a university admission letter or confirmation that you fulfill the admission criteria, be sure to mention this in your application.

- Contacts at universities or other support networks (e.g., associations) can be helpful in dealing with administrative processes (e.g., clarifications, application or visa procedures, departure and entry). This can also have a positive effect on the selection of scholarship recipients.

Additional resources

- Platform Perspectives – Study (PERSTU): [Here](#) you will find step-by-step information on admission, recognition, and study planning.