

Università
della
Svizzera
italiana

Faculty
of
Biomedical
Sciences

Plan of studies

2021/
22

2021/22



Plan of studies

2021/22

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Preface

Dear students

When we started working on the curriculum of the Master of Medicine some three years ago, the main (and at that time the only) driver behind our engine was the incredible and contagious enthusiasm each of us put in the project. We spent hours discussing how we wanted to shape the curriculum, considered several options and evaluated many models. However, once we decided on the final structure and worked intensely on it, we had to wait for the first students to start the studies, to find out if our model works and meets the justified expectation of students and colleagues.

As a rocket sent into space, we aimed at a planet without knowing if we would touch the ground. Well, we did touchdown on 14 September 2020 with the first 48 students, the pioneers who exposed themselves to the unpredictable challenge of a new Master in a new Faculty. All of us, dean's office, professors and students were eager to know, if we were on the right track and had reached the safe planet or if we were lost somewhere in space.

Now that the first year is over, we can confirm that the rocket has definitely landed on the right planet and that this new world is simply beautiful and extremely fertile. The most unpredictable period is behind us and we have no doubt to say that the Master of Medicine at USI has a great chance to meet your expectation and offer you a great journey into the fascinating world of modern medicine.

Giovanni Pedrazzini,
Dean of the Faculty of Biomedical Sciences

Academic calendar

Autumn semester 2021–22	Matriculation	30.06–20.09.2021
	Courses start	20.09.2021
	Holidays	
	All saints • 01.11.2021 Immaculate Conception • 08.12.2021	
	Courses end	24.12.2021
Exam sessions	Winter session	
	MC 1° sem • 08.02.2022 MC 3° sem • 10.02.2022	
	OSCE 1° sem • 11.02.2022 OSCE 3° sem • 14.02.2022	
Spring semester 2022	Courses start	21.02.2022
	Easter holidays	18–22.04.2022
	Dies academicus	07.05.2022
	Holidays	
	Saint Joseph's Day • 19.03.2022 Ascension Day • 26.05.2022 Whit Monday • 06.06.2022 Corpus Domini • 16.06.2022	
	Courses end	03.06.2022

**Exam
sessions**

Summer session

- MC 2° sem • 05.07.2022
- MC 4° sem • 07.07.2022
- OSCE 2° sem • 08.07.2022
- OSCE 4° sem • 11.07.2022

Autumn session 2° sem	23.08.2022
Autumn session 4° sem	25.08.2022

USI Faculty of Biomedical Sciences was established in 2014 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, doctoral programmes, postgraduate education (MD, CAS, DAS, MAS) and programmes in the field of biomedical entrepreneurship.

The Faculty is headed by Dean Prof. Giovanni Pedrazzini MD.

Executive bodies

Faculty of Biomedical Sciences

Lugano East Campus
 tel +41 58 666 49 00
 e-mail decanato.med@usi.ch

Dean

Prof. Giovanni Pedrazzini
 e-mail decanato.med@usi.ch

The Dean is available for meetings on request.

Dean's office secretary

Claudia Wyss
 e-mail claudia.wyss@usi.ch

Optional courses, Master's thesis, Elective term, PhD Programme

Lucie Bourban
 e-mail lucie.bourban@usi.ch

Exams

Irene Menghini-Cagni
 e-mail irene.menghini.cagni@usi.ch

Logistics

Marco Bianchi
 e-mail marco.bianchi@usi.ch

Program management

Monica Link
monica.link@usi.ch

Student affairs

Solange Cingari
solange.cingari@usi.ch

MPHC administration

Daniela Wirz
daniela.wirz@usi.ch

Faculty's governing bodies

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

Faculty Council

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

Full professors

Emiliano Albanese
 Andrea Alimonti
 Mario Bianchetti
 Petr Cejka
 Luca Gabutti
 Andrea Gallina
 Michele Ghielmini
 Greta Guarda
 Andrea De Gottardi
 Silke Gillessen Sommer
 Alain Kälin
 Luca Mazzucchelli
 Vittorio Limongelli
 Pietro Edoardo Majno-Hurst
 Andrea Papadia
 Giovanni Pedrazzini
 Davide Robbiani
 Davide Rossi
 Federica Sallusto
 Giacomo Domenico Simonetti
 Jean-Philippe Theurillat

