

# International Activities Report 2025

SUPSI



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Internationalisation is now one of the key drivers of development for academic institutions. Through targeted projects and structured partnerships, an institution can enhance the quality of its teaching, research and services, while fostering a truly global and culturally diverse environment.

In this context, the International team, comprising the International Office and its departmental coordinators, plays a strategic role as a hub for coordination and communication between the various departments and SUPSI as a whole. The team's work is crucial in strengthening relationships with Swiss and international partners. Its main focus is on managing initiatives related to internationalisation, with particular emphasis on mobility programmes.

The International Service is aimed at students, lecturers and administrative staff interested in undertaking an educational experience outside the canton, offering support at every stage of the process. At the same time, the office welcomes and supports guests from abroad, facilitating their integration into Ticino and within the institution.



# Student Mobility A.Y. 24/25

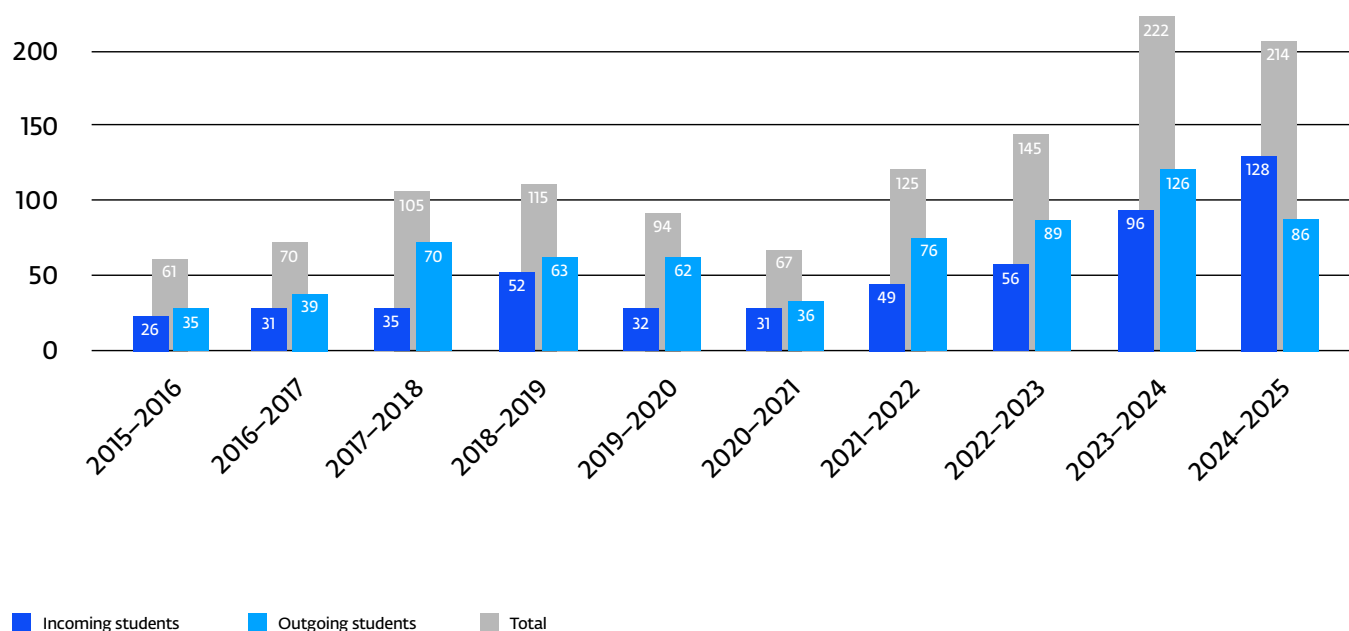
International mobility continues to be one of the most dynamic and attractive aspects of SUPSI's offering. Even without Switzerland's formal participation in the Erasmus+ 2021–2027 programme, the SEMP programme allows students to access study and internship opportunities that are fully recognised and seamlessly integrated into the European framework.

In recent years, the number of students involved in mobility experiences has shown steady growth. Following a period of steady growth, the 2024–2025 academic year marks a significant new leap forward: 86 SUPSI students chose to go abroad, while 128 students selected SUPSI as their destination to enrich their academic journey.

The desire among students to test themselves in international settings remains strong, as does the interest shown in SUPSI and its degree programmes by partner universities. The figures reflect an evolving cultural shift, a growing openness towards experiences that combine academic skills, intercultural discovery and personal development. Active participation in the SEMP programme remains a key factor in this success, ensuring that mobility is smooth, well coordinated and aligned with European standards.

Collaboration between institutions, partners and internal departments has enabled the effective management of student flows and increasingly tailored support for outgoing and incoming students. The figures recorded in 2024–2025 reflect a student community that is eager to explore, learn and share. This trend provides motivation to continue strengthening international networks and to steer SUPSI ever more towards an open, dynamic and global future.

