



2015 Information Supplement

Admissions

The characteristics of Swiss Semester—which include academic rigor, a very fast pace, and strenuous physical exercise in the outdoors—make it particularly appropriate for students of above average academic achievement who are responsible, of positive attitude, energetic, and mature enough to take full advantage of the program's unique opportunities and to appreciate the need for limits to individual freedom.

Admission to Swiss Semester is competitive, and decisions are based upon records and references from the home school. The admissions committee first attempts to establish that an applicant can succeed academically. Then, the committee considers personal characteristics and the likelihood that the applicant will take advantage of the opportunities of Swiss Semester and contribute to the quality of life in a small, residential community.

Application should be made as early as possible in the freshman year. Typically, a given school has more qualified applicants than can be accommodated, and other things being more or less equal, preference is given to early applications. The majority of places are filled by the end of December. **Application forms can be acquired from the home school's Swiss Semester Coordinator, downloaded from www.SwissSemester.org, or requested from SwissSem@mac.com.**

Interested students and their parents are urged to talk to past students and their parents and to carefully read the program's brochure and visit the program's website—www.SwissSemester.org.

2015 Tuition and Fees

The cost of Swiss Semester is influenced by the very high standard, and commensurately high cost, of living in Switzerland, the highly individualized and unique nature of the program, and, **above all**, by the currency exchange rate at the times tuition payments are made. Since Swiss Semester's expenses are primarily in Swiss francs, and in order to plan and budget effectively, fees are quoted and payable in francs. During Swiss Semester's twenty-eight years of existence, the value of the U.S. dollar has fluctuated considerably.

The cost of tuition (instruction, counseling, and support services) is Sfr. 10,100--; room and board (including boarding supervision) is Sfr. 11,800--. There is an additional charge of Sfr. 4,900-- for in-program travel, excursions, cultural events, textbooks, lift passes, and accident insurance.

Affiliated schools have agreed to pro-rate tuition for their students who attend Swiss Semester, i.e. parents are not expected to pay tuition at the home school for the time the student attends Swiss Semester. This means that the cost of Swiss Semester's tuition is more or less covered by the reduction in tuition at the home school, and any additional cost is more or less due to room and board and travel expenses incurred at Swiss Semester. Since there are no vacations during the semester (and no vacation travel expenses) and there are several trips and excursions (including trips to France and Italy), Swiss Semester fees include more supervision, room and board, and travel than a normal boarding school.

Tentative 2015 Calendar

September 10	Departure from New York	October 16-18	Parents Weekend
September 18-19	Hut overnight and ascent of Breithorn	November 3-7	Trip to Venice, Italy
September 25-26	Overnight hikes in Bernese Oberland	December 9	Return to New York
October 9-11	Trip to Annecy, France		

Sponsoring Schools

The Blake School, Minneapolis, Minnesota
The Hockaday School, Dallas, Texas

Buckingham Browne & Nichols School, Cambridge, Massachusetts
Robert Louis Stevenson School, Pebble Beach, California

Affiliated Schools

Agnes Irwin School, Rosemont, Pennsylvania
Chadwick School, Palos Verdes Peninsula, California
Deerfield Academy, Deerfield, Massachusetts
Durham Academy, Durham, North Carolina
The Episcopal Academy, Merion, Pennsylvania
Episcopal School of Dallas, Dallas, Texas
Greens Farms Academy, Greens Farms, Connecticut
Greenwich Academy, Greenwich, Connecticut
Hawken School, Gates Mills, Ohio
Kingswood-Oxford School, West Hartford, Connecticut
Laurel School, Shaker Heights, Ohio
Lovett School, Atlanta, Georgia
Mary Institute & St. Louis Country Day School, St. Louis, Missouri
The Montgomery Academy, Montgomery, Alabama

The Morristown-Beard School, Morristown, New Jersey
National Cathedral School for Girls, Washington, D.C.
The Nightingale-Bamford School, New York, New York
The Pembroke Hill School, Kansas City, Missouri
Pingry School, Martinsville, New Jersey
Princeton Day School, Princeton, New Jersey
Riverdale Country School, Bronx, New York
St. Albans School, Washington, D.C.
St. Mark's School of Texas, Dallas, Texas
St. Luke's School, New Canaan, Connecticut
The Seven Hills Schools, Cincinnati, Ohio
Sewickley Academy, Sewickley, Pennsylvania
The Spence School, New York, New York
University Liggett School, Grosse Pointe, Michigan