Adjunct and assistant professor

Angelo Auricchio
 Enos Bernasconi
 Francesco Bertoni
 Andreas Bircher

Guido Bondolfi
 Christian Candrian
 Tiziano Cassina
 Luca Ceriani
 Alessandro Emanuele Ceschi
 Johnny Deladoey
 Filippo Del Grande
 Stefanos Demertzis
 Enrico Ferrari
 Paolo Ferrari
 Giuseppe Filardo
 Guido Garavaglia
 Roger Geiger
 Claudio Gobbi
 Yves Harder
 Paul Bernhard Henrich
 Giandomenica Iezzi
 Mauro Manconi
 Matteo Moretti
 Adam Ognà
 Olivia Pagani Santoro
 Andreas Perren
 Giuseppe Perale
 Michael Reinert
 Daniel Schmauss
 Cristiana Sessa
 Georg Stüssi
 Giorgio Treglia
 Pierpaolo Trimboli
 Marco Valgimigli
 Emanuela Valsangiacomo
 Giuseppe Vassalli
 Rolf Wyttenbach
 Emanuele Zucca

**Privat
Dozent**

Lucio Barile
 Andrea Braga
 Stefano Cafarotti
 Gabriele Casso
 Carlo Cereda
 Giulio Conte
 Sara De Dosso
 Rosaria Del Giorno
 Marco Delcogliano
 Marcello Di Valentino
 Paolo Erba
 Valentina Forni Ognà
 Salvatore Galati
 Claudia Gamondi
 Olivier Giannini
 Thomas Giesen

Barbara Goeggel Simonetti
 Davide La Regina
 Mattia Lepori
 Paolo Maino
 Giorgia Melli
 Paolo Paganetti
 Emanuele Pravatà
 Stefania Rizzo
 Thomas Robert
 Piercarlo Saletti
 Andrea Saporito
 Anastasios Stathis
 Daniel Sürder
 Benedetta Terziroli Beretta Piccoli
 Stijn Vandenberghe
 Federica Vanoni
 Chiara Zecca

**Clinical
lecturer**

Lisa Kottanattu
 Dominique Kuhlen
 Barbara Lucchini
 Mario Mendoza Sagaon
 Aleksandra Nobile
 Francesca Romana Scopigni
 Amalia Noemi Stefani-Glücksberg
 Elisa Stoira
 Susanne Anna Schlossbauer

Status as of 01.03.2021

<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. Boas Erez

Secretary General

Dr. Giovanni Zavaritt

Administrative Director

Cristina Largader

Adjunct Administrative Director

Antoine Turner

Pro-Rector for Internationalisation

Cesare Alippi

Pro-Rector for Education and Students' Experience

Prof. Lorenzo Cantoni

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
web www.usi.ch/en/alumni

Career Service

office Main Building, Office 303
tel + 41 58 666 46 06
e-mail careerservice@usi.ch
web www.usi.ch/en/career

Copy Center Onys

office Main Building, Office 139
tel + 41 58 666 45 86
e-mail copycenter@usi.ch

Corporate identity

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tel + 41 58 666 47 61
e-mail corporate-design@usi.ch

Development and Institutional Relations

office Main Building, 232
tel + 41 58 666 49 27
e-mail maria.cristina.reinhart@usi.ch

eLearning Lab (eLab)

office Main Building, Offices 403-406
tel + 41 58 666 47 60
e-mail info@elearninglab.org
web www.elearninglab.org/en

Equal Opportunities Service

office Main Building, Office 235
tel + 41 58 666 46 12
e-mail equality@usi.ch
web 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

Graphic design

office Main Building, Office 210
 tel + 41 58 666 44 56
 e-mail grafica@usi.ch

Housing

office Main Building, Office 202
 tel + 41 58 666 44 89
 e-mail alloggi@usi.ch
 web www.usi.ch/en/housing

