

Università  
della  
Svizzera  
italiana

Faculty  
of  
Biomedical  
Sciences

Plan of studies

2024/  
25

2024/25



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# **Plan of studies**

**2024/25**

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## Preface

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Dear students

Last year our first medical students complete their studies and have all successfully become doctors. This has been the most significant milestone of the young history of our faculty, and it boosted our motivation to continue to pursue with attention and enthusiasm the purpose of this great journey: to train doctors in the best possible way so that they can face future challenges with the awareness and conviction that they have studied at one of Switzerland's best universities.

We are on the right track, and we still want to evolve and refine many aspects. Together with you, we will keep on improving the Master's program and hopefully, develop the most attractive and competitive possible version, improving its quality and aligning it with your expectations.

This wonderful adventure is a unique and unrepeatable opportunity to achieve goals that none of us would have ever imagined. I am convinced that if we all, students, teachers and faculty, give our best, it will be a success for everyone involved.

Have a great start into the new academic year,

Prof. Giovanni Pedrazzini,  
Dean of the Faculty of Biomedical Sciences

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## Academic calendar

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**Autumn semester 2024–25** Courses start 16.09.2024

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Holidays  
 All saints • 01.11.2024  
 Immaculate Conception • 08.12.2024

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Courses end 20.12.2024

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**Exam sessions** Winter session  
 MC 1<sup>st</sup> sem • 28.01.2025  
 MC 3<sup>rd</sup> sem • 30.01.2025  
 OSCE 1<sup>st</sup> sem • 07.02.2025

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**Spring semester 2024** Courses start 17.02.2025

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Easter holidays 21.–25.04.2025

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Dies academicus 10.05.2025

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Holidays  
 Saint Joseph's Day • 19.03.2025  
 Good Friday • 18.04.2025  
 Labour Day • 01.05.2025  
 Ascension Day • 29.05.2025  
 Whit Monday • 09.06.2025  
 Corpus Domini • 19.06.2025

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Courses end 30.05.2025

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**Exam  
sessions**

Summer session

- MC 2 • 03.07.2025
- MC 4<sup>t</sup> • 26.06.2025
- MC 6 • 01.07.2025
- OSCE 2 • 07.07.2025
- OSCE 4 • 10.06.2025
- OSCE 6 • 04.07.2025

- 
- Re-take session MC 2 • 19.08.2025
  - Re-take session MC 4 • 21.08.2025
-



USI Faculty of Biomedical Sciences was established in 2015 with the aim of addressing an important national problem: the dearth of physicians trained in Switzerland. Hence, the Faculty offers a Master degree of Medicine, as well as some places for the Bachelor of Medicine in collaboration with other Universities. Furthermore, the Faculty offers a Master in Cognitive Psychology in Health Communication, a doctoral program, postgraduate education (MD, CAS, DAS, MAS) and programs in the field of biomedical entrepreneurship.

The Faculty is headed by the Dean  
Prof. Dr. med. Giovanni Pedrazzini

## Executive bodies

### Faculty of Biomedical Sciences

Lugano Campus Est  
tel + 41 58 666 49 00  
e-mail [decanato.med@usi.ch](mailto:decanato.med@usi.ch)

#### Dean

Prof. Giovanni Pedrazzini  
e-mail [decanato.med@usi.ch](mailto:decanato.med@usi.ch)

The Dean is available for meetings on request.

#### Faculty management

Monica Link  
e-mail [monica.link@usi.ch](mailto:monica.link@usi.ch)

#### MMED program, MMED student administration

Solange Cingari  
[solange.cingari@usi.ch](mailto:solange.cingari@usi.ch)

#### Assistant of the Deanery, Master thesis

Claudia Wyss  
e-mail [claudia.wyss@usi.ch](mailto:claudia.wyss@usi.ch)

#### BMED student administration, DAK, Events, Alumni

Federica Camplani  
[federica.camplani@usi.ch](mailto:federica.camplani@usi.ch)

#### PhD and MD-PhD programs

Lucie Bourban  
e-mail [lucie.bourban@usi.ch](mailto:lucie.bourban@usi.ch)

#### Didactic material, Logistics

Marco Bianchi  
[marco.bianchi@usi.ch](mailto:marco.bianchi@usi.ch)

#### OSCE exams, Optional courses, Elective term, Skills Lab

Elisa Ostinelli  
e-mail [elisa.ostinelli@usi.ch](mailto:elisa.ostinelli@usi.ch)

#### MPHC administration, Continuing education, Dr. med, Travel office

Mina Curcic  
[mina.curcic@usi.ch](mailto:mina.curcic@usi.ch)

#### MC exams, Clinical activity, IMF administration

Irene Menghini  
e-mail [irene.menghini@usi.ch](mailto:irene.menghini@usi.ch)

## Faculty's governing bodies

The Faculty's governing bodies include: the Faculty Council, the Professors Council, and the Deanery.