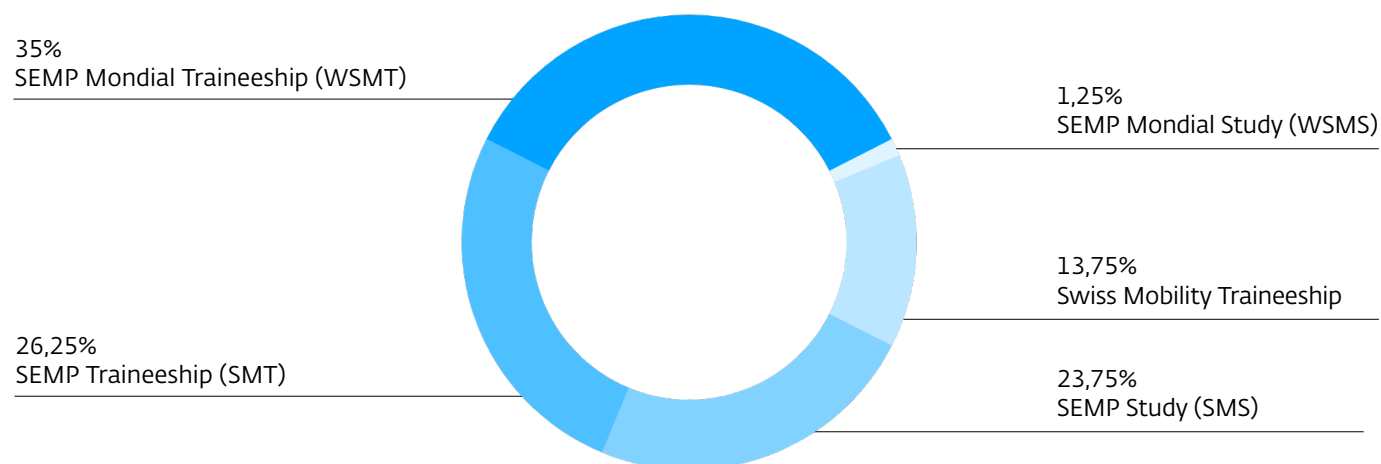
## Annual evolution of student mobility (including affiliated schools)



# Outgoing student mobility

Outgoing mobility was characterized by a prevalence of internships (75%), reflecting the career-oriented nature of the curriculum. The DEASS records the highest number of mobility placements thanks to its curriculum structure, which includes compulsory internship placements, often carried out abroad. Internship placements in Switzerland are concentrated in the healthcare sector, whilst the cooperation modules within the healthcare and social work courses, which involve placements outside Europe, promote significant geographical diversification with destinations in Africa, Asia and South America. Although the overall participation rates remain low (1.31% in 2021/22, 1.46% in 2022/23, 2.02% in 2023/24 and 1.33% in 2024/25), the trend remains positive and confirms the interest in international experiences. SUPSI continues to work towards integrating mobility increasingly into its educational programmes, with the aim of making it ever more accessible and in line with the Swiss Confederation's vision of providing a mobility experience for every student.

## Mobility by type



## Mobility by department

ATD	DTI	CSI-SUM	DACD
5	2	0	4
DFA/ASP	DEASS	FFHS	Physiotherapie Graubünden
6	65	2	2

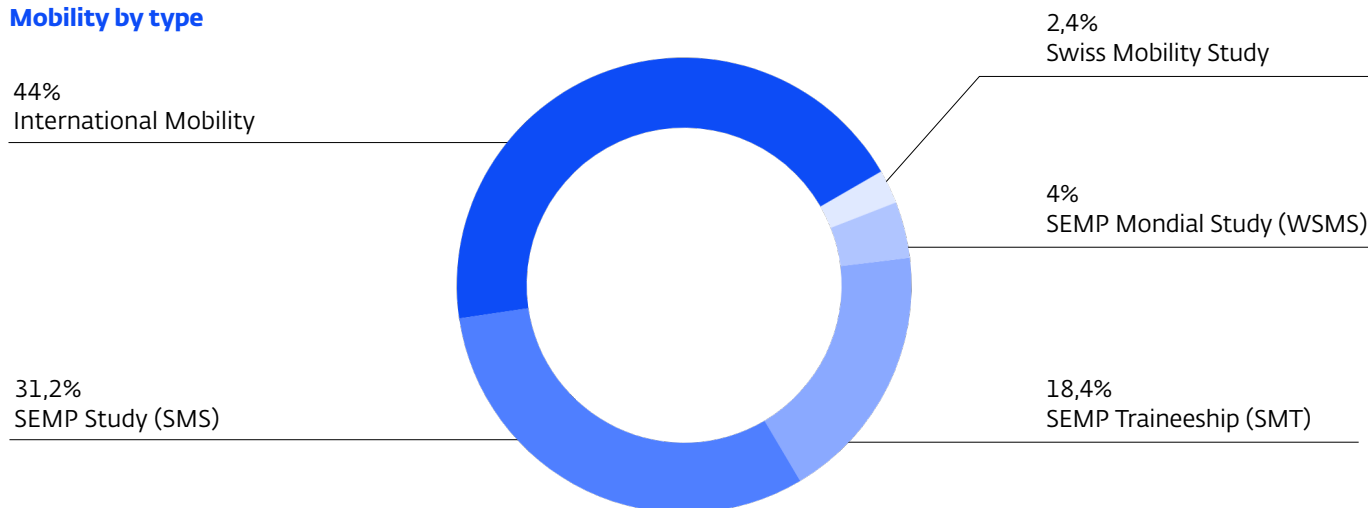
## Mobility by destination

Argentina	2	Ghana	6	Czech Republic	6
Australia	1	Greece	4	Senegal	2
Austria	1	India	3	Spain	1
Belgium	2	Italy	4	Sri Lanka	13
China	1	Kenya	13	South Africa	3
Costa Rica	1	Lithuania	2	Switzerland	11
France	1	Nicaragua	2	Togo	3
Germany	4				