Human Resources

office Main Building, Offices 233-234
 e-mail personale.lu@usi.ch

Institutional Communication Service

office Main Building, Office 212
 tel + 41 58 666 47 92
 e-mail press@usi.ch

L'ideatorio

office Villa Saroli, Viale S. Francini 9
 tel + 41 58 666 45 20
 web 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
 web www.usi.ch/en/relint

IT Service

office Main Building, Office 164
 tel + 41 58 666 46 10
 e-mail sistema.lu@usi.ch
 web www.usilu.net

Legal Service

e-mail Main Building, Office 228
 tel + 41 58 666 46 16
 web serviziogiuridico@usi.ch

Library

tel + 41 58 666 45 09
 e-mail library.lu@usi.ch
 web www.bul.sbu.usi.ch

Property and Facilities Service

office Main Building, Office 169
 e-mail logistica.lu@usi.ch

Psychological Counselling Service

e-mail info@psicologi-ticino.ch
 web www.psicologi-ticino.ch

Quality Assurance Service

office Main Building, Office 227
 tel + 41 58 666 41 99
 e-mail quality@usi.ch

Research and Transfer Service

office Main Building, Office 228
 tel + 41 58 666 46 14
 e-mail servizio.ricerca@usi.ch
 web www.ticinoricerca.ch

Security Service

office Main Building, Office 169
 tel + 41 58 666 47 30
 e-mail sicurezza@usi.ch

Sport Service

office Lugano East Campus
 tel + 41 58 666 47 97
 e-mail sport@usi.ch
 web www.sport.usi.ch

Startup Promotion Center (CP StartUp)

office Lugano East Campus
 tel + 41 58 666 41 64
 e-mail startup@usi.ch
 web 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

Web Service

office Main Building, Office 210
 tel + 41 58 666 45 15
 e-mail web@usi.ch

**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

More information:

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.

Master of Medicine

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 will also be used during the clinical practice.

**First to fourth semester:
clinical training**

During the first four semesters, clinical training takes place, whereby 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)
- Children and adolescents
- 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

Third semester

- Abdominal organs (liver, kidney, intestine)
- Skelton (orthopedics, traumatology)
- Critical care (anesthesiology, intensive care, emergency)
- 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 partners). 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 will apply the theoretical knowledge acquired in the classroom on campus and experience what the daily practice in the ward is like.

Transversal topics

Other 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. Each optional course is held on Monday afternoon in small groups of 5-10 students and lasts 6 weeks (6 x 2h), or 3 weeks (3 x 4h). Students are required to attend a total of four optional courses per year.

The optional courses for the academic year 2021-22 are:

- Airways Management Techniques;
- Clinical Toxicology;
- Bandages, casts and braces and wound treatment;
- Basic principles of ATLS and polytrauma management at ER;
- Point of care ultrasound POCUS;
- From full consciousness to cerebral death;
- Pediatric emergency room;
- The human immune system and cancer;
- Clinical, surgical and radiological anatomy of neck, chest and abdomen;
- Practical laboratory hematology;
- Autoimmune diseases in neurology;
- Cardiovascular risk assessment in children and young adults;
- Sleep medicine;
- Signs, symptoms and approach to the cancer patient and his care givers;

- Machine learning for medical students;
- E-Health: a new dimension to modern medical practice;
- Did you say blood in the brain?;
- Approach to children and adults with genetic disease in the age of new technologies;
- Imaging-based Cardiac anatomy.

Fifth semester - Elective term

During this time, students are required to engage for 6 months in full-time internships at different clinics 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.

Students are responsible for the organization of their own internship and must submit the program of their Elective term to the Dean's office by 15 July of the fourth semester. After completion of the clinical internship, students must hand in their signed certificates by 30 March of the sixth semester. Further details may be found in the Directives for the Elective Term available on the Faculty website.

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 more than 100 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 into the Dean's office by e-mail. The required documents are available on the Faculty website. The first four weeks of the sixth semester are for the completion of the Master thesis.

