EPFL

Internships & Master's Projects

SPRING 2026

Computer Science

Communication Systems

Data Science

Cyber Security

The Team

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INTERNSHIPS & MASTER'S PROJECTS

Internship vs Master's project

Internship
(Practical Project)

Goal: Gain professional experience and apply theoretical knowledge in a practical environment.

Context: Done in industry or in an applied research setting (*IBM, CERN, …*).

Focus: Development of practical skills, exposure to real-world challenges, teamwork, and professional culture.

Supervision: Supervised by a professional in the company.

Output: Standard evaluation at the end of the internship

When: Students can interrupt their master's studies to do an internship.

Master's Project
(Academic Project)

Goal: Conduct an in-depth academic or research-oriented study.

Context: A company or applied research lab facing an unsolved problem and needing a practical solution.

Focus: Research methodology, critical analysis, and contribution to **new** knowledge or innovation.

Supervision: Academic supervision by EPFL

Output: Written report and defense.

When: Once the student completed all of the credits, at the end of the Master's cycle. Last step before graduation.

👉 In short:
- The **Internship** is about **professional exposure and practice**.
- The **Master's Project** is about **academic research and scientific contribution**.

Framework for the use of the EPFL agreements

	Engineering internships	Master's Projects in industry (*)
Status	Mandatory	Not mandatory (requests for modifications to the text not accepted)
Access	Public, available on the internship [website](#)	Access reserved to professors, MER, Deputies and internship coordinators
Signature	EPFL representative	Professor / MER (Master's Project supervisor)
When to use it	Mandatory internship	Only if the project is confidential (professors may refuse to sign it)

* The EPFL Master's Project Agreement is the only document that can be signed. Alternative documents such as the following cannot be signed:

- Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs).
- Company documents that have a broader definition of confidentiality than what is outlined in the EPFL Master's Project Agreement, or where the notion of IP is considered solely the company's responsibility.
- Any other form of internship agreement / "convention de stage".

INTERNSHIPS & MASTER'S PROJECTS

Internship in industry and benefits

For Students

- Encourages critical thinking and self-reflection
- Provides exposure to professional work environments
- Immersion in real-world industry practices
- Opens doors to future career opportunities

For Companies

- Access to highly qualified and motivated students
- Fresh perspectives and innovative solutions to current challenges
- Opportunity to evaluate and recruit future employees

For EPFL

- Strengthens ties with industry
- Creates a platform for research collaboration
- Receives industry feedback to enhance student education

When are you eligible to do the internship

- **Students with an EPFL Bachelor**

✅ Can do an internship **after 1 semester**.
(Start in September → Internship possible from February).

- **Students without an EPFL Bachelor**

✅ Must complete **2 semesters** before being eligible.
(Start in September 2025 → Internship possible in Summer 2026 or Fall 2026–2027).

Mandatory industry experience - options

	Short Internship	**Long Internship ***	**Master's project in industry** (last step before graduation)
Duration	8 weeks	6 months (full-time,100%) **	6 months (25 weeks + 1 week vacation)
When?	Summer: **from July 7 to Sept. 7**	Spring: **latest start March 15** Autumn: **latest start August 15**	Spring: **Feb 15 - March 1** Autumn: **Aug 1 - Oct 1 ***
Where?	industry	industry	industry
Supervision	Validated by the Section	Validated by the Section	Supervised by an IC accredited professor

*   No courses can be taken in parallel (students are on a sabbatical leave).