### Faculty Council

The Faculty Council is composed of all tenured professors (full and associate), the assistant professors, adjunct professors and private lecturers of the Faculty. Representatives of the intermediate and student body are also members.

The Faculty counts more than 25 full professors, 3 assistant professors, 51 adjunct professors, 51 private lecturers and 45 clinical practice teachers.

The full list is available at:  
[search.usi.ch/en/faculties/5/faculty-of-biomedical-sciences/people](https://search.usi.ch/en/faculties/5/faculty-of-biomedical-sciences/people)

### Professors Council

The Professors Council is made up of all tenured professors (full and associate) of the Faculty.

### Dean

The current Dean is Prof. Giovanni Pedrazzini.  
The current study Vice-Dean is Prof. Luca Gabutti.  
The current research Vice-Dean is Prof. Greta Guarda.

## Rectorate, administration and services

### Rectorate

The Rectorate ensures the overall smooth functioning of the University and elaborates planning and development acts.

#### Rector

Prof. Luisa Lambertini

#### Secretary General

Dr. Giovanni Zavaritt

#### Director of Operations

Marvin Blumer

#### Adjunct Administrative Director

Antoine Turner

#### Pro-Rector for Internationalisation

Prof. Fabio Crestani

#### Pro-Rector for Education and Students' Experience

Prof. Gabriele Balbi

#### Pro-Rector for Research

Prof. Patrick Gagliardini

#### Pro-Rector for Innovation and Corporate relations

Prof. Luca Maria Gambardella

#### Pro-Rector for Research in the Humanities and Equal Opportunities

Prof. Sonja Hildebrand

## Administration and Services Lugano Campus

USI administration comprises of different services, and it is under the Rectorate responsibility, and through the Rectorate, under the University Council.

### Alumni Service

office Main Building, Office 303  
tel + 41 58 666 46 06  
e-mail [alumni@usi.ch](mailto:alumni@usi.ch)  
web [www.usi.ch/en/alumni](http://www.usi.ch/en/alumni)

### Career Service

office Main Building, Office 303  
tel + 41 58 666 46 06  
e-mail [careerservice@usi.ch](mailto:careerservice@usi.ch)  
web [www.usi.ch/en/career](http://www.usi.ch/en/career)

### Copy Center Onys

office Main Building, Office 139  
tel + 41 58 666 45 86  
e-mail [copycenter@usi.ch](mailto:copycenter@usi.ch)

### Corporate Identity

office Main Building, Office 212  
tel + 41 58 666 47 61  
e-mail [corporate-design@usi.ch](mailto:corporate-design@usi.ch)

### eLearning Lab (eLab)

office Main Building, Offices 403-406  
tel + 41 58 666 47 60  
e-mail [info@elearninglab.org](mailto:info@elearninglab.org)  
web [www.elearninglab.org/en](http://www.elearninglab.org/en)

### Equal Opportunities Service

office Main Building, Office 235  
tel + 41 58 666 46 12  
e-mail [equality@usi.ch](mailto:equality@usi.ch)  
web [www.usi.ch/equality](http://www.usi.ch/equality)

### Financial Controlling Service

office Main Building, Office 221

### Front Office

office Main Building, Office 220  
tel + 41 58 666 40 00  
e-mail [info@usi.ch](mailto:info@usi.ch)

### Graphic design

office Main Building, Office 210  
tel + 41 58 666 44 56  
e-mail [grafica@usi.ch](mailto:grafica@usi.ch)

**Housing**

office Main Building, Office 202  
 tel 41 58 666 44 89  
 e-mail + [alloggi@usi.ch](mailto:alloggi@usi.ch)  
 web [www.usi.ch/en/housing](http://www.usi.ch/en/housing)

**Human Resources**

office Main Building, Offices 233-234  
 e-mail [personale.lu@usi.ch](mailto:personale.lu@usi.ch)

**Institutional Communication Service**

office Main Building, Office 212  
 tel 41 58 666 47 92  
 e-mail + [press@usi.ch](mailto:press@usi.ch)

**L'ideatorio**

office Villa Saroli, Viale S. Franscini 9  
 tel 41 58 666 45 20  
 web + [www.ideatorio.usi.ch](http://www.ideatorio.usi.ch)

**International Relations and Study Abroad Service**

office Main Building, Office 332  
 tel 41 58 666 46 26  
 e-mail + [relint@usi.ch](mailto:relint@usi.ch)  
 web [www.usi.ch/en/relint](http://www.usi.ch/en/relint)

**IT Service**

office Main Building, Office 164  
 tel 41 58 666 46 10  
 e-mail + [sistema.lu@usi.ch](mailto:sistema.lu@usi.ch)  
 web [www.usilu.net](http://www.usilu.net)

**Legal Service**

e-mail Main Building, Office 228  
 tel 41 58 666 46 16  
 web + [serviziogiuridico@usi.ch](mailto:serviziogiuridico@usi.ch)

**Library**

tel 41 58 666 45 09  
 e-mail + [library.lu@usi.ch](mailto:library.lu@usi.ch)  
 web [www.bul.sbu.usi.ch](http://www.bul.sbu.usi.ch)

**Property and Facilities Service**

office Main Building, Office 169  
 e-mail [logistica.lu@usi.ch](mailto:logistica.lu@usi.ch)

**Psychological Counselling Service**

e-mail [info@psicologi-ticino.ch](mailto:info@psicologi-ticino.ch)  
 web [www.psicologi-ticino.ch](http://www.psicologi-ticino.ch)

**Quality Assurance Service**

office + Main Building, Office 227  
 tel + 41 58 666 41 99  
 e-mail + [quality@usi.ch](mailto:quality@usi.ch)

**Research and Transfer Service**

office Main Building, Office 228  
 tel 41 58 666 46 14  
 e-mail + [servizio.ricerca@usi.ch](mailto:servizio.ricerca@usi.ch)  
 web [www.ticinoricerca.ch](http://www.ticinoricerca.ch)

**Security Service**

office Main Building, Office 169  
 tel 41 58 666 47 30  
 e-mail + [sicurezza@usi.ch](mailto:sicurezza@usi.ch)

**Sport Service**

office Lugano East Campus  
 tel 41 58 666 47 97  
 e-mail + [sport@usi.ch](mailto:sport@usi.ch)  
 web [www.sport.usi.ch](http://www.sport.usi.ch)

**Startup Promotion Center (CP StartUp)**

office Lugano East Campus  
 tel 41 58 666 41 64  
 e-mail + [startup@usi.ch](mailto:startup@usi.ch)  
 web [www.startup.usi.ch](http://www.startup.usi.ch)

**Study Advisory and Promotion Service**

office Main Building, Office 303 (Level 3)  
 tel 41 58 666 47 95  
 web + [www.usi.ch/it/contattaci](http://www.usi.ch/it/contattaci)

**Web Service**

office Main Building, Office 210  
 tel 41 58 666 45 15  
 e-mail + [web@usi.ch](mailto:web@usi.ch)

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**Student  
associations**

Several student associations have been created within the University. The main objectives are to improve relations between students and the institution and to enrich the range of educational and recreational offer during school. The associations are concerned mainly with the collection of didactic material, organisation of parties and meetings, cultural and sporting events, and networking among University students and the business world.  
[www.desk.usi.ch/en/list-acknowledged-student-associations](http://www.desk.usi.ch/en/list-acknowledged-student-associations)

More information:

[www.usi.ch/en/administration-and-services](http://www.usi.ch/en/administration-and-services)

**Association  
of medical  
students**

The first students of the Master of Medicine founded in 2020 a medical student association called SMUSI - Studenti di Medicina dell'USI.

For further information please contact: [smusi@usi.ch](mailto:smusi@usi.ch).

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**Master of Medicine**

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The USI Master of Medicine is a 6-semester graduate-level study program of medical training for undergraduate students. The study curriculum of the Master combines the most modern teaching methods and trends available today with the strong model of the Swiss academic tradition. It offers an innovative, attractive, and motivating education, including extensive clinical practice, discussion of clinical cases and practical exercises in small groups, enabling close dialogue with professors and lecturers.

