



Universität  
Zürich<sup>UZH</sup>



# Master program in Informatics: Software Systems

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# IfI: The Department of Informatics

- Founded in 1970 (IfI = Institut für Informatik)
- Part of the Faculty of Business, Economics and Informatics
- Focus on human-centered informatics
- 19 Professors, 130 PhD students and Post-Docs
- 550 Bachelor's students
- 650 Master's students
- Campus Oerlikon



**You!**



# Ifi Professors



**Alberto Bacchelli**

Zurich  
Empirical  
Software Engineering  
Team



**Jürgen Bernard**

Interactive  
Visual  
Data  
Analysis Group



**Abraham Bernstein**

Dynamic and  
Distributed  
Information  
Systems Group



**Michael Böhlen**

Data-  
Base  
Technology  
Group



**Ivan De Oliveira Nunes**

Security and  
Privacy of  
Information,  
Networks, and  
Systems



**Thomas Fritz**

Human  
Aspects of  
Software  
Engineering



**Harald Gall**

Software  
Evolution and  
Architecture  
Lab



**Manuel Günther**

Artificial  
Intelligence and  
Machine  
Learning Group



**Anikó Hannák**

Social  
Computing  
Group



**Elaine Huang**

Zurich  
People  
and  
Computing Lab



**Lena A. Jäger**

Digital  
Linguistics



**Dan Olteanu**

Data  
Systems and  
Theory Group



**Renato Pajarola**

Visualization and  
Multi-  
Media  
Lab



**Giorgia Ramponi**

Autonomous Sequential  
Learning and  
Predictive  
Intelligence Lab



**Davide Scaramuzza**

Robotics and  
Perception  
Group



**Gerhard Schwabe**

Information  
Management  
Research  
Group



**Burkhard Stiller**

Communication  
Systems  
Group



**Claudio Tessone**

Blockchain and  
Distributed  
Ledger  
Technologies



**Martin Volk**

Computational  
Linguistics

# General Information Online

Dean's Office: <https://www.oec.uzh.ch/en/studies.html>

➤ Study Regulations, Admission, Enrollment, Changing Programs, Course Booking, Important Dates, Petitions/Appeals, ...

IfI: <https://www.ifi.uzh.ch/en/studies/msc-info.html>

➤ Specific to Informatics: Fact Sheets (legally binding!), Topics/Professors, Tutors/TAs, also these slides for later reference

**Please read the regulations and fact sheets!**

The presentations held at the **Faculty's Master Welcome Day** are available from:

<https://www.oec.uzh.ch/en/studies/events/mwd.html>



# Structure of the MSc Programs

All programs comprise...

- a compulsory module
- a Master's Project (group work!)
- modules from core/elective areas
- a Master's Thesis at the end

More on these components on the next slides...

Five Major MSc study programs					90 ECTS credits
<b>Information Systems</b> IS	<b>Software Systems</b> SOSY	<b>People-Oriented Computing</b> POC	<b>Artificial Intelligence</b> AI	<b>Data Science</b> DS	
<b>Compulsory module</b> 6 ECTS	<b>Compulsory module</b> 6 ECTS	<b>Compulsory module</b> 6 ECTS	<b>Compulsory module</b> 6 ECTS	<b>Compulsory module</b> 6 ECTS	
<b>Master's project</b> 15 ECTS					
<b>Core elective area</b> 18 ECTS	<b>Core elective area</b> 18 ECTS	<b>Core elective area</b> 18 ECTS	<b>Core elective area</b> 18 ECTS	<b>Core elective area</b> 18 ECTS	
<b>INF elective area</b> 15 ECTS					
<b>WWF elective area</b> 6 ECTS					
<b>Master's thesis</b> 30 ECTS	<b>Master's thesis</b> 30 ECTS	<b>Master's thesis</b> 30 ECTS	<b>Master's thesis</b> 30 ECTS	<b>Master's thesis</b> 30 ECTS	

# Compulsory Module

The compulsory module is specific to your study program.

## Fundamentals of Software Systems

Introduction to advanced topics pertaining to the development and evolution of software systems, particularly distributed, data-intensive systems and their maintenance and evolution.

### *Prerequisites*

Knowledge of bachelor level topics of distributed systems, databases, and software engineering are necessary for both the lab assignments and following the lectures.

# Master's Project

The Master's Project...

