
Pre-College Department





Pre-College

Introduced in 1999 at the Conservatorio della Svizzera italiana, the Pre-College curriculum (Pre-Professional) is a link between the amateur section (Music School) and the University of Music.

This training, intended for secondary school students, allows selected students to test their musical skills and motivation in view of the complex university studies.

Approaching the world of professional studies with gradual, preparatory topics that will then be further pursued during the Bachelor program, attending a university environment full of events, seminars and meetings, stimulates these young people to decide whether the life of a professional musician is the road they really want to undertake. It is an important period of orientation towards the choice of one's future profession.

Admission to the Department is subject to selective criteria, as the number of students is limited. In addition to the instrumental/vocal and musical level (i.e. skills already acquired), the potential for future development of the candidate is also considered.

The skills that can be achieved in the Pre-College Department are crucial for admission to the University of Music. It should however be stressed that there is no automatism from admission to the Pre-College Department to the closure of the curriculum with success or to admission to the University of Music.

The Pre-College Department of the Conservatorio is the only program of its kind in Switzerland.



“The Pre-College allowed me be in contact with other musicians of my age and older. Thanks to this I was able to make the informed decision that I wanted to continue my piano studies.”

Marta Meszaros, pianist - 1st year Bachelor of Arts in Music Performance at the CSI

1. External collaborations

The Pre-College Department boasts a multi-year institutional collaboration with the Liceo Diocesano of Breganzona and the Scuola Professionale per gli sportive d'élite - SPSE of Tenero, which provide special programs reserved for musically talented students enrolled in the Pre-College Department of the CSI.

The Lice Diocesano of Breganzona (www.liceodiocesano.ch) proposes a study plan that leads to the Swiss maturity. This programme substitutes certain subjects with music courses offered through the Conservatorio in the context of external services.

The Scuola Professionale per gli sportive d'élite of Tenero (www.spse.ch) instead offers a particularly flexible school path that leads to a professional maturity.

Since the 2006-07 school year, the educational and artistic talents sector of the Department of Education, Culture and Sport - DECS has approved the introduction of the Talent Program in the sports and artistic fields in all secondary schools. This program intends to help those pupils who must reconcile two activities (study plus sport or artistic activity) carried out at high level, allowing them to organize in the best way possible these commitments over the whole year. (www4.ti.ch/decs/sa/us/settori/scolarizzazione-talenti-sportivi-e-artistici/infotalentisportivi/).

2. Institutional framework

The Pre-College Department is supported by the Vocational training Division of Canton Ticino. It is oriented to the *Standards for pre-College music Education*, AEC – EAS – EMU of 2017, to the guidelines on the label "pre-College music CH" issued by KMHS and VMS and is subjected to periodic external audits (peer review).

Within the CSI, the Pre-College has the status of an autonomous department, on par with the SUM and the SMUS, with independent contracts and accountancy. The collegial conduction between SUM and SMUS guarantees the right balance between the interests of the departments, for the benefit of the students' interests.

3. Faculty

The faculty is formed for the most part by teachers from the SUM and SMUS who have been shown to possess the specific competences to work with this type of students and who can guarantee, in particular in the case of SUM, the necessary regularity and teaching schedule. There is however no automatism, given the contractual autonomy of the Pre-College.



4. How to access the Pre-College programme

In order to access the Pre-College programme, the student must meet the following conditions:

1. Completion of middle school and enrollment in a secondary school II;
2. Must have adequate musical preparation;
3. Must pass an aptitude exam.

In exceptional cases, the Direction has the right to decide.

Application

Applications for admission must be completed online on the website www.conservatorio.ch/it/pre-college and must be received by May 31, together with the following documentation:

1. Registration Form duly completed;
2. Photocopy of the middle school completion license or equivalent title;
3. Curriculum Vitae et Studiorum;
4. Letter of motivation for the application;
5. Copy of the receipt for the payment of the examination fee CHF 100.–.

Incomplete entries will not be considered.

Admission Exams

Admission examinations shall take place, unless otherwise stated, during the second half of June. The exact dates are usually announced on the Pre-College calendar available on the website www.conservatorio.ch/it/pre-college.

