42 SWITZERLAND

Press Release

42 Switzerland expands nationwide with a second campus in Zurich and a presence in Geneva

As 42 Lausanne welcomes 120 new students to its campus today for the start of the academic year, 42 Switzerland is continuing its nationwide expansion. With 42 Lausanne, the opening of 42 Zurich, and the development of the Digital Lab in Geneva in partnership with Fondation ForPro, the network is extending its educational model across Switzerland. This marks a new step in addressing companies' growing demand for digital skills and contributing to Switzerland's efforts to strengthen its digital sovereignty.
Lausanne, 5 October 2026 – Five years after the opening of 42 Lausanne, 42 Switzerland is entering a new phase of its national development. The association is expanding its presence across Switzerland with the opening of a second campus in Zurich and the development of the Digital Lab in Geneva, in partnership with Fondation ForPro.

This presence across three major economic hubs – Lausanne, Zurich and Geneva – reflects a shared ambition: to make high-quality technology education accessible, train in Switzerland the digital talent that companies and institutions need, and build stronger bridges between education, business and innovation.

Through this expansion, 42 Switzerland aims to contribute to a strategic priority: ensuring that Switzerland has the local expertise required to understand, develop, secure and advance the technologies on which its economy depends.

One of the World's Most Innovative Educational Models

42 Switzerland is built on the educational model of the international 42 network, now present in more than 30 countries. In 2026, 42 was ranked the 3rd most innovative educational institution in the world by the World University Rankings for Innovation (WURI), ahead of institutions including MIT and Stanford.

This recognition highlights a model that is radically different from traditional education: no lectures and no teachers, but project-based, peer-to-peer learning built around autonomy, collaboration, experimentation and problem-solving.

In a technological landscape being reshaped by artificial intelligence, this ability to learn is becoming increasingly important. Technology is evolving at an unprecedented pace: education can therefore no longer focus solely on mastering a specific technology, but must above all develop the ability to understand new systems, question them and adapt to them.

From Lausanne to Zurich: 42 Goes Nationwide

Opened in 2021, 42 Lausanne brought the 42 model to Switzerland for the first time. Today, the Renens campus is firmly embedded in French-speaking Switzerland's technology and business ecosystem and works closely with companies, public institutions and foundations.

Lausanne, 8 September 2026

With 42 Zurich, 42 Switzerland is now expanding across the country and establishing a presence at the heart of Switzerland's largest economic and technology hub. Located at Zurich-Z.ONE, the new campus will offer free training in software development and artificial intelligence systems from January 2027. The first Piscines, 42's intensive selection programmes, begin in September 2026.

The campus will be able to welcome between 100 and 150 new students, making the 42 model accessible in German-speaking Switzerland.

Lausanne and Zurich now share the same mission under 42 Switzerland: to identify potential regardless of qualifications or previous educational background, equip students with the technology skills the economy needs, and support their integration into the workforce.

Geneva: Extending 42's Impact Beyond Its Campuses

In Geneva, 42 Switzerland is partnering with Fondation ForPro to develop the Digital Lab, a space dedicated to digital learning in Plan-les-Ouates. This collaboration brings some of the core principles of the 42 educational model – learning by doing, experimenting, finding solutions independently and collaborating – to young people supported by ForPro and apprentices across the canton. The Digital Lab also provides a workspace for 42 Lausanne students living in the Geneva region.

"With 42 Switzerland, our ambition is to contribute, at our level, to a national effort to develop the digital skills Switzerland needs. Lausanne, Zurich and our partnership in Geneva enable us to bring talent, companies and innovation ecosystems closer together. In the age of artificial intelligence, Switzerland's digital sovereignty also depends on its ability to retain the skills needed here to understand, control and secure the technologies on which its economy relies."

Christophe Wagnière, CEO of 42 Switzerland

Developing Local Talent: A Key Issue for Digital Sovereignty

Maintaining control over digital ecosystems is a major challenge for Swiss companies and institutions. As businesses increasingly rely on technologies developed by third parties, they need to retain the in-house expertise required to manage their information systems, protect their data and ensure their security.

The goal is not to do without these technologies, but to avoid becoming dependent on them. The rise of artificial intelligence makes this challenge even more pressing. As organisations entrust AI with a growing number of tasks and processes, they must preserve their ability to understand the technologies they use, assess the associated risks and maintain control over their critical systems.

Developing and retaining these skills in Switzerland is therefore becoming a key issue for digital sovereignty. Digital sovereignty depends first and foremost on human expertise: having professionals locally who can understand technologies beyond simply using them, make informed decisions, secure systems and help them evolve. Contributing to the development of this pool of expertise in Switzerland is one of 42 Switzerland's core ambitions.

Lausanne, 8 September 2026

Working with Corporate Partners

Building close relationships with companies is at the heart of the 42 model. Students put their skills to the test in real-world environments through internships and projects carried out with companies, and 81% of companies that have hosted a 42 intern say they would like to continue working with that person after the internship.

But these relationships go beyond recruitment. 42 Switzerland works with companies to develop hackathons focused on real business challenges, innovation projects, as well as training and upskilling programmes for their teams, particularly in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and digital transformation.

These collaborations enable companies to work with talent in real-world conditions, approach their challenges from new perspectives and contribute directly to developing the digital skills that the Swiss economy will need in the future.

42's economic model also relies on the commitment of its partners: as the programme is entirely free for students, companies, foundations, patrons and public institutions all contribute to making this mission possible.

About 42 Switzerland

42 Switzerland is a non-profit association based in Renens. It 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 technology ecosystem.
Supported by companies, foundations, philanthropists and public institutions, the association enables the Lausanne and Zurich campuses to provide a demanding, high-quality education that is entirely tuition-free.
42 Switzerland is part of the 42 Network, the world's largest network of tuition-free computer science schools, present in more than 30 countries.

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Resources

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Image Gallery

Lausanne, 8 September 2026