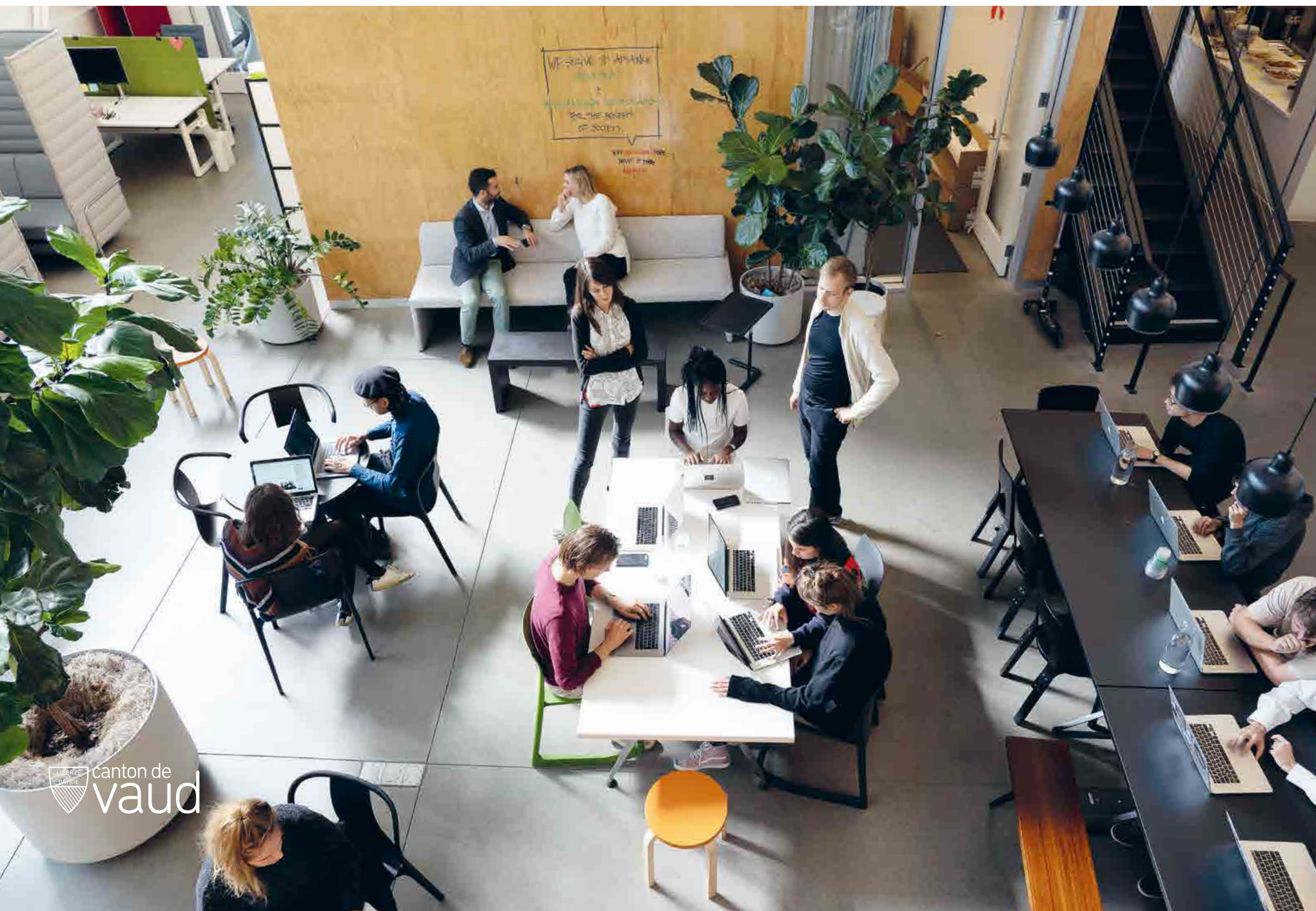
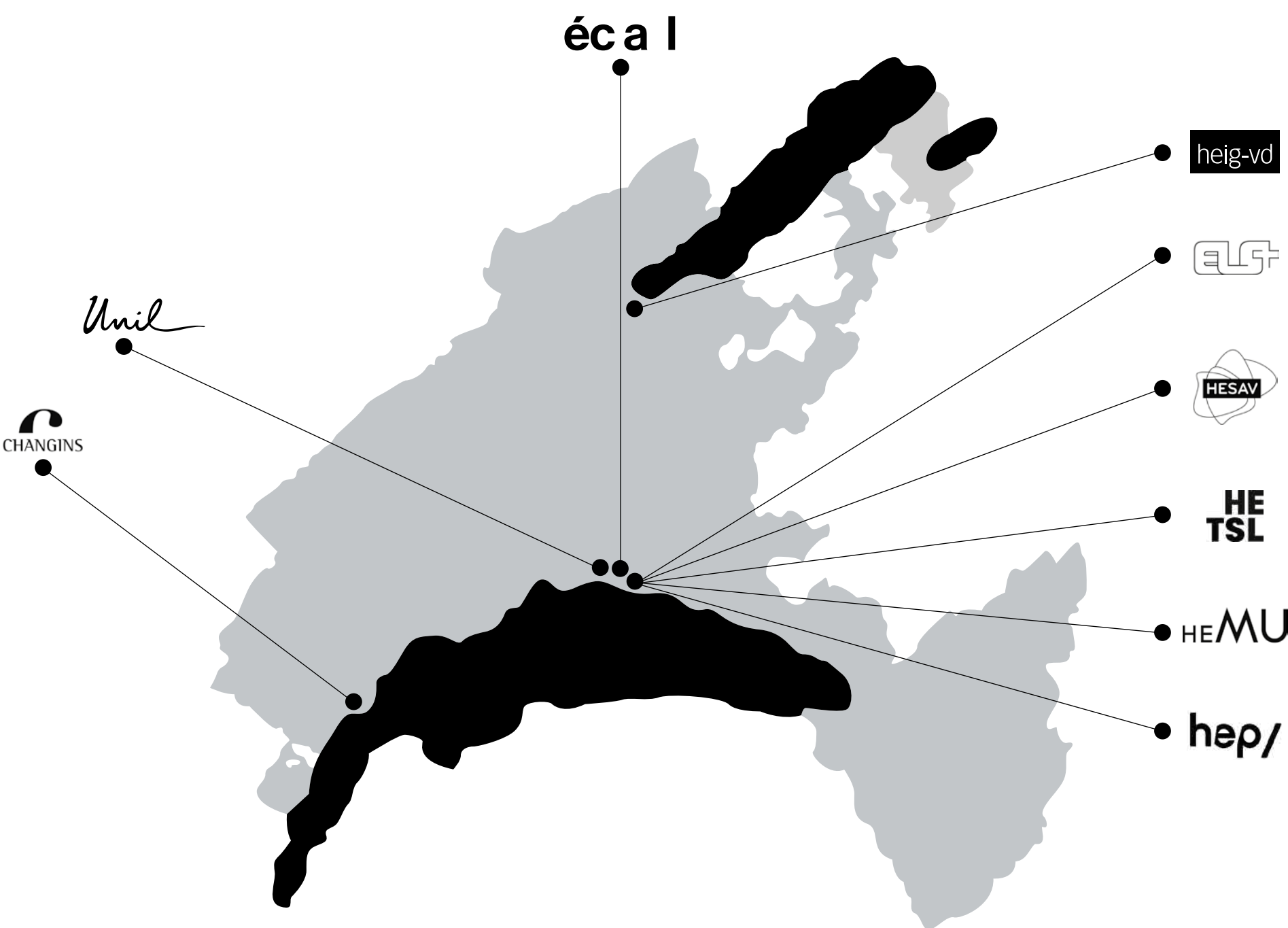


# 2019 – Activities Report International Partnerships in Education & Research

## Department of Education, Youth and Culture Board of Higher Education



# Vaud Institutions of Higher Education



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# Message from/de Cesla Amarelle

State Councillor,  
Head of the Department of Education,  
Youth and Culture, Canton of Vaud

Conseillère d'Etat,  
Cheffe du Département de la formation,  
de la jeunesse et de la culture du Canton de Vaud



Jean-Christophe Bort/KEystone.

The Vaud Institutions of Higher Education are both passionate and serious about their missions for teaching, research and service to society. And they fulfil this mission, first and foremost, within the Canton of Vaud. That's already a lot – but it's not all! Our Institutions of Higher Education are not only grounded locally, they are also open to the world, developing knowledge and technologies deployed internationally. They thus participate fully in healthy emulation and sharing of knowledge beyond our borders.

Our Institutions' students have the chance to experience this double foundation – local and open to other horizons – most notably through the international exchange programs led by the International Affairs Department of the DGES. In 2019, more than 400 students from our Institutions participated in these exchanges through forty-some different programs. These numbers are inspiring: They tangibly demonstrate the relevance of this offer and all the interest it holds for students from here and abroad!

Being anchored locally but open-minded globally are concepts that imply other challenges. Indeed, the year 2019 was impacted by movements and impetus to awaken and rethink our relationship with our environment and urgently respond to the climate crisis. Young people are the drivers of these movements, among them many students. Their concerns are legitimate. The state of the planet touches all aspects of our lives as well as the very future of society. It is urgent to act both locally and globally. This is why the Department of Youth, Education and Culture has decided to face this challenge head-on. Supporting sustainability and reducing the environmental impact of our activities have become priorities. It has become necessary to think of our international exchanges in terms of sustainability – for the young participants, for those who organize these trips, and for all the Vaud Institutions of Higher Education and our international partners.

Curiosity, discovery of others and travel have always been vital for a fair and conscientious society to flourish. Within an educational curriculum and a life's path, the experience of travelling is an undeniable plus. Thus, faced with the global socio-environmental crisis, it is our duty to review and consider all our practices from a sustainability perspective. Together, locally and globally, this requires balancing the objectives of education and openness to the world with a view to attaining carbon-neutralization targets set by international agreements – so that the young people of today inherit a world with broad, peaceful horizons.

Les hautes écoles du canton de Vaud remplissent avec passion et sérieux leurs missions d'enseignement, de recherche et de service à la société. Et elles le font en premier lieu ici, sur le territoire vaudois. C'est déjà beaucoup, mais ce n'est pas tout! Si nos hautes écoles sont dotées de cet ancrage de proximité, elles sont également ouvertes sur le monde, développant des connaissances et des technologies déployées à l'international. Elles participent ainsi pleinement à l'émulation du savoir au-delà des frontières et au partage nécessaire des connaissances.

Les étudiant•e•s de nos hautes écoles ont la possibilité de faire l'expérience de ce double mouvement d'ancrage à la fois local et ouvert à d'autres horizons, notamment à travers les programmes des Summer Universities chapeautés par les Affaires internationales de la DGES. En 2019, plus de quatre cents étudiant•e•s de nos institutions ont participé à ces échanges, ainsi que cent-nonante étudiant•e•s d'universités partenaires, déployés en une quarantaine de programmes différents. Ces chiffres sont vraiment réjouissants, démontrant la pertinence de cette offre, et tout l'intérêt que les étudiant•e•s d'ici et d'ailleurs lui portent!

