

Start Here, Transfer Abroad

Many students whose original university plans are either not possible or just not comfortable now, given the extraordinary, complex and ever-changing covid-19 situation (especially in the U.S. and U.K.). Webster can be a *phenomenal* resource for any family in Europe whose children were planning to go to an American university this Fall. Since we have full U.S. Accreditation (from the Higher Learning Commission)¹, course credits earned here can be transferred to other accredited universities in the U.S., Canada or even the UK in many cases.

We know that it can be very disappointing for a student to defer their plans to launch overseas. Yet they can attend here in Switzerland for one or two semesters (rather than be exclusively online, for example), while making friends, building confidence with university-level studies, and earning transferable credits for their chosen university/program.

How does this work, practically?

Some universities in the U.S. or Canada will simply allow an admitted student to defer their admission one year, and to petition for the transfer credits with a transcript from Webster (once they earn passing grades--a grade of "C" or better is often the standard). Other universities may ask the student to re-apply as a transfer student. Most universities accept transfer students every year—and the trend in the U.S. higher education system (and most in the world, given covid-19) is toward flexible options. Simply put, they would rather have the student come next year than lose them from their roster.

What subjects are available?

At Webster, we don't offer as many majors as the larger universities - but nearly *every* university degree program in the U.S. or Canadian universities (and most in the UK) require elective credits that make up part of the degree program. And with our American, Liberal Arts curriculum, we offer courses in dozens of subject areas – many more, in fact, than the degree programs that we offer. So students won't be wasting time (and families would not waste funds) if they begin here in Geneva for one or two semesters.

The specific list of courses available in the Fall semester are [here online](#) for semester-long course beginning on 24 August. There are also half-semester courses (8-weeks long) that begin in mid-October, listed [here online](#). We have academic advisors that coach the students on which course(s) are best suited to their interests.

What would it cost to attend?

Webster University Geneva has a flat rate for full-time students (CHF 17,140 per 16-week semester, allows options between 4 and 6 courses per semester) as well as a part-time rate (for less than 4 courses in a semester/term it's CHF 3,210 per course).

¹ The HLC is the accrediting body that was designated to govern university accreditations in the Central region of the U.S., so universities like the University of Chicago and University of Texas have HLC accreditation, for example.

Are there Scholarships or Financial Aid available?

The university has a financial aid and scholarship committee that can consider applications and appeals from families for whom their original university of choice was less expensive.

Is university housing available?

Housing on campus is about CHF 1,000 per month. Our center-city studios are slightly higher (various options are available). Housing is optional for those who live locally with family in the Geneva-area.

What are the risks?

There are some more competitive universities who would not automatically defer admissions offers to Fall 2021; in that case, it may require you to re-apply to that university as a transfer student. Yet given the circumstances, most universities are making very gracious offers to accommodate students and families.

What are the steps a student should take?

1. Discuss the benefits and risks of changing your university plans with your family
2. Decide which start date works best for you (we have full-time courses beginning 24 August and part-time courses beginning 19 October)
3. Start an online application (webster.ch/admissions) for undergraduate/bachelor program – or as a ‘non-degree seeking’ student.
4. Set an appointment to visit campus or a phone appointment. Our team is here to guide you through the process!
5. Finalize the documents you need for admission (unofficial copies are usually okay until the semester begins; once you enroll, we will need official records).
6. Check-in with the original university about deferred admission and transfer credits. They may be able to recommend specific courses, depending on your program, and/or inform you about what grades you’ll need to transfer the credits you earn at Webster.

Students can start an application online (from webster.ch/admissions), either as a ‘non-degree’ student or even directly for a specific bachelor program at Webster. If they have earned admission to an accredited university abroad, they are likely to be accepted to begin courses here (Webster would still need their high school transcript and proof of English, for example, but admissions counselors support that process).

Interested to explore the options further? Please reach out!

If students really have their hearts set on a university abroad, we invite them to join us this year and to support them with their plans! And of course, as a backup, the credits they earn could be applied toward a bachelor degree here or at any Webster University campus, worldwide.

Admissions Office: +41.22.959.8080 / admissions@webster.ch

www.webster.ch