



Universität  
Zürich<sup>UZH</sup>

Career Services

# After the Master's Degree – What's Next?

Master-Info-Event, University of Zürich, 2026

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UZH Career Services



## How it works today



The presentation lasts 30 minutes. There will be time for your questions.



Please write your questions in the chat.

**We will answer the questions at the end of the presentation.**



The slides will be available at the end of the presentation.

If you can't hear me or have technical issues, let me know. Thank you!

## Our Goal – In General

The goal of UZH Career Services is to support the **career readiness** of students at the University of Zurich for the transition into the professional world.

We want students, by the end of their studies/at the point of graduation, to:

- know their **career resources** (skills, values, goals, and network),
- know where they can **apply these resources** (with which employers and in which positions), and
- know **how to get there** (application strategies and tools).

## My goals for the next 30 minutes

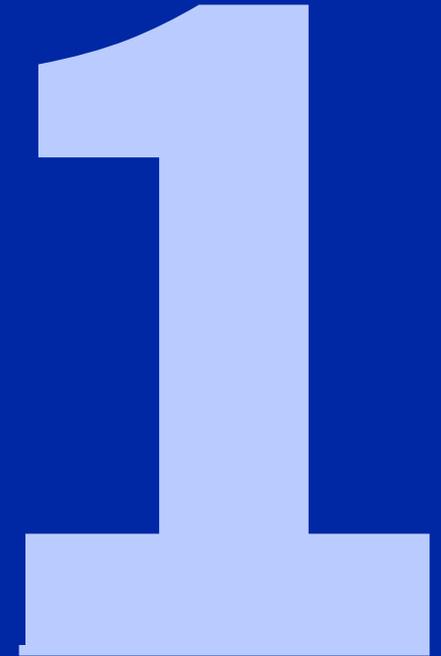
I would like to show you:

- why now is exactly the **right time** to ask the question “What comes after the Master’s degree?”,
- which points should be considered when **choosing** a Master’s program, and
- which considerations are useful when **doing** your Master’s studies.

# Our Assumptions

- You decide for yourselves which **goals** you want to pursue with your choice of Master's program.
- Regardless of your current goals, most of you will, after completing your studies, either pursue a **doctorate** (10–40%) or enter the **job market**.
- **Ideally**, the decision about the next step is made **consciously** — or, as is more often observed in reality, ad hoc and out of convenience (taking the first available job).
- Both options can lead to **success** — or to **failure**. You can **plan**, but **happenstance** will mostly likely play an important part as well.
- **Procrastination** in preparing for the transition is **widespread** — sometimes due to time constraints, but more often out of fear of jeopardizing one's own comfort (discomfort anxiety).
- **Career readiness improves career decision-making, expands opportunities, and reduces discomfort** — so ask yourself already today what should come after your Master's degree.