# Incoming student mobility

Incoming student mobility to SUPSI has a strong international component (44%), a significant proportion alongside SEMP mobility for study and internships. This is due to the high number of master's and PhD students admitted, who choose SUPSI to complete their studies and develop specialist skills. The majority of incoming students come from Italy, thanks to the wide range of degree programmes taught in Italian, which makes SUPSI particularly attractive to Italian speakers. Student mobility is concentrated mainly in the DTI, DACD and DEASS departments, confirming their ability to attract international students. On the whole, the data confirms SUPSI's role as an attractive institution for incoming mobility, particularly for advanced and specialisation programmes, contributing to the reinforcement of its international presence and cooperation.

## Mobility by type



## Mobility by department

ATD	DTI	CSI-SUM	DACD
2	39	2	35
DFA/ASP	DEASS	FFHS	Physiotherapie Graubünden
19	31	0	0

## Mobility by country of origin

Belgium	1	India	8	Romania	1
Belarus	1	Italy	84	Slovakia	1
Brazil	1	Lithuania	1	Slovenia	1
China	1	Netherlands	1	Spain	5
Congo	1	Pakistan	1	Switzerland	5
France	6	Czech Republic	1	Turkey	4
Germany	4				

# Staff mobility calendar year 2025

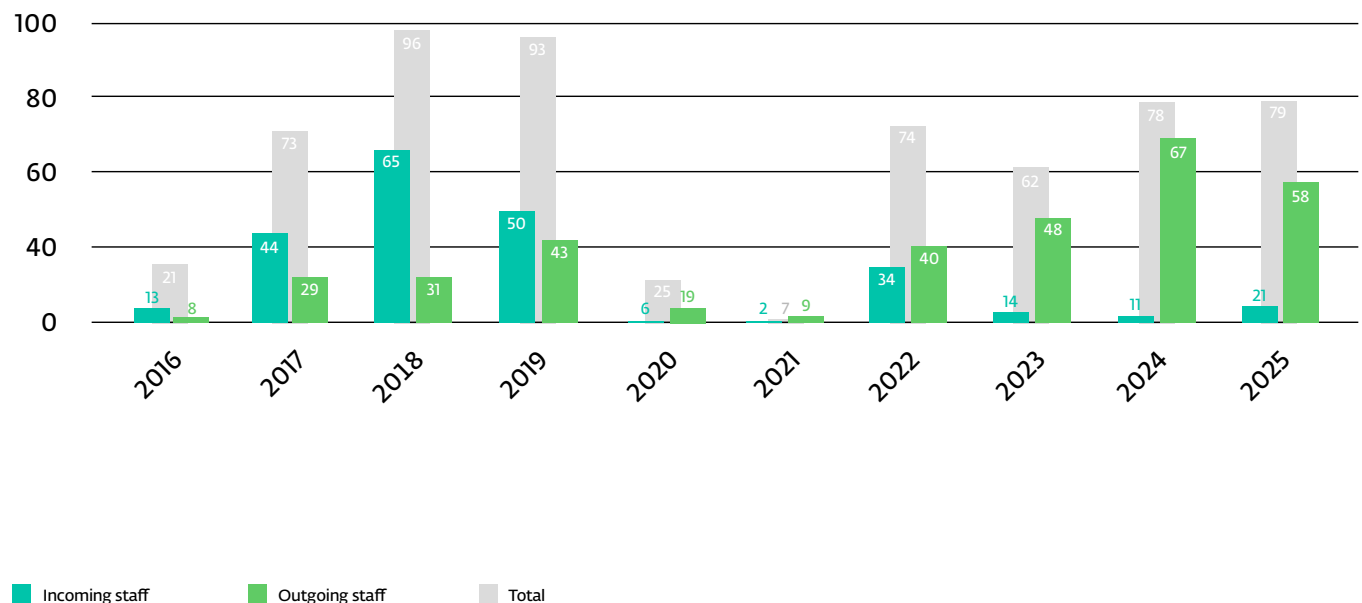
In 2025, staff mobility within the framework of the Swiss-European Mobility Programme (SEMP) continues to represent a cornerstone of SUPSI's internationalisation strategy, fostering both the circulation of expertise through outgoing mobility and the enrichment of the institutional ecosystem through incoming mobility. Overall, 79 mobility activities were recorded during the year (21 incoming and 58 outgoing), a figure that highlights the stabilisation at high levels following the post-pandemic recovery and confirms the central role of these experiences as a lever for professional and institutional development.

Staff mobility generates added value not only for the individual participants, who return with new knowledge, ideas and contacts that support their professional development, but also for the institution as a whole. Engagement with different academic, administrative and cultural contexts promotes the adoption of good practices, stimulates innovation in internal processes and strengthens the international dimension of everyday activities within SUPSI schools and services.

From a strategic perspective, staff mobility also represents a key instrument for consolidating and further developing collaborations with European and international partners. Exchange experiences contribute to strengthening existing relationships and laying the foundations for new forms of cooperation, both in education and in research and services.