Ancrage local et ouverture globale sont des notions qui font résonner d'autres enjeux. L'année 2019 a en effet été traversée par des mouvements et des impulsions qui demandent de repenser notre rapport à l'environnement, et de répondre urgemment à la crise climatique et environnementale. Les jeunes sont à la source de ces mouvements, et parmi ces jeunes il y a de nombreux étudiant•e•s. Les préoccupations exprimées sont légitimes. L'état de la planète touche toutes les facettes de nos vies, ainsi que l'avenir de nos sociétés. Il est urgent d'agir localement comme globalement. C'est pourquoi le Département de la formation, de la jeunesse et de la culture a décidé de s'engager fermement dans ce défi. La durabilité et la réduction de l'impact environnemental de toutes ses activités sont dorénavant une priorité. Ainsi, penser les échanges internationaux également en termes de durabilité est devenu nécessaire, tant pour les jeunes qui y participent

que pour ceux qui organisent ces voyages, et enfin pour l'ensemble des hautes écoles vaudoises et de leurs partenaires internationaux.

La curiosité, la découverte de l'autre et le voyage ont toujours été des moteurs d'épanouissement d'une société juste et consciente. Dans un cursus de formation et un parcours de vie, l'expérience du voyage est un plus indéniable. Ainsi, face au contexte mondial de crise socio-environnementale, il est de notre devoir de réfléchir à l'ensemble de ces pratiques dans une perspective durable. Ensemble, au niveau local et global, il s'agit de concilier les objectifs de formation et d'ouverture au monde en vue d'atteindre les cibles de neutralité carbone fixées par les accords internationaux, pour que les jeunes d'aujourd'hui héritent d'un monde aux horizons ouverts et sereins.

# Message from/de Chantal Ostorero

Director General,  
Board of Higher Education, Canton of Vaud

Directrice générale  
de l'enseignement supérieur du Canton de Vaud



Jean-Christophe Bort/KEYSTONE.

International Affairs at the Board of Higher Education (DGES) are innovating! Yes, innovation is a key term among Institutions of Higher Education and more generally for society as a whole. It is indispensable for research, provides original perspectives to shape teaching, and challenges our ways of life and professional practice. Innovation poses new questions or re-evaluates ones that might have seemed answered – and it opens the way for unexpected responses. In 2019, it was the driver of numerous activities led by the International Affairs team in the Canton of Vaud and around the world. Here are a few examples of these.

In addition to the highly successful student exchanges, a special partnership has developed with swissnex San Francisco – helping demonstrate the value of our effective collaboration. In 2019, swissnex invited several professors from Vaud Institutions of Higher Education to give presentations at a series of events on the theme “Life Cycle”. The perspectives they envisioned? There was exploring the links between science, technology and society, including the interrelationship between cultural imagination and innovation; the role of digital health and the importance of access to reliable information, notably for the most vulnerable populations; and finally the phenomenon of the digital presence in our lives and its implications in the grieving process. So many questions to explore, so vibrantly enriched by these international gatherings.

More innovation news: the DGES led a pilot project in Design Sprint in Lausanne – a unique collaboration with our partner MassChallenge. A dozen students were selected from among candidates studying in Vaud Institutions of Higher Education to form two interdisciplinary teams. These teams took part in an acceleration process pertaining to specific challenges for two startups selected by MassChallenge. All the participants expressed great enthusiasm following the experience. For the students, it was above all the chance to discover what entrepreneurship is like behind the scenes and learn the basics of an innovation methodology. As for the startups, they gained the benefit

of an intensive consulting process that pulls together multiple perspectives. Indeed, for everyone it was a clear opportunity to experience the benefits of collaborative, interdisciplinary work over the course of five days – seen concretely in the prototypes that came out of the process.

Innovative thinking has also led the DGES to actively consider the ecological impact of the air travel inherent in International Affairs. As a first step, the DGES has elected to partially offset this year's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by financing a regeneration project for a peat bog in Switzerland. This is only a first step – yet it is more than a symbolic gesture of our need to respond appropriately and behave consistently in the face of urgent climate challenges. The DGES is continuing its investigation into this issue in collaboration with the Vaud Department of Youth, Education and Culture and in dialogue with all the Institutions of Higher Education. The objective is thus to adopt thoroughly-considered, responsible behaviors. At the same time, we don't forget that openness to the world and innovation are among the keys most needed to best build and fully inhabit our world today and tomorrow.

Les Affaires internationales innoveront à la DGES! Oui, l'innovation est un terme-clé dans le domaine des hautes écoles et plus globalement pour notre société dans son ensemble. Elle est indispensable pour la recherche, offre des perspectives originales aux enseignements et interroge nos modes de vie et pratiques professionnelles. L'innovation pose de nouvelles questions ou remet en mouvement ce qui pouvait sembler acquis et elle permet d'accéder à des réponses inédites. Elle a été le moteur de multiples activités menées par nos Affaires internationales en 2019, dans le canton de Vaud et à travers le monde, dont voici quelques exemples.

En plus des échanges d'étudiant·e·s qui se sont déroulés à grande satisfaction, un partenariat particulier a été noué avec le swissnex de San Francisco, qui a permis de valoriser notre bonne collaboration. Ce dernier a invité plusieurs professeur·e·s de hautes écoles vaudoises à présenter des conférences destinées à une série d'événements portant sur le « Cycle de vie » en 2019. Les perspectives alors envisagées? L'exploration des liens entre science, technologie et société, et l'articulation entre imaginaire culturel et innovation; le rôle de la santé digitale et l'importance de l'accessibilité et de la fiabilité de ces informations, notamment pour les personnes les plus vulnérables; ou encore le phénomène de présence digitale et ses implications dans un processus de deuil... Autant de problématiques qui restent à explorer, mais qui ont été vivement enrichies par ces échanges internationaux.

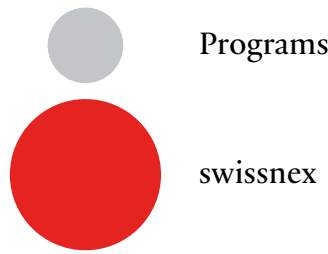
Autre nouveauté en termes d'innovation: la DGES a mené à Lausanne une expérience pilote de Design Sprint – un mode original de collaboration avec notre partenaire MassChallenge. Une douzaine d'étudiant·e·s sélectionnés parmi les candidat·e·s de toutes les hautes écoles vaudoises ont formé deux équipes interdisciplinaires. Ces équipes ont suivi un processus d'accélération de projets appliqué à une problématique choisie par deux start-ups issues de MassChallenge. L'ensemble des participant·e·s a exprimé son enthousiasme à l'issue de ces cinq jours de Design Sprint. Du côté des étudiant·e·s, ce fut

notamment l'occasion de découvrir les coulisses de l'entrepreneuriat et les bases d'une méthodologie de l'innovation, du côté des start-ups de bénéficier d'une forme de consulting intensif tissé de multiples réflexions – enfin pour tous d'expérimenter les bénéfices concrets de l'interdisciplinarité et du travail conjoint durant ces cinq jours, grâce à une réalisation de prototypes à l'issue du processus.

Côté innovation, la DGES a également entamé une réflexion autour de l'impact climatique des voyages en avion inhérents aux Affaires internationales. Une première étape de cette réflexion a mené à la décision de compenser en partie le CO<sub>2</sub> émis cette année par le financement d'un projet de renaturation de tourbière en Suisse. Ce n'est qu'un premier pas – mais il marque plus que symboliquement notre besoin de réponses et de cohérence face aux défis posés par l'urgence climatique. La DGES poursuit sa réflexion, en collaboration avec le DFJC et en dialogue avec l'ensemble des hautes écoles. L'objectif est ainsi d'adopter des comportements réfléchis et responsables, sans oublier que l'ouverture au monde et l'innovation représentent des clés dont il s'agit de se servir au mieux pour façonner et habiter pleinement le monde aujourd'hui et demain.



# Where in the World are We?







# Section 2

Activities Report 2019  
Board of Higher Education, Canton of Vaud  
International Partnerships in Education & Research

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● Interdisciplinary Programs



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# Perspectives on Community Health Nursing



January 7 – 25  
Santiago, Chile

The concept

Bringing together nursing and midwifery students from three continents to learn about approaches to community health in Chile. Students from Switzerland, Chile and the USA gain insights into the challenges, responses and resourcefulness of the region. Yet the experience also prompts them to consider the issues in the larger context, globally and in their own communities.

In 2019

The balance between theoretical and hands-on learning shifted in favor of practical experiences, offering more days and a greater variety. Visits included obstetrics and gynecology departments; maternity and delivery rooms; and community and cultural centres. Through these visits, students gained appreciation of the quality of services offered for groups of varying social strata. Swiss students participated in interprofessional immersion projects done by Chilean students. These are part of a community learning program focused on education and health promotion in the community. It sees students offering free consultations as well as a variety of workshops on subjects such as diabetes, contraception and breast auto-examination.

Key take-aways

Healthcare is influenced by culture and social perspectives of individuals and groups. In Chile, the healthcare system focuses on primary health – prevention and promotion. This was particularly revealed in the community-based projects which demonstrate this priority in a highly concrete manner.

*“I’d say that what marked me most was the welcome we received from Chileans – whether from PUC professors and instructors, or even people on the street – as well as the capacity of health-care professionals to offer so many care interventions and other health-related activities with so little resources.”*

Field: Nursing Sciences  
Years running: 5

Partner institutions:

- Haute Ecole de Santé Vaud (HESAV), Lausanne, Switzerland
- Pontificia Catholic University of Chile (PUC), Santiago, Chile
- Boston College, Boston, USA

Students from Switzerland: 11  
Students from partner countries: 13  
Professors from Switzerland: 1  
Professors from partner countries: 3



# Approaching Vulnerability: India Teaches Nurses



January 7 – 30  
Coimbatore, India

The concept

Rural India, with its unique needs and approaches to health care, offers a rich experience for student nurses from Switzerland. Poverty and its impact on health are among the key challenges. Resourceful and pragmatic care approaches that incorporate values of family, spirituality and culture are important. And all the while, the sights, sounds and tastes the students encounter keep their senses on alert – making every learning experience more memorable.

In 2019

The focal theme was trends and approaches in healthcare delivery for vulnerable populations. Students explored this from different angles through two weeks of institution visits and seminars that taught the solutions and approaches in India, with its particular challenges of size and demographics. This was followed by two weeks of hands-on work: internships at PSG Hospital, debriefing and intercultural group analysis.

Particularly moving

The visit to Shanti Ashram exposed the courage and energy needed to help the very most vulnerable children and women.

ECTS credit work

Students put together presentations on various topics related to the theme and presented these before a jury of nurses and experts from PSG Hospital.