The exam is divided into two parts, one theoretical and one practical.

The theoretical part (Pre-College I - Ear Training/Aural Skills) is carried out in the form of an aptitude test.

For the practical part, the candidates must present 3-4 pieces from different styles of a total duration of about 15-20 minutes. Scales and sight reading may be requested.

As the number of students is limited, admission to the Department is subject to selective criteria. In addition to the instrumental/vocal and musical level (i.e. skills already acquired), the candidate's potential for development is also considered.

5. Competence profiles – Bologna – admission to BA

The profile of outgoing competence takes as reference the competences necessary for the admission to a Bachelor at a Swiss University of Music, according to the "Bologna" model issued by the Conference of the Swiss University Schools KMHS.

Specific skills

- Developed instrumental and/or vocal capacities;
- Ability to recognize harmonic, melodic and rhythmic structures;
- Developed intuition and rhythmic sense;
- Basic knowledge of music theory;
- Experience in improvisation;
- Experience in ensemble music;
- General cultural education.

Methodological skills

- Basic knowledge of work techniques;
- Knowledge of concepts concerning interpretation;
- Ability to put into practice theoretical and stylistic knowledge.

Social skills

- Willingness to communicate;
- Aptitude for group work;
- Receptivity and aptitude for criticism;
- Willingness to learn.

Personal skills

- Musical and artistic creativity;
- Imagination;
- Intellectual curiosity;
- Physical and mental resistance;
- Ability to concentrate, tenacity, discipline, reliability and application.



6. Study plan

| Subjects | 1 st year | | 2 nd year | | 3 rd year | | 4 th year | |
|-------------------------------|---|-----|----------------------|----|----------------------|----|----------------------|------|
| | Semesters | | | | | | | |
| Weekly Lessons – 60’ | I | II | III | IV | V | VI | VII | VIII |
| Main instrument | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Secondary piano | ½ | ½ | ½ | ½ | ½ | ½ | ½ | ½ |
| Ear training – Aural skills | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Harmony | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Introduction to Music History | 1 ½ | 1 ½ | | | | | | |
| Orchestra ¹ | 3 | | | | | | | |
| Chorus ² | 1 ½ | | | | | | | |
| Chamber music ³ | - | - | ½ | ½ | ½ | ½ | ½ | ½ |
| Accompaniment | - | - | ½ | ½ | ½ | ½ | ½ | ½ |
| Special courses | See the Seminar booklet of the University of Music. To be approved by the head of studies | | | | | | | |

Admission to the semester depends on the level previously reached.

¹ 5-6 semesters + the possibility of participation in the orchestra of the University of Music from the 5^o semester onwards

² At least 2 semesters for strings, 6 for the others

³ At least 4 semesters

6a. Study plan for students enrolled at the Liceo Diocesano

| Subjects | 1 st year | | 2 nd year | | 3 rd year | | 4 th year | |
|---|---|-----|----------------------|----|----------------------|----|----------------------|------|
| | Semesters | | | | | | | |
| Weekly Lessons – 60' | I | II | III | IV | V | VI | VII | VIII |
| Main instrument | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Secondary piano | ½ | ½ | ½ | ½ | ½ | ½ | ½ | ½ |
| Ear training - Aural skills | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Introduction to Harmony and Analysis ¹ | | | | | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Music History | | | | | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Introduction to Music History | 1 ½ | 1 ½ | | | | | | |
| Orchestra ² | 3 | | | | | | | |
| Choir ³ | 1 ½ | | | | | | | |
| Chamber Music ⁴ | - | - | ½ | ½ | ½ | ½ | ½ | ½ |
| Accompaniment | - | - | ½ | ½ | ½ | ½ | ½ | ½ |
| Special courses | See the Seminar booklet of the University of Music. To be approved by the head of studies | | | | | | | |

Admission to the semester depends on the level previously reached.

¹ One lesson every other week

² 5-6 semesters + the possibility of participation in the orchestra of the University of Music from the 5th semester onwards

³ At least 6 semesters

⁴ At least 4 semesters

7. Preparative year option

A candidate with a good professional potential but with gaps in the preparatory training can be given, at the suggestion of the SUM, the possibility of attending the last year of Pre-College.