# Facts & Figures



## Lots of possibilities after the Master's degree

Vorständin des Deutschen  
Evangelischen Kirchentags

Migros Chef

Vizepräsidentin des  
COOP-Verwaltungsrats

Kabarettist

**Gefängnis-Seelsorger  
in Hong Kong**

**Comedian**

Jurist und Schauspieler

Literaturkritikerin

Regisseur

Staatssekretär

**Schriftsteller**

Direktorin des  
Kunstmuseums Luzern

**Juristin, Mutter, Beraterin**

Tagesschau-Moderator

**CEO BonusCard AG**

IT-Spezialist

*Professorin*

Nahostkorrespondent  
und Buchautor

Leiterin  
Frauenklinik Basel

Kinderarzt, Autor

Zoo-Direktor

Leiterin  
Netzentwicklung

*Mit-Gründer Webrepublic*

Autor und Verleger

Chefin der Kriminalpolizei  
der Kantonspolizei Zürich

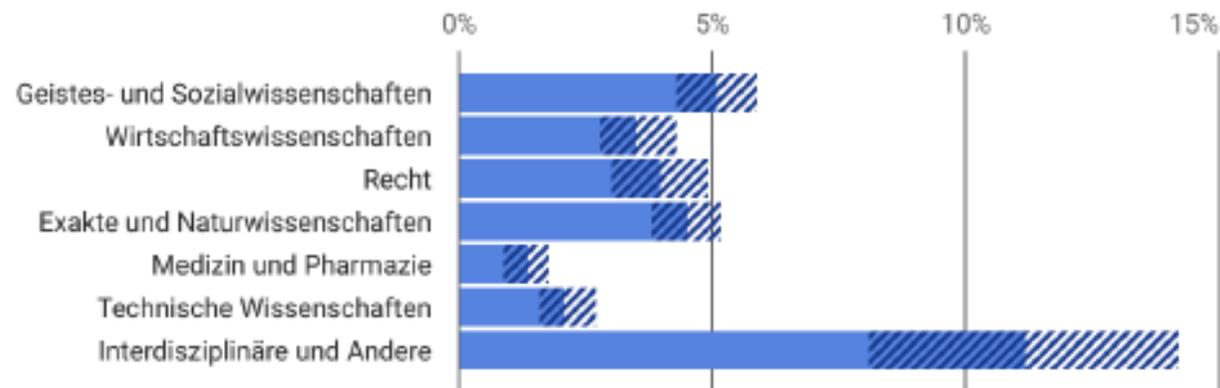
Source: UZH Alumni, <https://www.alumni.uzh.ch/en/personalities.html>

# Un/Employment Rate After your Master

Erwerbslosenquote gemäss ILO der UH-Masterabsolvent/-innen nach Fachbereichsgruppe

Stand ein Jahr nach Studienabschluss<sup>1</sup>, Abschlussjahr 2022

▨ Vertrauensintervall (95%)



<sup>1</sup> Revision der Gewichtung

Datenstand: 29.08.2024

Quelle: BFS – Befragung der Hochschulabsolvent/-innen (EHA)

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## Level of Education Adequacy

### Ausbildungsniveau-Adäquanz der UH-Absolvent/innen nach Examensstufe und Fachbereichsgruppe, 1 Jahr nach Abschluss

	Bachelor	Master	Doktorat
Total	51.0	<b>86.1</b>	89.9
Geistes- +SoWi	47.5	<b>79.3</b>	85.8
Wirtschaftswiss.	62.5	<b>86.4</b>	87.7
Recht	53.3	<b>92.9</b>	89.6
Naturwissenschaften	37.5	<b>84.5</b>	91.4
Medizin + Pharmazie	**	<b>96.9</b>	92.6
Technische Wiss Wissenschaften	62.1	<b>88.3</b>	90.9
Interdisziplinäre	43.0	<b>78.6</b>	**

© BFS, Befragung der Hochschulabsolvent/innen, 2022, Angaben in %

**Question: do you need a Master's Degree for the job you plan to go into?**

# Current Trends

## Confirmed facts

There are currently fewer advertised positions for people with little professional experience.

The latest unemployment figures for graduates indicate a slight increase.

The proportion of graduates who find a job within a year is still at +90%.

## Uncertain facts

Most employers tell us that they have not changed the number of entry-level positions.

The impact of AI on entry-level positions remains unclear.

We do not know what other factors are influencing the job situation: economic conditions, structural changes, the myth of a “skills shortage,” and various others.

## Important

There are many news reports at the moment who focus on those graduates who faces difficulties. The market is volatile but with a career engagement in small bites and a focus on the hidden job market, the prospects look good!

# How to Get a Head Start

## With Career Readiness

Career readiness refers to the ability and willingness to make career-related decisions in uncertain situations, weigh up risks, and utilize existing resources and opportunities to shape one's own career (Lent, 2013).

Career readiness is relevant at the time of graduation and entry into the workforce and is the result of career engagement.

**Career Engagement** is conscious action in these fields:

## Employers tell us

We take academic thinking for granted. What is important now is EQ

Critical thinking (=AI literacy)

Communication and self-leadership

Commitment and teamwork

Independent learning and professional development

... are increasingly important!

