



MIDS

GENEVA LL.M.
IN INTERNATIONAL
DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

WELCOME GUIDE

2026-2027



**UNIVERSITÉ
DE GENÈVE**

FACULTY OF LAW

**GENEVA
GRADUATE
INSTITUTE**

INSTITUT DE HAUTES
ÉTUDES INTERNATIONALES
ET DU DÉVELOPPEMENT
GRADUATE INSTITUTE
OF INTERNATIONAL AND
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

WELCOME GUIDE MIDS 2026-2027 PROGRAMME

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FACULTÉ DE DROIT



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DEVELOPMENT STUDIES



Dear Student,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the Geneva LL.M. in International Dispute Settlement (MIDS) program for the 2026-2027 academic year. We are very pleased that you will join us for the 19th edition of the MIDS, and we very much hope that it will be a life-changing experience for you.

The MIDS will start officially on 14 September 2026 but we do hope to see you before then. To support your transition into the programme, we are pleased to introduce an optional MIDS Foundations Week, which will take place from Monday 7 September to Wednesday 9 September 2026. We recommend that you arrive in Geneva a few days before so you can go through any administrative and logistical procedure with no rush and familiarize yourself with the city and the different facilities.

This guide aims to provide you with an overview of what you will encounter once you arrive in Geneva. At the same time, it serves the purpose of helping you to prepare for your MIDS experience and the necessary planning for your arrival in Geneva. Please do read it carefully, especially those sections referring to accommodation, visa, and health insurance. We provide you with a checklist at the very end of this guide and we encourage you to review it closely.

Let me congratulate you once again for joining the MIDS. You have been selected from close to 600 applicants from all over the world, and therefore we do have high expectations of your performance at the MIDS. Rest assured that we will offer you an outstanding experience, both in terms of substance and skills, but we expect no less from your dedication, participation, and studying. At the end of the day, our objective is to help you achieve your goals and reach the position you aim for, be it in a law firm, international organization, government service, company, or joining a PhD program.

We look forward to meeting you in person very soon.

Best wishes,

Emilie Poisson
MIDS Executive Director

Welcome

Villa Moynier, where the MIDS offices are located, was built in 1846 at the Perle du Lac Park, facing Lake Lemman and Mont-Blanc. You are welcome anytime upon your arrival in Geneva.

Welcome



WHO WE ARE

The Geneva LL.M. in International Dispute Settlement (MIDS) was launched in September 2008 under the joint aegis of the **University of Geneva Law School** and the **Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies**.

The University of Geneva, founded by Jean Calvin in 1559, is Switzerland's second largest university and is a member of the League of European Research Universities, which includes academic institutions such as Amsterdam, Cambridge, Heidelberg, Helsinki, and Milan. Benefiting from its strategic location in one of the world's main arbitration venues with a long tradition in dispute settlement, the Law School has developed a recognized area of expertise in international arbitration and alternative dispute resolution incorporating research projects, conferences, and seminars.

The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID) is a private foundation, receiving financial support from the Swiss government and the Canton of Geneva. English-French instruction, a cosmopolitan faculty and student body (over 100 nationalities), and a worldwide student exchange network are the attributes which make this institute unique on the international academic scene.



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The **University of Geneva** Law School is located at UniMail (Boulevard du Pont d'Arve 40). Elective Courses offered by the University of Geneva Law School, and a number of events throughout the academic year will take place here.



THE MIDS PROGRAMME

The structure of the programme is both compulsory and elective at the same time, offering students latitude to pursue their specific interests in dispute settlement while ensuring the acquisition of the indispensable knowledge, analytical tools, and skills required of cutting-edge practitioners.

The **2026-2027 programme's main building blocks** are:

General Courses covering the core areas of international dispute settlement, including International Commercial Arbitration (Professor Thomas Schultz), International Treaty Arbitration (Professor Zachary Douglas KC), State-to-State Dispute Settlement (Professor Makane Mbengue), The Law of International Commercial Contracts (Professor Jan Kleinheisterkamp), and English, French and Swiss Arbitration Law (C. Drummond, Prof. M. De Fontmichel and Dr. Franz Stirnimann-Fuentes).

Weekly **Tutorials**, accompanying the general courses. Inspired by the Oxford system, tutorials provide a weekly opportunity for interaction between the MIDS Lecturers and a group of about ten students. Their purpose is to revisit and illustrate the key concepts addressed in the core courses. During tutorials, students also present research papers, which are commented upon by the Lecturer and the class.