These students do not affect the closed number rule.

8. Passage Exams – Evaluation criteria – Feedback

At the end of the school year, instrumental and theoretical examinations are held. It is necessary to pass these exams in order to continue studies. The exact dates are usually announced on the Pre-College calendar available on the site www.conservatorio.ch/it/pre-college.

Students will be judged on the basis of technical and musical skills.

Progress made during the year will be taken into account. The decisive factor will be the professional potential, that is, the probability of entering a Swiss University of Music within the regular time frame and having a chance to enter the job market once the professional studies have been completed.

Oral feedback with representatives of the Evaluation Committee is provided at the end of the main subject examinations. Participation is strongly encouraged. In the case of performance which is judged insufficient, the student will be summoned for an interview; in this case it is also possible to request written feedback.

9. Tuition and Fees

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| Semester tuition – residents (ASUP)* | CHF 1'250.– |
| Semester tuition – non-residents | CHF 1'500.– |
| Semester administration fee | CHF 250.– |
| Application fee | CHF 100.– |
| Make-up (Repeated) exam fee | CHF 50.– |
| Extraordinary interim exam fee | CHF 100.– |
| Appeal fee | CHF 100.– |

* According to the ASUP criteria, included in this category are "Swiss and Inter cantonal" (residents).

In addition to those in possession of a Swiss passport, those who have lived for at least 2 years in any canton of Switzerland before the beginning of the studies, and this without being in possession of a student permit, are considered residents.



10. Regulation of studies

1. General provisions

Art. 1 Scope

This regulation of studies applies to the Pre-College Department of the Conservatorio della Svizzera italiana (CSI).

Art. 2 Responsibilities

The Direction of Pre-College is responsible for the application of the regulation of studies.

Art. 3 Final Documents

No diploma is released. Certificates may be requested and will be issued.

Art. 4 Duration of studies

The duration of studies is usually limited to a maximum of four years.

Art. 5 Study plan

The curriculum is governed by a study plan.

Art. 6 Applications

¹ Applications for admission must be received by May 31. Inscriptions outside the said deadline may be accepted provided that places are available, and at the discretion of the Pre-College Direction.

² Incomplete applications will not be taken into account.

Art. 7 Enrollment at the beginning of the year

At the beginning of each school year students enroll for individual courses, according to their specific study program. The study plan must be agreed upon with the Pre-College Direction and submitted to the department secretariat no later than the first day of the school year.

Art. 8 Tuition and Fees

The rates are regulated in the specific CSI Tuition and Fees list.

Art. 9 Payment of Tuition and fees

Students are required to pay the regular tuition and fees within the indicated deadlines (registration, attendance, administration) as well as any other fees, as indicated in the specific tariff list.

Admission to a subsequent semester may be tacitly refused if there are pending invoices.

Art. 10 School year

The school year lasts from September to July and is subdivided into two 17-week semesters.

Art. 11 Calendar and Lesson schedules

For specific information, refer to the calendar of the Pre-College Department. Except during the exam periods, the public-school calendar is observed regarding holidays and official vacation days. Students are required to frequently check the communications posted on the specific bulletin boards and on the website www.conservatorio.ch.

Art. 12 Attendance

- ¹ Class attendance is mandatory.
- ² The teacher is not required to register the completion of a subject matter for a student who does not reach a percentage of attendance of 80% for annual courses or of 100% for courses of limited duration. Similarly, the teacher may refuse to record the fulfilment of the obligation relating to a subject for a student who has not completed the requested assignments.
- ³ The Direction may establish derogations in the case of motivated absences.
- ⁴ Requests for exemption and/or absence must reach the Pre-College Direction with due advance notice. In the case of absences due to health reasons, the Pre-College Direction may require the presentation of a medical certificate.

Art. 13 Student identification card

Regularly enrolled students have the opportunity to request a student card from the Secretariat.

Art. 14 Rights

- ¹ The CSI is authorized to make and use, free of charge, any photographic, video, sound and other recordings of school activities for the purpose of promotion or documentation.
- ² At a distance of at least 5 years after the termination of their studies, students may ask to remove their image from promotional material.

