ETH Zurich Acceptance Rate for International Students

ETH Zurich (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich) is one of the world's top-ranked universities in Switzerland, placed **7th globally in the QS World University Rankings 2026**. The overall ETH Zurich **acceptance rate is 27%**, with undergraduate programs **25–30%**, master's programs **10–20%**, Computer Science MSc **8–15%**, and international students **15–20%**. Indian students applying to popular master's programs have an estimated acceptance rate of **10–15%**. With over 22,000 students, **40%** from outside Switzerland, ETH Zurich is highly respected for engineering, computer science, and natural sciences, making admission very competitive.

ETH Zurich attracts thousands of applicants from more than 120 countries each year. Postgraduate programs are especially selective, requiring top academic records, research experience, strong **recommendation letters**, and language proficiency (**TOEFL** ≥100, **IELTS** ≥7). Popular fields like Mechanical Engineering, Computer Science, and Architecture are highly competitive, while undergraduate programs are slightly more accessible.

In this blog, we break down the ETH Zurich acceptance rate for 2025, program-specific estimates, eligibility criteria for bachelors and master's programs, application deadlines, tips to improve your admission chances, and scholarships available for international students.

Explore top universities, costs, and visa details in our complete guide: Study in Switzerland

What is the ETH Zurich acceptance rate in 2025?

ETH Zurich is one of the most prestigious technical universities in the world, which naturally makes it highly selective. The ETH Zurich acceptance rate in 2025 is estimated at around 27% overall, but this varies depending on the course level and applicant background. Undergraduate programs tend to have a slightly higher acceptance rate, while master's programs, especially in popular fields like Computer Science, are much more competitive.

For international students, the acceptance rate is usually lower due to tougher eligibility checks, academic equivalency, and limited seats. For instance, the ETH Zurich acceptance rate for Indian students is estimated to be between 10–15%, depending on the program.

Below is a breakdown of estimated acceptance rates for different categories:

ETH Zurich Acceptance Rate 2025 (Estimated):

Program Type	Estimated Acceptance Rate
Overall Acceptance Rate	~27%
Undergraduate Programs	25–30%
Master's Programs	10–20%

International Students (All Levels)	15–20%
Computer Science Master's Program	8–15%
ETH Zurich Acceptance Rate for Indian Students	~10–15%

Please note: ETH Zurich does not provide official acceptance rates. These numbers are generally based on student experiences and estimated data.

Also check out: <u>Getting Admission despite low Eth Zurich Acceptance Rate</u>

ETH Zurich Acceptance Rate: Eligibility Criteria

ETH Zurich follows a strict and merit-based admission process, especially for international students. Whether you're applying for a bachelor's, master's, or PhD program, you must meet the minimum academic and language requirements set by the university.

Eligibility Criteria for Bachelor's Programs

- **Academic Qualification:** You must have completed your school-leaving certificate equivalent to the Swiss Matura. Indian students need an excellent score in JEE Advanced to qualify.
- **Language Proficiency:** ETH Zurich's undergraduate courses are taught in German. You must show proficiency through recognized tests like TestDaF, DSH, or Goethe-Zertifikat C1/C2.

Eligibility Criteria for Master's Programs

- **Bachelor's Degree:** You need a strong academic background in a relevant field from a **recognized university**.
- **Grades:** ETH Zurich expects students to be in the top 10–15% of their class.
- **Prerequisite Knowledge:** Some master's programs (especially in Engineering and Computer Science) require prior coursework in specific subjects.
- **Language Proficiency:** Many master's programs are taught in English. You must provide **IELTS** (minimum 7.0) or **TOEFL** (minimum 100) scores.

Check out: [MS in Switzerland for Indian Students](#)

How competitive is ETH Zurich compared to other global universities?

ETH Zurich is widely ranked among the top 10 universities worldwide, making it highly competitive,

particularly in STEM and research disciplines. Alongside institutions like MIT, Stanford, and Oxford, ETH stands out for its academic rigour, research excellence, and global recognition.