**   100% full time position. Remote work **up to maximum 40%.**

***   Cyber Security students: September 1 to October 1.

INTERNSHIPS & MASTER'S PROJECTS

Internship Rules & Key Information

Sequence & Timing:

- You **cannot** do a summer internship immediately followed by a 6-month long internship.
- You **cannot** do two 6-month internships.
- Allowed sequence: **Summer internship → Long internship or Master's project**.
    - Example: Summer 2026 → Long internship Spring 2027
    - Long internship first → Summer internship is **not allowed**.
- **Summer internships:**
    - Must start immediately after exams, by mid-July (earlier if no exams).
    - Must be followed by an academic semester or Master's project (typically mid-September).
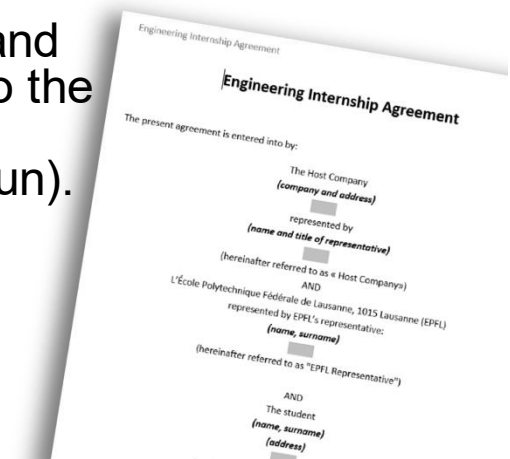
Internship Status & Rules:

- First successfully completed and validated internship will appear in your **diploma supplement**.
- **Research Scholars:**
    - Cannot interrupt the 1st-year program.
    - Cannot do a summer internship in 2026.
- **Courses during internship:** Not permitted.
- **IS-Academia status:** "Internship".
- Internship semester **does not count** toward the maximum Master's duration (6 semesters).
- Tuition fee for internship semester: **CHF 50.-**

Recap: EPFL Internship Agreement

- The EPFL Internship Agreement specifies the commitments and responsibilities of EPFL, the company and the internship student.

- This tripartite agreement must be signed for all short (8-weeks during the summer) or long (6-months during a semester) internships. Failure to do so means that your internship will not be recognized or validated by the Section.

- The EPFL Internship Agreement must be completed and signed by company, the student and then submitted to the IC Internship Coordinator for signature of the EPFL Representative (the IC Section Deputy, Eileen Hazboun).

- No other tripartite agreement involving EPFL signed by the Section.

- The EPFL Internship Agreement can be downloaded from the internship website.

INTERNSHIPS & MASTER´S PROJECTS

Master's project (30 ECTS)
Your last step before graduation **go.epfl.ch/masterproject**

INTERNSHIPS & MASTER'S PROJECTS

26 weeks

Possible even if an internship has already been carried out.
If not, it counts as the mandatory internship

INDUSTRY

26 weeks

Only possible if a short (8 weeks, summer) or long (6 months, semester) internship has been carried out beforehand

AT ANOTHER UNIVERSITY

18 weeks

Only possible if a short (8 weeks, summer) or long (6 months, semester) internship has been carried out beforehand

AT EPFL

Recommendation

- Plan ahead if you wish to pursue a PhD.

- Validate the mandatory industry internship requirement.

- Then complete your Master's project in a lab at EPFL or another university.

Goals of a Master's project
Whether in industry or at EPFL/other university

Expectation
- More than just learning and implementation; it must include a research and innovative development component.

- It should present a significant technical challenge.

Content
- A well-defined component that addresses a new problem.

- The problem does not yet have a recognized solution, but you will attempt to develop and assess a solution as part of your Master's project.

Supervision
- Academic task (30 ECTS) → must be supervised by an IC accredited professor

Confidentiality of Master's projects

Definition of "confidentiality"

- Information disclosed by the company to the student and the EPFL academic supervisor within the scope of the Master's project, either in writing and clearly labelled as "confidential" or orally provided it has been declared as confidential.

Confidentiality shall not apply to information that:

- Was already in the public domain or publicly known at the time it was disclosed, or that subsequently became public.
- Was already in the possession of the student or EPFL, without any restrictions on its disclosure at the time it was received.
- Was obtained by the student or EPFL in good faith from a third party who was entitled to disclose it, without any confidentiality obligations.
- Was independently developed by the student or EPFL without breaching any obligations.