Art. 15 Recitals, concerts and exams

- ¹ Students are required to participate (without reimbursement) in examinations, recitals, concerts and other events organized by the CSI and must be available, free of charge, to accompany performances and the relative rehearsals of other students, always in the interest of the student's own educational program.
- ² In order to participate in events outside of the CSI, the student must promptly request permission from the Pre-College Direction. Consent may be refused if it is considered that such participation is not reconcilable with the serene conduct of educational activities or is detrimental to the student's progress.

Art. 16 Exams

Students are required to take exams.

Art. 17 Withdrawal from studies

- ¹ Withdrawal from studies must be communicated in writing to the Pre-College Direction no later than May 31 (respectively, on November 30 for the end of the 1st semester).
- ² Requests for a leave of absence for interruption of study, military service, etc. must be sent to the Pre-College Direction with due advance notice.

Art. 18 Exclusion

The Pre-College Direction can exclude a student from studies for one of the following reasons:

- a) irregular or insufficient attendance;
- b) failure to pass a make-up (repeated) exam;
- c) failure to pass an extraordinary interim examination;
- d) exceeding the maximum possible duration of studies;
- e) non-payment of school fees;
- f) disciplinary reasons;
- g) for any other subjective or objective circumstance, when it is determined that it is not possible to claim in good faith that studies can proceed.

It is possible to submit an appeal to the Directorate General of the CSI Foundation (with copy to the Pre-College Direction) within 10 days of the communication of the results. The appeal should be justified in writing. It is possible to submit an appeal against the decisions of the Directorate General of the CSI Foundation to the Foundation Committee of the CSI (with copy to the Directorate General of the CSI Foundation) within 10 days of the communication of the results. The appeal should be justified in writing. The administrative procedure of the Canton of Ticino, excluding interruptions for judicial vacations, applies by analogy. The CSI will reimburse the relative fees in the case that the appeal is upheld. The modalities indicated below are valid for points b), c) and d).

2. Exams

Art. 19

This paragraph regulates the modalities of the examinations at the Conservatorio della Svizzera italiana, Pre-College Department.

Art. 20 Types of Exams

The following examinations are held in the Pre-College Department:

- a) admissions exams;
- b) passage exams;
- c) make-up (repeated) exams;
- d) extraordinary interim examinations.

Art. 21 Admissions Exams

In order to take the admissions exam, it is obligatory to have correctly submitted all application material. The exam itself consists of a practical test of 15-20 minutes - a free-choice program containing as a rule 3-4 pieces of different styles - and an evaluation of the candidate's knowledge of music theory. The Pre-College Direction reserves the right to modify the examination procedures if it considers it appropriate to do so. Passing the exam is a prerequisite for admission to studies.

In the case of multiple candidates at the same level the precedence goes to the Swiss candidate. Limitation of the number of admissions can be applied.

Art. 22 Passage exams

Annual passage examinations are generally held in all compulsory subjects. It is necessary to pass these in order to be admitted to the next course year. It is obligatory for students who do not pass the examination to take a make-up (repeat) exam, unless they wish to abandon their studies.

Art. 23 Make-up (Repeat) Exams

Main subject: students who do not pass the make-up (repeat) exam will not be able to continue their studies.
Required theoretical or complementary subjects: students who do not pass the make-up (repeat) exam must repeat the same course assuming the relative cost (CHF 500.-/ semester). It is possible to repeat the course only once.

Art. 24 Extraordinary Interim exams

The Pre-College Direction may request an extraordinary interim examination. This may take place when it seems that the student is not making the progress necessary to be able to conclude their studies within the deadlines stipulated in the regulations. Students who do not pass the extraordinary interim examination will not be able to continue with their studies.

Art. 25 Exam Sessions

The exam sessions are scheduled by the Pre-College Direction.

Art. 26 Repertoires

The exam repertoires must include pieces from the principle repertoire of the student's own instrument. As a rule, this means 3-4 compositions from different historical periods and styles. Scales and sight-reading may also be requested.

Art. 27 Performance by memory

It is mandatory to perform at least one piece by memory.
Specific criteria may apply for each instrument.

