International Students in Switzerland
Who stays in Switzerland after graduation and why?
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Should I stay or should I go? Every graduating international student is confronted with this decision.

This research project aims to identify factors which influence international students in their mobility/migration behaviour. To answer the first research question by describing international students, a newly created data set will be analysed.

Research Questions
1) What are socio-demographic characteristics of international students staying in Switzerland after graduation?
2) What patterns of trajectories can be identified during their stay in Switzerland?
3) What are influencing factors for international students to stay or to leave Switzerland?

Possible Factors
– Socio-demographic differences
– Cultural and linguistic proximity
– Social ties (marriage & children)
– Legal status (EU/non-EU)
– Labour market demand and conditions for specific disciplines
– Bilateral agreements and policies
– Duration of stay in Switzerland
– Order of events in trajectories

Main Origins of International Students in Switzerland

Countries of Origin (2014):
- Europe
- Asia
- America
- Africa

Destination Country (2014):
- Switzerland

The represented 28 biggest flows cover 83% of all flows of international students towards Switzerland

Statistical Analysis
Creation of a new statistical data set by linking two registers:
- the foreigner register (ZEMIS)
- the student register (SHIS)

Some Facts & Numbers
– 25% was the share of international students in 2014
– 31’105 international students were enrolled at Swiss universities
– 29% of the international students came from non-EU countries: