

Legal education and English

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Swiss universities have responded to the demand for English-speaking lawyers. The law faculties of Zurich, Geneva, Basel, St. Gallen, Bern and Lucerne offer courses and master's programmes in English, particularly in international business law, financial market law, tax law and arbitration.¹ Many Swiss law students spend a semester or a year abroad, often in an English-speaking country. The generation of lawyers now entering practice is more at ease with English than any previous generation.

The Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts, with its campus in Rotkreuz, offers programmes in English in business and information technology that train specialists for the international economy of central Switzerland. Private providers offer courses in legal English and in the drafting of contracts in English. The professional associations, including the cantonal bar associations and STEP, organise English-language training for their members. The combination of these offers has created a substantial pool of bilingual professionals in the region.

1 Notes

1. LLM GUIDE, "LLM Programs in Switzerland", llm-guide.com: LL.M. programmes at the University of Zurich (full-time and part-time), the University of Geneva (including an LL.M. in Tax), the University of Bern (including a Master of Law in International Trade and Investment Law), the University of St. Gallen (Master in International Law), the University of Lucerne (MLaw/LLM double degree) and the University of Basel (Swiss International Law School), and the LL.M. in International Dispute Settlement of the Geneva LL.M. programme run by the Graduate Institute and the Geneva Law School. The language of instruction of each programme and programmes in financial market law are not specifically stated in this source. ↩

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