

International Project Experience 2026

The International Project Experience (hereby referred to as IPE) is part of the fulltime students' 3rd year at the computer science section of the Lucerne School of Information Technology. In the third quarter of 2026 a group of 21 students accompanied (and supervised) by a professor stays in the Silicon Valley for 6 weeks. They attend meetings or speeches at two mornings per week, a weekly status meeting or excursions focusing on the concept of entrepreneurship and start-up companies typical for "The Valley".

During the rest of the week students work in groups on project tasks provided by local (startup) companies or local branches of Swiss companies as part of their study in Switzerland. The idea is to gain insight and experience of the way of working and performing in this High Tech and High-Speed area. Therefore, we are looking for what we call "project providers" i.e., local companies **who would accept our services free of any obligation** to solve a problem (research, engineering, marketing, business process management, etc.) or contributing to an existing project in the company. The conditions are as follows:

- The students
 - work in groups of three or four at their premises or – if needed and provided – at a more convenient location for a specific project.
 - provide **3.5 working days per week** to the project provider **between July 13th and August 21st**, where the **project provider is expected to be present for the kickoff meeting on July 13th or July 14th**
 - report to the project provider once a week in person (exceptions like skype meetings may be defined by the project provider)
 - present the deliverables (paper, website, app, presentation, etc.) of the project as defined by the project provider at the final presentation meeting of IPE. **In 2026 this will be Friday August 21st in the morning, where the project provider is expected to be present in person in San Francisco.**
 - Have mainly a background in **business information technology**, some in software development and some in artificial intelligence and machine learning.
- The project providers
 - define a project with a subject related to business information technology. This means a wide variety like evaluating, researching, analyzing, conceiving, designing, developing (web apps, mobile apps, Java, C#, VB.net, SQL and SQL/PSM, scripting, ...), testing, configuring, securing, ...
 - may have more creative ideas, concepts or tasks and are strongly encouraged to present them to the students (a template and an example of such description are available upon request).

- **rely on the fact that the students' IPE projects are projects of the Lucerne School of Information Technology during their students' stay in The Valley and therefore there are no legal obligations or fees or whatsoever.** If needed, confidentiality and non-disclosure agreements will be signed by the students and their supervisor, of course.
- will hold a kickoff-meeting ideally on Monday afternoon July 13th 2026 and attend the final presentation on Friday morning August 21st
- will keep in touch personally (the project owner) at least once a week with the students. Exceptions like skype- or hangout-conversations can be arranged by the project owner when he/she is not able to attend in person.
- The students supervisors
 - will be Christian Schucan and Benjamin Emmenegger in 2026.
 - will coordinate all the students' activities and needs and shuttle between the groups in order to ensure a high quality of their work.
 - will fix the details of the project (including a written description) before the start of IPE to ensure a high quality from the first day of the project.
 - will meet the project provider in person no later than the first week of the project.

Please let us know if you have an idea for a project that suits in time duration and demanded skills! **Contact:** Christian Schucan, Lucerne School of Information Technology, christian.schucan@hslu.ch, Phone Switzerland +41 79 414 31 86.