

International Class 2025 PHSG - Primary and Secondary

More information: <https://www.phsg.ch/de/studium/international/international-class>

Application deadline: 31 October

Structure of the Semester:

week	content	responsibility
week 7	Tuesday, 11 February: Arrival of the students, logistic and practical instructions Thursday, 13 and Friday, 14 February: Welcome Days PHSG	Int. Office and Administration
weeks 8 - 12	work according to the timetable, beginning on Monday, 17 February	lecturers PHSG
weeks 13 and 14	School Practice in local primary schools	school teachers
week 15	Transcurricular Week in the whole PHSG, with the participation of the IC	team PHSG
week 16	Intensive course: Thematic week <i>Good Friday, 18 April no classes</i>	team PHSG
weeks 17 - 21	work according to the timetable <i>Easter Monday, 21 April no classes</i>	lecturers PHSG
23 May	Official End of the International Class 2025	Int. Office

Getting to know Switzerland

International Class – Spring semester

How you get 30 ECTS:

Subject	ECTS
IC01 - Cultural Studies	2
IC02 - External Day	5
IC03 - Follow-up External Day	1
IC04 - Gifted Children	1
IC05 - Portfolio Mobility Project	4
IC06 - Language Didactics	1
IC07 - Communication Course Deutsch	3
IC08 - English Cambridge ESOL	1
IC09 - Basics Arts and Design	4
IC10 - Basics Physical Education	1
IC11 - Thematic Week	2
IC12 - Transcurricular week	2
IC13 - Two weeks of Internship in Swiss Schools	3
Total ECTS	30

This list represents the package «International Class PHSG». Part of the above mentioned courses will be shared between Primary and Secondary International Class.

The sum of 30 ECTS credits is assured. However, there may be a variation in how they are distributed.

Modules

The International Class makes it possible for the students to earn 30 ECTS-Credits. One ECTS credit is awarded for a workload of 25 – 30 hours, consisting of lectures, preparation, homework and a kind of assessment set by the lecturer.

All the incoming students of the Primary and the Secondary Department PHSG have got the same structure of the semester and participate together in the External Day, its Follow-up and the Cultural Studies. Otherwise, the Programme for the Primary is set, the one from the Secondary can be chosen by the student out of the modules described below. Please note that the International Class Primary is held in Rorschach, the Secondary in St.Gallen. Students can only change the Campus once a day because of the distance.

Short description of the compulsory modules for Primary:

- IC01 - Cultural Studies

What are the reasons why we feel at home or not in a surrounding? We will read different literary texts about the subject, discuss notions like «proximity», «distance», «home-country», «contact» and «exclusion». Our body language, pictures and spoken language will encourage these activities.

- IC02 - External Day and IC03 - Follow-up

The aim of the external day is to get to know – through input from different inhabitants of Switzerland – the country as a guest-country. The subjects are varied, e.g. cultural and linguistic variety or Switzerland as a humanitarian country. The subjects will be treated from different points of view, i.e. cultural, economic, artistic, ecological or social.

- IC04 - Gifted Children

In each class, there are children who either cannot cope or are not challenged enough. Different methods of diagnostics and identification will be presented, planned for and put into practice.

- IC05 - Portfolio Mobility Project

This module is based on a European project in which the PHSG has participated. The aim is to empower language teachers. The method is documentation of linguistic and intercultural situations and skills to make progress visible.

- IC06 - English as a Foreign Language / Language Didactics

How can children learn foreign languages and what does that mean for teachers? Students learn about different methods of foreign language teaching in class.

- IC07 - Communication Course German

This module offers the guest students an introduction into the basics of standard German. They will develop their skills in listening, speaking, reading, writing and also grammar.

- IC08 – English Cambridge ESOL

During this course, the students who would like to, can also prepare themselves for an official test, e.g. Cambridge Advanced

- IC09 – Basic Design Concepts

Inputs of Arts and Crafts lead to a personal interaction in an artistic way based on a large variety of materials, tools and kinds of artistic expression

- IC10 - Basics in Physical Education

The students will get to know and realize themselves the subjects of moving-based learning settings, body coordination and different kinds of games.

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- IC11 – Thematic Week
- IC12 – Transcurricular Week
- IC13 – Internship in Swiss School

Example of a weekly Timetable (Primary):

Lesson/hour	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
01/08.00-08.45				External Day City of St.Gallen Canton of St.Gallen City of Zurich Swiss Cuisine Traditional Appenzell Zurich International School Farewell Excursion and more	Basic Design Concepts
02/08.45-09.30					Gifted Children
03/09.50-10.35	Portfolio project	Introduction to Foreign Language Didactics			
04/10.35-11.20					
05/11.25-12.10	Follow up external day				
06/12.15-13.00	Ball Games Dance	Body Toning			
07/13.05-13.50		Cultural Events			Cultural Studies
08/13.55-14.40					
09/15.00-15.45	Communicative Language Course German				
10/15.50-16.35					
11/16.40-17.25			CAE English Cambridge Advanced Exam		
12/17.25-18.10					

NOTE:

Classes for incoming students only.