*“[At] a center for vulnerable women, the director explained that they assisted women such as widows, women whose husbands had left them, victims of sexual abuse. It’s important to understand that married women in India can’t necessarily return to their families when there are problems... We had the chance to visit the center and their garden. We do wonder, however, what the future holds for these women and how reintegration into active life and society will go.”*

Field: Nursing Sciences  
Years running: 6

Partner institutions:

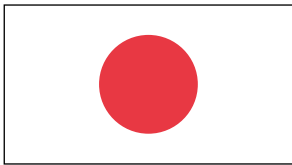

- Haute Ecole de Santé La Source, Lausanne, Switzerland
- Haute Ecole de Santé Vaud (HESAV), Lausanne, Switzerland
- PSG College of Nursing, Coimbatore, India

Students from Switzerland: 15  
Students from partner country: 15  
Professors from Switzerland: 4  
Professors from partner country: 2





# From Japan to Switzerland in Medical Imaging

	February 4 – 15 Tokyo and Fukushima, Japan	The concept	A pair of for-credit exchanges for future Medical Radiology Technologists from Japan and Switzerland to become acquainted with the profession as it is practiced in the other country. Specific themes enrich the learning about the field, the country and the culture.
	October 14 – 25 Lausanne, Switzerland	Japan in February	Students took courses on CT (Computed Tomography) and MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) scanning; Japanese clinical radiology practices in general; and in radioprotection applied to optimizing radiation and image quality. Immersion experiences in a range of radiology units (including nuclear medicine and radiotherapy) focused on the professional's role, skills and responsibilities. They visited the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station which experienced a nuclear disaster in 2011 (following an earthquake and tsunami), where they learned about the radioprotection measures put in place for the environment and population.
		Switzerland in October	Students were initiated to forensic imaging and sciences through exercises and practical demonstrations in imaging techniques used in criminal forensic medicine. This was complemented by courses in forensic sciences, toxicology, DNA analysis and the anthropology of death in the East and West. They also learned about Switzerland and its healthcare and education systems, with a specific focus on their own field. Through observation within radiology units at the CHUV, they explored the role, skills and responsibilities with an accent on radioprotection.

*“A sort of duty of remembrance comes out of this trip [to Japan]. We were but 10 students to bear witness to what is happening in this region where access is prohibited even though it is, according to the power station’s owners, ‘so little contaminated.’”*

Field: Medical Radiology Technology  
Years running: 2

Partner institutions:

• Haute Ecole de Santé Vaud (HESAV),  
Lausanne, Switzerland


• Teikyo University, Tokyo, Japan

Students from Switzerland: 10 (in Japan);  
8 (in Switzerland)  
Students from partner country: 7; 9  
Professors from Switzerland: 2; 10  
Professors from partner country: 7; 2

*Professors from other Swiss institutions also contributed to this program.*



# Physiotherapy in a Hong Kong Context

	February 18 – March 1 Hong Kong	The concept	An optional program module for third-year physiotherapy students from Lausanne’s HESAV that enables them to spend two weeks experiencing physiotherapy studies in Hong Kong alongside local peers. The healthcare and socio-political context is a key distinction to explore, whether through practical and theoretical courses taken at Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU), or during institutional visits.
		In 2019	Introductions to Traditional Chinese Medicine and acupuncture were favorite courses for the students from Switzerland; visits to physiotherapy clinics enabled them to gain a sense of how these techniques integrate into practice. They brought the learning to a deeper level by discussing their observations with peers from PolyU and health professionals, as well as during daily debriefings with their accompanying professor.
		New learning	The students soaked up in-depth theoretical and practical classes in neuro-pediatrics. The subject is not a big part of the curriculum in Lausanne, so they were pleased to add this knowledge – even if they felt a bit lost at first.
		Sight to see	An end-of-day visit to Victoria peak seemed a lost cause – there was no view in a dense fog! But why were local photographers all still waiting up there? It pays to ask: the seasonal afternoon fog gave way to a magnificent illuminated night cityscape.

*“Out of about 3,000 physiotherapists in Hong Kong, 1/3 practice in the public system and 2/3 in private. Yet 85% of the population seeks care in public institutions... We also learned that some people choose to be treated in the public system even though they have the means to access private care, due to the quality of the specialists in some fields.”*

Field: Physiotherapy  
Years running: 5

Partner institutions:

• Haute Ecole de Santé Vaud (HESAV),  
Lausanne, Switzerland

• Hong Kong Polytechnic University,  
Hong Kong


Students from Switzerland: 4  
Professors from Switzerland: 1



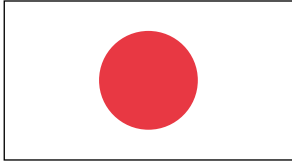


# Nursing Themes Across Japan and Switzerland

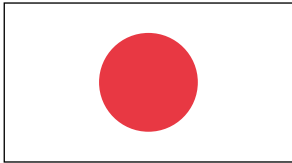
# Delivering New Perspectives on Nursing in Singapore



March 4 – 22  
Lausanne,  
Switzerland



July 2 – 9  
Kyushu, Japan



October 14 –  
November 1  
Hiroshima  
& Tokyo, Japan

The concept

A highly personalized for-credit exchange program where two nursing students are invited to each of the partner schools to partake in classroom and practicum experiences around specific themes.

Spring: Lausanne

Students from Japan came to Switzerland to study four self-selected topics: Smoking from political and health perspectives; maternal and newborn care; psychiatry and constraints; and palliative care. These were explored through lectures, discussions and hands-on training at several institutions in the Canton of Vaud.

Summer: Kyushu

The project focused on the Red Cross and disaster nursing. The Swiss students’ practicums took place at Fukuoka Red Cross Hospital and at a community health centre on the island of Ōshima. There, the students were asked to prepare an emergency response scenario for a natural disaster.


Fall: Tokyo & Hiroshima

The theme in Tokyo was comprehensive nursing with a focus on management and adult nursing. The students in Hiroshima worked in maternity wards, but the context of the atomic bombing, and its mental and physical health impact, was never far.

A royal occasion

In October, the students had a day off to observe the ceremony as Emperor Naruhito ascended the throne – just one example of the strength of tradition in this “high-tech” country.

*“The biggest surprise for us was to see that the Swiss students can ‘touch’ the patient during practical training. In Japan, we cannot give an injection, prepare a medication or anything else directly for a patient, in order to protect them.”*



March 9 – 23  
Singapore

The concept

A discovery of Singaporean nursing education and practice. The multicultural city-state enjoys an efficient healthcare system, advanced medical technologies and health practices that blend Western and Traditional Chinese Medicine. The two-week program balances theoretical and practical courses with numerous institutional visits featuring a wide array of public and private care environments.

In 2019

The program was built around a main theme of women’s health. Courses dealt with pregnancy, delivery and the post-partum period. The subject was particularly interesting as it was approached not only through clinical evaluation but also through basic notions of physiology in the context of gynecology.

Surprising teaching method

A course on respiratory function complemented theory with a practical experience: working with a human body in a dissecting room. The Swiss students’ reaction to this unexpected approach led to interesting dialogue about differences and similarities in teaching methods.

History, health, culture

Various site visits provided windows into Singaporean history and culture as well as the approach to health. For example, Kwong Wai Shiu Hospital, founded in 1910 as a Cantonese charity, was opened to all patients – regardless of race, dialect or religion – in 1974. Alexandra Hospital, a former British military hospital, was the site of a WWII massacre and is now a famous holistic-care general hospital.

*“The therapies used in certain [long-term care] facilities were very interesting. Robotic animals or dolls were used for people in psychogeriatric care suffering from dementia – to comfort them and to enable them to express themselves.”*

Field: Nursing Sciences  
Years running: 3

Partner institutions:

- Haute Ecole de la Santé La Source, Lausanne, Switzerland
- Japanese Red Cross Kyushu International College of Nursing, Japan
- Japanese Red Cross Hiroshima College of Nursing, Japan
- Japanese Red Cross College of Nursing, Tokyo, Japan

Students from Switzerland: 6  
Students from partner country: 5

Other students and faculty from the partner institutions and other universities were also involved in some activities.



Field: Nursing Sciences  
Years running: 8

Partner institutions:

- Haute Ecole de la Santé La Source, Lausanne, Switzerland
- Haute Ecole de Santé Vaud (HESAV), Lausanne, Switzerland
- Alice Lee Centre for Nursing Studies, National University of Singapore, Singapore

Students from Switzerland: 6  
Students from partner country: 6  
Professors from Switzerland: 1  
Professors from partner country: 1





# Yin and Yang: Nursing and Traditional Chinese Medicine



April 8 – 25  
Wuxi, China

The concept	A discovery of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) in the land where it originated and has been practiced for over 3,500 years – and where it remains an integral part of healthcare today, used on its own or in complement to Western medicine.
In 2019	Multi-day site visits helped reinforce the theoretical learning on TCM. Two regional government hospitals provided insights into two different approaches: at Wuxi People’s Hospital #3, TCM is prevalent, while Wuxi People’s Hospital #4 integrates some therapies into primarily Western-style care. After learning theory and observing, students tested their new skills among themselves.
Cultural learning	Students learned about the theory of TCM – that health is a matter of achieving balance between yin and yang – and various specific TCM practices such as acupuncture and moxibustion. Beyond comparing health approaches and healthcare systems, Swiss and Chinese students discussed and shared insights on culture including family life, cuisine and traditions.
Something special	Trees in full bloom made park visits a favorite leisure activity.
Student evaluation	In cross-cultural groups of 5-6, students presented comparisons of Chinese and Western medicine to a jury of professors from both countries. Students received diplomas certifying their successful participation.

*“Being practically the only Caucasians at a train station, we felt ourselves observed. This didn’t necessarily give us a negative feeling, and indeed we felt at ease and safe. We noticed that in our country, ethnic diversity is more visible.”*

Field: Nursing Sciences  
Years running: 6

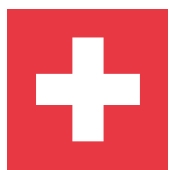
Partner institutions:

- Haute Ecole de Santé La Source, Lausanne, Switzerland
- Haute Ecole de Santé Vaud (HESAV), Lausanne, Switzerland
- Jiangnan University, Wuxi, China

Students from Switzerland: 10  
Students from partner country: 6  
Professors from Switzerland: 1  
Professors from partner country: 3



# Fairness, Access to Care: A Nursing Priority



June 12 – July 3  
Lausanne, Switzerland

The concept	What is vulnerability and where does it fit within nursing priorities? How can a healthcare system respond when a population is at risk or underserved due to physical, social and/or economic factors? Nursing students from several countries come together in Lausanne to explore such questions while sharing their tapestry of cultural perspectives.
In 2019	Classes and workshops were complemented with three days of onsite practical training in a variety of healthcare contexts: psychiatry, maternity, surgery, elder care, care for the developmentally delayed, addiction care and more. Being guided by nursing interns working onsite made the visits especially relatable. Students saw that vulnerability takes many forms and care must be adapted and empathetic.
Global issues	The program was shaped by the students’ cultural perspectives but also by the diversity of fields observed. Complementary skills and perspectives are essential to healthcare in the context of global issues we must tackle together, such as political upheavals, migration and ecology. The students were evaluated on presentations imagining the future of nursing within United Nations recommendations on sustainable development.
Debating addiction	Visiting students were surprised by Swiss approaches to addiction with methadone treatment and injection centres, prompting much discussion. Debates like this are key teaching tools in international learning experiences.