A choice of two **Elective Courses** drawn from a list of classes offered in the regular master programme curricula of the **Graduate Institute** and the **Faculty of Law of the University of Geneva**. These courses revolve broadly around international dispute settlement.

A choice of eight **Intensive Courses** from a list of twelve. Each course consists of nine hours of class time spread over two to three days. These courses focus on a specific dispute settlement mechanism or explore in depth a particular topic. Intensive courses typically elaborate on matters addressed more briefly in the general and optional courses.

An **Academic Retreat** that aims at developing skills in analyzing facts and evidence, building a strategy, construing a legal argumentation, practicing oral advocacy, and working in a team, all with limited time and with pressure evocative of reality.

Four **Core Workshops** (Legal Writing, Mediation, Financial Damages Analysis: Lawyer and Expert Witness Perspectives & Advocacy in International Arbitration: Questioning of Fact Witnesses in International Arbitration) are built as interactive clinical modules designed to help students develop and practice key skills required in international dispute settlement practice.

MIDS students participate in **study trips** to key international dispute settlement institutions in Paris, Rome and The Hague, with costs covered by the program.

Additional institutional visits may include the Arbitration and Mediation Center of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva, and the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Completion of writing requirements, which include one **Research Paper** and a 40–50-page **Master Thesis**.

Attendance of a variety of **Conferences, Seminars, and Lectures**, either in Switzerland or abroad.

The full academic calendar, detailed programme structure, and course offerings is available on the MIDS website.





HOW TO OBTAIN YOUR VISA

It is not necessary to arrive in Geneva much in advance of the beginning of classes. Depending on your own need to “find your feet”, we would advise that you plan to arrive a few days before Welcome Week.

Before leaving their home country, all foreign students must complete important immigration formalities which should begin now.

Please contact the nearest Swiss Embassy or Consulate with your valid passport, your admission letter, and all documents needed to demonstrate that you have sufficient financial means for studying in Switzerland, including attestations of any scholarships or loans you may have obtained.

Please do not start your studies with a tourist visa. You risk exposing yourself to serious difficulties for the remainder of your stay. Please be advised that the visa procedures may take up to **3 months**.

For more detailed information about the immigration requirements to enter Switzerland as a student, and for specific information about the procedures at your nearest Swiss Embassy or Consulate, please visit the website of the Office Cantonal de la Population (OCPM):

<https://www.ge.ch/en/ask-student-permit/student-permit-nationals-non-eu-country>

The MIDS is at your disposal to provide any supporting documents required for your visa application. Please note, however, that immigration procedures remain the responsibility of each student, and the MIDS is not in a position to apply for a visa on your behalf or expedite the process.

Visa and residence permit fees are not covered by MIDS-managed scholarships and must be borne directly by the student.

FINDING WHERE TO STAY

The rental market in the Geneva area is in a situation where the demand exceeds the offer. Finding appropriate and affordable accommodation can be difficult especially if you start too late. Therefore, you should start looking for accommodation right now. The MIDS has been able to secure 24 rooms for our students within different student residences: Grand Morillon, Picciotto, RUI Carlton, and RUI Rothschild. If you are interested in any of these, please complete the Accommodation Application Form 2026-2027 (sent to you via email). Please do not contact the residences RUI directly. Given the number of MIDS students, we must acknowledge that some applications may obtain neither their preferred choice nor any of our secured rooms at all.

Notifications of accommodations will be sent **at the latest by June**. For those offered one of the rooms, a deposit will be asked in order to secure the allocated room. The deposit is used to cover any cancellation, or cleaning or reparation work required when moving out. If not required, the deposit will be refunded when checking out.

The University of Geneva also offers accommodation at a reduced price. If you wish to take advantage of this offer, we recommend that you apply for a few residences listed below in order to maximize your chances. Please note that rooms are normally offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Therefore, from the list mentioned on the next pages we at least highly encourage you to apply for the Cité Universitaire de Genève as soon as possible, just in case you do not obtain one of our rooms.