- is a **group project** (= at least 2 students)
- is an **intensive and demanding** project worth 15 ECTS credits
- best time: During semester break
- max. 12 months to complete
- must be supervised by an IfI professor

➤ **Check the fact sheet!**

IfI organizes a **Master's Project Market** each semester

➤ Some open projects are presented and you can find peers

Five Major MSc study programs					90 ECTS credits
Information Systems IS	Software Systems SOSY	People-Oriented Computing POC	Artificial Intelligence AI	Data Science DS	
Compulsory module 6 ECTS	Compulsory module 6 ECTS	Compulsory module 6 ECTS	Compulsory module 6 ECTS	Compulsory module 6 ECTS	
Master's project 15 ECTS					
Core elective area 18 ECTS	Core elective area 18 ECTS	Core elective area 18 ECTS	Core elective area 18 ECTS	Core elective area 18 ECTS	
INF elective area 15 ECTS					
WWF elective area 6 ECTS					
Master's thesis 30 ECTS	Master's thesis 30 ECTS	Master's thesis 30 ECTS	Master's thesis 30 ECTS	Master's thesis 30 ECTS	

# Elective Areas

## Core elective area

Specific to your Major study program (IS, SOSY, POC, AI, or DS).

## INF elective area

All modules offered by IfI on the Master's level (definition in the Study Regulations, p. 31)

## WWF elective area

All modules offered by WWF on the Master's level (definition in the Study Regulations, p. 31)

Five Major MSc study programs					90 ECTS credits
Information Systems	Software Systems	People-Oriented Computing	Artificial Intelligence	Data Science	
IS	SOSY	POC	AI	DS	
Compulsory module 6 ECTS					
Master's project 15 ECTS					
Core elective area 18 ECTS					
INF elective area 15 ECTS					
WWF elective area 6 ECTS					
Master's thesis 30 ECTS					

# Core Elective Area: SOSY

In the SOSY area, the compulsory module is Fundamentals of Software Systems

The core elective modules are:

Advanced Programming, Advanced Software Engineering, Blockchains and Overlay Networks, Communication Systems Lab Course, Computational Science and Engineering, Database Systems Lab, Effective Software Testing, Global Software Management, Human Aspects of Software Engineering, IT Security, Mobile Communication Systems, Object-Oriented Software Development, Protocols for Multimedia Communications (PMMK), Requirements Engineering I, Software Systems Reliability Lab, Systems for Data Science, Understanding Programming Languages, XML and Databases.

Five Major MSc study programs					90 ECTS credits
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IS	SOSY	POC	AI	DS	
Compulsory module 6 ECTS					
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15 ECTS					
Core elective area 18 ECTS					
INF elective area					
15 ECTS					
WWF elective area					
6 ECTS					
Master's thesis 30 ECTS					

# Master's Thesis

The Master's Thesis...

- must be written in your **Major area**
- is a **full-time endeavor** worth 30 ECTS credits (i.e., *it is not possible* to complete significant side jobs or other study activities)
- max. six months to complete
- can only be started once the Master's Project has been successfully completed
- must be supervised by an IfI professor

## ➤ Check the fact sheet!

- Find topics on the IfI website (check the individual group pages) or contact the groups directly.

Five Major MSc study programs					90 ECTS credits
Information Systems IS	Software Systems SOSY	People-Oriented Computing POC	Artificial Intelligence AI	Data Science DS	
Compulsory module 6 ECTS	Compulsory module 6 ECTS	Compulsory module 6 ECTS	Compulsory module 6 ECTS	Compulsory module 6 ECTS	
Master's project 15 ECTS					
Core elective area 18 ECTS	Core elective area 18 ECTS	Core elective area 18 ECTS	Core elective area 18 ECTS	Core elective area 18 ECTS	
INF elective area 15 ECTS					
WWF elective area 6 ECTS					
Master's thesis 30 ECTS	Master's thesis 30 ECTS	Master's thesis 30 ECTS	Master's thesis 30 ECTS	Master's thesis 30 ECTS	

# Further Modules

## Seminar

- one seminar is mandatory
- recommended from 2nd semester
- check the Course Catalogue early and register for the seminar within the seminar's application deadline

➤ **Note: this deadline is shorter than the regular module booking deadline!**

## Independent Study

- Optional module
- **Check the fact sheet!**

## External Modules

- ETH: <https://www.oec.uzh.ch/en/studies/credits/external-eth.html>
- Mobility within Switzerland: <https://www.uzh.ch/cmsssl/en/studies/application/chmobilityout.html>
- International exchange: <https://www.int.uzh.ch/en/out.html>
- Partner universities: <https://www.oec.uzh.ch/en/international/engagement.html>

# SOSY – Software Systems

What else do you need to know about SOSY?