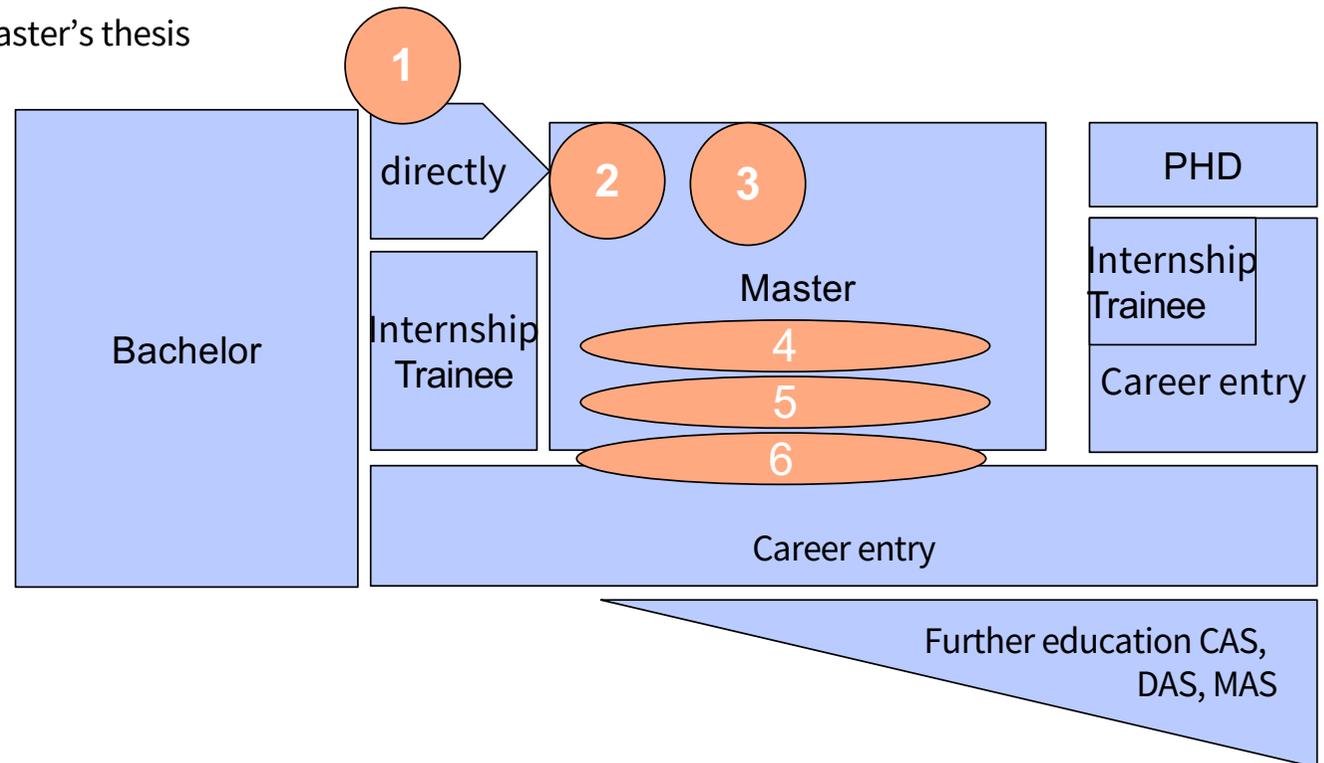


# What to Consider



# How to Structure your Master

1. Master's degree – yes or no? Immediately or with a gap (year)?
2. Structuring your studies
3. Profile development: semester abroad, Master's thesis



4. Extracurricular engagement
5. Practical experience
6. Career engagement

## 1. Consider these Fundamental Questions:

- Go directly into a Master's program? Gain practical experience in between? Which university?
- What are your **interests**?
- Can you apply your **skills**? Is your prior knowledge sufficient? Are you willing to acquire missing knowledge additionally?
- Can you ensure adequate **financial resources**?
- Can you **study part-time** or only **full-time**?
- What degree **title** will you receive, and how important is it for your career?
- What **reputation** does the program and the university have?
- What significance does the Master's degree have for your **professional goals**?
- Are **semesters abroad** possible? Are there international partnerships?
- How much freedom do you have in choosing and designing your **Master's thesis**?
- To what extent are you influenced in **your decision** by your environment/family/peers?

## 2. Structuring your Master through the Choice and Combination of Subjects

2

- Choose topics that interest you (**passion!**). Don't only choose topics you are already good at, but also those in which you can **further develop**.
- Look at the **learning outcomes/objectives of the courses**: knowledge, skills — methodological (e.g., qualitative/quantitative, communication), social, and self-competencies.
- You can generally benefit from more **demanding courses - get out of your comfort zone**.
- Are there courses offered “extra muros” (outside the faculty/university)? Are **practical credits** possible?  
Are there courses with **guest lecturers**?
- Consider whether you choose your **minor** based on your interests or based on strategic usefulness.

## 2. Structuring your Master: Plan Transdisciplinarily

2

Universität Zürich  
School for Transdisciplinary Studies

Home | Contact | Deutsch | Search

News & Events | Students | Providers | About us | FAQ | Intranet

Explore the School for Transdisciplinary Studies: Inspiring education across boundaries. Discover, create and grow together.

### Minor Innovation & Entrepreneurship

30 ECTS  
starting fall '26

The Minor is offered by the School for Transdisciplinary Studies (STS)

#### Inter-/Transdisciplinary Courses →

Digital transformation, ethics, sustainable development, entrepreneurship, AI: In the inter- and transdisciplinary STS courses, bachelor's and master's students from all faculties engage with key questions related to the so-called Grand Challenges.