The language of tuition of the Master of Medicine is English. Italian is also used during the clinical practice.

**First to fourth semester: clinical training**

During the first four semesters, clinical training takes place. Each of the four semesters contains three modules of four weeks each, plus two special weeks.

For the modules, the students are divided into three groups (approx. 18 to 24 students). The groups rotate every four weeks, through three modules. For clinical discussions and practical cases, each group is divided into three small groups of six to eight students. During the two days of clinical activity, the student-teacher ratio is even smaller, namely two to one, whenever possible. At the end of each semester, there will be an exam session.

## First Semester

- Circulation (heart and vessels)
- Homeostasis (respiration, hemodynamics, fluids and electrolytes)
- Immune disorders (immunology, rheumatology, dermatology)
- Two special weeks: general introduction

## Second Semester

- Children and adolescents
- Women (gynecology and obstetrics)
- Circulating cells and signaling (hematology and endocrinology)
- Two special weeks: bench to bedside week and special training week

## Third semester

- Abdominal organs (liver, kidney, intestine)
- Skelton (orthopedics, traumatology)
- Critical care (anesthesiology, intensive care, emergency)
- Transversal practice week (oncology, geriatric, pathology)
- Two special weeks: training at a pediatric practice

## Fourth Semester

- Nervous system (neurology, neurosurgery)
- Personality and cognition (psychiatry, medical psychology)
- Head and neck organs (ORL, ophthalmology)
- Two special weeks: training at a family doctor practice

**Clinical activity**

During the first four semesters of the Master, two days a week are dedicated to clinical training with pre-defined student shifts in clinical institutions (EOC hospitals, private clinics, and other partner institutions). The aim is to have a ratio of two students per each tutor, to give to students the opportunity to interact closely with the patients and benefit the most from the bedside teaching. Furthermore, during clinical training, students apply the theoretical knowledge acquired in the classroom and experience what the daily practice in the ward is like.

**Transversal topics**

Further clinical subjects are taught transversely over the first four semesters and are included in the relevant modules. A comprehensive curriculum is thus created with this well-conceived matrix of disciplinary modules and transversal topics, which combines and networks knowledge and skills from different disciplines.

**Clinical semesters weekly schedule**

A typical week during a clinical semester consists of 60% on-campus teaching and 40% in the clinic. During the days on campus, module-related lectures, case discussions and practical exercises take place in small groups. The other two days the students are in clinical facilities. The intensive bedside teaching allows students to immerse into real clinical activities. Through the close supervision of one tutor for every two students, everyday hospital life is experienced at first hand and students learn what the medical profession entails. Each week ends with an hour of assessment, to review the weekly topics, to do a Q&A session, or to give and receive feedback.

**Optional courses**

Optional courses allow the students to personalize their curriculum by choosing specific subjects of their interest. Optional courses take place on Monday afternoons, in small groups, and they usually consist of 12 hours of lectures. Students are required to attend a total of four optional courses per academic year.

The optional courses for the academic year 2024-25 are:

- O-001 Airways management techniques, Cassina
- O-002 Clinical toxicology, Ceschi
- O-003 Bandages, casts, wounds, and infiltrations, Testa
- O-004 ATLS and polytrauma management, Garofalo
- O-005 Point of care ultrasound POCUS, Wyttenbach
- O-006 From full consciousness to cerebral death, Manconi
- O-007 Pediatric emergency room, Gualco
- O-009 Clinical surgical radiological anatomy, Majno
- O-010 Practical laboratory hematology, Stüssi
- O-013 Sleep medicine, Manconi
- O-017 Did you say Blood in the brain, Cardia
- O-018 Approach to children and adults with genetic disease in the age of new technologies, Ferrarini
- O-019 Imaging-based Cardiac anatomy, Leo
- O-020 Cultura & salute, Pedrazzini
- O-021 Surgical Skills Laboratory: Skin tendons and bones, Giesen

- O-023 Morphology-based approach to understand diseases, Mazzucchelli
- O-024 Child nutrition: physiology, diets, and malnutrition, Milani
- O-025 ECG interpretation, Petracca
- O-026 Anti-infective drugs, Limongelli
- O-027 From the fetus to the surgeon, Montaruli
- O-028 Histopathology as a support for clinical understanding, Mazzucchelli
- O-029 From the abyss to the moon, Demertzis
- O-030 Health issues of environmental changes, Majno
- O-031 Leading multidisciplinary teams in healthcare, Huber

