Press Kit Media

42 SWITZERLAND

Two 42 campuses in Lausanne and Zurich, training the tech talent of tomorrow.



Lausanne / Zurich — In a context of rapid digital transformation and growing demand for technology skills, the 42 Lausanne and 42 Zurich campuses share a common mission: to provide a free, world-class computer

science education that is open to everyone and designed to develop autonomous, creative, and job-ready talent

Switzerland is part of the global 42 Network, internationally recognized for its innovative educational model. With no lectures and no professors, 42 is built on project-based learning, peer-to-peer collaboration, and hands-on problem solving.

Since its creation in 2013, the 42 Network has trained thousands of digital professionals and is now recognized as one of the world's leading coding schools. It ranks 3rd worldwide in the *World University Rankings for Innovation (WURI)* in the *Industrial Application* category.

A Practical Response to Switzerland's Digital Skills Needs

The shortage of digital talent is a major challenge for Swiss businesses, public institutions, and the economy as a whole. Software development, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, cloud computing, data, and automation are evolving rapidly, creating a growing demand for professionals who can continuously learn and adapt.

The 42 Lausanne and 42 Zurich campuses help strengthen Switzerland's digital capabilities by training highly skilled, adaptable professionals who are prepared for the realities of today's and tomorrow's workplace.

Two Campuses at the Heart of Switzerland's Innovation Ecosystems

42 Lausanne is located in Renens, at the heart of Western Switzerland's innovation ecosystem. The campus thrives in an environment renowned for its strong collaboration between academia, industry, and public institutions, driven by initiatives such as the Trust Valley, the Health Valley, a rapidly growing fintech ecosystem, and the Department for Economic Affairs and Innovation (SPEI) of the Canton of Vaud. Close to the EPFL Innovation Park, 42 Lausanne is part of a dynamic region where the technologies and companies shaping tomorrow's digital world are emerging.

42 Zürich is located in the heart of one of Switzerland's leading economic and technology hubs. Zurich is home to world-renowned research institutions such as ETH Zurich, a vibrant ecosystem of startups and scale-ups, and international technology companies including Google, Microsoft, and IBM Research. With strong expertise in areas such as artificial intelligence, fintech, cybersecurity, and deep tech, the region offers significant potential for 42 Zürich to connect with research, industry, startups, and the wider technology community. This environment creates valuable opportunities to build future collaborations, develop industry-relevant projects, and strengthen pathways between education and the world of work.

In both Lausanne and Zurich, the campuses maintain close relationships with companies, institutional partners, foundations, and key players in the technology ecosystem. These collaborations create opportunities for internships, industry projects, career placement, and the development of skills that closely match the needs of the job market.

A Free Education Open to Everyone

The 42 programme is entirely free of charge. It requires no prior degree and no previous technical experience. It is open to anyone aged 18 and over, regardless of their educational background, origin, gender, or professional situation.

This model makes it possible to identify talented individuals whose potential might not be revealed through traditional academic pathways. Selection is based solely on motivation, logical thinking, the ability to learn, perseverance, and collaboration.

The admissions process takes place in several stages. Candidates first complete an online aptitude test, which is used to identify the most promising applicants. Those who qualify are invited to take part in **the Piscine**, an intensive four-week immersion during which they complete a series of programming projects. At the end of the Piscine, the most successful candidates are admitted to the programme.

The Piscine : a four-week selection program designed to identify the most promising candidates while introducing them to the core principles of 42: an intensive pace, teamwork, and self-directed learning.

A Unique Educational Model

The 42 educational model is built on three core principles: peer-to-peer learning, project-based learning, and autonomy.
There are no lectures, no professors in the traditional sense, and no fixed timetable. Students learn by completing real-world projects, finding solutions independently, collaborating with their peers, and evaluating one another's work.
This approach develops strong technical skills while fostering the qualities that employers value most: autonomy, discipline, communication, problem-solving, teamwork, and the ability to adapt quickly to new technologies.

Training the Talent That Will Strengthen Switzerland's Digital Sovereignty

By educating highly qualified technology professionals locally, 42 Switzerland contributes to a strategic national objective: strengthening and sustaining Switzerland's digital capabilities.
42 graduates go on to support business innovation, drive the digital transformation of organisations, and help reinforce the country's digital sovereignty.

Encouraging International Mobility in a Multicultural Environment

In today's global digital economy, where borders matter less than ever, international experience has become an essential asset. Once students have mastered the programme's core curriculum, they can continue their studies at any campus within the global 42 Network while benefiting from the same educational model.
This international outlook is further strengthened through inter-campus projects that bring together students from several 42 campuses across different countries. These projects immerse students in real-world international collaboration, enabling them to work with teammates from diverse cultural backgrounds and across multiple time zones, an experience that closely reflects the realities of today's global technology industry.

A GLOBAL AND GROWING NETWORK



Serge Reymond, Président, 42 Switzerland :
"42 Switzerland was founded on a simple conviction: Switzerland must be able to train, locally, the digital talent it needs to innovate and strengthen its digital sovereignty. By bringing together the Lausanne and Zurich campuses under a shared vision, we are building bridges between students, businesses, public institutions, and the broader innovation ecosystem to develop the skills that will drive Switzerland's economy tomorrow."

About 42

42 is the world's leading tuition-free computer science programme, open to everyone aged 18 and over, with no prior degree or academic qualifications required.
Its innovative educational model is based on **peer-to-peer learning**: there are no lectures, no professors, and no traditional classrooms. Instead, students learn through hands-on, project-based learning in a collaborative environment that encourages creativity, autonomy, and problem-solving.
Founded in 2013 by Xavier Niel in response to France's growing shortage of software developers, 42 was created to train the next generation of digital talent, regardless of background.

Today, 42 has grown into a global network, bringing together partner campuses across more than 30 countries under the **42 Network** banner, including France, Belgium, Morocco, Finland, the Netherlands, Brazil, Indonesia, Armenia, Japan, South Korea, Spain, Canada, Germany, Italy, Portugal, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Thailand, Australia, and many others.

https://www.42network.org/

About 42 Switzerland

42 Switzerland is a non-profit association based in Renens that brings together the 42 campuses in Switzerland around a shared mission: making technology education accessible, training the digital talent of tomorrow, and contributing to the development of a more inclusive, innovative, and sustainable tech ecosystem.
Supported by companies, foundations, and public institutions, the association enables the Lausanne and Zurich campuses to provide a free, high-quality education that is open to everyone.

https://www.42switzerland.org/

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