*“The visits to the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations were eye-opening as I [learned] that I am able to contribute to society at large as a nurse. One of World Health Organization’s goals is to ensure that everyone have access to essential medicines and primary health care.”*

Field: Nursing Sciences  
Years running: 10

Partner institutions:

- Haute Ecole de la Santé La Source, Lausanne, Switzerland
- Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong
- San Diego State University, USA
- Jiangnan University, Wuxi, China
- Alice Lee Centre for Nursing Studies, National University of Singapore, Singapore

Students from Switzerland: 8  
Students from partner countries: 28  
Professors from Switzerland: 2  
Professors from partner countries: 3





# Nurses and Vulnerable Patients: An Exploration



June 18 – July 11  
Lausanne,  
Switzerland

The concept	Provoking reflection and offering practical exposure to nursing care for vulnerable populations. Populations considered include the elderly; those at end-of-life; economically disadvantaged; pregnant women; migrants; and psychiatric and addiction patients. They also look at contextual elements such as the family’s role, community health and ethics. The event includes a practicum and cultural program.
In 2019	The two-day practicums highlighted how nurses must be sensitive to a patient’s vulnerability in any area of healthcare. Paired with second-year HESAV students, the future nurses went to medical, surgical, psychiatric, geriatric and pediatric wards as well as community health practices. They noted cultural differences in terms of the nurse’s role, interdisciplinary work, family involvement, the patient’s role, work organization, and material and environmental resources.
A taste of culture	Students prepared typical meals from their different countries to share at lunch with all the students and HESAV staff. What a delight for the taste buds!
Student evaluation	The students worked together in cross-cultural groups on presentations of differences and similitudes of care, as well as professional opportunities related to one of the program themes. These presentations – all very successful – were judged by a jury of professors from several countries.

*“[For our evaluations], one after another we presented our various perspectives on one of the subjects we’d studied from the start. We had previously formed mixed teams and our presentations were developed out of those discussions. Even though we were a bit tired from celebrating the American national holiday the night before, every one of us was able to give it our very best.”*

- Field: Nursing Sciences  
Years running: 7
- Partner institutions:
- Haute Ecole de Santé Vaud (HESAV), Lausanne, Switzerland
  - Boston College William F. Connell School of Nursing, Boston, USA
  - PSG College of Nursing, Coimbatore, India
  - Yonsei University, Seoul, South Korea
  - Pontificia Catholic University of Chile (PUC), Santiago, Chile
- Students from Switzerland: 6  
Students from partner countries: 29  
Professors from Switzerland: 4  
Professors from partner countries: 5



# Nursing at the Border: Challenges in San Diego



June 17 – July 4  
San Diego, USA

The concept	San Diego is a city where numerous contrasts and challenges provide many layers of learning for student nurses from Switzerland. Part of the program takes place on the Imperial Valley Campus. It has a unique desert geography, high poverty level, high unemployment, a notably young population and disparities between different communities. Highly-developed Community Health Programs are greatly inspiring for Swiss students.
2019’s themes	Border health and infectious diseases. In a border city where cultural tensions take on a solid form – a wall – the quest to incorporate cultural understanding and capacity to meet needs of vulnerable populations is paramount for nursing professionals, professors and students. These lessons were valuable take-homes as the skills are equally important where these tensions are less overt.
Concrete examples	The themes were explored by looking specifically, through courses and site visits, at a variety of nursing interventions that must be culturally adapted. Examples include: providing information on contraception and sexually transmitted diseases; prevention of human trafficking; and health needs and precautions for pregnant women (tobacco, alcohol, etc.) and young children (nutrition, developmental activities, socialization, etc.).
Dedicated professionals	The Swiss students were deeply impressed by the commitment of professional nurses providing preventative health despite limited financial and human resources.

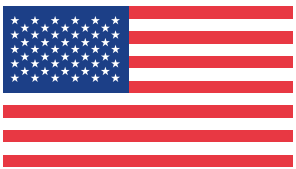
*“The courses we took enabled me to project myself into my professional future and to grow my desire to innovate in nursing care.”*

- Field: Nursing Sciences  
Years running: 10
- Partner institutions:
- Haute Ecole de la Santé La Source, Lausanne, Switzerland
  - San Diego State University, San Diego, USA
- Students from Switzerland: 11  
Students from partner country: 4-8  
Professors from Switzerland: 2  
Professors from partner country: 3





# Physiotherapy at the Cutting Edge in Boston



July 1 – 12  
Boston, USA

The concept	An integrated discovery of healthcare and health policy in the United States, and the place that physiotherapy holds within this framework. Visiting students from Switzerland take theoretical courses at Northeastern University – both regular and program-specific classes. They also gain hands-on experience through site visits and workshops.
In 2019	Classroom topics included electrotherapy, pathologies of the foot, respiratory conditions and sports-related head injuries. The students visited the renowned Spaulding Rehabilitation Centre as well as various research laboratories. They also participated in a rewarding simulation workshop. At a visit to swissnex Boston, the students enjoyed a presentation on the institution’s role in the region.
New perspective	The first-hand experience of physiotherapy in the US offers the Swiss students a new lens through which to examine how the profession is practiced at home.
A little Americana	The hosts in Boston ensured the Swiss students got a true taste of American culture. It helps that the trip coincided with the US national holiday, the 4 <sup>th</sup> of July: students surely appreciated red, white and blue fireworks. A city tour of Boston revealed the city’s rich heritage as one of the oldest cities in the United States.
Student credits	This module for 2 <sup>nd</sup> year physiotherapy students awards ECTS credits.

*“The research laboratories are innovative, well-equipped and study cutting-edge, current subjects in physiotherapy.”*

Field: Physiotherapy  
Years running: 6

Partner institutions:

• Haute Ecole de Santé Vaud (HESAV),  
Lausanne, Switzerland

• Northeastern University, Boston, USA

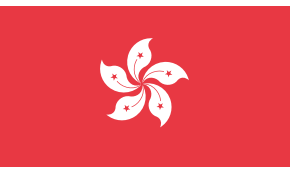
Students from Switzerland: 14  
Professors from Switzerland: 1

*As students from Switzerland integrate into some regular Northeastern University classes, they benefit from professors’ expertise and enjoy interaction with both professors and students. This program is also supported by swissnex Boston.*



● Health Sciences

# Cultural Influences in Nursing in Hong Kong



July 15 – 26  
Hong Kong

The concept	A large-scale program hosted by the Hong Kong Polytechnic University uniting 60-some nursing students from around the world. Participants work in small international groups through interactive online forums for two weeks prior to meeting in Hong Kong. The first week in Hong Kong is dedicated to courses while the second offers a wide variety of in-the-field visits. The program is designed to maximize intercultural exchange while offering a discovery of Hong Kong’s healthcare system.
In 2019	A varied program included topics such as mental health (e.g. severe trauma, LGBTQ stigma); alternative medicine (e.g. aromatherapy, Traditional Chinese Medicine); physiotherapy; infection prevention; pediatrics; and visits to various care institutions. The program culminated with student presentations on culture and its impact on the caregiver/patient relationship.
The nurse’s role	The visitors noticed a true appreciation for the value of the nursing profession in Hong Kong. The overall impression was of highly advanced professional practice, well-respected for the skills brought to patient care.
Openness, a nursing skill	Openness to other approaches expands a nurse’s “toolkit”. One of the most valuable tools is openness itself: openness to a patient’s culture enhances capacity to meet their needs. The participants integrated this key message from many sources: professionals, professors and each other.

*“Culture means tradition, ritual, language, food etc. – not stereotypes, discrimination racism and prejudices. As a future nurse, I know that if I keep this in mind, I can better identify with the person in front of me.”*

Field: Nursing Sciences  
Years running: 4

Partner institutions:

• Haute Ecole de la Santé La Source,  
Lausanne, Switzerland

• Hong Kong Polytechnic University,  
School of Nursing, Hong Kong

Students from Switzerland: 5  
Students from partner/participating countries: 57  
Professors from Switzerland: 1  
Professors from partner country: 4

*Several other universities from Asia, Europe and Oceania also participated in this program.*



● Health Sciences



# Nursing, Education and the Health System in Korea



August 28 –  
September 10  
Seoul, South Korea

The concept	Nursing students from Korea, Switzerland and Japan address core healthcare topics in a context that promotes comparison, contrast and understanding of their countries' healthcare and health education systems.
In 2019	This inaugural program included topics of elder care; mental health; safety and security in healthcare provision; community health; maternity; and pediatric care. Swiss students shared presentations on the Swiss healthcare system and on their studies at HESAV. For their part, Korean students presented on their experiences of international mobility in education. Professional visits put a spotlight on both acute care and primary health care. Students took a guided tour of several departments at Severance Hospital, a tertiary care hospital and partner to Yonsei University. This included the intensive care unit; oncology; cardiology; pneumonology; and pediatrics. They also visited a large regional hospital and a clinic offering Traditional Chinese Medicine in complement to Western-style rehabilitation therapy.
Campus visit	Students spent a day at Yonsei University's campus for first-year students outside of Seoul. There, students from all faculties live in residence in an academic environment with facilities including a library, cinema and sound studio, along with typical university classrooms.
Culture and climate	Students got together on Saturdays for cultural visits to palaces, museums and a traditional village – this last unfortunately cut short by a passing typhoon.

*“[At Severance Hospital] we discovered an atypical environment, far from our classic idea of a hospital. Interior gardens, skylights and an expansive, airy architecture gave us the impression of being in an ultra-modern airport, which is in fact what the institution's developers sought – to give the impression of not being in the hospital.”*

- Field: Nursing  
Years running: 1
- Partner institutions:
- Haute Ecole de Santé Vaud (HESAV), Lausanne, Switzerland
  - Yonsei University, Seoul, South Korea
  - St. Luke's International University, Tokyo, Japan
- Students from Switzerland: 6  
Students from partner countries: 12  
Professors from Switzerland: 1  
Professors from partner countries: 1



# Nursing: A Profession and a Calling in Canada



September 8 – 20  
Quebec City, Canada

The concept	A spotlight on the strengths of Quebec's nursing and healthcare training through the lens of some of today's healthcare challenges – critical in any country.
In 2019	Six nursing students from HESAV, who are undertaking a Bachelor's program for nurses in employment, participated alongside local counterparts. Theory and practice-based methods were used to explore subjects including hemodynamic parameter monitoring; care for patients who are intubated and on respiratory support; mental health patient care; and geriatric care.
Nursing careers	The Swiss visitors gained an appreciation for the quality of nursing studies in Canada. Discussions with Quebecois students turned naturally to comparison of the professional market and working conditions in the two countries.
Care structures	Visits to various care centres were especially informative. These included a residence for people with memory loss, a palliative care home and a walk-in clinic. The students were particularly struck by a non-profit centre offering services for disadvantaged clients run by nurse practitioners specialized in front-line care. This experience offered insights into user needs, the level of professionalism this requires of nurses, and the importance of postgraduate and continuing education.
Leading-edge	A visit to the world-renowned Apprentiss simulation centre brought home the value placed on leading-edge teaching facilities and programs for nurses in Quebec.