**Fifth semester - Elective term**

During the Elective term, students are required to engage for 6 months in full-time internships at different clinical institutions of their own choice. At the clinics, students will be employed as medical candidates (CandMed) and will work under the strict supervision of assistant physicians. Every student is responsible for the organization of his/her own internship. All students must insert into "CandMedInternships" the entire program of their Elective term and submit it online by 30 May of the fourth semester. If the program is in line with the requirements and the deadlines, it will be approved. After completion of each internship, the responsible physician will receive an email to confirm the CandMed's engagement. Once all confirmations have been submitted (latest by 30 March of the sixth semester), the ECTS will be accredited. For more information, please see the [Directives for the Elective Term](#).

**Sixth semester****Master thesis**

Writing a Master thesis is mandatory for all medical students and is a prerequisite for the admission to the Federal exam. The Master thesis is an individual, scientific document, in which students prove their ability to use methodological tools to analyze and investigate a topic related to clinical medicine, biomedicine, computational science or human sciences. Students can either choose a topic from a list of various proposals or define their thesis topic together with their thesis director. Once the topic is defined, students need to fill in the "Master thesis agreement" and submit it to the Student Administration Service of the Faculty via e-mail. The required documents are available on the Faculty website. The first four weeks of the sixth semester are reserved for the completion of the Master thesis. For more information, please see the [Directives for the Master Thesis](#).

**Complementary topics**

The sixth semester contains the following complementary topics: Forensic medicine, Health management and economics, Emergency medicine course "Dienstarztkurs", Sports medicine, Gender medicine, Nutrition and War medicine.

**Repetition blocs**

During the last semester, repetition classes of all modules and all transversal topics take place to ensure that students are duly prepared for the Federal exam.



## General curriculum structure

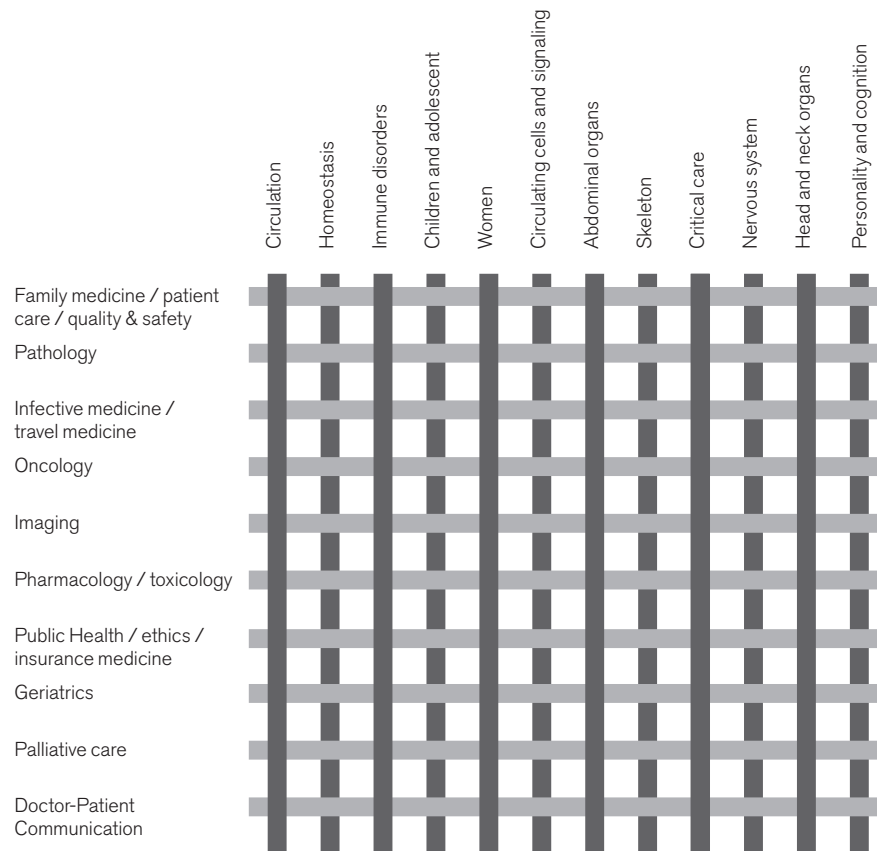
<b>First semester</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Circulation (heart and vessels)</li> <li>• Homeostasis (respiration, hemodynamics, fluids and electrolytes)</li> <li>• Immune disorders (immunology, rheumatology, dermatology)</li> <li>• Two special weeks: general introduction</li> </ul>
<b>Second semester</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children and adolescents</li> <li>• Women (gynecology and obstetrics)</li> <li>• Circulating cells and signaling (hematology and endocrinology)</li> <li>• Two special weeks: bench to bedside week and special training week</li> </ul>
<b>Third semester</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abdominal organs (liver, kidney, intestine)</li> <li>• Skelton (orthopedics, traumatology)</li> <li>• Critical care (anesthesiology, intensive care, emergency)</li> <li>• Transversal practice week (oncology, geriatric, pathology)</li> <li>• Two special weeks: training at a pediatric practice</li> </ul>
<b>Fourth semester</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nervous system (neurology, neurosurgery)</li> <li>• Personality and cognition (psychiatry, medical psychology)</li> <li>• Head and neck organs (ORL, ophthalmology)</li> <li>• Two special weeks: training at a family doctor practice</li> </ul>
<b>Fifth semester</b>	Elective term
<b>Sixth semester</b>	Master thesis, complementary topics, DAK and repetition blocs