INTERNSHIPS & MASTER'S PROJECTS

Non-Disclosure Agreements

Important

Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs)

- In most cases, our professors do not sign NDAs, as we have an open environment that is not set up to maintain confidentiality. Additionally, signing NDAs conflicts with the school's principle that all research results should be published and shared.

EPFL Master's Project Agreement

- If a company requires an agreement, the professor may propose the the EPFL Master's Project Agreement (optional).

Make sure that you discuss and clarify these points with both the company and your professor before making any commitments.

INTERNSHIPS & MASTER'S PROJECTS

Recap: EPFL Master's Project Agreement

- The EPFL Master's Project Agreement outlines the commitments and responsibilities of the EPFL academic supervisor, the company and the student regarding confidentiality.

- It specifies the IP and confidentiality aspects for a Master's project in industry without existing collaborations. It allows the EPFL academic supervisor to have access to the results of your work without having to sign an NDA.

- As it is not mandatory, amendments or changes requested by companies will **not be accepted** by the Section or the EPFL Legal Department.

- Unlike the EPFL Internship Agreement, this document is not accessible on the internship website, as it is optional and only EPFL professors are authorized to propose its use and thus take responsibility for EPFL's engagement in a research context.

- If a company requests such a document, it must first be discussed with your EPFL academic supervisor before you make any commitments. Be aware that many professors will not accept to sign this document.

Master's project in industry

Confirm the eligibility of the project

- Whether you found the project through the IS Academia portal or on your own, you must complete the validation form (Google form) to obtain approval from the Section.

- Once your project topic has been approved by the Section, contact an authorized IC supervisor (Refer to the website for the list of labs authorized to supervise your Master's project).

- Complete the Master's Project Registration Form and submit it to the Internship Office at internships.ic@epfl.ch by December 19, 2025.

- **Do not accept a position without confirming the eligibility of the project and clarifying all details first with the Internship Office and then with the EPFL supervisor.**

Master's project in another university

- Some universities require excellent grades even if a professor supports your application.

- Complete the validation form (Google form) to obtain approval from the Section.

- Once your project topic is approved, reach out to an authorized IC supervisor (*Refer to the website for the list of labs authorized to supervise your Master's project*).

- Fill out the Master's Project Registration Form and submit it to the Internship Office at internships.ic@epfl.ch by December 19, 2025.

- Academic Master's projects are not published on the portal; it is your responsibility to find your own project. You may ask IC labs for potential contacts or reach out directly to the host university.

How can you find an internship or a master'project in the industry?

- It is your responsibility to find a suitable internship and / or master's project.

- The portal on IS-Academia has more than 7,000 contacts worldwide.

- Last semester, **534** proposals were published on the portal.

- You can also find your internship on your own. However, please ensure that the **internship is approved by the Internship Office before committing to the company.**

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IS Academia Portal : how does it work ?

Monday, Sept. 8th

➢ The internship portal opens

Monday, Sept. 15th

➢ First submission of applications

Every Monday at 14h00

➢ Applications are sent to the companies

Respect the Deadlines

➢ Since you will be competing with students from other Sections for some of the projects posted on the portal, we strongly recommend that you apply for an internship or Master's project as early as possible.

INTERNSHIPS & MASTER'S PROJECTS

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IS Academia portal: how many applications?

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NUMBER OF INITIAL APPLICATIONS IS 5
- The number of applications is managed by the Internship Office
- The number of applications increases as the semester progresses

- Choose projects that match your profile
- Quantity is not synonymous with quality
- Applying to many applications can cause a lot of stress

- Provide the Internship Office with feedback
- Interview? Did you find an internship / Master's project?

IS Academia portal : Registration and skills alignment

1 Register in IS Academia portal

2 Select your project (s)

3 Upload your CV and Cover letter

4 Specify the project type (internship or master's project)

5 Specify the dates

6 Upload additional documents

Match Your Skills:

- **Core / Optional Courses** – Align your course knowledge with project requirements.

- **Research Projects** – Highlight relevant research experience.