*“We were touched by the nurse in charge of the non-profit centre, by her dedication and perpetual battle to ensure the institution endures... Her devotion made us aware that when you hold a cause close to your heart, you must never give up.”*

- Field: Nursing  
Years running: 1
- Partner institutions:
- Haute Ecole de Santé Vaud (HESAV), Lausanne, Switzerland
  - Laval University, Quebec City, Canada
- Students from Switzerland: 6  
Students from partner country: 12  
Professors from Switzerland: 1  
Professors from partner country: 5





# Interprofessional Research and Community Immersion



June 10 – 28  
Wuxi, China



Santiniketan,  
Mangalore  
& Coimbatore, India

The concept

Students from different health and social sciences professions come together in research teams. After laying the groundwork over a semester, the teams finalize their projects in China or India through community-based research and data collection. The immersive research requires students to work directly with and gain the trust of community members, gaining deep understanding of the cultural aspects of health. The completed projects constitute the students' Bachelor's theses.

In 2019

Six teams, six themes: Villagers' perspectives of their own health needs and resources (India); knowledge and prevention of HIV among Tamil teenagers (India); relaying diagnosis to patients and families (China); Children and HIV, psychosocial issues (India); nutrition advice and prevention of Type 2 diabetes (China); and sanitary, financial and cultural aspects of use of cloths during menstruation (India).

Publication

The team studying diagnosis communication in China learned that (contrary to the Swiss approach) details of a diagnosis may be kept from the patient – this is intended to cause less stress. This work was published in the April 2020 edition of *Primary and Hospital Care*. doi.org/10.4414/phc-f.2020.10202

Multidisciplinary future careers

Working in tight collaboration offers understanding and greater respect for the professional contributions of the other disciplines – building long-term skills for multidisciplinary professional collaboration to the benefit of patient care.

*“Our professional code of conduct says every person should receive care adapted to their needs and culture. But how do we do that when we are not familiar with their culture? We draw from this experience that it's essential to build a relationship with them to understand what is important for them, to be as close as possible to what they would wish.”*

Field: Nursing, Medicine & Anthropology  
Years running: 6

Partner institutions:

- Haute Ecole de la Santé La Source, Lausanne, Switzerland
- University of Lausanne (Faculties: Biology & Medicine; Social Sciences), Lausanne, Switzerland
- Father Muller College of Nursing, Mangalore, India
- Shanti Ashram, Coimbatore, India
- Visva Bharati University, Bolpur, India
- Jiangnan University, Wuxi, China

Students from Switzerland: 26  
Professors from Switzerland: 4

● Interdisciplinary Programs



# Together in Health – A Chinese Experience



May 20 – 31  
Wuxi, China

The concept

Bringing together students from different healthcare fields to develop their interprofessional skills in a unique and challenging international context. Tongren International Rehabilitation Hospital in Wuxi, China offers an environment that is not only state-of-the-art, but also exemplary of excellent interdisciplinary collaboration. Students also gain an appreciation of the Eastern approach to rehabilitation care and its complementary use of Traditional Chinese Medicine. The differences and similarities between Eastern and Western healthcare practices and values become apparent.

In 2019

The students actively observed and participated in the therapeutic environment, representations of illness, and pain and emotional management. This year's program was particularly marked by enriching interactions with Chinese students in addition to professionals and patients. The students collaborated on a presentation to give to the professionals, developing in the process an excellent group dynamic, along with professional leadership and teamwork skills.

Music to their ears

Music therapy was just one example of the rehabilitation techniques the students learned about. Through song, dance, rhythms and instruments, it is integrated into numerous care areas including mental health, neurology, musculoskeletal and cardiovascular care. These “musical moments” facilitate positive expression and self-confidence.

Dragon territory

The Swiss students actively worked with patients on preparations for the colorful annual Dragonboat Festival.

*“From the start, we were surprised by pain management in the rehabilitation therapies. Indeed, in the orthopedic and trauma rooms, it was not rare to see patients openly express pain (groans, tears, cries, etc.)... Pain is considered ‘normal’ in therapy and it seems it is an integral part of the process of rehabilitation.”*

Field: Occupational Therapy & Physiotherapy  
Years running: 4

Partner institutions:

- Haute Ecole de Santé Vaud (HESAV), Lausanne, Switzerland
- Haute Ecole de Travail Social et de la Santé (HETSL), Lausanne, Switzerland
- Tongren International Rehabilitation Hospital, Wuxi, China

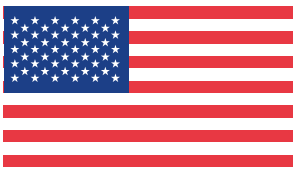
Students from Switzerland: 6  
Students from partner country: 10  
Professors from Switzerland: 1

● Interdisciplinary Programs





# Immersion Where Innovation Happens: Silicon Valley



February 9 – 23  
San Francisco  
& Silicon Valley, USA

The concept	Innovation just can't be taught by the book. In this full-semester course, students from various disciplines come together to collaborate and hone their innovative mindsets hands-on. They put their diverse skills, perspectives and energy to real-life challenges of Swiss innovators. The semester is capped by an immersion in a place where it seems an innovative mindset can make anything possible – the San Francisco Bay Area and Silicon Valley. There, students confront the crux of their challenges: They must investigate the Californian ecosystem and evaluate if the Swiss innovators have a viable market there.
2019's challenges	Students split into three teams to take on energy-themed challenges with: Navitas Consilium, creators of decision-making supports for the sustainable energy field; Project B42 replacing kart motors with electric ones; and Stignergy, who are involved with managing energy peak consumption and microgrids.
California energy	Students visited several players in the Bay Area like Google, Apple and Facebook, as well as academic innovation incubators, notably at Berkeley and Stanford universities. swissnex San Francisco was (as always) a vital partner, hosting numerous events including pitch training, coaching, seminars, team project work and final project presentations.
Credits	In this full-semester program, students receive credit depending on their field of study.

*“The course and especially the trip let you plunge into the little-known world of startups, to recognize in a more concrete manner the steps you need to take and the character necessary to develop your own startup.”*

Field: Engineering, Media Engineering, Engineering and Management, Business Administration  
Years running: 5

Partner institutions:

- School of Management and Engineering Vaud (HEIG-VD), Yverdon-les-Bains, Switzerland

Students from Switzerland: 12  
Professors from Switzerland: 2

*swissnex San Francisco provides active support to this program.*



● Interdisciplinary Programs

# Made at the China Hardware Innovation Camp



July 8 – 24  
Hong Kong



Shenzhen, China

The concept	Design and develop. Prototype. Test. For innovative objects to come into being, these initial stages of production frequently happen in different parts of the world. Designers, developers, engineers and business professionals benefit from hands-on experience of prototyping, testing, and local and foreign market evaluation. To this end, students from four Swiss institutions collaboratively develop devices over two semesters and then head to China and Hong Kong to bring them to life.
In 2019	Participants came from eight disciplines: business, industrial design, media interaction design, microengineering, computer science, mechanical engineering, materials engineering and life sciences. After prototyping at Sseedstudio in Shenzhen, students tested their objects at Artop Group and conducted market evaluations. Understanding the socio-economic contexts enabled them to fine-tune their work. Visits to factories and interaction with local economic and political players offered a greater sense of globalized production.
Cultural activities	“Downtime” is never really downtime: getting to know the cultural context is vital to value creation. This learning was as strong during a treasure hunt in Hong Kong as it was while pitching their works to the HAX hardware incubator in Shenzhen.
Outcomes	Students gained program credits through oral defense or reports (depending on field and institution). More importantly, some products are on the road to real-world use.

*“Way more than creating a connected device, I came to learn strong skills and build unique experiences that I would have never found in my regular cursus. It was such a great opportunity to see for ourselves what “made in China” means during our final journey.”*

Field: Human sciences, Design & Engineering  
Years running: 5

Partner institutions:

- HEC, University of Lausanne (UNIL), Lausanne, Switzerland
- ECAL/University of Art and Design Lausanne, Renens, Switzerland
- School of Management and Engineering Vaud (HEIG-VD), Yverdon-les-Bains, Switzerland
- Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (EPFL), Lausanne, Switzerland
- Hong Kong Design Institute, Hong Kong

Students from Switzerland: 31  
Professors from Switzerland: 4

● Interdisciplinary Programs







# Section 3

Activities Report 2019  
Board of Higher Education, Canton of Vaud  
International Partnerships in Education & Research

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  - Management/Technology
  - Viticulture & Oenology
  - Teacher Education
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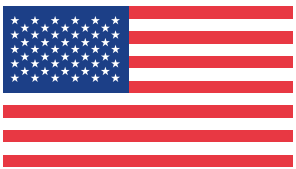
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# Innovative Materials, Inspiring Product Design



February 2 – 18  
Boston, USA

The concept	Exposing product design students directly to unique movements within the field, offering deep understanding of history and culture, along with practice and inspiration for their own design. MIT and Boston constitute a specialized ecosystem for some of the world's most advanced technological research and development.
In 2019	The theme was soft machines – cutting-edge robotics technology made from compliant materials similar to biological tissue. Elastic or bendable silicon, plastics, tissue, rubber and other polymers, these materials not only bring added strength, flexibility and safety to robots, they can also be less expensive. They can even open the possibilities for auto-reparation and auto-replication. Introduced to the topic by eminent MIT professors, the students gained understanding of completely new engineering methods and tools.
Product prototyping	A week's workshop at MIT's International Design Center offered the students access to the most cutting-edge equipment to prototype their designs, including 3D printers and thermosealing machines. The designs revealed inspiring originality, from slippers that close themselves with pressure applied to the sole to an inflatable umbrella without a metallic structure.
Exhibition	The final products were presented on ECAL Research Day, November 8, 2019. Further gallery exhibitions are currently in the works.

*“Changing our surrounding and leaving our known habitat behind means always having to adapt to something new and therefore changing the way we work. As a designer, you need to keep your mind fresh to generate good ideas for valid products.”*

Field: Product Design  
Years running: 2

Partner institutions:

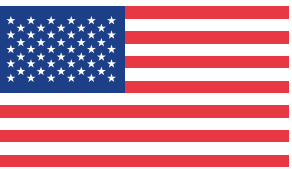
- ECAL/University of Art and Design  
Lausanne, Renens, Switzerland
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT),  
Boston, USA

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Students from Switzerland: 14  
Professors from Switzerland: 1  
Professors from partner country: 2



# Graphic Design in Surf Culture: L.A. Perspectives



April 28 – May 7  
Los Angeles, USA

The concept	Exposing graphic design students directly to unique movements in graphic design, offering deep understanding of history and culture, along with practice and inspiration for their own design.
Cali spirit, 2019	Venice, California. It was already mythic for its counter-culture surfer lifestyle when, in the mid-20 <sup>th</sup> century, surfboards moved out of the ocean and onto the Venice Beach boardwalk. Both surfboards and skateboards became vehicles for singular graphic design. The program followed the path of deck (board) art and its various influences throughout the decades, including images and typography, as well as techniques and materials. They learned how this esthetic has permeated other cultural expressions like music, magazines (where visual strategies pushed limits even further), marketing and more. Various site visits and a conference on the history of Californian design solidified their knowledge. Having integrated the history, lifestyle and clichés, the students moved onto creating their own designs.
Riding the waves	Of course, the Venice Beach cultural experience wouldn't be complete without picking up boards and heading into the surf.
Creation	Students developed their own deck designs and published a collection of fanzines titled “First Come, First Surf” in homage to the subculture's independent publications.

