

Bern University
of Applied Sciences

Study Abroad Guide

Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering & Management Science

▸ Engineering and Information Technology

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Cover image: Study Abroad in Mexico. Photo: Arjen Pels.

Why study abroad?

Studying abroad during your bachelor studies will equip you with the tools and experience necessary to thrive in today's globalized and complex world.

Studying abroad will allow you to

Strengthen your global perspective	Enhance your cross-cultural communication skills
Become a more dynamic and creative problem-solver	Develop complementary interests/skills
Build your international network of friends/future colleagues	Enhance your post-graduation prospects



«If you're on the fence about doing a semester abroad, just go for it! It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Don't let the fear of extending your studies by one semester hold you back. You'll be working for the next 30–40 years anyway, and starting your career six months later won't make a difference in the long run.»

Arjen Pels, Student, BFH Industrial Engineering and Management Science, Exchange student at the University Tecnológico de Monterrey in Mexico (2026)

Exchange possibilities

4 **There are three ways in which you can spend a semester abroad while enrolled at the BFH:**

	Swiss European Mobility Programme SEMP (former Erasmus)	Bilateral agreements	Free mover
Eligible universities	Listed in the MoveOn platform	The BFH could sign a bilateral agreement with a non-EU/EFTA university (not guaranteed)	Student's choice
Transfer of credits	Guaranteed. Modules must be specified in the learning agreement signed by the BFH and the host university	Guaranteed. Modules must be specified in the learning agreement signed by the BFH and the host university	Students must get approval from the BFH before applying to the host university
Application	Nomination by the BFH	Nomination by the BFH	Students must meet the application requirements of the host university. The application is sent to them directly.
Tuition fee	Regular BFH semester fee	Regular BFH tuition	Tuition fee of the home university for international students
Grants	Grants from the Swiss European Mobility Programme for up to 2 semesters	No scholarship paid by the BFH	No scholarship paid by the BFH

FAQs

Stay opportunities

When should I go?

We recommend you go abroad during your 4th or 5th semester. During semester 6 your workload will be high (thesis) and you won't be able to make the most out of your experience abroad.

How long should I go?

You can go abroad for one or two semesters.

How much should I pay?

As part of the Swiss-European Mobility program, students are eligible for a grant of approx. CHF 1900 (the exact amount depends on the coutry of destination and it is determined by the BFH Global Engagement Office).

How far ahead should I start planning?

Students are encouraged to discuss the possibilities of going abroad with the international advisor a good six to eight months in advance. See the examples below:

Study abroad	Start planning and collect information	Apply online	Prepare your stay
3rd semester (Autumn semester)	2nd semester	CW 2	2nd semester
4th semester (Spring semester)	2nd semester	CW 32	3rd semester

Where do I start?

- Check the list of partner universities for the program (see QR code above) bfh.adv-pub.moveon4.de/stay-opportunities
- Get a counseling interview with our International Advisor Prof. Dr. Maria Franco (maria.francomosquera@bfh.ch) to answer questions about the application procedure, module selection, and so on.
- Submit an online application through the MoveOn platform within the deadlines (deadline for autumn semester: CW 2 and for spring semester: CW 32)
- Confirm your nomination at the selected partner university and receive information about the details of becoming an exchange student abroad (application, housing, course registration).

Other international opportunities

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Technical internships abroad

Are you interested in an internship abroad? IAESTE Switzerland is an organization for the exchange of students at higher education institutions wishing to obtain technical experience internationally.

To check available posts for internships abroad, please visit: iaeste.ch/en/students/

Travel the world as a volunteer

ICYE offers volunteer stays worldwide and allows you to participate in projects at any country of your choice.

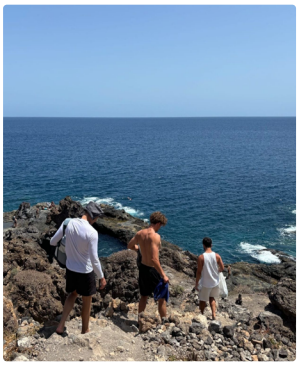
To know more, visit: icye.ch

Certificate of Global Competence

This certificate offers you the opportunity to acquire additional intercultural and transcultural skills as part of your regular studies at the BFH – and to provide evidence of this to future employers.

For more information, visit the following link: bfh.ch/en-glocal-competence

Discover more student testimonials: bfh.ch/wing#studieren-im-ausland



«My Study Abroad experience in Valencia was very positive. I met many people from different countries, experienced Spanish culture and everyday life, and had the opportunity to study in an international environment. I also travelled, improved my communication skills, and became more independent. Overall, it was a very valuable experience both personally and academically.»

Oskar Kozloski, Student, BFH Industrial Engineering and Management Science, Exchange Student at the University Politècnica de València, Spain (2026)



«Studying at a different university with new teaching methods and areas of focus was very enriching. Collaborating with international students broadened my perspective and helped me better understand the diversity of industrial engineering and my own place within the field.»

Ruedi Trachsel, Student, BFH Industrial Engineering and Management Science, Exchange student at the Technical University of Applied Sciences Lübeck, Germany (2021)

«When the semester started, the biggest shift from my home university was the academic style. The classes here are highly interactive and focused on solving real-world challenges for actual companies, which make up the bulk of your final grade. The semester here in Mexico is split into three 5-week blocks with special weeks in between. Since I didn't have to attend those special weeks, I used the time to travel.»

Curdin Sauser, Student, BFH Industrial Engineering and Management Science, Exchange student at the University Tecnológico de Monterrey in Mexico (2026)





«Study Abroad helped me get to know myself better. One of the best feelings is coming home and having people coming up to you telling you how much you've changed. You don't really notice it yourself because you live in the Study Abroad bubble, but those who visited or saw me afterwards all mentioned it. I've enjoyed many places, but I don't think there will ever be another city I'll call my second home and want to return to so easily.»

Nicolas Theubet, Student, BFH Industrial Engineering and Management Science, Exchange Student at the University Politècnica de València, Spain (2026)

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Industrial Engineering and Management Science

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Do not hesitate to contact us for further
information regarding opportunities abroad.

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