## Study program

Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
<b>First semester</b>															
Group A	General introduction	Circulation			Homeostasis			Immune disorders			Exams				
Group B		Immune disorders			Circulation			Homeostasis							
Group C		Homeostasis			Immune disorders			Circulation							
<b>Second semester</b>															
Group A	Children and adolescents			Women			Bench to bedside	Circulating cells and signaling			Exams				
Group B	Circulating cells and signaling			Children and adolescents				Women							
Group C	Women			Circulating cells and signaling				Children and adolescents							
<b>Third semester</b>															
Group A	Pediatric practice	Critical care			Trans. prac.*	Skeleton		Abdominal organs			Exams				
Group B	Abdominal organs			Pediatric practice	Critical care			Trans. prac.*	Skeleton						
Group C	Trans. prac.*	Skeleton		Abdominal organs			Pediatric practice	Critical care							
<b>Fourth semester</b>															
Group A	Family doctor practice	Nervous system			Head and neck organs			Personality and cognition			Exams				
Group B	Personality and cognition			Family doctor practice	Nervous system			Head and neck organs							
Group C	Head and neck organs			Personality and cognition		Family doctor practice	Nervous system								
<b>Fifth semester</b>															
Elective term (6 months)															
<b>Sixth semester</b>															
Master thesis					Complementary topics, repetition blocs					Exams					

\* Transversal practice

## Transversal topics



- Modules
- Transversal topics

## Clinical semesters Typical weekly schedule

### First year

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8.30 -10.15	Theoretical lessons Transversal themes (all)	Clinical activity at hospital (2:1 students with a senior)	Clinical activity at hospital (2:1 students with a senior)	Theoretical lessons (3 groups)	Theoretical lessons (3 groups)
10.30 -12.15	Theoretical lessons Multidisciplinary (all)			Discussion of clinical cases or practical exercises (in groups of 6-8)	Discussion of clinical cases or practical exercises (in groups of 6-8)
12.30 -13.15					Assessment and feedback (3 groups)
13.30 -15.15	Optional subjects	Clinical activity at hospital (2:1 students with a senior)	Own case portfolio preparation	Individual study	Individual study
15.30 -17.15	Optional subjects				

### Second year

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8.30 -10.15	Theoretical lessons Transversal themes (all)	Theoretical lessons (3 groups)	Theoretical lessons (3 groups)	Clinical activity at hospital (2:1 students with a senior)	Clinical activity at hospital (2:1 students with a senior)
10.30 -12.15	Theoretical lessons Multidisciplinary (all)	Discussion of clinical cases or practical exercises (in groups of 6-8)	Discussion of clinical cases or practical exercises (in groups of 6-8)		
12.30 -13.15			Assessment and feedback (3 groups)		
13.30 -15.15	Optional subjects	Individual study	Individual study	Clinical activity at hospital (2:1 students with a senior)	Own case portfolio preparation
15.30 -17.15	Optional subjects				

### Semester enrolment renewal

Enrolled students of the Master of Medicine will receive, near the end of each semester, an e-mail asking to confirm their willingness to pursue their studies in the following semester. After this confirmation, the semester tuition fee invoice is issued. Following the receipt of the payment, students will be able to download their enrolment certificate. For more information, please see the webpage [www.desk.usi.ch/en/certificates](http://www.desk.usi.ch/en/certificates).

