

## CHIROPRACTIC IN SWITZERLAND

Since September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007 the Federal Law on Education of the Medical Professions (Medizinalberufegesetz [MedBG](#) – Loi sur les professions médicales universitaires [LPMéd](#)) is in effect. It regulates the education, postgraduate, continuing education and professional activity of the five medical professions, the physicians, the dentists, the chiropractors, the pharmacists and the veterinarians.

The federal legislation effects the education, the diploma and the postgraduate education of chiropractors.

### EDUCATION

Chiropractic students have the possibility to study either in Switzerland or abroad.

#### Switzerland

The first course in chiropractic started at the University of Zurich in fall 2008.

For further information about chiropractic study in Zurich, please visit:

<http://www.med.uzh.ch/>

#### Prerequisites for the education:

- Federal maturity
- Aptitude test
- Non-Swiss citizens: residence permit

For further information about prerequisites, please visit:

[http://www.med.uzh.ch/Medizinstudium/Zulassung\\_en.html](http://www.med.uzh.ch/Medizinstudium/Zulassung_en.html)

#### Abroad

There is a list of chiropractic educational institutions recognized by the federal authorities.

#### Prerequisites for the education:

- Federal maturity
- basic sciences as taught and examined in the 1<sup>st</sup> year of studies in human medicine at a Swiss University or 60 ECTS acquired at one of the Swiss Universities in a study accredited according to the [MedBG/LPMéd](#).

For further information about prerequisites, please visit:

[Verordnung des EDI über die anerkannten Studiengänge für Chiropraktik ausländischer universitärer Hochschulen](#)

[Ordonnance du DFI sur les filières d'études de chiropratique reconnues offertes par des hautes écoles universitaires étrangères](#)

**Please do notice that this list is under revision.**

Persons interested to start chiropractic studies are highly requested to get in contact with ChiroSuisse **before** registering for studies abroad.

Students are highly requested to get a **Letter of Qualification** by ChiroSuisse *before* starting chiropractic studies abroad.

Please contact one of our **student-advisors**:

#### German

Dr. Michel Kressig – [michel.kressig@chirosuisse.ch](mailto:michel.kressig@chirosuisse.ch)

Dr. Regula Willi Zimmermann – [regula.willi@chirosuisse.ch](mailto:regula.willi@chirosuisse.ch)

#### French

Dr. Rebecca Duvanel – [rebecca.duvanel@chirosuisse.ch](mailto:rebecca.duvanel@chirosuisse.ch)

Dr. Philippe Rufener – [philippe.rufener@chirosuisse.ch](mailto:philippe.rufener@chirosuisse.ch)

#### Italian

Dr. Christa Jardine-Bischofberger – [christa.jardine@chirosuisse.ch](mailto:christa.jardine@chirosuisse.ch)

### **FEDERAL EXAM - FEDERAL DIPLOMA**

The federal exam in chiropractic medicine allows for practice as a chiropractor under supervision in Switzerland. Admission requirements are a diploma from an accredited course of study in chiropractic. In addition, candidates must have acquired 60 ECTS from a course of study in a Swiss university leading to a degree in a medical profession, i.e. medicine, chiropractic medicine, dentistry, pharmacology or veterinary medicine. For chiropractors with a foreign diploma, we recommend that these 60 ECTS are acquired in year three of the master in chiropractic medicine program at the University of Zurich. The federal exam is offered in French and German.

[Eidgenössische Prüfung in Chiropraktik](#)

[Examen fédéral en chiropratique](#)

### **YEAR 3 OF MASTER IN CHIROPRACTIC MEDICINE (PRACTICAL YEAR):**

Admission in the status of guest student upon passing the clinic entrance exam (usually end of May or beginning of June). Rotations as an underassistant in the Policlinic for Chiropractic Medicine (6 months) and in the different clinics of the Balgrist University Hospital in Zurich (5 months). Students that successfully complete year 3 of the Master Program are awarded 60 ECTS. A Master's degree of the University of Zurich is not awarded.

Deadline for the registration for the clinic entrance exam is January 31 in the year of the exam. Students without a Swiss higher education entrance qualification (Maturität, maturité) must hand in a German language diploma (Goethe Institut level C1) together with the registration. If this is not possible, the diploma must be handed in at the clinic entrance exam latest, otherwise the exam is considered as a failure. Candidates who successfully complete the clinic entrance exam have to complete an introduction period of three weeks prior to the start of the employment as an underassistant (August 1<sup>st</sup>) in the policlinic for chiropractic medicine.

If the option of taking year 3 of the Master in Chiropractic Medicine is for any reason not feasible, candidates may acquire the 60 ECTS-credits by the successful completion of a first year of Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine, or Pharmacology. These courses are taught in French at the Universities of Fribourg, Geneva, Lausanne and Neuchâtel.

### **FAILURE TO PASS THE CLINIC ENTRANCE EXAM**

The clinic entrance exam allows 1 resit in the following year. In the year between the 1<sup>st</sup> exam and the resit, students may apply to sit in classes of the 2nd year of Master of Chiropractic Medicine as auditor, provided places are available. No ECTS are awarded for attending these lessons.

Students who fail the Clinic Entrance Exam twice do not have any further possibility to acquire the 60 ECTS in the Chiropractic Medicine Program at the University of Zurich.

### **POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION - FEDERAL POSTGRADUATE TITLE**

Prerequisite to be admitted to the postgraduate education (assistantship, postgraduate courses) is the federal diploma. The postgraduate education as well as the postgraduate exam is offered by ChiroSuisse/ Swiss Association of Chiropractors and leads to the federal postgraduate title. The postgraduate exam is offered in French and German.

### **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY**

The federal postgraduate title is the prerequisite in order to practice chiropractic in his/her own office in Switzerland independently.

In addition to this a chiropractor needs a cantonal work permit and when working for the social insurances: a concordat number ([Zahlstellenregisternummer/Registre des codes-créancier](#)) of SASIS. Chiropractors with a federal postgraduate title who prefer to work dependently (employed) have to apply for a control number (K-Nummer/No C).

### **EUROPEAN AND NON EUROPEAN CITIZENS**

Citizens applying for recognition/equivalency of their education and/or postgraduate education title are supposed to submit their request to the:

[Medizinalberufekommission \(MEBEKO\)](#)

[Commission des professions médicales \(MEBEKO\)](#)

Ressort Ausbildung (education) or

Ressort Weiterbildung (postgraduate education)

[hanspeter.neuhaus@bag.admin.ch](mailto:hanspeter.neuhaus@bag.admin.ch)

Information for **EU citizens**:

[Anerkennung Diplome Chiropraktik](#)

[Reconnaissance des diplômes en chiropratique](#)

Information for **NON EU citizens**:

[Erwerb eidgenössisches Diplom in Chiropraktik](#)

[Obtention du diplôme fédéral en chiropratique](#)

## **USEFUL LINKS**

[Ordinance on the recognized courses of study for chiropractic foreign universities - German](#)

[Ordinance on the recognized courses of study for chiropractic foreign universities - French](#)

[Registration and examination dates for the federal exam - German](#)

[Registration and examination dates for the federal exam - French](#)

[https://www.swissuniversities.ch - German](https://www.swissuniversities.ch)

[https://www.swissuniversities.ch - French](https://www.swissuniversities.ch)

<http://www.swiss-chiropractic-academy.ch>

<http://www.chirosuisse.info/>