

Exchange students EPFL Physics Section Welcome Day

Raphaël Butté
Academic counsellor

Information for new Master students (not exchange) given elsewhere:

- CE 1 103
 - Master of Science in Physics
 - Master of Applied Physics
- CE 1 101
 - Master of Nuclear Engineering (combined EPFL-ETHZ-PSI)

Contact information

Service Académique (SAC), Exchange Students
Office, BP 1244, sac-exchange-in@epfl.ch
(Laura Calderon, Natacha Spirgi)

Physics Section (SPH)

valerie.schaererbusinger@epfl.ch

021 693 33 00

PH A2 402

Physics Section Head:

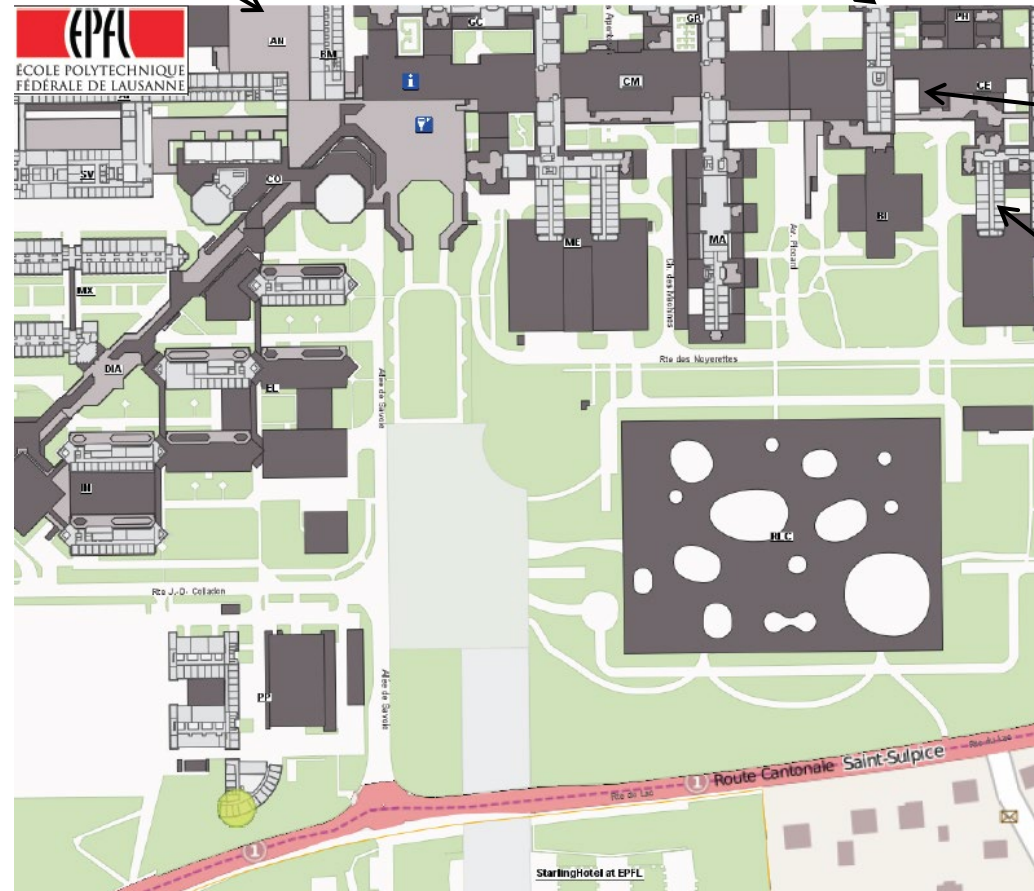
Prof. Cécile Hébert

cecile.hebert@epfl.ch

Deputy director:

Prof. Daniele Mari

daniele.mari@epfl.ch



We are here!