Art. 28 Examination procedures

¹ Any change to the procedures for conducting the exams requires the approval of the Pre-College Direction.

² The exams take place, as a rule, behind closed doors. The Pre-College Direction decides on any exceptions.

Art. 29 Examining Commissions

¹ For ordinary examinations the commissions are formed as a rule by:

- a) one or more examiners (teacher(s) of the CSI);
- b) Pre-College Direction or a substitute (responsible for managing the exam);
- c) an expert (internal or external).

The Pre-College Direction can organize the participation of further experts.
Each member of the commission assigns a score for each exam.
The final score will be the average of the individual scores awarded.

Only those examiners who have witnessed all of the exams in a given session may take part in the voting.

Candidates considered eligible for admission after having taken the admissions exams are listed in order of ranking. The Pre-College Direction determines the number of students who will be admitted.

² For extraordinary exams and make-up (repeat) exams the commissions are formed as a rule by:

- a) an examiner (teacher at the CSI);
- b) Pre-College Direction or a substitute (responsible for managing the exam);
- c) an expert (internal or external).

The Pre-College Direction can organize the participation of further experts.

Each member of the commission assigns a score for each exam.

The final score will be the average of the individual scores awarded.

Art. 30 Appeal

The evaluation of the Examining Commissions is final and unappealable. Only in the case of procedural faults is it possible to submit an appeal to the Directorate General of the CSI Foundation (with copy to the Pre-College Direction) within 10 days of the communication of the results.

The rules set out in art. 18 are valid in case of appeal.

The CSI will reimburse the relative fees in the case that the appeal is upheld.

3. Validity

Art. 31 Validity

This Regulation shall enter into force with the endorsement of the CSI Committee and shall replace the previous regulations.