ETH Zurich vs. Other Global Universities (2025):

University	QS Ranking 2026	Known Competitiveness
ETH Zurich	#7	Highly competitive; especially in Computer Science and Engineering
MIT	#1	~6.7% acceptance; extremely selective
Stanford University	#3	~4% acceptance; extremely selective
University of Cambridge	#6	Varies by course (~20–25%)
University of Toronto	#29	More accessible (~40–45%)

When are ETH Zurich's application deadlines?

ETH Zurich has specific deadlines for each program level, and the application window varies depending on whether you're a Swiss or international applicant. These dates are **crucial**, especially for non-EU/EEA students like those from India, due to additional time needed for visa processing and document verification.

ETH Zurich does not offer rolling admissions for bachelor's or master's programs. All applications must be submitted within the designated period to be considered.

ETH Zurich Application Deadlines (2025 Intake)

Program Level	Applicant Type	Application Period (2026 Intake)
Bachelor's	Non-Swiss certificate holders	1 Dec 2025 – 31 Mar 2026
Master's	International Bachelor's holders	1 Nov 2025 – 30 Nov 2026
Master's	Swiss Bachelor's holders	1 Apr 2026 – 30 Apr 2026
PhD	All applicants	Rolling (varies by department)

How to Increase Your Chances of Getting into ETH Zurich?

ETH Zurich is one of the world's top technical universities, and its acceptance rate is highly competitive, especially for international students. Whether you're applying for undergraduate or master's programs like ETH

Zurich MSc in Computer Science, here are key ways to stand out:

Tips to Boost Your Admission Chances

Strategy	Details
Academic Excellence	Maintain a GPA of 3.5 or higher (or 85 %+). ETH Zurich looks for top academic performers with a strong foundation in STEM.
Strong Subject Background	For programs like Computer Science, make sure you've studied math, physics, and programming intensively in your previous education.
Research Experience	Having publications, thesis work, or internship projects in your field adds value, especially for ETH Zurich graduate program applications.
Well-crafted SOP & LORs	Your **Statement of Purpose** should clearly explain your goals and fit with ETH Zurich. Ask mentors for detailed and personal **Letters of Recommendation**.
Language Proficiency	Provide valid proof of language skills: C1 in German (Bachelor) or B2 in English (Master), as per program requirements.
Apply Early & Precisely	International students, especially from India, must follow the November Master's deadline strictly. Early preparation is key.

Does ETH Zurich Offer Scholarships to International Students?

Yes, ETH Zurich offers multiple scholarship programs for international students at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. These scholarships are merit-based and help cover tuition fees, living expenses, or both.

Key Scholarships Offered by ETH Zurich:

Scholarship Name	Eligible Programs	What It Covers
ETH Excellence Scholarship & Opportunity Programme (ESOP)	Master's Programs	Full tuition waiver + living expenses (CHF 12,000/semester)
ETH-D Scholarship	Master's Programs	Partial stipend + assistantship + partial tuition waiver
Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships	PhD & Postdoc	Monthly stipend, tuition waiver, insurance (offered by the Swiss Govt)
ETH Zurich Bachelor Scholarship	Bachelor's (rare, mostly for Swiss citizens)	Mainly for domestic applicants; international support is limited

Please note: Scholarships are highly competitive. Strong academic records, research potential, and a compelling Statement of Purpose significantly improve your chances.

Also check out: Scholarships in Switzerland – Requirements & Amount

Conclusion

ETH Zurich is one of the top universities in the world, and admission is highly competitive. With an overall acceptance rate of around 27 percent, and lower for international students and programs like Computer Science, careful planning and preparation are key. Meeting deadlines and building a strong academic profile can make a big difference.

Every detail counts, from research experience and recommendation letters to language proficiency and a strong statement of purpose. With focus and dedication, you can improve your chances and turn your dream of studying at ETH Zurich into reality.

Feeling overwhelmed? upGrad can guide you through eligibility, applications, and scholarships. **Book a 1:1 free counselling session with upGrad experts today** to get personalized support and boost your admission chances.

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