

Frequently Asked Questions

1. When do I know if I have been accepted by the Graduate Institute of International Development Studies, Geneva?

Answer: Early March

2. Do I need to apply for VISA? When can I do this?

Answer: Yes, students need to apply for a visa 3 months prior to the start of the semester and a student permit upon their arrival. Further information will be provided to all admitted students.

3. How do I apply for accommodation? What kind of accommodation is available around the university?

Answer: Admitted students can apply for accommodation in the student house. Further details will be provided by Graduate Institute in due course.

4. How much is the living expense in Geneva for a year?

Answer: It is recommended to budget approximately 2'000 CHF per month (housing included) for living expenses in Geneva; therefore a total of 18'000 CHF for a 9-month stay. Please click here for a [budget estimate](#).

5. What should I do on my arrival day? Will the pick-up service be available?

Answer: Starting from April, confirmed students will have access to an online platform with all information needed to prepare their arrival. There is no pick-up service from the airport, but Geneva is a small city and the airport is a 20-min bus drive from the school. Details will be provided to each participating students individually prior to arrival.

6. How do I get to the University from Airport?

Answer: Details can be found here graduateinstitute.ch/access

7. What language does Swiss speak? Will I learn their language during my stay at GIIDS?

Answer: The Graduate Institute, Geneva is a bilingual English-French institution. All master students without prior knowledge of French will need to undertake an intensive summer course and an annual 2-hour weekly language class. Information will be provided to admitted students. Geneva is a multicultural city with people from different nationalities, but the official language is French. Switzerland has two official languages that are French and Swiss-German.

8. When and how can I register for courses?

Answer: Registration will take place in September prior to the start of the semester.

9. Are there any course restrictions for certain departments?

Answer: Master programmes at the Graduate Institute, Geneva are interdisciplinary with a wide choice of courses in different disciplines. Nevertheless, each programme has its own study plan with compulsory courses and prerequisites. Study plans can be found on the courses catalogue (graduateinstitute.ch/courses) and can be explained by the Academic Adviser individually prior to application or before class registration. You may see the contact list of academic advisers here ([Academic Adviser](#))

10. How many units should I do in a semester?

Answer: For a master degree, students are required to successfully obtain 120 ECTS (European Credits) over 2 years. Students will usually undertake 5 semester courses over one semester (course meets 2hr/week over 14 weeks) and write the master dissertation (18 ECTS) in the final semester.

11. Can I register courses which are offered at another campus?

Answer: Yes, students of master programmes can take up to 12 ECTS in another university, according to each study plan. Students can check with the Academic Advisor before the start of a semester. For details, please refer to the study regulations available here: graduateinstitute.ch/students

12. Can I work while I'm on exchange?

Answer: It is not recommended to work part-time during an exchange semester due to work permit regulations.

13. What is the percentage of international students in this programme?

Answer: Over 80%

14. Are there any scholarship/grant available for international student to apply?

Answer: Students can apply for financial aid for the second year at their Graduate Institute.

15. Is there any financial assistance available?

Answer: Yes. Please see the details of financial aid available at the Institute here: <http://graduateinstitute.ch/tuition>

16. What should I do if I want to work at Geneva after graduation?

Answer: The Institute's career service provides advice to all students during their programmes to prepare for their professional trajectory. To work in Geneva requires finding an employer and obtaining thereafter a work permit. For details, please visit: <http://graduateinstitute.ch/home/students/careerServices.html>.