In this context, the SEMP programme confirms its role not only as an individual opportunity, but also as a long-term investment in the quality, attractiveness and international positioning of SUPSI.

## Annual evolution of staff mobility (including affiliated schools)



# Outgoing staff mobility

Outgoing mobility involved 58 members of staff, confirming SUPSI's strong commitment to international exchange as a tool for growth and innovation. Mobility activities were mainly focused on training, with 36 mobility periods, compared to 22 teaching mobilities. This balance highlights the importance attributed both to professional development and to the sharing of academic expertise.

The most significant contribution came from DEASS, the largest department, followed by DACD and DTI, with additional mobility activities distributed across the other departments and affiliated schools. This distribution reflects a broad, cross-cutting involvement of departments and services. Destinations also display a wide and diversified profile, with mobility activities directed towards numerous European countries, particularly Spain and Italy, alongside a limited number of extra-European destinations.

## Mobility by type

62%  
SEMP Training (STT)



38%  
SEMP Teaching (STA)

## Mobility by departement

ATD	DTI	CSI-SUM	Physiotherapie Graubünden	Direction Services
2	10	6	1	3
DFA/ASP	DEASS	FFHS	DACD	
4	19	2	11	

## Mobility by destination

Australia	1	Germany	2	Peru	1
Austria	3	Greece	1	Portugal	1
Belgium	3	Ireland	5	Singapore	1
Croatia	3	Italy	8	Spain	10
Czech Republic	4	Japan	4	Sweden	2
Finland	1	Lithuania	1	United Kingdom	1
France	3	Netherlands	2	United States	1

# Incoming staff mobility

Incoming mobility in 2025 recorded 21 presences, making a significant contribution to SUPSI's international dimension through the arrival of staff from partner institutions. The composition of activities is well balanced, with 11 teaching mobilities and 10 training mobilities, generating a direct impact on the quality of academic exchange and the transfer of good practices.

Mobility activities are mainly concentrated within DEASS, while other departments show more limited participation. From a geographical perspective, incoming mobility is predominantly European, complemented by a small number of extra-European mobilities. In this sense, incoming staff mobility represents not only a numerical flow, but also a strategic lever for enriching methodologies, approaches and content within the institution.

## Mobility by type

48%  
SEMP Training (STT)



52%  
SEMP Teaching (STA)

## Mobility by departement

ATD	DTI	CSI-SUM	Physiotherapie Graubünden	Direction Services
0	1	2	1	0
DFA/ASP	DEASS	FFHS	DACD	
2	10	4	1	

## Mobility by country of origin

Germany	4	United Kingdom	1
Japan	1	Czech Republic	1
Italy	4	Spain	2
Kosovo	1	Sweden	1
Netherlands	2	Tanzania	4



# National and international collaborations

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In 2025, the International Office continued to strengthen and expand the network of partnerships that underpins SUPSI's international activities.

The work carried out during the year enabled us not only to consolidate long-standing relationships but also to develop new ones, responding to the growing demand for mobility, exchange and academic cooperation. Thanks to constant coordination with the departments and affiliated schools, SUPSI can now count on 400 active partnerships with academic institutions, public bodies and private companies in Switzerland, Europe and beyond.

Academic partnerships are still the core of the international network: in 2025, there were 257 active agreements with universities, Universities of Applied Sciences and Arts and Universities of Teacher Education. Europe remains the most prominent area of cooperation, with 218 partnerships spread across numerous countries. National collaborations, which play a fundamental role in developing training programmes linked to the local area, rank second, followed by 15 non-European agreements, which reflect the growing interest in global horizons, further encouraged by the increase in outgoing staff mobility seen during the year.

At the same time, SUPSI maintains strong links with the workplace through 143 active partnerships with public and private companies. This network is essential for supporting internships, applied research projects and practical training activities. Corporate partnerships are particularly significant in a number of disciplines, thanks to established relationships with professional organisations that make a direct contribution to students' education and the development of skills tailored to the labour market.

Among SUPSI's departments, the DEASS continues to stand out this year for the number of active partners, resulting from the practical focus of its programmes, which benefit from a network of contacts both locally and abroad. The compulsory nature of internship periods in certain courses, such as Leisure Management and Healthcare, is a key driver for maintaining and expanding these partnerships.

The year 2025 confirmed that SUPSI is increasingly connected at a global level, creating value through sound, diverse and quality-oriented relationships.

The growth and consolidation of these partnerships not only expand opportunities for students and staff but also strengthen the institution's reputation within the international academic community.

## Active collaborations

	<b>Ticino</b>	<b>Switzerland</b>	<b>Europe</b>	<b>Extra Europe</b>	<b>Total</b>
Universities , UAS and UTE	0	24	218	15	<b>257</b>
Public and private companies	41	27	48	27	<b>143</b>

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# Internationality across SUPSI's departments

SUPSI's departments continued to excel in their international activities, developing projects, mobility schemes and collaborations that enhance the Institute's global presence. Through initiatives in teaching, training, applied research and cultural exchange, each department has helped to develop staff skills and expand opportunities for students and international partners. These activities demonstrate a growing commitment to openness, cooperation and the development of solid and diversified academic networks – fundamental elements for keeping SUPSI competitive and connected within a constantly evolving international environment.