*“More used to Swiss codes of style – with its minimalist, sometimes impersonal esthetic – this trip awakened my curiosity. It was very stimulating to explore another stream of graphic design that's more expressive and emotional.”*

Field: Graphic Design  
Years running: 1

Partner institutions:

- ECAL/University of Art and Design  
Lausanne, Renens, Switzerland
- Otis College of Art and Design,  
Los Angeles, USA

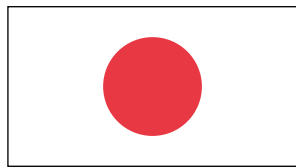
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Students from Switzerland: 17  
Professors from Switzerland: 3  
Professionals from partner country: 1





# Tokyo Transformation Through the Camera Lens



August 28 –  
September 9  
Tokyo, Japan

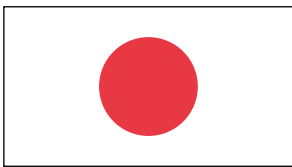
The concept	The Master’s in Photography program at ECAL aims to help students develop a contemporary approach to photography and understanding of its place in economic, social and political life. Semester courses are punctuated with a variety of workshops including workshops abroad – different every year – in regions that offer a particular story to explore and capture through research and photography.
In 2019	Japan’s megalopolis, Tokyo is in the midst of transformation as it prepares to host the 2020 Olympics. Immersed in this environment, the students individually confronted both the city and their own artistic sensibilities, with daily feedback from the professors and in group presentations.
A challenge	Traversing into peoples’ private spheres is more difficult in Japan than in the West. Yet for a photographer, this is often a vital step to creating something powerful. The students broke through this barrier each in their own way.
The unexpected	Just before departure for home, a high-level typhoon struck Tokyo. Heading to the airport (which took 4½ hours instead of 50 minutes), the students were amazed at the civilized Japanese emergency response.
Culmination and student evaluation	The trip was capped with a very successful 2-day exhibition of the student works, with additional support from the Swiss Embassy.

*“We were put in the position of researching a culture that was so foreign to us, focusing on topics we were interested in and still being aware of our position in relation to it, and trying to execute and communicate it in the best way possible with Japanese people themselves.”*

- Field: Photography  
Years running: 2
- Partner institutions:
- ECAL/University of Art and Design Lausanne, Renens, Switzerland
  - TPR/Tokyo Photographic Research, Tokyo, Japan
- 
- Students from Switzerland: 13  
Professors from Switzerland: 3  
Professional from partner country: 1



# Customs, Codes and Cinematic Collaboration



November 11 –  
December 2  
Tokyo, Japan

The concept	Cinema students create films in a foreign environment, stimulated by cultural destabilization and time constraints. The realizations go from idea to screen in a scant three weeks: week one, orientation, meeting hosts, pitches, location scouting and casting; week two, filming begins, first images and editing by the weekend; week three, editing, production and post-production... and finally screening on Friday.
2019 location	Tokyo, a megalopolis that never stops. To tell a story through film in this setting, the ECAL students needed to rapidly – with invaluable help from knowledgeable professors and assistants – connect with people, gain their trust, follow customs and codes of civility, and cut through red tape. The work accelerated a parallel learning about the country and culture. A particular confrontation: the divergence between the real Tokyo and the city as it is known through Japanese film.
Power of partnership	Each film was a veritable co-creation. This atypical work dynamic necessitated humility, dialogue, compromise. The students surprised themselves with the depth of their capacity to partner in art.
Projection soirée	To share the results of the students’ hard work, the Swiss Embassy held a screening of four 10-minute films at the <i>Institut Français du Japon</i> : IEJI (home path); Masa’s Rhythm マサが奏でるリズム; Code of Conduct; and OMIKUJI.

*“You have to learn everything: the rules and norms, the new food, the different relationship with space and other people. In this faraway country, I was able to relive the state in which we are in as a child, that is to say, constant surprise.”*

- Field: Cinema  
Years running: 2
- Partner institutions:
- ECAL/University of Art and Design Lausanne, Renens, Switzerland
  - Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan
- 
- Students from Switzerland: 7  
Students from partner country: 20  
Professors/professionals from Switzerland: 3  
Professors/professionals from partner country: 4
- 
- Various individuals and institutions in Japan, including the Swiss Embassy, contributed to the success of this program.*





# Arabic Typeface Design as Discovered in Dubai



November 7 – 16  
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

The concept	A workshop for type design students introducing Arabic typography and calligraphy. The relationship between the type styles and local architecture opens a window upon Dubai’s culture and lifestyle.
Culture through language & typography	A city whose language mixtures reflect a cultural mash-up: a very high majority of inhabitants are expatriates. Arabic is the official language, though English has a prominent place in everyday life. Various other languages are used daily, such as Pashto, Urdu, Filipino and more. So what about typography? Arabic – traditional or modern – intermingles with Latin script for perpetual mutual influence. Indeed, the two workshop leaders (both of Lebanese origin) developed their own design sensibilities in this context.
State, design and architecture	The students noticed constant surveillance, prohibited activities and cautious avoidance of divisive subjects. This heavy state presence impacts design, favoring big agency advertising with boldness and budgets, squeezing out alternatives. As for urban development and architecture, the students were struck by the newness, the rules, the grandiosity, the (lack of) ecology: it led them to question the meaning of “authenticity”.
Realizations	The students expressed their learning in posters drawing a line between their own origins and the city of Dubai. These unique and personal posters use Arabic typeface – a graphic vocabulary foreign to the students, as none read Arabic.

*“A running joke among us was to point out the omnipresence of ‘-est’ in names: the highEST tower in the world, the biggEST aquarium, the largEST something, etc. etc. We all felt this gigantism – seven-lane roads with no sidewalks and giant buildings.”*

Field: Type Design  
Years running: 1

Partner institutions:

- ECAL/University of Art and Design Lausanne, Renens, Switzerland
- Khatt Foundation/Tashkeel Art Center, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

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Students from Switzerland: 13  
Professors from Switzerland: 1  
Professors/professionals from partner country: 2



● Art & Design

# Cultures Meet in Business Engineering



February 8 – 24  
Surathkal, India



June 26 – July 12  
Yverdon-les-Bains, Switzerland

The concept	A pair of 2-week exchange trips exploring business engineering and intercultural communication in two culturally divergent countries. Through courses and related professional site visits, an international group of students gains a sense of the many approaches to the business engineering and the impact of the cultural environment.
In February 2019	A group of students from China, India and Switzerland participated in a program in Mangalore province, India. Company visits represented a variety of activities: plastics (Deccan), watchmaking pieces (Chiramith), food (Achal, Campco, KMF) and steel (Lamina). Students observed and learned about the different industries, discussing directly with employees in numerous different roles such as HR, communications and marketing, quality and safety.
In June – July 2019	A Switzerland-based program featured visits to numerous industrial enterprises: Tech Ebauche, TESA, Eternit and Bobst. According to the student feedback, production processes, sustainable development and corporate social responsibility were among the most interesting business challenges they confronted.
Blended culture	How cultures can complement was seen concretely in the visit to Chiramith Precision, a Kannur, India-based company that makes precision pieces for watches. The owners had lived several years in Switzerland, where they gained Swiss watchmaking know-how – along with some business practices that they’ve blended into their company culture.

*“The multicultural aspect of this project, along with its integration into the professional world, makes for an appealing program very relevant to our Bachelor’s education.”*

Field: Business Engineering  
Years running: 9

Partner institutions:

- School of Management and Engineering Vaud (HEIG-VD), Yverdon-les-Bains, Switzerland
- National Institute of Technology Karnataka (NITK), India
- Beijing Institute of Technology (BIT), China

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Students from Switzerland: 13  
Students from partner countries: 16  
Professors from Switzerland: 2  
Professors from partner countries: 2



● Management/Technology



# Sino-Swiss Cross-Cultural Business Administration



July 1 – 12  
Yverdon-les-Bains,  
Switzerland



July 13 – 27  
Shanghai, China

## The concept

Corporate cultures in China and Switzerland reflect distinctive mindsets influenced by socio-cultural and institutional factors. The nature of innovation in products, services and business models is influenced by which skills are prioritized in each culture. This program prepares future managers and entrepreneurs with insights into the processes of internationalization in terms of network development, partnership engagement and collaborative R&D. A cross-cultural group of students spends two weeks investigating this context together in Switzerland, followed immediately by two weeks in China.

## Evolving context

Switzerland and China have a strong trade relationship, with improved free-trade agreements since January 2017. China’s rapid economic growth, rising affluence and sheer market size make relations interesting for Swiss companies, since it has a growing demand for innovative, high-quality products. Some Chinese government policies, such as “One Belt, One Road” and “Made in China 2025”, are also creating opportunities for innovative Swiss firms. In parallel, China has much to offer, emerging as a global leader in areas such as robotics, biotech, clean-energy cars and artificial intelligence.

## Student work

Students worked in mixed teams on a group project and various program-related assignments. Corporate visits showed multicultural management practices in action and fostered development of global mindsets to enable “best-of-both” management styles and techniques.

*“Another thing I learnt is how to open my mind to another culture... I think I will never forget this experience because each Chinese student I met changed me a little.”*

Field: Business Administration  
Years running: 6

## Partner institutions:

- School of Management and Engineering Vaud (HEIG-VD), Yverdon-les-Bains, Switzerland
- Shanghai University, Shanghai, China

Students from Switzerland: 8  
Students from partner country: 8  
Professors from Switzerland: 1  
Professors from partner country: 1



● Management/Technology

# Young Human Resources Management “Consultants”



July 1 – 12  
São Paolo & Rio  
de Janeiro, Brazil

## The concept

This program brings together students from cultures with quite different relational approaches and human resources practices. Through onsite visits and practical work, they learn about various HR practices and cultural, socio-political, institutional and organizational challenges. Working in mixed teams heightens awareness as they must bridge their own different work styles.

## In 2019

Two themes: the impact of digitalization on HR management practices and organizational agility. Courses at INSPER in São Paolo prepared them for visits to three organizations to observe real-life HR challenges. Four mixed teams were formed – two per theme – to develop consultation on how to improve practices in the organizations visited. The second week saw the students polishing their reports at swissnex Rio de Janeiro and visiting university campuses.

## Reason why

Human resources management requires a deep level of cultural awareness. Within any organization, culture impacts how people relate, interact and work together. Particularly – but not only – in international companies, it is critical for HR professionals to be sensitive and aware of people’s diverse perspectives and cultural baggage.

## Student evaluation

Swiss students presented their projects before a professor panel and an audience of students from the *Instituto Brasileiro de Mercado de Capitais*.