### Fees and scholarships

#### Fees

Tuition fee for all students enrolled in a Bachelor or a Master at USI is CHF 4'000 per semester. Tuition for applicants whose residence was in Switzerland or Liechtenstein at the time of obtaining the high school diploma (Matura) is CHF 2'000 per semester. The only exception is the Elective Term, for which the tuition fee is reduced to CHF 500 for all students. Fees must be paid before the beginning of each semester, as per the deadline on the invoice.

#### Scholarship

The IBSA Foundation for Scientific Research firmly believes that faith in the future can be obtained by building solid foundations through education and specialized research. Therefore, every year the IBSA Foundation for Scientific Research offers scholarships to USI students in medicine. More information about the regulation of the IBSA scholarships and on how to apply can be found on the Faculty website [www.biomed.usi.ch/en/study/study-medicine/fees-and-scholarships](http://www.biomed.usi.ch/en/study/study-medicine/fees-and-scholarships).

### Multiple-choice written examination

1. The multiple-choice written examination (MC exam) is an exam that evaluates the knowledge. Students take MC exams at the end of semesters 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, and they are structured to simulate the Federal exam in medicine. The MC exam covers the training given in the relevant semester. In addition, starting from MC2, each MC exam also covers the training given in the previous semesters.
2. For each semester, one MC exam is organized. The exam duration is four hours for semester 1 and 2, and four and a half hours for semester 3, 4 and 6
3. A single re-take MC exam is organized for study year 1 and 2. Each re-take MC exam covers the training given in the relevant year of study. In addition, the re-take MC exam of study year 2 also covers the training given in the previous year of study.

### The Objective Clinical Structured Examination (OSCE)

1. The Objective Clinical Structured Examination (OSCE) is a practical exam that evaluates the clinical skills.
2. Four OSCEs are scheduled:
  - At the end of semester 1 on the contents of the same, with 6 stations, formative with feedback.
  - At the end of semester 2 on the contents of the same, with 4 stations, formative.
  - At the end of semester 4 on the contents of semesters 1, 2, 3 and 4, with 10 stations, summative.
  - At the end of semester 6 on the contents of the whole course of study, with 6 stations, formative with feedback.
3. Participation in OSCEs is mandatory.
4. There are no OSCE re-takes. If the summative OSCE at the end of semester 4 is not passed, it must be repeated the following year and does not result in repeating the study year. a designated clinical case.

### Evaluation

Grades of written examinations are scalar. Hence, the grade is defined according to a scale from 1 to 10, with increments of 0.5, where 10 is the highest and notes below 6 are considered insufficient. Grading of summative OSCEs is binary pass or fail.

**Passing conditions**

The passing of study year 1 is subject to the following conditions:

- The average of the grades of MC1 and MC2 exams is greater than or equal to 6.
- Participation in OSCE1 and OSCE2.

Successful completion of study year 2 is subject to the following conditions:

- The average of the grades of MC3 and MC4 exams is greater than or equal to 6.
- The achievement of the "pass" rating of OSCE4.

If the average of the grades of the MC exams of a study year results in a grade with a quarter point (.25 or .75), the annual average is rounded up if the trend of results is upward, or rounded down if the trend of results is downward. In the case of rounding down, if the student has completed in Checkpoint at least 80% of the required EPAs, the annual average grade is rounded up. If, despite applying para. 3 and 4, the annual average of a student's MC exams is less than 6, he/she must sit the MC re-take exam and pass it with a grade greater than or equal to 6.

**Repetition**

In the case of failure to meet the passing conditions, the year of study needs to be repeated. A maximum of one repetition of the same year of study is allowed. The second failure of the same year of study results in exclusion from medical studies at any Swiss university.

The OSCE4 may be repeated a maximum of two times. The third failure results in the exclusion from medical studies at any Swiss university. For more details, please see the Study Regulations.

**Federal licensing exam**

The Federal licensing exam in medicine takes place upon completion of the Master of Medicine program and only once the student has obtained the Master of Medicine degree. It includes two separate exams:

- MC Exam, divided in two parts taking place on two separate days.
- Clinical skills exam, following the principles of an OSCE.