→ [Inter-/Transdisciplinary Courses FS26](#)

#### Future Skills →

Future Skills courses focus on transversal, hands-on competencies and cross-disciplinary methods. The content and formats range from AI literacy, text and data analysis to open science and storytelling.

→ [Future Skills FS26](#)

#### Interdisciplinary minor study programs →

The STS minor study programs complement disciplinary master's studies with practice-oriented and future-oriented competencies. They foster interdisciplinary thinking and broaden career perspectives.

→ [DSI Minor / LAO Digital Skills](#)  
→ [Minor / LAO Innovation & Entrepreneurship](#)

### Inter-/Transdisciplinary Courses FS26 →

Beyond Carbon: Debating the Future

Die Krise und die Stadt

Digital Security

Digital Transformation - an Artistic Reflection

Entrepreneurship Bootcamp

Fokus Menschen

Interdisciplinary Introduction to Machine Learning

Mentale Gesundheit gemeinsam stärken

Moralisch handeln?!

Studium Digitale

Sustainability now!

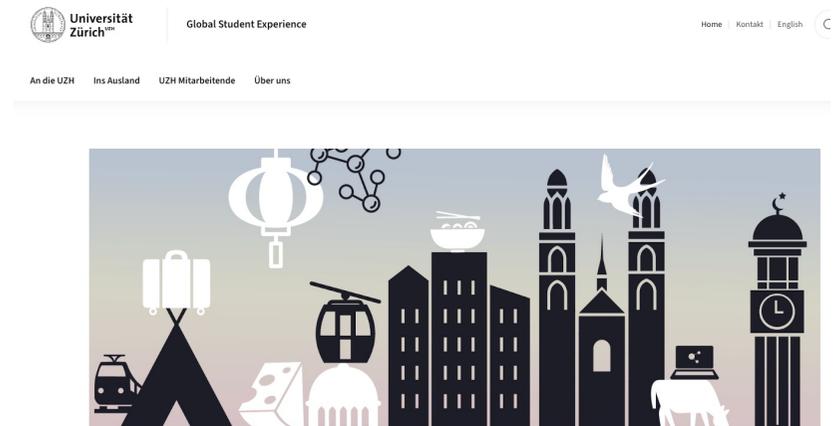
Teamwork on Digital Transformation Challenges

[www.sts.uzh.ch](http://www.sts.uzh.ch)

### 3. Profile Building through the Master's Thesis and a Semester Abroad

3

- If possible, choose your Master's thesis topic with your future career path in mind:
  - If you aim to pursue a doctorate, the topic should be in the area of fundamental academic research and enable you to acquire research methods and establish contacts with academic chairs/supervisors.
  - If you are aiming for a non-academic career, the topic should address the interests of non-academic stakeholders whom you can contact during the process of writing your thesis (<https://studyond.com/de/students/>)
- In both cases: Talk to internal and external **experts about your research question** (research opens doors!).
- Plan your **semester abroad!**



## 4. Get involved in extracurricular activities

- Attend the many academic events at UZH, participate in discussions, and get to know other participants. Look beyond the boundaries of your own discipline:
  - **Develop your disciplinary awareness (→ transdisciplinarity).**
- Get involved in university politics, in associations or initiatives (there are over 100 student associations at UZH). Or start your own initiative (e.g., with the help of the VSUZH's Impulsfabrik) — or also outside of UZH:
  - **Take on responsibility (→ attitude), also outside the university.**
- If you are interested in academia: apply to become a **tutor or a semester/research assistant**. Or provide tutoring within the VSUZH program.
- **Further Education @ UZH (and beyond)**
  - Language courses at the UZH/ETH Language Center
  - IT training and continuing education provided by UZH Central IT Services
  - Business Tools course program (participation subsidized)
  - UZH Rhetoric Forum
  - Model United Nations UZH

## 5. Practical experience through professional activities

- **Gain work** and **practical experience**. Part-time study is usually possible.
- **Student jobs** are fine — but **qualifying positions** are better.
- **Continue developing** in your job as well: take on responsibility, lead teams, volunteer for project work.
- Complete **1–2 internships** — if possible, one of them abroad.
- Start a **startup** or support new ventures in another responsible role (e.g., board member, executive management, etc.).

### Note of caution:

- If you come here from a **non EU/EFTA country**, you are allowed to work 15hrs/week during term. You are not automatically entitled to receive a work permit after graduation since you come here on a student visa!