*“From this experience we have learned many things for our future work: to be more patient, curious, and the importance of motivating our team.”*

Field: Human Resources Management  
Years running: 3

## Partner institutions:

- School of Management and Engineering Vaud (HEIG-VD), Yverdon-les-Bains, Switzerland
- INSPER (Institute of Education and Research), São Paolo, Brazil

Students from Switzerland: 8  
Students from partner country: 13  
Professors from Switzerland: 1  
Professors from partner country: 2

*swissnex Rio de Janeiro provides active support to this project.*



● Management/Technology



# Tomorrow’s Tech for Computer Science Students



August 4 – 17  
Seoul, South Korea

The concept	The fast-evolving field of computer science demands a curriculum that evolves in step. Alternating between Switzerland and South Korea, this program exposes students to new critical topics in the field each year. A combination of lectures and intercultural student team projects, the program reveals clear differences in teaching and learning styles – often to the surprised appreciation of students.
In 2019	Seoul National University (SNU) hosted the students for courses on artificial intelligence, secure wireless networks, the art of compiler construction and real-time computing of autonomous vehicles. When it was time to attack the questions hands-on, the student teams leveraged their differing perspectives and work styles to turn in quality work. This capacity to mesh intercultural work styles will serve them well in future careers: international teamwork is common in the field.
Behind the scenes	A visit to Hyundai’s Seoul headquarters stood out as a rare privilege. The company is known for keeping access restrictive.
History	Originally run in partnership with the US (with Indian participation), this is the longest-running among the DGES-supported international programs. When SNU came on board in 2016, it brought fresh perspectives, great enthusiasm and a rigorous academic mindset.

*“The courses were interesting, well taught, and given by passionate and friendly teachers. The group activities, as well as the class atmosphere, were at their best. Despite the work required, we were still able to enjoy extracurricular activities with our Swiss and Korean friends.”*

Field: Computer Science  
& Communications Systems  
Years running: 13

Partner institutions:

- School of Management and Engineering Vaud (HEIG-VD), Yverdon-les-Bains, Switzerland
- Seoul National University (SNU), Seoul, South Korea

Students from Switzerland: 14  
Students from partner country: 13  
Professors from Switzerland: 2  
Professors from partner country: 2

● Management/Technology



# Swiss and Asian Approaches to Public Administration



July 7 – 13  
Guangzhou, China

The concept	A coming together of PhD candidates in Public Administration from Switzerland, China and South Korea. Numerous presentations by professors from participating universities offer high-level insights. Students individually present their thesis work, gaining important feedback from international perspectives. While many challenges of governance are similar, the three countries represent very distinct philosophies, structures and approaches to public administration.
In 2019	This year’s themes were citizen participation and local governance, urbanization and urban governance, accountability and transparency, and public budgeting. Within these, the students found common challenges, such as aging populations, ecology and the impact of technology. Yet considering their different approaches to these issues, they gained valuable experience presenting and defending their positions. Equally valuable was the chance to understand one another’s perspectives and build an international network of colleagues.
Observations on theory and practice	As it was held on Chinese soil, this year’s program offered a window on the effect of the government’s power in the country. For example, how do doctoral students in China conduct research without putting the status quo into question? Is party allegiance a necessary condition to a successful academic career? It was also evident that the country’s culture, geographic size and fast economic growth impact the field of public administration.

*“As a doctoral student, your work is to put order to a nebula of ideas and concepts. But the risk of building on sand is too high. It is therefore always good to put your ideas to the test and enrich them with other points of view... A week of scientific and cultural discussion with colleagues from Asia enables you to relativize. What we believe to be evident in Switzerland is not the case everywhere.”*

Field: Public Administration  
Years running: 9

Partner institutions:

- IDHEAP, University of Lausanne, Switzerland
- Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China
- Renmin University, Beijing, China
- Chinese Academy of Governance, Beijing, China
- Seoul National University, South Korea

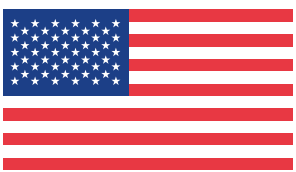
Students from Switzerland: 5  
Students from partner countries: 15  
Professors from Switzerland: 1  
Professors from partner countries: 4

● Management/Technology





# Beyond Vintages: Wine Economics in New York State



June 17 – 21  
Ithaca, USA

The concept	Exploring wine economics in the relatively new wine-growing region, Finger Lakes in New York State. While comparable geographically to Swiss wine regions, the area experiences harsher winters and is known for hardy grape varieties. The American regulatory context is quite different from Switzerland's, impacting business, sales and marketing. Many oenologists are as knowledgeable about sales practices as they are about wines. What practices – from viticulture techniques to marketing strategies – could be applied in Switzerland?
In 2019	Seminars at the CALS campus delivered by high-caliber professors prepared students for practical experiences including visits to institutes, wineries and vineyards. A notable visit was to Constellation Brand, a company that produces nearly the equivalent of Switzerland's entire wine industry. Students learned that the wine industry in the USA remains influenced by the 1920s prohibition era in terms of business, politics and culture.
Unique experience	Each student tapped, filled and labelled their own bottle of sparkling wine at the Dr. Konstantin winery.
Interesting fact	Of the prestigious Ivy League universities, Cornell is the only one to offer an agricultural sciences program.
Credit work	Student teams developed presentations on various themes surrounding Swiss wine economics. These provided a good base for cultural comparison.

*“Representing the School of Viticulture and Oenology of Changins as well as Swiss viticulture at this seminar in Cornell was an incredible experience and a great opportunity to discover this wine region. The encounters and exchanges during the visits in the different wineries as well as the lectures given by the Cornell University teachers were truly enriching.”*

Field: Wine Economics  
Years running: 2

Partner institutions:

• CHANGINS – Haute Ecole de Viticulture et Œnologie, Nyon, Switzerland

• Cornell University (College of Agriculture and Life Sciences – CALS), Ithaca, USA

Students from Switzerland: 7  
Students from partner country: 3  
Professors from Switzerland: 1  
Professors from partner country: 6



● Viticulture & Oenology

# Koalas on the Label? Viticulture Tour in Australia



July 6 – 22  
Adelaide, Australia

The concept	Visiting vineyards, wineries and wine processing facilities around the world to compare conditions and practices with Switzerland. Emphasis is placed on contrasts between old- and new-world viticulture practices, philosophies, laws, marketing and wine styles. Students participate in wine presentations and tastings while exploring market conditions and strategies.
In 2019	The first tour, unsurprisingly, was the university's Waite campus, winery and vineyard. In the following days, they covered a broad geography with varied wine-growing conditions: the Adelaide Hills, McLaren Vale, the Barossa Valley and Clare Valley. They visited large producers like Wynns Coonawarra Estate and Chapel Hill, as well as family-run wineries including Jim Barry Wines, the Lane Winery, and Tapanappa Wines. Tapanappa's new vineyards are the only ones in Australia planted in the traditional European style of close spacing and low vines.
Unique heritage	In addition to visiting Aboriginal historical sites, students learned of the culture from an Aboriginal teacher and leader. Visits to wildlife and national parks offered encounters with koalas, kangaroos, snakes and birds unique to Australia.
Evaluation	Intercultural student teams developed presentations on wine regions and market situations for course credit. Evaluation is a two-way street: students were also tasked with writing a 1-page evaluation of the tour.

*“Australian viticulture – and therefore wine – is innovative as it does not have to follow the strict guidelines of Europe with regard to varieties that can be planted, irrigation, and volume. This can both negatively and positively affect the final outcome.”*

Field: Viticulture & Oenology  
Years running: 12

Partner institutions:

• CHANGINS – Haute Ecole de Viticulture et Œnologie, Nyon, Switzerland

• University of Adelaide, Adelaide, Australia

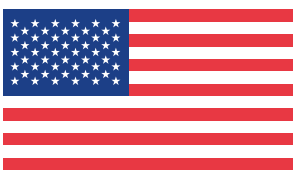
Students from Switzerland: 10  
Students from partner country: 11  
Professors from Switzerland: 2  
Professors from partner country: 4



● Viticulture & Oenology



# Teaching Multicultural Classes: Insights in San Diego



July 8 – 14  
San Diego, USA

The concept	Investigating and understanding how teachers create positive learning environments in multicultural settings. What skills, techniques and tools facilitate integration of minorities, particularly new immigrants, and ensure classroom conditions that favor learning for all children? The program features a spectrum of lectures, workshops, smaller group exchanges, bilingual school visits and cultural activities.
Immigration patterns, learning experience	Bordering Mexico, San Diego is home to a high Spanish-speaking immigrant population and the school system has long experience working towards healthy learning environments for all. The question is also central for SDSU teacher education, pedagogic research and educational tools development. The Americans hosts were impressed by the number of languages the Swiss students spoke in addition to French – proof of Western Switzerland’s multicultural character. Whether immigrants speak one or many languages, appropriate responses in education are vital. This Swiss-Californian partnership mutually enriches practice by sharing these experiences.
Real life	In the context of doctoral work presentations, the students heard from an SDSU student who (like many) lives in Mexico and crosses the border daily, seeking a better education. Hearing someone’s first-hand experience integrates understanding and empathy in ways otherwise impossible.
Next steps	The inaugural 2019 California program is the first of two parts, the second being in Switzerland in early 2020.

*“Their efforts to preserve diversity are inspiring... There, difference is seen as a richness to preserve and not something to set us apart. The effectiveness and positive outcomes of the bilingual schools is remarkable and we can’t help but wonder what impact this could have in our multi-lingual country.”*

Field: Teacher Education  
Years running: 1

Partner institutions:

- University of Teacher Education (HEP Vaud), Lausanne, Switzerland
- San Diego State University (SDSU), San Diego, USA

Students from Switzerland: 11  
Students from partner country: 10  
Professors from Switzerland: 1  
Professors from partner country: 2



● Teacher Education

# Shaping Teachers’ Professional Identities



November 2 – 8  
Bangalore, India

The concept	A scientific collaboration that draws student teachers into active investigation of themes in the teaching profession and in educational practices.
2019 – a year of change	In order to enhance the long-running institutional partnership with a research dimension, an entirely new theme was launched: Research into professional identity for teachers. Ten students from Lausanne paired up with 10 local counterparts in Bangalore, juxtaposing their cultural perspectives throughout their investigation. They interviewed teachers on a variety of fundamental professional questions, gaining in the process a new understanding of their own training and that of their colleagues.
Three schools, three realities	The student teams visited three very different schools – one rural, one alternative, one international – where they conducted one or more teacher interviews per school. They shared their discoveries on the final day through multimedia presentations. Interestingly, the various groups brought differing visions and displayed unique creativity in their presentation styles. A key discovery: professional identity is influenced by the material and social conditions and especially by culture.
Eye-openers	For the Swiss students, the visit to the rural school – where there are between 50 and 70 students per class – offered a deeply-moving experience of culture shock. Yet another eye-opener was how positively humanism and spirituality impact teaching in India.

*“I was really surprised to see the similarities between the two countries about empathy, about being friendly with the students but not friends and so on. It made me realize that teaching is about passion and when people do it with passion, it will always be good education but just in other ways.”*

Field: Teacher Education  
Years running: 4

Partner institutions:

- University of Teacher Education (HEP Vaud), Lausanne, Switzerland
- CHRIST (deemed to be) University, Bangalore, India

Students from Switzerland: 10  
Students from partner country: 10  
Professors from Switzerland: 2  
Professors from partner country: 1



● Teacher Education



# Information Mesh: 30 Years of the Web, a Message Through Many Media

A collaboration between  
ECAL and swissnex  
San Francisco

Projects by:  
Alfatih Al Zouabi  
Diane Becheras  
Iyo Bissec  
Jonathan Boulénaz  
Kevin Breithaupt  
Maëlle Chenaux  
Sébastien Matos  
Bastien Mouthon  
Luca Sassoli De Bianchi  
Guillaume Simmen  
Tamara Virág  
Nathan Vogel  
Anouk Zibaut

The Infomesh one-week workshop in San Francisco was organized by Vincent Jacquier and Pauline Saglio, assisted by Laura Perrenoud and Tibor Udvari.