For more information, please see the [Study Regulations](#).

**Leave of absence**

In the case of maternity, compulsory military or civil service, serious illness and other circumstances that represent in the judgment of the Dean significant difficulties to the regular course of studies, the student may be granted a leave of absence as a rule not exceeding two semesters. Any exceptions must be authorized by the Dean. For any of these absences, a Leave Request Application Form must be submitted to the Students Administration Service of the Faculty.

The student on leave maintains matriculation by paying a reduced tuition fee, in accordance with the [Regulations for admissions and matriculation at USI](#) and benefits from the legitimacy as a student without attending any teaching activities. A student on leave of absence is not entitled to take examinations.

USI allows students to spend a period of study at another university or academic institution, preferably in a different linguistic area, with the aim of fostering and broadening cultural, scientific and linguistic perspectives and, of course, increasing the student's personal skills. For both incoming and outgoing mobility, the available programs are Swiss Mobility and SEMP. Due to the complex and distinct structure of the Master of Medicine curriculum, mobility programs outside Europe, as well as any other study abroad programs, are not applicable.

**Swiss Mobility**

Students have the possibility to spend a period of study at another Swiss university. A framework agreement signed by all Swiss universities guarantees full mutual acknowledgement of study semesters and curricula, as well as validation of credits obtained from related course assessment work and examinations.

Swiss-European Mobility Program (SEMP)

Within the framework of the SEMP, it is possible to study in one of the European partner universities on a temporary basis. SEMP does not include any requests of mobility in which the destination is the student's country of residence at the time of the studies at USI. The list of partner universities for Swiss mobility e SEMP is available at the USI International Relations and Study Abroad Service webpage [www.usi.ch/en/university/info/relint/exchange/partner-universities](http://www.usi.ch/en/university/info/relint/exchange/partner-universities).

The full text of the Academic Mobility Regulations for the Master of Medicine is available at the Faculty website [www.biomed.usi.ch/en/practical-information/regulations-and-forms](http://www.biomed.usi.ch/en/practical-information/regulations-and-forms)

**Outgoing Mobility**

For outgoing mobility programs, stays are limited to the duration of one semester during semester 2, 3, 4 and 6. Students who involve in a mobility program during semesters 2, 3 or 4, have to ensure the achievement of 30 ECTS during the semester of mobility. Students on mobility during the fourth semester must return in time (beginning of June) to take the MC and OSCE examination of

the Master of Medicine at USI. These exams are mandatory for obtaining the final Master's degree. In addition, the Master thesis must be handed in by the defined deadlines (end of May, sixth semester). The student has to guarantee the achievement of the remaining 15 ECTS during the mobility stay of the sixth semester.

The mobility application form must be submitted to the USI International Relations and Study Abroad Service by 23 February for mobility programs starting in autumn and by 25 September or starting in spring.

For more information, please see the full text of the [Academic Mobility Regulations for the Master of Medicine](#).

USI offers intensive Italian language courses taking place before the beginning of the autumn and spring semester as well as regular Italian language courses during each semester. All non-Italian speaking students are invited to participate, free of charge.

For more information, please see <https://www.desk.usi.ch/en/italian-courses>

<b>iCorsi</b>	iCorsi3 is the e-learning platform of USI. The platform enables students to download or consult teaching materials, take examinations online using the Safe Exam Browser program and has many more features. To access the platform, please use your personal edu-ID: <a href="http://www.icorsi.ch">www.icorsi.ch</a> .
<b>Exams</b>	Exam registration and consultation <a href="http://www.esami.lu.usi.ch">www.esami.lu.usi.ch</a>
<b>University Library Lugano</b>	The USI Lugano campus library holds a wide collection of paper and electronic books, as well as periodicals in all areas of study, providing individual study spaces and photocopying services: <a href="https://it.bul.sbu.usi.ch">https://it.bul.sbu.usi.ch</a> .
<b>AMBOSS</b>	AMBOSS provides global access to a holistic platform for medical students to study and prepare for medical exams: <a href="http://www.amboss.com">www.amboss.com</a> . Students receive a license for the English AMBOSS platform at the beginning of their Master studies.
<b>Checkpoint</b>	Checkpoint is a platform following PROFILES, for documentation and monitoring of the acquisition of clinical skills. Students use this platform for the evaluation of clinical practice and during their elective term.

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Plan of studies

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**2024/25**