Complementary subjects

During the sixth semester, complementary subjects will be scheduled to give students the opportunity to go into further detail of specific topics (e.g. forensic medicine, sport medicine, DAK Dienstärztkurs, etc.).

Repetition and preparation

At the end of the last semester, repetition classes take place to ensure that students are duly prepared for the Federal exam.

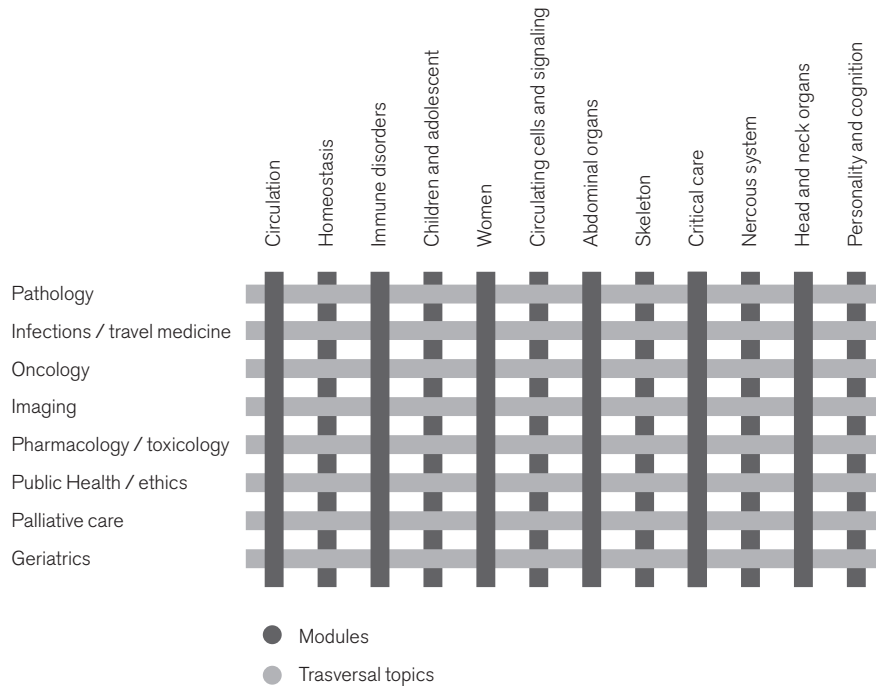
General curriculum structure

First semester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circulation (heart and vessels) • Homeostasis (respiration, hemodynamics, fluids and electrolytes) • Immune disorders (immunology, rheumatology, dermatology) • Two special weeks: general introduction
Second semester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and adolescents • Women (gynecology and obstetrics) • Circulating cells and signaling (hematology and endocrinology) • Two special weeks: bench to bedside
Third semester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abdominal organs (liver, kidney, intestine) • Skelton (orthopedics, traumatology) • Critical care (anesthesiology, intensive care, emergency) • Two special weeks: training at a pediatric practice
Fourth semester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
Fifth semester	Elective term
Sixth semester	Master thesis, repetition and training for federal exam

Study programme

Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
First semester															
Group A	General introduction	Circulation			Homeostasis			Immune disorders			Exams				
Group B		Immune disorders			Circulation			Homeostasis							
Group C		Homeostasis			Immune disorders			Circulation							
Second semester															
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							
Third semester															
Group A	Pediatric practice	Critical care			Pediatrics	Skeleton			Abdominal organs			Exams			
Group B	Abdominal organs			Pediatric practice	Critical care			Pediatrics	Skeleton						
Group C	Pediatrics	Skeleton			Abdominal organs			Pediatric practice	Critical care						
Fourth semester															
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							
Fifth semester															
Elective term (6 months)															
Sixth semester															
Master thesis					Complementary subjects, repetition and preparation					Exams					

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 enrollment 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 enrollment certificate. More information under: 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.

Students take examinations at the conclusion of semester 1-4 and 6.

The examinations will focus on the main topics studied during each semester. They will be structured to simulate the Federal exam in medicine.