## 6. Start your Career Engagement

### How to get started:

Create a **profile** on [uzhcareer.ch](http://uzhcareer.ch) or [uzhstudy.ch](http://uzhstudy.ch).

**Familiarize** yourself with the **services** offered by UZH Career Services.

**Plan** your participation in the major events LNOC, JobHub, and LifeScienceDay, which take place only once a year.

Plan your participation in **small bites**, visit our webinars and workshop.

Take the opportunity to discuss your plans with Career Services in a **consultation** (1 hour) or during a **drop-in session** (20 minutes).



**How we support you**



## Final Thoughts

- Choose a Master's program that you can study with **passion**.
- Create the **appropriate conditions** for yourself (especially financially and time-wise). Inform yourself about the resources available at UZH (especially UZH advisory services and offers from VSUZH).
- Develop your understanding of **professionalism**: During your Master's studies, you will become an expert in one or more academic disciplines.
- At the latest when **choosing your Master's thesis**, decide which direction your future path should take: academic (doctorate) or non-academic (practice).
- Build and expand your **network** — make use of events where you can get to know fellow students and alumni.
- Take advantage of the many opportunities that studying at UZH offers you and start your career **engagement** today.

# Talk to Employers at the JobHub

Find out what they think about various Master's programmes

Home > UZH JobHub



## UZH JobHub 2026

16. - 20. March 2026

We are delighted to draw your attention to the largest recruitment event on the campus of the University of Zurich (UZH): the UZH JobHub 2026.

At the UZH JobHub, you can expect a wide range of presentations, workshops and interviews over the course of a week, giving you the opportunity to network with employers and discover suitable career and entry-level opportunities. The UZH JobHub is open to students of all faculties and levels.

An exciting program with numerous different formats awaits you!

No registration is required for the JobHub Fair on March 18. We look forward to seeing you!



### Program 2026

Meet numerous employers at the UZH JobHub, our annual recruiting event on the UZH campus. You can find out everything you need to know about the formats planned for 2026 here (from February 16, 2026, starting at 8 a.m.).

[Program 2026](#)



### Career Fair on 18 March

Come to the fair day on 18 March in the Lichthof in the main building, from 11 am to 4:30 pm. No registration is necessary. Over 36 companies and organisations are waiting for you.

[JobHub Career Fair](#)



Prepare for the fair

### Preparation

Optimise your preparation for the UZH JobHub with our 'Prepare for the Fair' event!

[Prepare for the fair](#)



### Your profile on uzhcareer.ch

Our tips for a successful profile

[Your profile on uzhcareer.ch](#)



### No Show - No Go

We look forward to receiving your registration! However, we kindly ask you to cancel in good time if you are unable to attend.

[No Show - No Go](#)



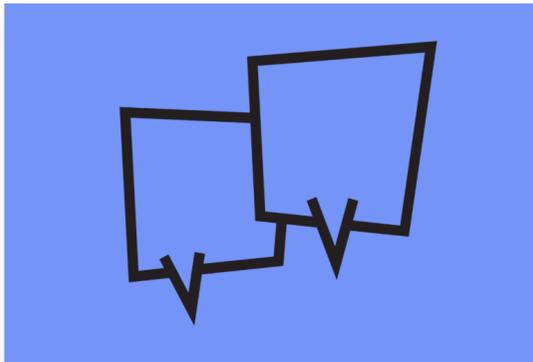
### Impressions 2025

Take a look at some pictures from the UZH JobHub 2025 here.

[Impressions](#)

# Our Services

## Student Advisory UZH



### For Students

- Consultation and Coaching
- Workshops

## UZH Career Services



### Career Counseling

Would you like to find out together what your options are after graduation? Do you have an application or even your first interview coming up? We are here for you.

**1:1 Services**

## Advice for Specific Study Programs

Do you have specific questions about individual study programs? For this purpose, the faculties and departments/institutes have their own study program advisory services. You can find the direct link to the advisory services directly on the page of the respective study program, or using the overview of the faculties below:

- Faculty of Theology and the Study of Religion (in German)
- Faculty of Law
- Faculty of Business, Economics and Informatics
- Faculty of Medicine (in German)
- Vetsuisse Faculty (in German)
- Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
- Faculty of Science

For an overview over other Swiss universities:  
Kantonalen Berufs-, Studien und Laufbahnberatung BIZ



# Study with pride and joy – wishing you every success!



## If you have any questions

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<https://uzhcareer.ch>

