

## Research Abroad at a Top European Research University



The banner features the 'isa' logo in the top left corner. To its right are three social media icons: Facebook, Twitter, and RSS. Below the isa logo is the text 'EUROScholars' with a small tagline. The main text reads 'UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH with the EuroScholars Program'. On the right side, it says 'STUDY IN EUROPE' followed by '9 TOP RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES IN 6 COUNTRIES'. At the bottom left, there is a logo for 'with isa'. On the right side of the banner is a photograph of three students sitting on wooden steps, studying with laptops and books.

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### **University in the spotlight: University of Zurich**



Founded in 1833, the University of Zurich is Switzerland's largest university, with a current enrolment of over 25,000 students. UZH numbers among Europe's most prestigious research universities, and many distinctions highlight the University's international renown, including twelve Nobel Prizes. Our scholars are pioneers in the fields of medicine, immunology, genetics, neuroscience, structural biology, and economics.

Over 5,000 highly qualified members of the teaching staff, including some 500 professors, teach and conduct research at one of the university's seven faculties: Science; Medicine; Veterinary Medicine; Business, Economics and Informatics; Arts and Social Sciences; Law; and Theology. Our university places great value on diversity: approximately 18 percent of the student body and 38 percent of the teaching staff are of foreign nationality, thus contributing to the university's international character.

In addition to the excellent academic programs, students at UZH can take advantage of an extraordinarily wide range of sporting and leisure activities. The Academic Sports Association (ASVZ) offers over 120 kinds of sports, from African dance to yoga. It also includes attractive courses such as sailing on Lake Zurich or hiking in the Swiss mountains.

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### **Attractive Location**



Zurich is the largest city in Switzerland and one of the country's major economic and cultural centers. There are excellent opportunities for shopping, sports, and leisure activities as well as a unique and broad variety of cultural institutions and events in Zurich. Situated in the heart of Europe, the city's location is uniquely convenient – and attractive, with Lake Zurich and the Swiss Alps at its doorstep. Zurich is also considered one of the safest cities in Europe and earned top marks in a recently published worldwide ranking by the British magazine *The Economist*.

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**“A Once-in-a-Lifetime Opportunity” – A Report on a EuroScholars Student at UZH**





As part of the EuroScholars program, physics student Liting (Sophia) Xiao is on a research stay for two semesters at the University of Zurich. Sophia chose UZH because she believes this is the best place for her to live out her passion for elementary particle physics – and her love of exotic sports. The curious and adventurous physicist sees her stay in Zurich as a dream come true: “I had wanted to come to Europe for a long time, but I couldn’t during my studies in the US.”

It was the promising opportunities to conduct research in the field of particle physics that drew Sophia to the University of Zurich. After earning her Bachelor’s degree in physics and astronomy at the University of Virginia, Sophia was initially torn between the world of subatomic particle physics and the wide expanse of the universe. In the end, she decided to focus on atomic particles in her future work. And UZH tempted her with several fascinating projects.

In the scope of the EuroScholars program, Sophia has been able to work in the experiments with the particle accelerator at Cern: the Large Hadron Collider (LHC). “It’s a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to gain experience,” she says. The promising young researcher from Shenzhen is working in Florencia Canelli’s group, where the decay of elementary particles is studied using the CMS detector of the LHC. It was the Large Hadron Collider – an instrument the size of a house – that physicists used to prove the existence of the Higgs Boson in 2013, a feat that was honored with the Nobel Prize. Canelli’s current work focuses on closely defining the behavior and characteristics of the Higgs Boson, especially in its interactions with the top quark. Sophia works on the software that enables the CMS detector to measure the results.

“I love this work,” Sophia says. “I made a good decision.” But the young physicist isn’t only excited about her research; she also raves about the inspiring campus environment at UZH. She is especially happy with the ASVZ sports program and has tried out several new activities, including kickboxing, archery, and fencing.

As for the future, Sophia’s next steps are already planned. This fall she’ll be starting her PhD – and she has the luxury of choosing between Caltech, Princeton, and Yale.

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## Mid-Stay at UZH

Every semester, students in the EuroScholars program are invited to one of the participating universities for a “Mid-Stay Meeting.” This spring, the event will be held at the University of Zurich, from April 19th to 22nd. Fifteen students from the program will present their projects, share experiences, and get to know UZH and the city of Zurich.

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## EuroScholars Projects at UZH

EuroScholars students at UZH can currently choose from around 18 research projects in different fields, including physics, medicine, pharmacology, psychology, big data and business analytics, and political science. The following project has recently become available:

New Project: [Treatment of obesity and its comorbidities](#)

To read about more projects, please go to: <http://euroscholars.eu/search-projects>

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## New Project at the University of Geneva

With the new research project at the University of Geneva titled “[Parliamentary Careers in Comparison](#)”, we propose to carry out an encompassing analysis of parliamentary candidates and parliamentarians and their activities in Switzerland and Germany from 1949 to today. While parliamentary career research has often been rather descriptive, i.e. theoretically underspecified, confined to single countries, and/or non-dynamic, we aim to investigate biographical and behavioural data of parliamentary candidates and parliamentarians with partly novel tools (such as sequence analysis) and over long periods of time in order to obtain a fuller and dynamic picture of parliamentary careers.

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## Upcoming Conferences 2016

### California Study Abroad Town Hall Meeting

May 6, 2016

CSU Dominguez Hills (Carson, LA County)

<http://calabroad.org/townhall.html>

Representatives from ISA are attending this meeting. Should you like to schedule a meeting, please contact: Eva Walthers ([eva@studiesabroad.com](mailto:eva@studiesabroad.com))

### NAFSA, Denver- Colorado

May 29 – June 3, 2016

[http://www.nafsa.org/Attend\\_Events/Annual\\_Conference/](http://www.nafsa.org/Attend_Events/Annual_Conference/)

Some of the members of the EuroScholars Consortium will be in attendance at NAFSA. Should you like to schedule a meeting, please contact: Ms. Usha Mohunlol ([u.c.mohunlol@sea.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:u.c.mohunlol@sea.leidenuniv.nl))

**Visit our poster presentation at NAFSA:**

Wednesday, June 1, 2016 from 8:30 – 10:00 AM: “Undergraduate Research Abroad: Gateway to the Future for North American EuroScholars students”.  
Presented by: Usha Mohunlol (EuroScholars / Leiden University) and Minna Koutaniemi (University of Helsinki)

***Visit our session at NAFSA:***

Friday, June 3, 2016 from 9:30 – 10:30 AM: “Undergraduate Research Abroad: Creating Global Opportunities”.  
Presented by: Usha Mohunlol (EuroScholars / Leiden University), Bessie Guerrant (University of Kentucky), and Kathleen Horn (University of Denver).

**EAIE (European Association for International Education), Liverpool UK**

September 13 - 16, 2016

[www.eaie.org](http://www.eaie.org)

Some of the members of the EuroScholars Consortium will be in attendance at EAIE. Sould you like to schedule a meeting, please contact: Ms. Usha Mohunlol ([u.c.mohunlol@sea.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:u.c.mohunlol@sea.leidenuniv.nl))

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