## **DACD** **Learning by doing: a Catalan collaborative project in Ethiopia**

Every year, the Bachelor of Arts in Architecture organises the Workshop in Cooperation (WoCo), an academic course held in Ethiopia. The 2025 edition involved 14 SUPSI students from the Architecture and Visual Communication programmes and 14 Ethiopian students from the faculties of Architecture and Engineering. The theme this year was the construction of a Catalan vault, a roof structure built using simple concrete tiles laid in a herringbone pattern and stacked in three layers, representing one of the clearest examples of appropriate technology. The group designed and built a 3.5 × 3.5 metre structure consisting of a brick base and a Catalan vault, constructed on the Hawassa University campus.

This area has been designated as an exhibition space for WoCo's current and future projects, offering the university community tangible examples and a source of inspiration for sustainable architectural solutions that are attuned to the local environment.

## **DEASS Healthcare sector** **ENM – European Nursing Module**

The ENM network, of which the DEASS has been a member for several years, remains an important opportunity for international mobility for students pursuing a degree in Nursing. Thanks to collaboration with various European partner universities, the programme offers two-week mobility programmes, comprising an observational placement at healthcare facilities and participation in seminars and lectures organised by the host university.

In May and October, around ten SUPSI students took part in the programme, travelling to Spain, Finland, the Netherlands, Sweden, Belgium, Romania and Bulgaria. During the same period, the DEASS welcomed eight incoming students from Spain, Belgium, Sweden, Denmark and England, thereby further strengthening the international dimension of the degree programme.

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**DEASS Healthcare sector  
International Week – Vienna**

In January 2025, FH Campus Wien – a long-standing partner of DEASS in student and staff mobility – hosted the International Interprofessional Week, an intensive cross-disciplinary event focusing on communication and the challenges associated with inclusion and diversity across healthcare professions. A third-year student on the physiotherapy degree programme took part in the initiative, gaining the opportunity to engage with international lecturers and fellow students in a highly qualified educational setting. A lecturer also participated in teaching activities.

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**DEASS Healthcare sector  
Caring in a Global World: DEASS's first  
BIP involves students and lecturers  
from 5 countries**

Following the success of the first COIL programme held in the autumn semester of 2024, the DEASS launched its first BIP (Blended Intensive Programme) entitled Caring in a Global World (CAW) in the autumn semester of 2025.

The initiative was organised in collaboration with Akita University (Japan), HAWK in Hildesheim (Germany), Heimerer College in Pristina (Republic of Kosovo), the University of Zaragoza (Spain) and the Campus Bio-Medico University of Rome (Italy).

The programme was attended by 36 students from various healthcare disciplines: Nursing, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy and Radiology Technology, alongside 7 lecturers from the partner institutions.

The project took place over a two-month period, combining synchronous and asynchronous online activities with an intensive one-week in-person session at the DEASS. During the in-person week, participants took part in workshops, cross-professional group work and role-playing sessions, encouraging interaction, cultural exchange and experiential learning. The entire programme was dedicated to the theme of cultural diversity, focusing specifically on healthcare professions and the practice of healthcare in an increasingly globalised world.

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**DEASS Healthcare Sector  
COEHRE NETWORK SYMPOSIUM**

In May, the DEASS organised a symposium entitled "Advocacy for Values in Healthcare: What challenges need to be addressed to ensure core values and sustainability in the healthcare system in the current era?". The event provided an important opportunity for in-depth discussion and exchange on challenges and strategies for the future of healthcare. The symposium provided a forum for dialogue between healthcare professionals, academics, researchers, anthropologists, educationalists, economists and students, both local and international.

The aim was to analyse innovative approaches capable of preserving the fundamental principles of healthcare and ensuring its long-term sustainability. The event welcomed around fifty participants from various European countries, including Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Portugal and Germany.

The programme included in-depth sessions, thematic workshops, round-table discussions and interactive debates, as well as numerous networking opportunities with industry experts and peers.

The Symposium was organised by the DEASS Mobility Service – healthcare sector, in collaboration with a group of eight students from the Leisure Management degree programme, who had the opportunity to put into practice the skills acquired during their ongoing studies in the organisation and management of an event. The initiative provided an excellent opportunity for cooperation between two different degree programmes within the same department, achieving excellent feedback and results.

The students on the Leisure Management degree programme were also awarded ECTS credits, as the project (organisation and management) was recognised as an optional module.

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**DTI  
Asia Module – Summer School:  
Training and Innovation between  
Switzerland, China and Taiwan**

Once again in 2025, the Department of Innovative Technologies organised the Asia Module – Summer School, a three-week intensive programme aimed at students enrolled in the Master of Science in Engineering (MSE). The initiative aimed to explore the challenges of advanced manufacturing and technological innovation, whilst promoting international cooperation between Switzerland, China and Taiwan.

The programme involved 35 MSE students from SUPSI and ZHAW, alongside six

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students from the National Taiwan University of Science and Technology (NTUST). Over the course of the programme, participants visited leading companies in the fields of precision engineering, logistics and technology, including Acer, Tornos, Eugster-Frismag, Huawei and the Taiwan Space Agency. These visits provided an opportunity to engage with industrial leaders and gain an understanding of the global dynamics of the supply chain.

