

ETH Meets California

This special course is a part of ETH Meets California 2016. As an initiative of "ETH Meets You," the event platform that boosts ETH Zurich's global presence and visibility, it is an opportunity to build a global community of people, groups, institutions and organizations that develop, exchange and discuss ideas. For further information about ETH Meets California: www.eth2cal.org.

Partners

The course is supported by ETH Global and is being organized in collaboration with the ETH Zurich World Food System Center and the San Francisco-based Mixing Bowl Hub. Partners also include the Agro Food Innovation Park in Frauenfeld and Knecht Reisen.



Contact

Further information about Study Tour

ETH Zurich World Food System Center
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Photos

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ETH zürich

ETH Meets California Study Tour

Tackling Food System Challenges with IT Innovation

10-16 April 2016 | Northern California, USA
Students with a demonstrated interest in food systems are invited to apply.



ETH Global

This one-week course in Northern California brings students from ETH Zurich and California universities on a tour of some of the most cutting-edge companies and initiatives that are using information technology in innovative ways to address the most pressing food system challenges, such as global food and nutrition security.

Objective

Investigate the potentials and challenges for disruptive and innovative technologies to contribute to food and nutrition security in a highly complex world food system.



With more than US\$3 billion invested in Agtech and Foodtech enterprises in 2014 alone, this fast growing sector has already captured the attention of leading venture capital funds and other investors.

During the study tour of one of the world's most important agricultural regions (California's Central Valley) and innovation hotspots (Silicon Valley), participants will get an up-close look at how IT innovation is disrupting the food system with promises to address the coming challenge of feeding a world population of 10 billion people.

Students are expected to bring interdisciplinary perspectives, open-minds, and critical thinking.

Enrollment/Eligibility ETH Zurich students from all disciplines are invited to apply. Priority will be given to advanced Bachelor and Master's level students.

Prerequisite Demonstrated interest in the food system and the challenges facing it.

Dates and Locations 10-16 April 2016 in Northern California, San Francisco Bay Area, plus 1 pre- and 1 post-study tour meeting at ETH Zurich. Dates to be confirmed.

Grading Pass/Fail. Attendance at all sessions and active participation in course activities is required.

Credits This course can be treated as a mobility unit (2 Credits). Students will be responsible for confirming credits with their study secretariat. Upon successful completion of course requirements, students will receive a certificate of participation.

Tentative Schedule

Pre-Tour: Intro to the food system and the role of IT innovation to address challenges today and in the future

Day 1: The future of food / Silicon Valley start-ups

Day 2: Agtech and the Central Valley / Big Ag and Big Data

Day 3: Disruption in research and education / Food Business School

Day 4: Universities and innovation / Student Farm

Day 5: FoodTech start-ups

Day 6: Disrupting food marketing

Post-Tour: Wrap up and presentations of conclusions

Ongoing: Collaborative assignments to help students synthesize and evaluate the inputs from various stakeholder perspectives, and apply lessons learned.

Course language is English.

Cost

Course fee: CHF 950. Fee includes meals, accommodations, local transportation, excursions, course materials, and return flight from Zurich to San Francisco.



TO APPLY: Space is limited to 7-10 ETH students, who will be selected in a competitive process. Apply online with motivation letter and one-page CV at www.worldfoodsystem.ethz.ch/education/study-tours
APPLICATION DEADLINE: 18 DECEMBER 2015