- **Programming Languages** – List languages and proficiency relevant to the project.

Key considerations

Pay attention to specific company requirements, such as:

CERN

- Requires EPFL to sign a Home Institution Declaration (HDI) that includes specific insurance clauses for occupational accidents. EPFL **cannot sign this declaration** because students do not hold employee status. Be sure to clarify this with the CERN beforehand.

FRENCH COMPANIES

- Often request EPFL to sign an internship agreement (convention de stage) for a Master's project.

- **Reminder**: The Master's project is **NOT** an internship, and EPFL **WILL NOT** sign any internship agreements.

Consequences of your choices

- Change of residence – relocation

- Time-consuming formalities
    - Work authorization
    - Visa applications
    - Residence permit and / or return visa

- EPFL Internship Agreement >> submit the fully completed and signed document **before the starting date!**

- The EPFL Internship Agreement, the Master's project validation and registration forms can be found on the internship website.

INTERNSHIPS & MASTER'S PROJECTS

Internship or Master's Project : Work authorizations

➢ **Your student B-permit allows you to work part-time during your studies (limited to 15h/week during a semester).**

To work full-time:

- **Non-EU/EFTA Students**: The company must obtain approval from the labor market authorities before the internship begins. EPFL will provide a document confirming that the internship is mandatory.

- **EU/EFTA Students**: You can start your internship immediately after notifying the local authorities.

- For more information, visit: https://go.epfl.ch/workauthorizations

If you are moving to another canton:

- **Non-EU/EFTA Students:** You must maintain your primary address in Canton de Vaud and register a secondary residence in the host canton.
- For details, see: https://go.epfl.ch/movingtoanothercanton

INTERNSHIPS & MASTER'S PROJECTS

Internship or Master's Project Abroad: Visa requests

✅ **Student Responsibilities**

- Check visa requirements
- Complete all administrative tasks

⚠️ **Important Reminders**

- Cannot work for a foreign company while staying in Switzerland ❌
- Full-time remote internships or Master's projects (in CH or abroad) are **not allowed** 🚫

Visa and Work Authorizations : timing and responsibilities

- B-permit, work authorizations, and visa procedures are a time-consuming process and require **a minimum of 8 weeks.** Therefore, once you are accepted for an internship or a Master's project, it is crucial to **start these procedures promptly.**

- It is the **company's responsibility to request the work authorization** from the labor authorities of their canton / country. However, **you are responsible for requesting an attestation** from the Internship Office to support this work authorization / visa request.

- Take this into consideration when applying for internships or Master's projects in industry.

INTERNSHIPS & MASTER'S PROJECTS

Sabbatical Leave

A leave of absence for one semester without providing a specific reason may be requested after completing the Master's cycle (90 credits) and before starting the Master's project, under the following conditions:

- The maximum duration of 6 semesters for the Master's cycle has not been reached.

- The leave of absence can be extended by an additional semester, provided the same conditions are met.

- A leave of absence cannot be granted during the Master's project or between the first and second attempts of the Master's project.

- The Section **WILL NOT** provide or sign any documents (e.g., attestation, EPFL Internship Agreement, etc.) during your leave of absence.

Procedure:

- Contact the Administrative Specialist of your Master's program.

IS-Academia Status

During the Internship

- Register in **IS Academia** for your internship (practical project).
- During the internship, the "clock" stops: this period **does not count toward the 6 semesters** of your Master's cycle.

During the Master's Project

- You remain **registered at EPFL**.

Fee Type	Amount (CHF)
Internship fee	50.-
Master's project fee	780.-

INTERNSHIPS & MASTER´S PROJECTS

Deadlines

Respect the Deadlines

- Please be aware that you must find and confirm an internship or a Master's project by

  December 19, 2025

- This will give you enough time to focus on exams and handle administrative tasks (*work authorisations, visa requests…)*

Individual Meetings

- **We offer you individual meetings:**

  - ✓ To discuss your options and eventually contact companies that are not listed in the portal.