Multiple-choice written exams

1. The multiple-choice written examination (MC) is a test in which the knowledge and skills acquired during the prior semester are evaluated.
2. The exam takes place at the end of the semester.
3. For the transition to the following year, the average of the two semester MC exams is applied.
4. A maximum of two exam retakes per year are permitted. A third failure leads to exclusion from medical studies at any Swiss university.

The Objective Clinical Structured Examination (OSCE)

1. The OSCE is a practical test that evaluates the clinical capabilities of students.
2. At the end of the first four semesters, an OSCE of four stations takes place, whilst at the end of the 6. semester, the OSCE consists of 12 stations to simulate the Federal examination.
3. Each station will involve the active participation of actors simulating a designated clinical case.
4. The assessment criteria of the OSCE are disclosed to the students.
5. The OSCE of the first and second semester are formative.
6. For the transition to the fifth semester, the sum of the two OSCE of the third and fourth semester applies.

Evaluation

1. Assessments of written examinations are numerical. On a scale of 1 to 10 with increments of 0.5, where 10 is the highest and 6 the minimum pass mark.
2. Assessments for OSCE are pass/fail.
3. The written examination assessed with a grade less than 6 may be repeated a maximum of two times.

Exam enrollment

4. The failed OSCE may not be repeated but calls for the repetition of the year.
5. The ECTS credits are acquired when the relevant examination is passed.

1. A student who is duly enrolled in the Faculty and who has paid the tuition fees may register for the exams.
2. The registration must be done online.
3. If a candidate has registered for, been admitted to or taken an exam without being entitled to it, the exam will be considered null and is void by the secretariat at the time of registration of the grade.

Re-take exams

The repetition session of the MC exam is organized for repeaters or students who had to interrupt the ordinary exam for valid reasons and takes place in August. The OSCE cannot be repeated.

Federal exam

The Federal exam in medicine takes place upon completion of the 3-year Master of Medicine program and only once the student has obtained the Master's 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.

Leave of absence

In the event of maternity, compulsory military or community service, severe illness or other circumstances, which, in the opinion of the Dean, represent significant obstacle for the proper conduct of studies, the student may be granted a leave of absence that, as a rule, may not exceed two semesters. Any exception is subject to the authorization of the Dean.

The student on a leave maintains his or her enrollment by paying a reduced tuition fee of CHF 100 per semester (as per the *USI regulations for admission and enrollment*) and retains the benefits connected with student status, but is excluded from attending any classes or any other degree related activity.

As a rule, in this case students do not have the right to take exams. The student on a leave of absence in the autumn semester is suspended from the following winter examination session. Students on leave in the spring semester are suspended from the following summer sessions.

During maternity, military or community service or severe illness leave, it is possible to take the exams of courses that have already been attended. (see *Study Regulations, Art.30*). For any of these absences, a Leave Request Application Form must be submitted, in original, to the Dean's Office.

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 Master of Medicine study plan structure, 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.

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

Outgoing Mobility

For outgoing mobility programs, stays are limited to the duration of one semester during the second, third, fourth or sixth semester. Students who involve in a mobility program during the second, third or fourth semester have to ensure the achievement of 30 ECTS during the semester of mobility. Students on mobility during the sixth semester must return in time (month of June) to take the final

exams 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 for starting in spring.

For more information, please refer to the Mobility service Relint website www.usi.ch/en/university/info/relint/exchange/students.

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 refer to www.italiancourse.usi.ch.

USILuNet

USILuNet is the portal where the student can access a series of online services such as exams management, job offers, webmail, iCorsi platform, print summary, FAQ on how to configure devices, etc. Each student has a personal USILuNet page: www.usilu.net.

iCorsi

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 NetID: www.icorsi.ch.

Exams

Exam registration and consultation www.esami.lu.usi.ch

University Library Lugano

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: <https://it.bul.sbu.usi.ch>.

AMBOSS

AMBOSS provides global access to a holistic platform for medical students to study and prepare for medical exams: www.amboss.com. Students will receive a license for the English AMBOSS platform at the beginning of their Master studies.

Checkpoint

Checkpoint is a platform following PROFILES, for documentation and monitoring of the acquisition of clinical skills. Students will use this platform for the evaluation of clinical practice and during their elective term.

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