In addition to the visits, thematic seminars and workshops were organised, with a focus on the semiconductor industry and its technological, socio-cultural and political implications. The programme was complemented by institutional meetings, such as the opening event hosted by the Municipality of Lugano, discussions with the Chinese Embassy in Bern and a reception at the Swiss Consulate in Guangzhou.

The Asia Module represented a cutting-edge educational experience, offering students the opportunity to develop global skills and immerse themselves in diverse cultural and industrial contexts, bolstering their ability to operate in complex international environments.

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**DFA/ASP**  
**Vivere la scuola altrove (Studying abroad): a structural framework for internationalisation in teacher training**

In 2025, the DFA/ASP significantly stepped up its commitment to internationalisation through the “Vivere la scuola altrove” programme, which has been running since 2011 and is aimed at offering students a two-month professional internship in educational institutions abroad. The experience, which forms part of the study programme, involves direct participation in school activities, enabling students to develop professional and intercultural skills that are difficult to acquire locally.

Over the years, the programme has built up a network of destinations in Africa, Central America and Europe. The expanded network offers participants the opportunity to encounter complex and stimulating educational situations, further enhancing the educational value of the initiative. 2025 recorded a sharp increase in applications, with 10 participants – almost double the number of previous years.

This growth is a testament to the programme’s appeal and has led to an intensification of selection, preparation and coordination activities with international partners. Meanwhile, strategic discussions have begun regarding the launch of a new destination in Sweden, with the aim of incorporating an educational framework focused on inclusion, innovation and well-being at school.

With the rise in enrolment, the expansion of destinations and the consolidation of partnerships, ‘Vivere la scuola altrove’ remains a cornerstone of the DFA/ASP’s internationalisation, generating lasting impacts on students, partners and the entire educational community.

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**FFHS**  
**International Future Workshop 2025 in Berlin**

The Master of Science in Business Administration, specialising in Innovation Management and Sustainability and Circular Innovation, organised its annual International Future Workshop which took place in Berlin and involved around thirty students in four intensive days of work and exchange. The 2025 edition was dedicated to the theme of innovation and new developments in the mobility sector, a constantly evolving area that offers important insights into technology, sustainability and urban transformation.

During the workshop, students had the opportunity to work on real-world case studies, meet professionals active within Berlin’s innovation ecosystem, and discuss future trends related to the challenges of contemporary mobility. The experience provided a valuable opportunity to combine theory and practice within a stimulating international setting, whilst encouraging intercultural exchange and collaboration among participants from diverse backgrounds.

# SUPSI at the EAIE 2025 conference: new global perspectives and strategic partnerships

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Members of the International team attended the annual conference of the European Association for International Education (EAIE), which took place this year in Gothenburg, Sweden. The event, one of the most important in the field of higher education, brought together thousands of industry professionals from around the world, offering a valuable opportunity to strengthen existing relationships and explore new avenues for collaboration.

During the conference, the team met with numerous long-standing partners and established new strategic contacts, particularly with European and non-European institutions interested in developing projects with SUPSI. The discussions that took place provided an opportunity to explore opportunities for student mobility, joint research and academic cooperation in emerging sectors, thereby strengthening the Institute's international profile.

Participation in the conference also provided an opportunity to further engage with universities in Northern Europe, a particularly dynamic region in the field of education and already part of the SUPSI network. Focused meetings enabled the team to consolidate existing partnerships and discuss potential future developments aligned with the Institute's strategic priorities.

Thanks to the numerous interactions and contacts established in Gothenburg, SUPSI continues to expand and strengthen its international academic network, confirming its active role within the context of European and global higher education.



# IRUAS Conference 2025 – “AI Without Borders”: Internationality in the Digital Age

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From 30 to 31 October 2025, the SUPSI East Campus in Lugano-Viganello hosted the annual IRUAS conference, the Swiss network for international relations at universities of applied sciences. This year’s meeting was dedicated to the theme “AI without borders: redefining internationality in the digital age”, exploring how artificial intelligence is redefining the boundaries of academic cooperation and the international aspect of higher education.

The event, organised by the International Office, provided an important opportunity to discuss the role of artificial intelligence in transforming academic, administrative and mobility practices, offering international relations staff from Swiss universities of applied sciences a forum to discuss emerging challenges and opportunities in the digital age.

The 2025 edition saw a particularly high turnout, thanks in part to the collaboration with Kozminski University, a partner in the EUonAIR alliance. Experts from the Polish university made invaluable contributions on new forms of mobility and the prospects for digital internationalisation. Among these, the keynote address by Prof. Izabela Grabowska, dedicated to the theme “Holistic Mobility 2.0: The Post-Territorial University – Blessing, Chance, or Burden?”, offered an in-depth perspective on going beyond the traditional boundaries of higher education. Following this, Prof. Mariola Ciszewska Mlinarič, Vice-Rector for International Cooperation, presented the talk “AI for internationalisation: Insights from the EUonAIR Alliance and MyAIUniversity”, introduced by Alessandro Facchini, Head of the Bachelor’s programme in Data Science and AI at SUPSI, helping to strengthen the relationship with a key partner for European digital strategies.