Classes held together with inhouse students.

Short Description of select Modules (Secondary)

- Drama

This course has two focuses: a literary one and a linguistic one. Students will read a significant work of drama, analyzing it from various perspectives and within the tradition of drama studies. Additionally, there will be a consolidation of English grammar and vocabulary at the advanced level.

- Literature on Screen

This course offers a comparative study of literature and film. Students will read at least one work of literature in English and view a corresponding filmic adaptation of the literary work. The course will expand on students critical abilities to interpret works of fiction and film from a variety of perspectives.

- Literature in Context

This advanced course that focuses on one or two key works of fiction from English literary history. Close readings and literary interpretations are combined with semiotic (cultural and linguistic) analysis.

- Linguistics

In this course students read a contemporary English novel and discuss aspects of its social, cultural and historical background, as well as treat selected aspects of literary theory. There is also a focus on issues of English grammar and vocabulary at levels C1-C2.

- Cultural Studies

To facilitate the teaching of any language, a teacher should have some understanding of the culture in which the language is spoken. This course will address the question, «Who are the English speaking peoples?» as well as probing the beliefs and patterns of behavior of the English speaking cultures.

- German Language Workshop

This language workshop was conceived as a Survival German course, offering students the basic skills needed to communicate in German in common, everyday situations.

- English Cambridge Advanced Exam Preparation

This is an intensive course designed to help students prepare for the Cambridge Advanced Exam in English.

- Didactics

This course offers a hands-on approach to teaching grammar and spoken English as well as reading and listening comprehension. The course implements task-based learning through content and language integrated teaching. Course book: Learning Teaching by Jim Scrivener.

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- English Intensive Course

This is a textbook-based English language course on the proficiency level. It will help students refine their compositional, spoken, reading and listening skills. The topics upon which the exercises are based are generally culturally oriented. Course book: New Proficiency Gold by Newbrook and Wilson.

- External Day and its Follow-up

The aim of the external day for the students is to get to know their guest-country. The subjects are varied such as Cultural and Linguistic Pluralism or Switzerland and its Tradition as a Humanitarian Country. The subjects will be treated from different points of view, i.e. cultural, economic, artistic, ecological or social. The excursions will bring students into contact with various specialists and experts in their field.

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Example Weekly Timetable (Secondary)

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1: 07.40-09.15	Cultural Studies		Literature on screen	External Day (selected topics:) The Swiss School System Plurilingualism	Drama
2: 08.40-09.25	Introduction to Creative Art and Design	e.g. Teaching Knowledge Test	German Language Workshop		
3: 09.45-10.30					
4: 10.35-11.20					
5: 11.25-12.10					
6: 12.15-13.00	Latino Dance	Fitness / Jazz Dance	Advanced seminar: Literature in context	The Economics of Eastern Switzerland	Physical Education
7: 13.05-13.50	Gifted children	Cultural Events In-house student rotation system	Language in the classroom	Production and Use of Energy	
8: 13.55-14.40					
9: 15.00-15.45	Follow-up External Day	Comparative Cultural Studies		Humanitarian CH	
10: 15.50-16.35					
11: 16.40-17.25		e.g. Rock Band II		St. Gallen: Textiles & Fashion	
12: 17.25-18.10					Switzerland Tourism

Admission requirements:

- fulfilment of the first year of university studies in the home country
- to stay during the whole study period, i.e. from early February until the end of May
- good skills in English, both oral and written, at least B2 (corresponds to the First Certificate of English) of the Common Reference Levels described in the European Language Portfolio
- the formal application and also a letter in English stating reasons for wanting to study the course
- to bring a portable computer (exceptions can be made but must be communicated at the same time that the application arrives at the PHSG)
- teaching experience with children is very welcome

Postal Address:

International Office PHSG
Seminarstrasse 27
CH-9400 Rorschach
Switzerland

Contact Persons:

Barbara Wolfer

barbara.wolfer@phsg.ch

Tel. +41 (0)71 844 18 67

Coordination and IC Primary

Martina Schlauri

martina.schlauri@phsg.ch

Tel. +41 71 243 94 19

IC Secondary

internationaloffice@phsg.ch

Tel. +41 (0)71 844 18 86

Fax + 41(0)71 844 18 19

Administration