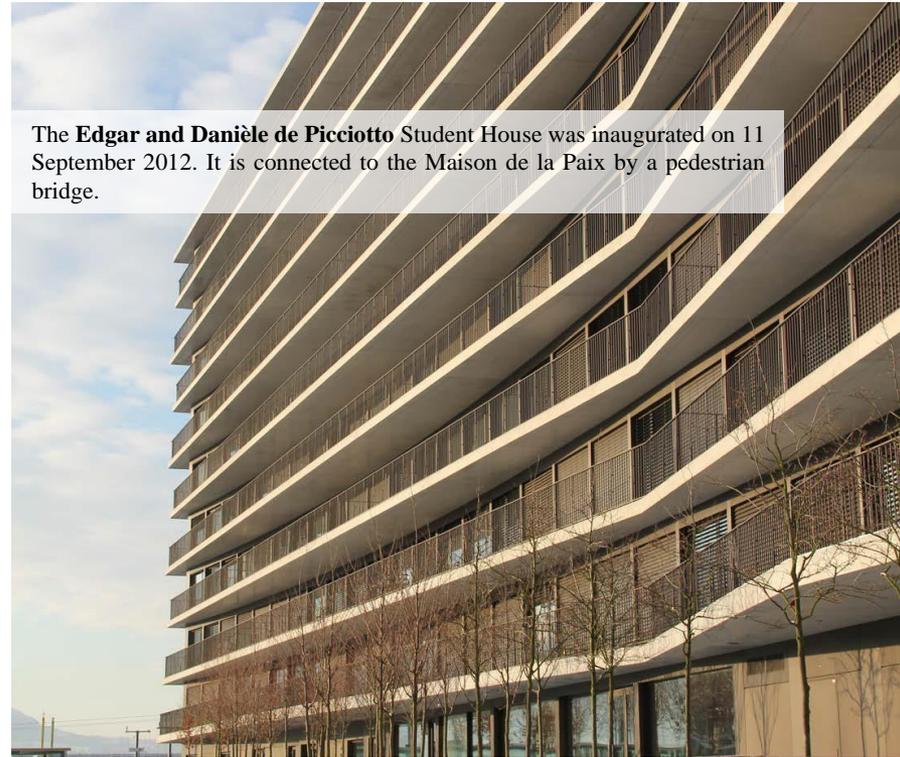
Please note that MIDS students do not have access to accommodation managed by the University of Geneva's accommodation office, the Bureau des logements et restaurants universitaires (BLRU). However, you may contact the BLRU to request access to its database of private student accommodation and to receive guidance on available options.

BLRU, Bureau des logements et restaurants universitaires

(University of Geneva)

<https://www.unige.ch/batiment/service-batiments/logements/accueil/>

Further details on housing will be shared shortly by email.



The **Edgar and Danièle de Picciotto** Student House was inaugurated on 11 September 2012. It is connected to the Maison de la Paix by a pedestrian bridge.

STUDENT RESIDENCES IN GENEVA**Grand Morillon Student Residence**

www.graduateinstitute.ch/housing E-mail:
housing.administration@graduateinstitute.ch

Centre Universitaire de Champel

(men only) <http://champel.ch>
E-mail: info@champel.ch

Centre Universitaire Protestant 1

E-mail: welcome@cup.dpn.ch
<http://cup1.ch>

Home Saint-Pierre

(women only, up to 30 years old)
www.homestpierre.ch
E-mail: info@homestpierre.ch

Foyer Universitaire de Carouge

(women only, up to 30 years old)
www.foyerdecarouge.ch
E-mail: info@foyerinternational.ch

You can also check the following non-student residence:

Résidence Moléson

www.gerpar.ch
E-mail: info@gerpar.ch

Cité Universitaire de Genève

(up to 35 years old)
<http://cite-uni.unige.ch>
E-mail: cite-uni@unige.ch

Foyer international pour jeunes filles

(women only, up to 30 years old)
www.foyerinternational.ch
E-mail: foyer.inter@bluewin.ch

Centre Universitaire Protestant 2

E-mail:
cup2@span.ch<http://studenthome.ch>

La Villa Clotilde

(women only)
www.villaclotilde.ch
E-mail: info@villaclotilde.ch

Foyer George Williams

(up to 35 years old)
www.ucg.ch
E-mail: admin@foyerucg.ch

Other **interesting websites** include:

- <https://www.roomea.ch/p4686-logements.html>
- www.sharehome.ch
- <https://regimo-geneve.ch/louer/acheter>

ROOMS SECURED BY THE MIDS:

A survey to collect your preferences for the rooms will be distributed via email in April/May.