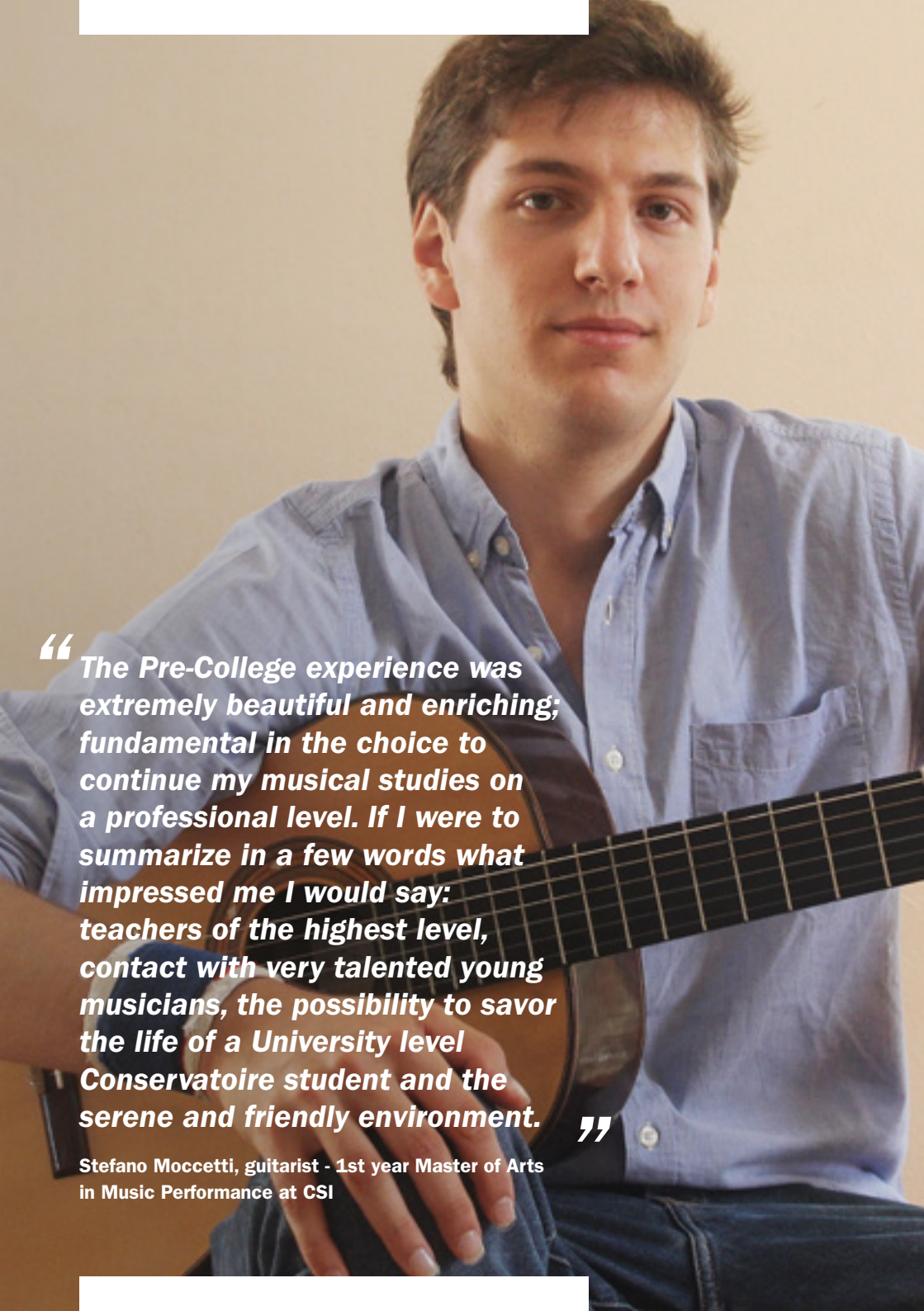
Art. 32 Modifications

The Directorate General of the CSI Foundation, with the endorsement of the Committee of the CSI, reserves the right to modify the study plan.

Lugano, September 4, 2018
CONSERVATORIO della SVIZZERA ITALIANA

Ina Piattini Pelloni
President

Christoph Brenner
General Director



“*The Pre-College experience was extremely beautiful and enriching; fundamental in the choice to continue my musical studies on a professional level. If I were to summarize in a few words what impressed me I would say: teachers of the highest level, contact with very talented young musicians, the possibility to savor the life of a University level Conservatoire student and the serene and friendly environment.*”

Stefano Moccetti, guitarist - 1st year Master of Arts in Music Performance at CSI

11. Abbreviations

| | |
|------|---|
| AEC | Association Européenne des Conservatoires, Académies de Musique et Musikhochschulen (European Conservatory Association) |
| CSI | Conservatorio della Svizzera italiana |
| DECS | Dipartimento dell'Educazione, della Cultura e dello Sport (Department of Education, Culture and Sport) |
| DFP | Divisione della Formazione professionale del DECS (Division of Professional Formation) |
| KMHS | Konferenz Musikhochschulen Schweiz (Swiss Conference of University Schools) |
| PRE | Pre-College (già Pre-professionale) (Pre-College – formerly Pre-professional) |
| SMUS | Scuola di Musica (Music School) |
| SPSE | Scuola professionale per sportivi d'élite |
| SUM | Scuola universitaria di Musica (University of Music) |
| VMS | Verband Musikschulen Schweiz (Swiss Association of Music Schools) |

12. Bibliography

MusiQue – Music Quality Enhancement: Standards for Pre-College Music Education, Brussels, December 2017

Label «Pre-College Music CH» des Verbands Musikschulen Schweiz (VMS) und der Konferenz Musikhochschulen Schweiz (KMHS) zur Förderung von musikalischen Begabungen in der Schweiz. Basel 2018

Die Umsetzung der BOLOGNA-Deklaration an Schweizer Musikhochschulen. Konferenz Musikhochschulen Schweiz KMHS. Arbeitsgruppe BOLOGNA. KMHS 2005



“The Pre-College of CSI made it possible for me not only to perfect my instrument under the guidance of renowned teachers such as Maestros Valery Gradow and Pavel Berman, but it also gave me basic training, thanks to the lessons in ear training, harmony, music history, piano and chamber music. After completing the Pre-College studies, I was admitted to the Conservatoire National Supérieur de musique et de Danse in Paris and I am currently studying for a Master's degree at the Folkwang Universität der Künste in Essen.

”

Teira Yamashita, violinist - Master student
at the Folkwang Universität der Künste in Essen

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Pre-College

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