Faculty of Medicine
Two thousand students are enrolled in the Faculty of Medicine; of these, 200 pass their state examinations every year. Over 600 academic instructors are available to provide education and training.

Zurich is the largest of the five medical schools in Switzerland. It is distinguished by world-class scientific activities in basic biomedical research and in applied clinical research. The university hospitals guarantee high-quality healthcare.

The Faculty of Medicine takes pride in having two Nobel Prize winners: Walter Rudolf Hess and Rolf M. Zinkernagel won the Nobel Prize in medicine in 1949 and 1996, respectively.

The Faculty of Medicine intends to maintain and further expand its leading role in teaching and research among its global competitors. Its strategic objectives include the promotion of national and international partnerships. It collaborates with competent partners in other departments at the University of Zurich and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich.

Fostering of the next generation in research, education and advanced training and the achievement of medical excellence are the standards by which the Faculty of Medicine judges its performance.

Prof. Dr. Dr. Klaus W. Grätz
Dean
ORGANIZATION

Faculty Council
Dean

Vice Deans’ Offices:
➤ Studies (Preclinical)
➤ Studies (Clinical)
➤ Research
➤ Resources
➤ Clinical (Medical Director of University Hospital)
➤ Junior staff development
➤ Dentistry (Director of the Center for Dental and Oral Medicine and Cranio-Maxillofacial Surgery)

Faculty Committee
7 specialist areas:
➤ Women and children
➤ Basic subjects
➤ Internal medicine
➤ Clinical neurosciences and psychiatry
➤ Surgery
➤ Interdisciplinary subjects
➤ Dentistry

Faculty Assembly

HIGH QUALITY OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

With the clearly defined structure of its courses of study, the Faculty of Medicine provides a high-quality, internationally compatible education. It was one of the first medical schools in Europe to implement the Bologna model.

The University of Zurich is a member of the League of European Research Universities (LERU), a consortium of the leading research universities in Europe. The LERU works primarily to support basic research.

The Faculty of Medicine undergoes regular evaluations of its performance in teaching, research and continuing education.
With its university and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, the research and education center of Zurich has two outstanding institutions that work together closely in numerous areas. This makes Zurich an attractive academic center with enormous potential for scientists from Switzerland and abroad.
UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS GUARANTEE HIGH-QUALITY HEALTHCARE

The Faculty of Medicine has close ties to the Zurich university hospitals, as their department heads are members of the faculty. The university hospitals are primary institutions of education and advanced training and guarantee the provision of high-quality healthcare.

The University Hospital Zurich (USZ) includes 42 clinics and institutes which are organized in 9 medical fields. It has more than 1000 beds. Over 30,000 patients are treated as inpatients and 160,000 outpatient consultations are performed annually. Thanks to the proximity to university research, USZ offers its Swiss and foreign patients the latest and best treatment methods.

Other university hospitals which are independent of USZ round off the range of medical services offered.

The Balgrist University Hospital is recognized worldwide as a leading, highly specialized competence center for the assessment, treatment and rehabilitation of all damage to the musculoskeletal system. The clinic’s international renown is based on a meticulously coordinated, interdisciplinary network that unites the medical specialties of orthopedics, paraplegiology, radiology, anesthesiology, rheumatology and physical medicine under one roof.

The University Children’s Hospital Zurich is a non-profit institution serving all children and adolescents, funded by the Eleonoren foundation. It consists of a medical clinic and a surgical clinic. The University Children’s Hospital Zurich has also offered pediatric cardiac surgery since 2004. Highly specialized interdisciplinary teams in all areas ensure comprehensive treatment and care of patients.

The Psychiatric University Hospital Zurich maintains sectoral basic care for the 350,000 residents of the greater Zurich area as well as regional and supraregional special services. A total of 1,200 staff members work in multidisciplinary teams.

The Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry is responsible for the care of children and adolescents with mental illnesses in the canton of Zurich.
The University of Zurich was founded in 1833. It was the first university in Europe that was founded independently of the Church or a sovereign. Initially, it had four faculties: theology, law and political science, medicine and philosophy. With two chairs and four associate professorships, the Faculty of Medicine was considered to be one of the best equipped faculties. The subjects taught included anatomy, physiology, pathology and treatment, surgery, obstetrics, pharmacology and ophthalmology. Beginning in the 1860s, individual disciplines were divided, split off or introduced, which led to increasing specialization. The number of medical professorships doubled to 12 in the first 50 years after the founding of the faculty. Another dozen were added in the following half-century. By 1962, the faculty had 41 members; in 1980 this figure had nearly doubled to 81 members. The Faculty of Medicine currently has 150 members. During the first century of its existence, the number of students quadrupled at the faculty to more than 400. During the same period, just under 3000 dissertations were completed. With more than 2000 students, the University of Zurich has the largest medical faculty in Switzerland.

FIRST DEMOCRATICALLY FOUNDED UNIVERSITY IN EUROPE

In 1949, Walter Rudolf Hess, professor of physiology at the University of Zurich from 1917 to 1951, won the Nobel Prize in medicine.

In 1996, Rolf M. Zinkernagel, professor of experimental immunology at the University of Zurich from 1979 to 2008, won the Nobel Prize in medicine.

NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS IN THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE
SUCCESS THROUGH COOPERATION

The Faculty of Medicine is an international leader in biomedical research. It focuses on the neurosciences, molecular medicine, oncology, cardiovascular specialties, transplant medicine and immunology. The immediate proximity to the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich creates an attractive environment for successful collaboration. The two universities have established a high-performance network in the area of biomedicine known as Life Science Zurich in order to master the challenges of biomedical research together.
440 scientists work at the **Neuroscience Center Zurich**, which was jointly founded by the University of Zurich and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich in 1998. It combines basic research with applied clinical research in a targeted manner. Some 100 research groups cover the entire range of neurosciences. The Neuroscience Center Zurich offers attractive opportunities for young researchers who are beginning their careers. It offers a three-year doctoral program in the neurosciences.
In molecular medicine, the examination of biological processes goes right down to the level of individual molecules. Genetic engineering methods, molecular structural analysis and aspects of molecular and clinical pharmacology are applied in equal measure. This «molecular perspective» is gaining significance in important areas such as cancer research and immunological research. The strong interdisciplinary focus of molecular medicine makes this research expensive. Efficient networks for the exchange of information and joint operation of infrastructures are absolutely essential. The University of Zurich and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich therefore logically operate a joint competence center for functional genetic research in the area of genetic engineering. The **Functional Genomics Center Zurich** ensures that researchers at the University of Zurich and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich have access to the latest technology and methods of genome research and bioinformatics.
LEADING TRANSPLANT CENTER

The University Hospital Zurich is one of the leading transplant centers, with many years of extensive experience in transplant medicine. Immunological research on issues of transplant rejection plays a major role in the ongoing development of transplant medicine. Live organ donation and the cultivation of organ tissue in the laboratory are promising alternatives to conventional organ transplantation which are being further developed by the Faculty of Medicine.

CARDIOVASCULAR SCIENCE – A RESEARCH FOCUS WITH A LONG TRADITION

For more than half a century, Zurich has decisively shaped the ongoing medical development in the field of cardiovascular science. In 1977, the world’s first percutaneous angioplasty of a coronary blood vessel stenosis was carried out and the foundation for interventional cardiology was laid. Today, the focus is on vascular diseases such as arteriosclerosis and coronary heart disease. A further emphasis is on cardiovascular imaging with ultrasound, magnetic resonance, computer tomography and nuclear medicine techniques. In cardiac surgery, the focus is on projects such as cardiac support systems, tissue engineering, minimally invasive surgical techniques and the use of surgical robots.

ONCOLOGY – PIONEERING APPROACHES TO CANCER TREATMENT

40 clinics, departments and institutes conduct oncological research at the Faculty of Medicine. Their expertise in oncology is both nationally and internationally renowned. Tumor cell biology, tumor immunology, tumor vaccination, tumor genetics and molecular oncology are important current approaches in the treatment of cancer, which are actively pursued by the Faculty of Medicine.