## Main professors:

Alberto Bacchelli	Empirical Software Engineering
Burkhard Stiller	Communication Systems
Harald Gall	Software Evolution and Architecture
Ivan De Oliveira Nunes	Security and Privacy of Information, Networks, and Systems
Michael Böhlen	Database Technology
Thomas Fritz	Human Aspects of Software Engineering

It is possible to change the Major under certain conditions: <https://www.oec.uzh.ch/en/studies/enrollment/change.html>

# Minor

Available Minor programs are listed in the Course Catalogue:

<https://studentservices.uzh.ch/uzh/anonym/vvz/index.html>

➤ Master of Science UZH in Informatics (RVO22) > Minor 30

**Note: Modules in the *Minor area Informatics (INF)* are offered only in the Fall semester. There are no modules in the *Minor area Informatics* in the Spring semester. Take this into account when planning your next few semesters.**

You can change your Minor under certain conditions:

<https://www.oec.uzh.ch/en/studies/enrollment/change.html>

## Study programs (18)

> Major 90

▼ Minor 30 - Faculty of Business, Economics and Informatics

Informatics

Data Science

Information Systems

Economics

Business Administration

Banking and Finance

▼ Minor 30 - Other Faculties

Bioinformatics

Biology

Chemistry

Computational Linguistics and Language Technology

Geography

Mathematics

Physics

# Hints (1/3)

- **Focus on the compulsory modules** in your Major and Minor programs
- **Make a study plan**
- Check course schedule of previous years for planning. Courses often stay in the same slot. Suggested order:



- **Read the fact sheets** well before starting the respective module or thesis
- All legally binding information regarding modules, incl. exam dates, are in the UZH Course Catalogue. Most modules additionally have a website or OLAT course, but **the Course Catalogue is binding**

## Hints (2/3)

- **Check the study websites** of the Faculty and the Department:
  - <https://www.oec.uzh.ch/en/studies.html>
  - <https://www.ifi.uzh.ch/en/studies/msc-info.html>
- Note that **booking/cancellation deadlines** may vary between faculties.
- Working at IfI: Some modules/courses seek **Tutors or Teaching Assistants**.
- Check out <https://www.ifi.uzh.ch/en/studies/msc-info.html> and the individual group pages.
- Mentoring, social events, representatives: Informatics **student association ICU**: <https://icuzh.ch>

## Hints (3/3)

- **Consider the policies on plagiarism and scientific integrity.** You find the fact sheet on plagiarism on this website:
  - <https://www.ifi.uzh.ch/en/studies/msc-info.html>
  - The Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences issued a Code of conduct for scientific integrity:  
<https://swiss-academies.ch/publications/kodex-fur-wissenschaftliche-integritat>
- UZH provides a number of **advice and support services** for topics such as Gender Equality and Diversity, Disability, or Psychological Counseling:
  - <https://www.students.uzh.ch/en/advice.html>
- **Practise passive and active English without tools** (in exams, no translation tools are permitted)
  - UZH offers English courses: <https://www.sprachenzentrum.uzh.ch/en/Sprachkurse/Englisch.html>

# Questions/Whom to Contact

**If you have questions, please follow these steps:**

1. Read the Study Regulations: <https://www.oec.uzh.ch/en/studies/regulations.html>
2. Read the Ifl's study information and fact sheets: <https://www.ifi.uzh.ch/en/studies/msc-info.html>
3. Check information in the Course Catalogue: <https://studentservices.uzh.ch/uzh/anonym/vvz/index.html>
4. Send e-mail to the respective person:

For questions about

- Master's Project
- Independent Studies
- Master's Thesis
- Informatics studies in general

Contact the Ifl's Study Coordinator,  
Daniela Bärtschi: [studies@ifi.uzh.ch](mailto:studies@ifi.uzh.ch)

For questions specific to a course: Contact the instructor.

For everything else, contact the Dean's Office:  
<https://www.oec.uzh.ch/en/staff/team.html> (Student Affairs)

And of course you can ask your fellow students, for example by joining the student association ICU: <https://icuzh.ch>

# Did you know?

**The Informatics Library is part of the UB Sciences on the Irchel campus!**

Books can be delivered to Oerlikon free of charge:  
Simply select “UB Psychology” as pick-up location in swisscovery.

<https://t.uzh.ch/1mr>  
or <https://www.ub.uzh.ch/en>





Universität  
Zürich <sup>UZH</sup>

Department of Informatics



# IfI Master Welcome Event for incoming MSc Informatics students

Monday, 22 September 2025, 12:15 in BIN 2.A.01

No registration necessary