  - ✓ To review your application files (cover letter & CV).

  - ✓ To answer any questions, you may have related to your internship and / or Master's project.

  - ✓ **Contact: patricia.genet@epfl.ch**

Important reminders

- After earning **90 credits** in the Master's cycle, you must complete **either an internship or a Master's project**. No additional courses can be taken during this period.

- **Internships must be full-time (100%)**; taking courses alongside an internship is not allowed.

- **Choose a project that aligns with your academic and professional goals**, particularly if you plan to pursue a PhD.

- **Remote internships or Master's projects in Switzerland for a foreign company are strictly prohibited**. Remote work in Switzerland is allowed up to **40% (2 days per week max)**.

- The **Master's project topic must be approved by the Section** and discussed with your professor before committing to a company.

- If you **fail a course and lack the required credits**, you must switch to an internship and postpone your Master's project.

- If you **already completed an internship** and **fail your first attempt at an industrial Master's project**, the **second attempt must be carried out in an EPFL lab**.

During and after the internship or Master's project

- In case of any issues, such as an accident, illness, personal problems, conflicts with supervisors, etc., **urgently contact the IC Internship Coordinator at** patricia.genet@epfl.ch.

- For an internship, no written report is required by EPFL but may be requested by the company.

- To validate your internship, both you and your company supervisor must complete **an evaluation form**, which will be sent out via email automatically 2 weeks before the internship ends.

- For a Master's project, you will have a **hard deadline to submit your written report, followed by an oral defense**. You will receive the details for submitting your Master's project report about 4 weeks before the hard deadline.

Last but not Least

- As an EPFL student, you will represent the university as an ambassador in the industry.

- Through your hard work and positive attitude, you will leave a positive impression within the company.

- This is not only important for your future professional career but also strengthens the EPFL internship program, which will grow from your commitment.

- **It is your responsibility** to be perfectly aware of the internships and Master's projects rules and regulations. No exceptions will be made!

Upcoming Events @ EPFL

FORUMEPFL
06 - 10 Oct 2025
SwissTech Convention Center

The largest recruitment fair by students in Europe

43rd Edition
SwissTech Convention Center
06 - 10 Oct 2025

https://forum-epfl.ch/2025/en/

ICBD
IC B00ST DAY

Next edition in 2026:
Date to be determined
https://clic.epfl.ch/icbd

INTERNSHIPS & MASTER'S PROJECTS

EPFL Transversal Skills and Career Center

The Transversal Skills and Career Center offers many services to EPFL students willing to prepare themselves for their entry in the labour market. They can take advantage of them during their studies and up to 6 months after graduation.

Their platform can be your guide to discovering and making full use of the training offer available on the EPFL campus.

We invite you to explore how these skills can enrich your academic background and give you an invaluable advantage when you enter the world of work.

Discover their catalogue of extracurricular activities and initiatives at EPFL, designed to enrich your academic experience and support you in your student and professional career.

Registration at: epflcareer.ch/en/trainings

Prepare your internship campaign

- The EPFL Career Center proposes several modules:

  - Networking to enhance your job search (workshop) – Sept 15 – 9:30
  - Understanding recruiters – Sept 17 – 12:15
  - Crafting an effective CV – Sept 24 – 12:00
  - Crafting a standout letter of motivation – Oct 5 – 12:15
  - Mastering the job interview – Oct 29 – 10:00
  - Make the most of Your Forum – Sept 30 – 20:30

  Registration at: epflcareer.ch/en/trainings

INTERNSHIPS & MASTER'S PROJECTS

Contact Details

- **Our website:**
  go.epfl.ch/IC-internships

- Monday and Friday
  available by email / phone

- Tuesdays and Thursdays (INN 131)
  Office hours:
  10h00 - 12h00 / 14h00 - 16h00

Internship Office

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Internship Program Coordinator
patricia.genet@epfl.ch
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INTERNSHIPS & MASTER'S PROJECTS

We wish you an
excellent semester!

Any Questions?