Alongside the international speakers, SUPSI’s internal speakers played a central role, enhancing the programme with presentations focused on the operational and project-based aspects of AI. Alberto Termine, a researcher at Dalle Molle USI SUPSI, led an introductory session dedicated to AI as a tool for mediation and creativity. Gaetano Biondo, lecturer on the Bachelor’s in Business Administration, presented a reflection on “Communication without borders: generative AI for multilingual and multicultural academic internationalisation”, highlighting the potential of generative technologies to facilitate exchanges and collaborations in multilingual contexts. Silvia Mari and Rosario Pirrotta illustrated “smart” administration workflows during a dedicated workshop.

The overall feedback was extremely positive; participants appreciated the scientific quality of the presentations, the wealth of practical sessions and the collaborative atmosphere that characterised the two days. For SUPSI, the IRUAS 2025 conference represented a significant opportunity to strengthen its role within the national network of international relations, promoting itself as a hub for innovation and exchange, and actively contributing to defining the new frontiers of internationality in the era of artificial intelligence.



# EUonAIR Alliance

## WP 5 Holistic Mobility Support Centre

As a partner in the EUonAIR European Alliance, SUPSI plays an active role in developing joint strategies aimed at strengthening international mobility, educational innovation and the links between education, research and the workplace. In line with this commitment, in 2025 the activities of Work Package 5 (WP5) focused on developing an integrated and holistic approach to supporting mobility, strengthening cooperation between Undergraduate and Graduate Studies and the International Office, and establishing a structured link with the Career, Experience and Study Advisory. The ultimate goal was to promote international mobility and virtual mobility formats, facilitating greater integration between mobility experiences, skills development and career guidance.

The main objective for the year was the implementation of a dedicated mobility and career support structure: the Holistic Mobility Support Centre (HMSC). A central element of the Centre is the digital tool My Mobility, used as an online platform for the debriefing process following mobility experiences. This tool will enable the skills acquired during the mobility experience to be recognised and will strengthen the link between international learning and professional development.

A second strategic objective was the structured integration of the SUPSI Career, Experience and Study Advisory into the mobility process. This was formalised through an agreement based on the Directors' Ordinance, which establishes the joint commitment of the International Office and the Career, Experience and Study Advisory to collaborate and develop common organisational structures. The document was signed by the Directors of Research and Undergraduate and Graduate Studies in December 2025, providing a solid institutional foundation to ensure the sustainability of the approach adopted.

To support the achievement of these objectives, the role of Mobility Officer was also established as the dedicated point of contact for all mobility requests within the EUonAIR Alliance. This role aims to facilitate the coordination of mobility activities between partner institutions and to ensure clear and effective communication. Cooperation in this regard has been confirmed by the Undergraduate and Graduate Studies Coordinator and the Head of the International Office. In parallel, the International Office has played a central role in developing the framework conditions for mobility, through the signing of cooperation agreements with the partners of all Alliance members. Particular attention was paid to defining and recognising virtual and blended mobility formats (COIL, BIP and virtual exchanges), with the aim of expanding participation, improving access to mobility and ensuring the acceptance of these formats by partner institutions.

Overall, the work carried out in 2025 represents a decisive step towards the full implementation of the Holistic Mobility Support Centre and towards an increasingly sound integration of mobility, skills development and career guidance. The activities undertaken lay the foundations for a mobility support system within the EUonAIR Alliance that is coordinated, accessible and sustainable in the long term.



# Partnership with IAESTE: a collaboration highlighted in their Annual Report

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In 2025, the collaboration between SUPSI and IAESTE reached a whole new level of consolidation, to the extent that it was included in the IAESTE 2025 Final Report, which dedicates an entire section to the partnership under the title “Putting Students First: Our Enriching Partnership with SUPSI”. This recognition testifies to the strength of the relationship built up over the years and the shared commitment to prioritising students’ needs and aspirations.

The partnership, which began several years ago, became more structured three years ago following a visit to Ticino by the then Outgoing Exchange Coordinator, Hannah Riemann. The meeting with the SUPSI team prompted joint reflection on ways to strengthen IAESTE’s presence within the student community and expand opportunities for international internships. One of the first initiatives to emerge from this dialogue was the collaboration with the Bachelor’s degree in Leisure Management, which includes a compulsory internship in the final semester. Over the past two years, IAESTE has therefore designed internship opportunities aimed at meeting this requirement, helping to raise the programme’s profile among SUPSI students. Furthermore, in 2025, a student from a different academic discipline undertook an internship in Bolivia through IAESTE, marking a further step forward in the expansion of mobility opportunities.

The relationship between SUPSI and IAESTE is described in the report as a true collaboration, based on a human, accessible approach that is deeply focused on student development. Every visit to SUPSI is viewed as a meeting between close partners, thanks to a spirit of mutual trust and a shared vision of practical, personalised and people-centred education. IAESTE recognises SUPSI’s ability to create an environment that supports and encourages internationalisation, not only through internship opportunities but also through educational experiences capable of having a tangible impact on young people’s career paths.

SUPSI’s inclusion in the IAESTE 2025 Final Report is therefore a testament to the work carried out and an incentive to continue along this path. Future prospects include strengthening collaboration, expanding the range of internships on offer, and a growing commitment to bringing more and more students into contact with the opportunities offered by IAESTE, helping to build solid and meaningful international careers.