RUI Rothschild

Résidence Universitaire Internationale
Single room in a 2-bedroom suite
CHF 650/month

RUI Carlton

Résidence Universitaire Internationale
Individual Studio
CHF 900/month

Edgar and Danièle de Picciotto Student Residence

Individual Studio
CHF 1150-1200/month

Single room and private bathroom in either a 2- or 4-bedroom apartment
CHF 850- 950/month

Résidence Grand Morillon

Individual Studio
CHF 850 - 1100/month

Single room with private bathroom
CHF 1000/month

Single room with shared bathroom
CHF 850/month



SECURE YOUR RESIDENCE PERMIT

Geneva is quite small and when the academic year begins, you will still have time between classes to take care of all your paperwork and get organized.

Kindly note that the student visa is required to enter Switzerland as a student. However, it does not authorize you to live in Switzerland. **Within eight days of your arrival, you must present yourself, with a letter delivered by the MIDS, to the Geneva cantonal authority (Office Cantonal de la Population, OCPM) to obtain a Student Residence Permit.**

If you are a citizen of the European Union you will not need to ask for a student visa. You will have to request an “*autorisation de séjour pour études*” once in Geneva. This can be done by sending the required documents to the OCPM by postal mail. For more information on required documents and addresses please visit the OCPM website: <https://www.ge.ch/en/ask-student-permit>

And here is the link for the Application for a Student Permit Form E (in English) : <https://www.ge.ch/document/ocpm-formulaire-e-sejour-etudes>

The **following supporting documents must be included with your application** to the OCPM:

- Completed [Form E](#);
- Colour copy of a valid passport;
- Certificate of eligibility from the MIDS (we will provide this);
- CV and cover letter indicating intentions upon completion of studies;
- Study plan indicating the number of hours of weekly classes, the timetable, the details of the branches and the programme, the total duration of the studies, as well as the diploma(s) sought;
- Written commitment to leave Switzerland at the end of the planned studies, except for students admitted to a Swiss university within the meaning of Article 3 of the Federal Law on Aid to Universities and Cooperation in the Field of Higher Education (LAU);
- Proof of sufficient financial means or proof of support ([Form O](#));
- Copy of the lease or written confirmation from the landlord in accordance with [form AL](#) (with a copy of the main lease and a copy of the landlord's identity card);
- Internship or intended gainful activity, if applicable;
- Criminal record certificate

YOUR HEALTH INSURANCE

Swiss law requires all students staying longer than 3 months to have health and accident insurance.

Shortly after your arrival in Geneva, you will have to prove to the cantonal authorities (*Service de l'assurance maladie - SAM*) that you are sufficiently covered against illness and accident risks. Therefore, make sure that you bring the relevant insurance documents with you.

Available options:

1. Insurance from your home country

You may use an insurance policy from your home country, provided that it:

- Covers **health and accidents**
- Is valid in **Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and Schengen states**

In this case:

- You must complete an **equivalence form** (<https://www.ge.ch/document/formulaire-contrôle-equivalence-assurance-maladie>)
- The form must be **signed and stamped by your insurer before arrival**

For EU students, the **European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)** may be accepted.

2. Swiss insurance

You may choose to contract insurance in Switzerland. Examples of providers (non- exhaustive):

- Insurance providers are private and can be compared via: www.comparis.ch
- Student offers are available Swisscare
- Scorestudies (Proposed by The Graduate Institute. For more details check their website (<https://scorestudies.ch/>) or send an email mentioning that you are a Graduate Institute student to: contact@scorestudies.ch.)

The MIDS has **no contractual relationship** with these providers. Indicative cost: from approx. **CHF 38/month** (depending on coverage and deductible).

For further information you can follow these links:

- Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies: <https://www.graduateinstitute.ch/insurance>
- The University of Geneva: <https://www.unige.ch/exchange/en/incoming/why-geneva/sante>