2014 Faculty

Mrs. Amy Bedinghaus — *Spanish*
B.A., Furman University
M.S., University of Virginia

Ms. Nathalie Brouillac — *French*
B.A., University of Nice

Ms. Beth Drewes — *Geology*
B.A., DePauw University
M.S., University of California, Santa Cruz

Ms. Abigail Geringer — *Art History*
B.A., Bowdoin College

Mr. William Hansen — *Math*
B.S., Washington University
M.A., Washington University

Mr. William King — *Art History*
B.A., University of Virginia
M.A., University of Washington

Ms. Ingrid Kupka — *Math*
B.A., Vassar College
M.A., Concordia University

Mr. Blake Montgomery — *English*
B.A., Stanford University

Mr. Daniel Piquet — *English*
B.A., St. Louis University
M.A., Middlebury College

Mr. Kristin Robbins - *Director/Current Events*
B.A., Dartmouth College

Mr. Reed Wommack — *Geology/Chinese*
B.A., Dartmouth College

Colleges Most Frequently Attended by Swiss Semester "Graduates"

47	Dartmouth	22	Yale
39	Middlebury	20	Duke
38	Princeton	19	Brown
28	University of Pennsylvania	18	Stanford
27	Harvard	18	University of Southern California
26	Cornell	17	Columbia
26	Georgetown	17	University of Michigan
22	Colgate	16	Colby
22	Vanderbilt	16	University of Texas

Some Typical Comments about Swiss Semester

"Swiss Semester trained me to fit a lot of things into a little amount of time. It also taught me to take advantage of opportunities—to seize the day. I know there are so many useful, good things I could be doing and most of all, now, I know I can do whatever I set my mind to!"

"Our son learned more self-discipline and the necessity of putting scarce time to good use. Consequently, his grades have improved dramatically, his confidence is at an all time high, and his delight and pride in his accomplishments are very apparent. With each passing day his search for academic challenge and excellence is evident as never before."

"Our daughter returned home so enriched and stretched. She is more reflective and has expanded horizons. She is also very bonded to a marvelous group of teachers and fellow students."

"I must praise your program again. Not only did Swiss Semester give me the tools to reach out and leave home, but also, it promoted risk taking, a sense of adventure and discovery."

"It was indeed the "experience of a lifetime"!!! The small classes, the teachers who truly cared about our daughter and her progress, and the cooperative atmosphere of the students all led to a tremendous academic experience. The challenging outdoor activities, the opportunity to be with a group of intelligent, motivated peers from all over the country and to bond with them through so many shared experiences—these were exhilarating and led to tremendous personal growth...It was one fantastic experience after another."

"When I think at the age of 15 I was climbing my first mountain, riding in my first helicopter and wandering through my first foreign city—all alone, I can't believe it...What did I get out of it? And the answer has come to me slowly over the years in realizing that no I was not the best skier, but I was better than I ever thought I could be. And there in the mountains I ceased to be so afraid to just try...And I realize now that it was the beginning of a great love affair with this world; it opened a window of courage through which to explore its cultures, its people, its high and low and sweeping landscapes, and yes, to understand that I was somehow a citizen of this planet—somehow part of it all."

"Every single morning, I would wake up with a goal or a purpose, and each night I would go to bed having learned a lesson, accomplished something, or made a mistake, all of which I learned and grew from." "I have become a lot more confident. I never expected that I would be able to accomplish all that I did in Switzerland. I've always claimed to be a hard worker, but I don't think I understood what hard work was until Swiss Semester pushed me to my limits...I never gave up and I pushed myself harder than I have ever before to balance the physical, academic, and social demands of Swiss Semester."

"The whole program was amazing and so much better than I could have ever expected and will ever be able to express. I learned so much, not only academically, but so many life-lessons along with how to challenge myself."

"I find it amazing that such a short period of time can make such an impression on a single life. I often wonder if I would be the same person that I am today if I had not gone to Swiss Semester. I know that I wouldn't. I want everyone to be able to have the experience that I did, to have the opportunity to change their lives, to grow, to mature, and to learn."

"She laughed, she cried, she persevered—and we are so proud of her."

"More importantly (to her and to us) was the academic awakening she experienced at Swiss Semester. She truly loved her teachers...and she began to enjoy learning for the first time in her life."