# Student activities

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In 2025, the International Office continued to promote initiatives aimed at helping new students settle in, creating opportunities for informal get-togethers and building an active and engaged international community. Among the most popular events was Cheese Night Deep n' Chat, an evening dedicated to the Swiss tradition of fondue, which allowed new arrivals to discover an authentic aspect of local culture and get to know one another in a friendly and welcoming atmosphere. Similarly, the Irish Cheers n' Beers event, organised to mark St Patrick's Day, offered an immersion experience in Irish culture, much appreciated for its festive atmosphere and the opportunities for socialising it created within the incoming students.

A key factor in the success of these initiatives has been the close collaboration with ESN Lugano, actively supported by SUPSI. Thanks to the commitment of the association's volunteers, international students can take part in a wide range of cultural and social activities spread throughout the academic year. Among these, the famous Swiss Train Rally stands out, a unique experience that takes participants on a journey to discover various Swiss cities in the space of a single day. The activity combines exploration of the region, team spirit and a keen sense of community, proving to be a key element in integrating students into local student life. The partnership with ESN is essential in making the experience of incoming student groups more enriching, dynamic and engaging.

Outgoing students also benefited from dedicated events. The briefing sessions organised by the International Office, in collaboration with department representatives, provided a valuable opportunity to answer questions, share expectations and encourage collaboration among future mobility participants. These meetings, designed to support students during the preparatory phase, help to make the entire mobility process more informed and structured.

On the whole, the activities carried out in 2025 have strengthened the International Office's role in promoting a welcoming and inclusive environment, where the international perspective is experienced as a shared value. The initiatives dedicated to both incoming and outgoing students have helped to make the mobility experience even more rewarding, participatory and focused on building an active and connected global community.



# Sustainable Global Competence in Swiss Higher Education symposium

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During May 2025, SUPSI hosted the international symposium 'Sustainable Global Competence in Swiss Higher Education' in Lugano, organised on behalf of the Swiss Global Competence Lab (SGCL). The event brought together over 50 lecturers, researchers and institutional representatives from across Switzerland, providing a forum for discussion on the role of global competences in higher education.

Over the course of two days, the symposium addressed the urgent need to prepare students and teachers for the ethical, geopolitical and intercultural challenges of the contemporary global landscape. The presentations highlighted the importance of a more inclusive and sustainable approach to internationalisation, viewed as a strategic responsibility of higher education institutions rather than an opportunity reserved for the few.

A key highlight of the event was the presentation of the Movetia-funded project "Developing a Sustainable Global Competence Certificate (GCC) in Switzerland", which aims to recognise and promote the cross-cultural skills acquired by students during their studies. Considerable attention was also given to Virtual Exchange, immersive learning experiences and quality issues in certification programmes.

The symposium contributed to strengthening the national dialogue on the future of higher education and promoting innovative practices for the development of sustainable global competences, consolidating the role of the SGCL as a leading platform in this field.



# Support and opportunities for refugees and asylum seekers

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During 2025, the International Office launched an institutional webpage specifically dedicated to the “Support to Academic Refugees” helpdesk. The page, developed with the aim of providing a clear and up-to-date information point for people from the asylum sector, reaffirms SUPSI’s solidarity with scientific, academic and student communities at risk and highlights the values of integrity, collaboration and responsibility that underpin the Institute’s commitment to welcoming and supporting those who have experienced situations of danger or displacement.

The content provides a detailed overview of SUPSI’s role in promoting diversity and recognising the skills of highly qualified refugees in Switzerland, who, despite having the necessary background and motivation to pursue an academic or professional career, often face significant difficulties in accessing higher education. The new webpage outlines the range of access options, including auditing courses subject to assessment, enrolment as a full-time student where the necessary requirements are met, participation in continuing education programmes and, for research-oriented profiles, a link to the Scholars at Risk Network.

In addition, the International Office has put together a new information leaflet dedicated to supporting refugees interested in pursuing an academic or professional career at SUPSI. The creation of the webpage, in conjunction with the new leaflet and the online application procedure, represents a further step forward in SUPSI’s commitment to inclusion and equitable access to higher education for those from vulnerable backgrounds, helping to build a welcoming, responsible academic environment that is attuned to individual needs.



# Abbreviations

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Accademia Teatro Dimitri

**ATD**

Blended Intensive Program

**BIP**

Scuola Universitaria di Musica  
del Conservatorio della Svizzera italiana

**CSI SUM**

Dipartimento Economia aziendale,  
Sanità e Sociale

**DEASS**

Dipartimento formazione e apprendi-  
mento / Alta scuola pedagogica

**DFA/ASP**

Dipartimento Tecnologie Innovative

**DTI**

Fernfachhochschule Schweiz

**FFHS**

International Master Interior  
Architecture Design

**IMIAD**

International Relations - Universities  
of Applied Sciences and Arts

**IRUAS**

Penn State University

**PSU**

Swiss-European Mobility Programme

**SEMP**

University of Applied Sciences

**UAS**



University of Applied  
Sciences and Arts  
of Southern Switzerland

**International Office**

Via Pobiette 11  
CH-6928 Manno  
+41 (0)58 666 63 27  
[international@supsi.ch](mailto:international@supsi.ch)