

Università  
della  
Svizzera  
italiana

Faculty  
of  
Biomedical  
Sciences

Plan of studies

2023/  
24

2023/24



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# Plan of studies

**2023/24**

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## Preface

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Dear students

It seems unreal that we have already completed the first cycle and that our first students will soon become doctors. This is a wonderful milestone that we will celebrate appropriately but which will not distract our attention and enthusiasm from the true purpose of this great project: 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, but still at the beginning of a long journey, and there is still a lot of work ahead of us. Together with you, we have begun a work of "maintenance" of the Master's programme to make it even more attractive and competitive, improving its quality and bringing it even more into line with your expectations. You have provided us with very useful insights that will certainly help us in this upcoming Master restoration work.

This wonderful adventure is a unique and unrepeatable opportunity to achieve goals that none of us would ever have imagined. So let's enjoy this fantastic journey and let us all, students and teachers, be surprised by what our Master's programme will still be able to give us.

Have a good trip and a happy academic year,

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

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## Academic calendar

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**Autumn semester 2023–24**

Courses start 18.09.2023

Holidays  
 All saints • 01.11.2023  
 Immaculate Conception • 08.12.2023

Courses end 22.12.2023

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**Exam sessions**

Winter session  
 MC 1<sup>st</sup> sem • 30.01.2024  
 MC 3<sup>rd</sup> sem • 01.02.2024  
 OSCE 1<sup>st</sup> sem • 09.02.2024

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**Spring semester 2024**

Courses start 19.02.2024

Easter holidays 01–05.04.2024

Dies academicus 04.05.2024

Holidays  
 Saint Joseph's Day • 19.03.2024  
 Good Friday • 29.03.2024  
 Labour Day • 01.05.2024  
 Ascension Day • 09.05.2024  
 Whit Monday • 20.05.2024  
 Corpus Domini • 30.05.2024

Courses end 31.05.2024

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**Exam  
sessions**

Summer session

- MC 2<sup>nd</sup> sem • 04.07.2024
- MC 4<sup>th</sup> sem • 27.06.2024
- MC 6<sup>th</sup> sem • 02.07.2024
- OSCE 2<sup>nd</sup> sem • 08.07.2024
- OSCE 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> sem • 10.06.2024
- OSCE 6<sup>th</sup> sem • 05.07.2024

- 
- Recovery session 1<sup>st</sup> year • 20.08.2024
  - Recovery session 2<sup>nd</sup> year • 22.08.2024
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**Faculty of Biomedical Sciences**

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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, a doctoral programme, 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](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.

#### Dean's office secretary, Master thesis

Claudia Wyss

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

#### PhD and MD-PhD programmes

Lucie Bourban

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

#### MC exams, Elective term

Irene Menghini-Cagni

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

#### OSCE exams, Skills Lab

Elisa Ostinelli

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

#### Programme management

Monica Link

[monica.link@usi.ch](mailto:monica.link@usi.ch)

#### Student affairs

Solange Cingari

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

#### MPHC administration, Continuing education, Dr. med, Travel and accommodation

Mina Curcic

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

#### Didactic material, Logistics

Marco Bianchi

[marco.bianchi@usi.ch](mailto:marco.bianchi@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, adjunct professors and Private Dozent of the Faculty.

Representatives of the intermediate and student body are also members.

The Faculty counts more than 26 full Professors, 3 Assistant Professors, 52 Adjunct Professors, 42 Privat Dozent and 37 Clinical lecturer.

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

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](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)

### Development and Institutional Relations

office Main Building, 232  
tel + 41 58 666 49 27  
e-mail [maria.cristina.reinhart@usi.ch](mailto: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](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. Francini 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 programme 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

## 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 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 personalise 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 2023-24 are:

- O-001 Airways management techniques, Cassina
- O-002 Clinical toxicology, Ceschi
- O-003 Bandages, casts, wounds, and infiltrations, Delcogliano
- O-004 ATLS and polytrauma management, Delcogliano
- O-005 Point of care ultrasound POCUS, Wytenbach
- 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-015 Machine learning for medical students, Zambon
- 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-022 Brain and music, Riccitelli
- O-023 Morphology-based approach to understand diseases: gastro-intestinal tract, liver and pancreas, 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

**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. Every student is responsible for the organisation of his/her own internship. All students must insert into "CandMedInternships" the entire programme of their Elective term and submit it online by 30 May of the fourth semester. If the programme 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 31 March of the sixth semester), the ECTS will be accredited. 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 analyse 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 topics**

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

**Repetition blocs**

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

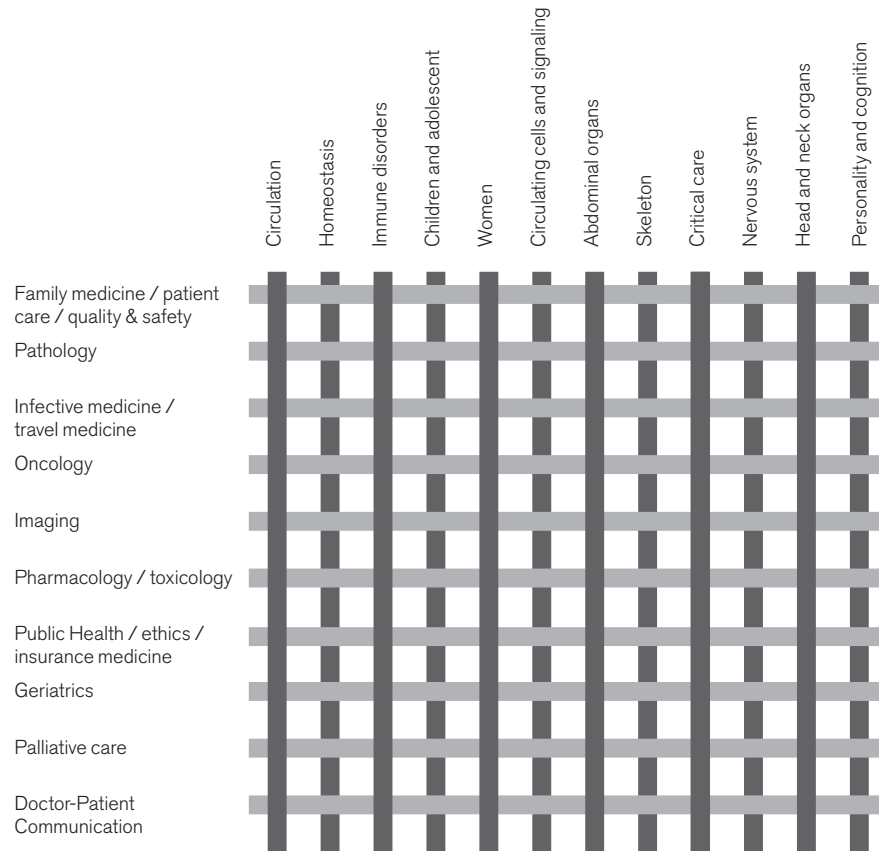
|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>First semester</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Circulation (heart and vessels)</li> <li>• Homeostasis (respiration, hemodynamics, fluids and electrolytes)</li> <li>• Immune disorders (immunology, rheumatology, dermatology)</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</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>• 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 and repetition blocs   |

## Study programme

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

**Semester enrolment renewal**

Enroled 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. More information under: [www.desk.usi.ch/en/certificates](http://www.desk.usi.ch/en/certificates)

**Fees and scholarships**

**Fees**  
Tuition fee for all students enroled 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 specialised 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).

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 exam) is a test in which the knowledge and skills acquired during the prior semester are evaluated.
2. For each semester one MC exam is organised. The exam duration is four hours for semesters I and II and four and a half hours for semesters III, IV and VI.
3. For the transition to the following year, the average of the two semesters MC exams is applied. 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 Objective Clinical Structured Examination (OSCE) is a practical test that evaluates the clinical capabilities of students.
2. There are 4 examinations:
  - a formative examination with feedback at the end of the semester I, with 6 stations on the contents of the same semester;
  - a formative examination with feedback at the end of the semester II, with 4 stations on the contents of the same semester;
  - a summative examination at the end of semester IV with 10 stations on the contents of semesters I, II, III and IV;
  - a formative examination with feedback at the end of semester VI, with 6 stations on the contents of the entire study course.
3. Participation at the OSCEs is compulsory.
4. There are no OSCE retake sessions. The OSCE failed at the end of Semester IV may be repeated the following year and does not entail repeating the year.
5. Each station will involve the active participation of actors simulating a designated clinical case.

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.
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.

**Exam enrolment**

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 organised 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.

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 authorisation of the Dean.

The student on a leave maintains his or her enrolment by paying a reduced tuition fee of CHF 100 per semester (as per the *General regulations for admission and matriculation at USI*) and retains the benefits connected with student the 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 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 programmes outside Europe, as well as any other study abroad programmes, 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 programmes, 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 programmes 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](http://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](http://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](http://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 programme and has many more features. To access the platform, please use your personal edu-ID: [www.icorsi.ch](http://www.icorsi.ch).

### **Exams**

Exam registration and consultation [www.esami.lu.usi.ch](http://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](http://www.amboss.com). Students 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 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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**2023/24**