raphael.butte@epfl.ch

021 693 33 57

CH building

Office CH A3 465

Choosing the appropriate courses

- Your choice of courses must be approved by your *home* institution.
- Your home institution is responsible for validating your studies done at EPFL based on the results you will obtain.
- **Exchange students** are subject to the **same rules as EPFL students for examinations, ... but *not* for the course selection.**
- EPFL follows the system of ECTS credits.
- Incoming exchange students are allowed, in principle, to register for any course offered on any Bachelor or Master curriculum of any Section. **Exceptions:** certain Master programs and **most Laboratories**.
<https://www.epfl.ch/education/international/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/RestrictedCoursesNew.xlsx>
- You still have the first 2 weeks of the semester to choose courses.
- Do not forget to **register** for the courses you will have selected. Deadline: **Friday September 19, 2025, for the fall semester**
- Online registration: <https://www.epfl.ch/campus/services/ressources/is-academia/>

Some useful webpages

- **Global view of curricula and study plans:**

- https://www.epfl.ch/education/studies/en/rules-and-procedures/study_plans/
- Look at the course offer from other sections (maths, chemistry, mechanical engineering, etc.)

- **Study plans with links to course descriptions:**

- <https://edu.epfl.ch/studyplan/en/bachelor/physics/>
- <https://edu.epfl.ch/studyplan/en/master/physics-master-program/>
- <https://edu.epfl.ch/studyplan/en/master/applied-physics/>
- From those pages you can navigate across the study plans of other sections

Contain information about the language (FR, EN), the number of ECTS credits, the semester (odd: fall; even: spring), type of exam (written/oral/during the semester), link to professor contact information, etc.

- **Academic calendar:**

- <https://www.epfl.ch/education/studies/en/rules-and-procedures/academic-calendar/>

Laboratory and projects

- **Master students:** PHYS 421/422- Physics Project I/II, 8 ECTS each (“TP IV”)
 - Research project (1 day/week) in one of the physics laboratories.
 - <https://www.epfl.ch/schools/sb/research/iphys/research/>
 - Contact the lab manager or your professor to discuss a possible TP IV project (limited number of places available!).
 - Check with your home University that the proposed project is compliant with its requirements.
- **Bachelor students:**
 - Physics Lab IIIa, IIIb (in dedicated lab) is not open to exchange students.
 - Our EPFL curriculum does not include a ‘Bachelor Project’.
 - If your Home University requires you to take one, the procedure is like the “TP IV” above. Tell the professor that you are looking for a ‘TP-IV-like’ project, but that you are still at the Bachelor level. Discuss how many ECTS credits such a project will earn you.
 - On IS-Academia, register to the following course:
EPFL 301 Specific project for exchange/visiting student.

Important dates: [academic calendar](#)

- **Fall semester**

- September 8 – December 19, 2025
- September 19, 2025, deadline for course registration (*)
- Semester break: October 20-26, 2025 (+September 22, 2025, lundi du Jeûne Fédéral)
- *November 21, 2025: deadline for exam withdrawal (*)*
- Exam period for fall semester courses
 - January 12 – January 31, 2026

- **Spring semester**

- February 16 – May 29, 2026
- February 27, 2026: deadline for course registration (*)
- Semester break (Easter week): April 03-12, 2026
- *May 1, 2026: deadline for exam withdrawal (*)*
- Exam period for spring semester courses
 - June 15 – July 4, 2026
- **(*) When you register for a course, you are automatically registered for the exam. If you don't want to take the exam you have to withdraw from the exam before the indicated deadline.**

Exam rules (valid for all students)

- If you forget to cancel your registration for an exam, it will count as one failed attempt and will appear so on your official transcript of records.
- Repeating a failed exam at EPFL is only possible one year later. It is not possible to redo the exam shortly after the 1st attempt.
- **As an exchange student, this implies that if you fail, you will have to redo the branch at your home University.**
- For most branches, the exam form is either **written** or **oral during the official exam periods** after each semester. Some branches are evaluated **during the semester**. This is indicated in the Course Description.
- The language of the examination is also indicated in the course description. Upon written request, the teacher may authorize the student to answer in English even if the official language of the examination is French.

Institute of Physics at EPFL – research areas

- Research at IPHYS @ EPFL covers a broad range of fields, grouped into [5 main areas](#):
 - Astrophysics and Particle Physics
 - Condensed Matter Physics
 - Physics of Biological and Complex Systems
 - Plasma Physics, Fusion and Fission
 - Quantum Science and Technology

Any questions?

All the best for your studies/stay at EPFL!