What impact does technology have on society’s fundamental values? ECAL and swissnex San Francisco joined in exploring this question, using the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the World Wide Web as a catalyst. The Web’s origins trace back to the initial proposal for hypertext by Tim Berners-Lee at CERN, in Geneva, in 1989. Berners-Lee used the name “Information Mesh” for his invention – a name that was borrowed for this project.

The project was conceived during an October 2018 study trip for ECAL Media and Interaction Design students in the San Francisco Bay area, home to major players shaping the Web and broader internet today.

The heart of the project is *infomesh.org*, a web platform offering a journey through interactive timelines presenting different angles of the Web’s evolution, growth and impact. You will find in it an in-depth and clear history and analysis from social, cultural and legal perspectives. Each timeline was created by a different student team, using various interactive visual communication techniques to relay the message. *Infomesh.org* connects with the utopian ideals and optimism of the Web’s genesis and offers an opportunity to bring the “human” back to the core of innovation.

Beyond this main platform, several other vehicles were used to reach audiences. The platform was presented on the main-stage program “The Future of the Open Web” at a Web Conference organized by EPFL and Wikimedia on May 16, 2019. That same evening, it was also presented at a special event, “From Infomesh to Open Web: 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party” at swissnex San Francisco. A related interactive installation graced the swissnex Gallery from May to November. The platform and installation were also part of the “World Night Marker: the Internet Archive’s Annual Bash” in San Francisco on October 23, 2019. It is listed in the Internet Archive, *archive.org*, under “experiments”. Finally, you can visit *vimeo.com/359271693* to view a 90-second ECAL video introducing *infomesh.org*, its creation and its message.





# Vaud Experts at the Podium: Sharing Knowledge at swissnex San Francisco

The stated mission of the swissnex international network is “to support the outreach and active engagement of our partners in the international exchange of knowledge, ideas and talent.”

International collaboration contributes to the global knowledge pool, mutually enhancing research, education and action with the aim of positive impact around the world. To this end, swissnex San Francisco hosts numerous events to share insights into critical topics such as climate change and sustainability, humanitarian innovation, and science and technology.

In 2019, Vaud institutions partnered in some of swissnex San Francisco’s key events. Experts from Vaud were invited to join other leading researchers, thinkers and creators at a series of swissnex San Francisco events on the theme “LifeCycle”. These initiatives highlight the potential impact of Vaud’s Institutes of Higher Education (HES) and the University of Lausanne on the world stage.



Francesca Bosisio,  
Head of Research,  
*Le Collaboratoire*,  
University of  
Lausanne

The “Machine, Myself & I” workshop marked the opening of “An Eye Unruled,” an exhibition examining challenges to traditional authorship in an age where digital and human visions converge. Francesca Bosisio, who heads up research at UNIL’s research-action unit, *Le Collaboratoire*, spoke on how pop culture imagery, such as robots and artificial intelligence in science fiction, function as descriptors and not predictors of societies. What then is the relationship between fiction, fact and innovation? As Dr. Bosisio explained, science fiction tells us a lot about the fears and desires resulting from the possibility of merging humans and machines. As metaphors, robots and AI can be used to effectively confront fundamental questions on what makes us humans and machines, machines.

Mediaspora:  
Connecting  
Medicine, Media,  
and Diaspora

August 22 – 23, 2019

Patricia Perrenoud,  
MI-TIC Project  
Lead, Medical  
Anthropologist,  
Associate Professor  
of Midwifery

Caroline Chautems,  
MI-TIC Research  
Fellow, Medical  
Anthropologist

Christelle Kaech,  
MI-TIC Researcher,  
Midwife & Lactation  
Consultant, PhD  
Candidate

*Haute Ecole  
de Santé Vaud*  
(HESAV), Lausanne,  
Switzerland

What is the future of digital health? Acknowledging that many of us turn to Google and similar sources before calling a doctor, it behooves health experts, policymakers, and communicators to find ways to ensure that this process provides a service, not harm. The Mediaspora workshop and evening event explored ways to ensure that medical information for women and other underserved populations is safe and reliable when accessed through technology and media. This event was a joint undertaking by swissnex, the University of California at Berkeley’s Wallace Center and the *Haute Ecole de Santé Vaud* (HESAV).

Patricia Perrenoud, Caroline Chautems and Christelle Kaech of HESAV are currently engaged in a research project called MI-TIC, which investigates the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) by immigrant mothers/expectant mothers in French-speaking Switzerland. The HESAV team was central to both the Mediaspora workshop and public presentation. The workshop utilized preliminary results from MI-TIC, along with work from a Wallace Center study, as a launchpad for exploration of future development, in particular improvements to digital tools to mitigate feelings of isolation among women post-partum.

The exchange among both presenters and the audience at the public event provided considerable food for thought, as well as routes for concrete action and potential for collaboration in research and education. Among the other presenters were: Larry Adelman, a documentary filmmaker who has contributed to a better understanding of how social inequalities in health are constructed by social policies; Amin Azzam, an expert engaged in driving improvements to health information on Wikipedia through the engagement of medical students; and Sylvia Gendelman from Berkeley’s Wallace Center. In their follow-up report, the HESAV team noted the potential of these tools for students and researchers in multiple disciplines.

Dying Tomorrow  
Workshop  
and Beyond  
the Body

November 9, 2019

Francesca Bosisio  
Head of Research,  
*Le Collaboratoire*,  
University of  
Lausanne

Rachel Démolis,  
Researcher  
and Social  
Anthropologist,  
*Haute Ecole de Santé  
Vaud* (HESAV),  
Lausanne,  
Switzerland

In the digital age, part of who we are is captured in our digital footprint, which persists beyond our mortal life. A question that arises is how this impacts the way people grieve. At this workshop organized by swissnex, the University of Lausanne and HESAV, experts from design, health and technology came together to explore this question, share perspectives and posit new concepts for mourning.

Francesca Bosisio says that today, for many people, science and technology seem to have replaced religion in addressing actual or metaphysical uncertainties. However, with an increased medicalization, death has become a statistic that we are to see as a failure if it gets too high — not a shared destiny to be present with. Such distancing speaks to a denial of death prevalent in Western Culture.

HESAV’s Rachel Démolis presented her research on assisted suicide and the use of technology in pain treatments. She also shared a case study following a person in an assisted suicide journey, playing extracts of filmed interviews. These clips are part of a video series on assisted suicide being produced by HESAV.

The evening panel discussion, called “Beyond the Body” examined how traditional funeral rites may no longer provide closure as they once did – but that this provides the opportunity to invent new, more personalized ways to grieve. We could remember the person in their individuality and continue to experience them even in their absence.



# Sprint to the Finish Line

## Vaud students gain invaluable experience in a real-life Design Sprint process

The Vaud Board of Higher Education (DGES) teamed up with MassChallenge Switzerland, a nonprofit accelerator for promising startups, to offer students from Vaud Institutions of Higher Education (HES and HEP) a unique opportunity to participate in a Design Sprint. Working with Stephane Cruchon of Design Sprint SA in Lausanne, they identified two startups best positioned to benefit from the process, Brave Foods and Liquid Logical.

First developed by Jake Knapp and the UX specialists of Google Ventures, Design Sprint is a proven system to accelerate the process to design, prototype and test a product, strategy or any business idea in just five days. Each day is dedicated to a step of the process: understand; diverge (a.k.a. sketch); converge (a.k.a. decide); prototype; and test with a target audience. The process has been successfully used by both disruptive startups and Fortune 500 companies to launch new or redesigned products, solve problems, align vision or win new markets.

Fourteen students from a broad spectrum of fields were selected for the event at the MassChallenge site in Renens in September 2019. The program was specifically for Bachelor’s students without previous innovation experience. Bringing challenging and fresh perspectives, they worked alongside entrepreneurs under the guidance of Cruchon, a UX Designer who fulfills the role of “Sprintmaster” during the sessions.



Interdisciplinary teamwork	A key part of the selection process for student team members was to bring in different perspectives, including those from fields not typically seen as being associated with entrepreneurial ventures – for example, two nursing students, two social work students and two radiology technology students took part. Many of the students say they gained new appreciation for how divergent perspectives are important to good design.	
	“The complementarity that comes from an interdisciplinary team is fundamental,” said Aline, one of the participants. “[It] enables us all to each bring our own skills for mutual benefit.”	
	For Switi, the week’s most impactful take-home was, “Working together in a team made up of various professions that have – you’d think – little in common with, to reach a common goal, building a project starting at zero and getting to the production of a real prototype.”	
Entrepreneurs in action	It was an eye-opener for the students to realize how much work happens before any entrepreneur becomes an “overnight sensation”.  “The week and the work with Liquid Logical have made me aware of the amount of work that goes into such a project,” said Paola.  “I now better understand all that’s behind a start-up, the huge amount of work the CEOs put in, challenges, risks, innovation and so forth,” agreed Myriam. “I was able to see that by being organized and exchanging ideas, it is possible to innovate in any field.”	
Concrete outcomes	Liquid Logical’s Design Sprint resulted in a prototype for a new, complete website to publicly present the technology and its applications. “[Design Sprint] is a set format which works for some of the best companies around the world,” said Liquid Logical CEO Timothy Popov. “Seeing the student get engaged with my company was really cool as well as getting to know the students themselves.”  The Design Sprint team that worked with Brave Foods tested specific products in the works to better identify target audiences and ultimately reach new clientele. Brave Foods CEO Ladislav Beuzelin said he was impressed with “the energy and ideas the students were putting into the Design Sprint and into a company they did not know a few hours before the start of the Design Sprint.”	
High five!	Like sports teams, Design Sprint teams high five each other after each milestone. More than a Silicon Valley habit, the high five is an act integrated into Design Sprint. At first it might seem silly, but high fives reinforce both teamwork and concentration. How does raising your hand and hitting the palms of your teammates do this? When you’re not concentrated – not observing what your teammate is doing – your high five can slip awkwardly to the side of their hands. Instead, you must focus: You look at your teammate, you connect with their hand and you connect with them. Together you create an encouraging clap that says, “We did it!” It’s a statement of good collaborative design. How much does this matter? Several student participants said the high fives were the most memorable element of the week.	

Two stand-out startups	Liquid Logical:  Liquid Logical, one of MassChallenge Switzerland’s top 12 finalists in their 2019 accelerator program, has developed and patented a technology that heats water using the exact amount of energy, water and time required. The UK-based company says the tankless solution can significantly decrease environmental impact by reducing water waste and CO2 emissions.	Brave Foods:  Brave Foods, based in Lausanne, has created a line of snack products called SMOWL, a “delicious and balanced” mix of superfoods. The snack’s distinction is that while it is a 100% organic and gluten-free source of protein and fiber, it is convenient and easily portable. Somewhere between a smoothie and a muesli, SMOWL comes in closeable pouches.
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»» masschallenge.org/programs-switzerland  
»» design-sprint.com  
»» liquidlogical.com  
»» smowl.ch