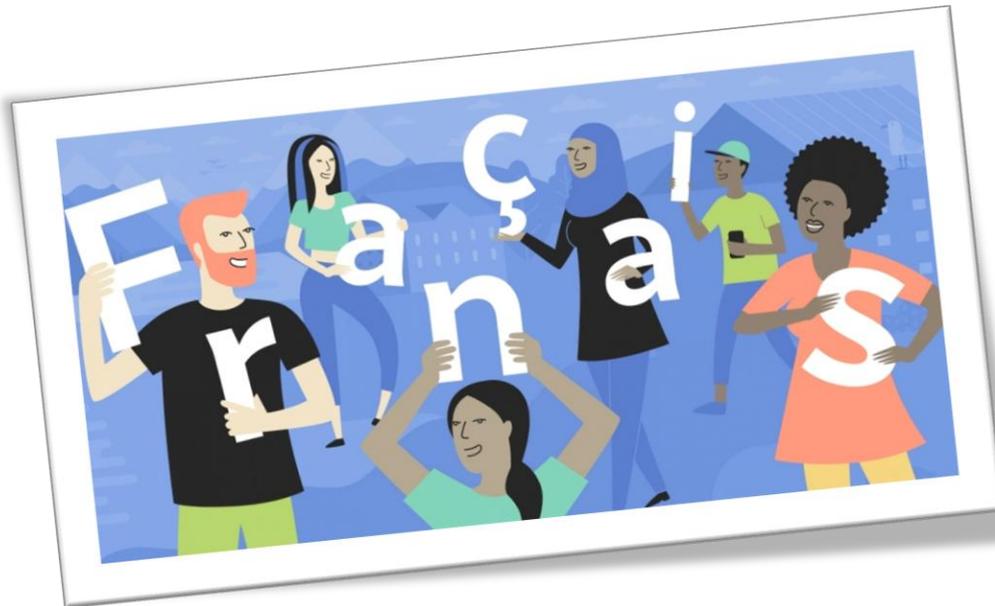
FRENCH COURSES

If you wish to take French courses during your year at the MIDS, options are available at both the University of Geneva and the Graduate Institute.

Further details, including information sessions, course schedules, and registration deadlines for the 2026–2027 academic year, will be communicated in due course once confirmed.

As an indication:

- At the University of Geneva, French support courses (cours d'appui) are typically held for two hours per week, with a cost of approximately CHF 260 per semester. Course descriptions and general information are available at: <https://mdl.unige.ch/fr/coursdelangues/francais/>
- At the Graduate Institute, courses are also generally organised as two-hour weekly sessions, with an approximate cost of CHF 300 per semester. Registration is managed directly through the Institute: <https://www.graduateinstitute.ch/student-life/french-courses>



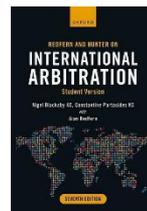
As MIDS students you will have access to the **libraries** of the Graduate Institute and the University of Geneva.



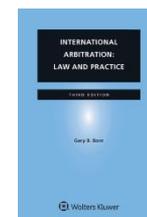
SUGGESTED SUMMER READINGS

You may consider doing some summer readings to refresh your knowledge of public and private international law, or maybe to catch up on some subfields with which you are unfamiliar.

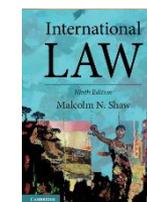
The following readings were found helpful by past incoming MIDS students. Please note that this list is by no means exhaustive, and the readings are not mandatory.



Nigel Blackaby, Constantine Partasides, and Alan Redfern
Redfern and Hunter on International Arbitration
Oxford University Press 7th Edition
2022



Gary B. Born
International Arbitration: Law and Practice
Wolters Kluwer
3rd Edition
2021



Malcolm N. Shaw *International Law* Cambridge University Press
9th Edition
2021



Rudolf Dolzer, Christoph Schreuer, and Ursula Kriebaum
Principles of International Investment Law
Oxford University Press
3rd Edition
2022



C L Lim Jean Ho Martins Pappas
International Investment Law and Arbitration
Cambridge University Press
2nd Edition
2021

WHAT WE OFFER

Our mission is to provide you with the best possible education in the field of international dispute settlement. We also do our best to provide assistance with jobs and internships for your 'Life after the MIDS'. How do we do that?

- Your profile will be displayed on the MIDS website.
- The MIDS provides you with your own **business cards** which are useful in your daily interactions with practitioners and especially when attending job interviews, conferences and career events.
- You will benefit from the dedicated **MIDS career events** in which you will interact with some of the best and most well-known law firms and international organizations dealing with international dispute settlement.
- Furthermore, the MIDS will work with you on an individual basis on your **CV and cover letters**.
- The MIDS will provide individualized **coaching services** and **advice** on networking, career planning, and on how to strategically approach the job positions you are most interested in throughout the academic year.
- Finally, upon your request, the MIDS will conduct an individual **mock interview** with you simulating the real interviews you will have later on.

Regularly, law firms, companies, and other institutions contact the MIDS asking for candidates for all sorts of positions. Once at the MIDS, you will be informed of these opportunities as soon as we receive word.



YOUR TO-DO LIST

As outlined throughout this Welcome Guide, there are a number of steps to be completed in the coming weeks and months to prepare for your arrival in Geneva. Please review the following tasks and timelines carefully, and do not hesitate to contact us with questions or requests.