With the Cancer Network Zurich, the University and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology have created an interdisciplinary platform that facilitates close collaboration between basic research and patient-oriented clinical cancer research.
The University of Zurich has a Center for Clinical Research (ZKF) located at the University Hospital Zurich. The center supports University Hospital research groups in conducting clinical studies. For this purpose, it provides a clinical trials center with trained personnel for research focused on test subjects and patients. The execution of clinical studies is an important prerequisite for the development of new treatment methods.

The work of the center contributes to quality assurance in clinical research and its competitiveness in national and international arenas.
The Faculty of Medicine has completely restructured its degree programs in medicine and dentistry and adapted them to the specifications of the new Swiss Federal law on medical professions.

The individual years of study are now linked with one another. The teaching of medical competences and skills is central to the practice-oriented, interdisciplinary training of future physicians as the basis for advanced training.

In human medicine, the program of study consists of a three-year Bachelor’s degree and a three-year Master’s degree. For the Swiss Federal degree with a Swiss physician’s diploma, a Master’s degree from the university is required.

The program of study in dentistry is divided into a three-year Bachelor’s degree and a two-year Master’s degree.

Since 2008, the Faculty of Medicine has also offered a course of study in chiropractic in accordance with the new Swiss law on medical professions.

Together with other universities in Europe and the United States, the Faculty of Medicine maintains and promotes an intensive student exchange program. The program of study is modular in accordance with the Bologna model and has a credit system based on the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).

The Faculty of Medicine has an Internet-based education portal: www.vam.uzh.ch
ACTIVE RESEARCH DURING THE COURSE OF STUDY

The Faculty of Medicine emphatically supports students who have a profound interest in research even during their initial studies.

The degree programs in medicine and dentistry are divided into a core course of study and an elective course of study. The elective course of study takes into account the student’s interests in a freely selected field in which the contents of the medical program are pursued in further depth or new content can be studied. As a rule, medical students can choose in their elective courses to focus on either «clinical medicine» or «biomedical sciences». There is also the option of a MD-PhD program, which is an ideal basis for a later career in research.

In addition, a specialized Master’s program, which is leading to a Master of Science in Medical Biology is aimed at medical doctors who have already obtained their degree in medicine.

TRAINING FOR FUTURE DENTISTS

Students of dental medicine complete their programs with the «Master of Dental Medicine» and subsequently the Swiss Federal dentist’s diploma. The degree program lasts five years, and is divided into a three-year Bachelor’s degree and a two-year Master’s degree. The first two years are done together with the students of human medicine.

The clinical training takes place at the Center for Dental and Oral Medicine and Cranio-Maxillofacial Surgery (ZZMK) of the University of Zurich. The center includes five clinics and a research institute, and has space for 44 students per yearly course. The primary goal of the center is to foster and maintain oral health by providing high-quality treatment and care.

MASTER’S LEVEL TRAINING IN CHIROPRACTIC

Future chiropractors have been studying in Zurich since 2008. With the inclusion of chiropractic in the new Swiss law on medical professions, this course of study is available in Switzerland only at the University of Zurich. After completion of the three-year Bachelor’s program in medicine, a three-year specialized Master’s program must also be completed. Students complete their course with the «Master of Chiropractic Medicine» and a subsequent Swiss state examination.
Zurich is the largest city in Switzerland, easily accessible from the international airport in only 10 minutes. It is situated on the northern end of Lake Zurich and offers an impressive view of the Swiss Alps.

The opera house, the theater, the concert hall and the art museum all bear witness to Zurich’s reputation as a major cultural center. There are also innovative small theater companies, live music venues, and several stadiums and concert halls.

The wide range of culinary delights on offer likewise leaves nothing to be desired.

Facilities are available for all types of sports. The Swiss Alps are close by and easily accessible for winter sports. Internationally renowned sporting events are also held in Zurich.

In various international city rankings for quality of life, Zurich appears at or near the top of the lists every year.