

Frequently Asked Questions

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

Answer: Early March

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

Answer: Yes, students are required 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 in due course.

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/residence. Further details will be provided by IHEID in due course. Please note that accommodation is not guaranteed, student may also be required to explore off-campus accommodation on their own.

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.

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: Access details can be found here: graduateinstitute.ch/discover-institute/visiting-us.

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

Answer: IHEID 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 IHEID 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 refer to the contact of the academic adviser here: graduateinstitute.ch/students/academic-information/academic-advising.

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 Adviser before the start of a semester. For details, please refer to the academic policies and regulations available here: graduateinstitute.ch/academic-policies.

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 the IHEID.

15. Is there any financial assistance available?

Answer: Yes. Please see the details of financial aid available at the Institute here: 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: graduateinstitute.ch/career.

September 6, 2021