** Detailed instructions will be provided by the student office.*

TASK	DEADLINE
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Plan your finances and ensure sufficient funds to cover tuition, housing, and living expenses. <i>Understand the cost of living in Geneva and budget accordingly. Ensure as soon as possible that you have sufficient funds to cover your expenses, including tuition, housing, and daily living costs. Schedule your tuition fees payments.*</i></p>	As soon as possible
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Start your Student Visa application process at your nearest Swiss Embassy or Consulate. <i>* If you are from a non-EU/EFTA country, apply for a student visa (Visa D) at the Swiss embassy or consulate in your home country. This process can take several weeks, so start early. Prepare financial proof. You may need to provide bank statements or other financial guarantees.</i></p>	March - May
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Arrange for your accommodation in Geneva. <i>* Contact residences and accommodation services in Geneva & Complete your Accommodation Application Form.</i></p>	March - May
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Start applying for internships for July 2027 <i>* Should you be interested to do an internship as part of your studies at the MIDS, we advise you to closely monitor the vacancies posted by the law firms as many international law firms hire interns 12-18 months in advance.</i></p>	March onwards
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Arrange health insurance <i>* Ensure you have valid health insurance coverage for Switzerland. If your current insurance is not valid, you will need to arrange for Swiss health insurance.</i></p>	June
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Register for courses <i>* Complete your elective (and French) course registration by the given deadlines. Register the for the optional Foundations Week.</i></p>	June - August
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Prepare your travel arrangements <i>* Inform the MIDS Office of your arrival date and accommodation status at info@mids.ch</i></p>	July - August
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Familiarize yourself with the academic calendar, including important dates for the start of classes, holidays, and examination periods. & Learn about Geneva: <i>Take some time to learn about Geneva and its surroundings. Knowing more about your new home can make the transition smoother and more enjoyable</i></p>	August
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Apply for your residence permit upon arrival* <i>Upon arrival in Geneva, register with the local authorities within 14 days to obtain your residence permit. You will need your passport, visa, university enrollment certificate, proof of health insurance, and evidence of financial means.</i></p>	September

PLAN YOUR FINANCES

Preparing financially is essential for all prospective MIDS students. Because many funding processes have early deadlines, students are strongly advised to begin researching financial options before receiving their admission decision.

Funding Sources to Consider:

- Personal funds: Savings or support from family, relatives, or friends
- Private foundations & organizations: Grants from NGOs, foundations, or institutions in the applicant's home country
- Government resources: Scholarships or financial assistance offered by national or regional authorities
- Employer support: Sponsorship, loans, salary advances, or authorized study leave
- Loans: Banks or specialized student loan providers
- Academic institutions: Financial aid or scholarships offered by current or previous universities
- Crowdfunding: Creative online fundraising or mixed funding strategies

Students are encouraged to contact the student services office at their current or former university for scholarship opportunities, and to reach out to their home-country education authorities for government-funded financial aid options.

COST OF LIVING IN GENEVA

Geneva offers an exceptional quality of life but is also known for its **high living costs**. Applicants should plan their budget carefully.

Visa requirement: Swiss authorities require proof of financial means. While no fixed amount is mandated, students are generally expected to show CHF **20,000-25,000** in available funds **or a regular income of approx. CHF 2,500 per month**

This is intended to cover housing, health insurance, and personal expenses (approx. CHF 1,000/month for living costs, plus rent and insurance).

Detailed example budgets are available on external websites, such as the Geneva Graduate Institute's [Monthly Budget Estimate Document](#).

Further guidance on proof of financial means is provided to admitted candidates.

ADMINISTRATIVE FEES

All students, including scholarship recipients, must budget for mandatory administrative costs:

- **Visa and residence permit fees:** approx. CHF 232

These fees are **not reimbursed** by the programme or by external sponsors.



The MIDS offices are located in Villa Moynier. Your MIDS lectures will usually take place at the Villa Moynier or at the Maison de la Paix. Therefore, your life at the MIDS will take place in the heart of the Genève Internationale, surrounded by the UN, WIPO, the WTO, Lake Lemman, and Mont Blanc.

The University of Geneva Law School is located at the UniMail building (Boulevard du Pont d'Arve 40). The easiest way to arrive at UniMail is with Tram 15, direction "Palettes", and getting off at "Uni Mail" tram stop.

Elective Courses offered by the University of Geneva Law School and a number of events throughout the academic year will take place there.

