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Media release from SHL Schweizerische Hotelfachschule Luzern

Full house at the start of the academic year at SHL Schweizerische Hotelfachschule Luzern

SHL Schweizerische Hotelfachschule Luzern started the 2025/26 academic year with 101 new students. Yesterday, 98 students began their first semester in the German and English programmes, while three students with relevant prior qualifications entered directly into the second year of study. This means that all places are now filled – further proof of the appeal of SHL and its practical education model.

A lively campus at the start of the semester

A total of 310 students are currently attending the semester and bringing fresh energy to the SHL campus. «As soon as the students return after the summer break, SHL fills with a positive, lively dynamic – it's a special moment for me every year», says SHL Director Christa Augsburg. She is particularly pleased with how the experienced students immediately support the newcomers: «I see this mutual support from day one – it's a big part of what makes our campus spirit so special», says Christa Augsburg. This welcoming culture not only helps new students find their feet, but also strengthens the sense of community.

«Welcome to the Jungle»

Under the annual motto «Welcome to the Jungle», SHL is bridging the gap between the refreshed and greener campus design and the diverse school life. The image of the jungle stands for orientation, teamwork, determination and the ability to assert oneself in a complex environment – qualities that are of central importance both for the hospitality industry and for life as a student. «Whether in the dense leafy canopy or in everyday student life, those who know their way around, move forward swiftly. And with curiosity, courage and mutual support, the jungle becomes an adventure», says Timo Albiez, deputy director of SHL and creative mind behind the theme for the year.

One path, two degrees

In addition to revised content, new exam formats, a week-long study trip, expanded team-building days on Mount Rigi and innovative reflection methods using speech recognition, the new academic year also brings a significant structural change to the combined study programme with Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts – Business. Starting in April 2026, graduates of the «Dipl. Hotelier(e)-Gastronom(in) HF» programme will be able to achieve a «Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management» with a focus on «International Business & Sustainability» in just three semesters of full-time study. This opens up new perspectives for SHL students: with a Matura or EFZ, the combined four-year programme leads to two renowned Swiss qualifications – an HF diploma and a Bachelor's degree.

Educate, accompany, form

In addition to innovative new developments, SHL remains true to what has always defined it: a personal environment where learning, exchange and community are part of everyday life. The Salt & Pepper training restaurant is not only a culinary highlight, but also a popular meeting place for students and guests. And the close, consistent link between practice and theory forms the heart of the SHL programme – supported by a culture that accompanies people on their journey.

Image (original file attached)



Caption for image 1:

Arriving together: Lunch at the start of the semester in the Salt & Pepper training restaurant.

About SHL

Since 1909, SHL Schweizerische Hotelfachschule Luzern has been a practice-oriented, innovative educational institution that paves the way for success-oriented students in the national and international hospitality industry. As one of two original Swiss hotel management schools, SHL has played a major role in shaping hotel management education in Switzerland. SHL graduates hold management positions in the hotel and catering industry and other service sectors in Switzerland and internationally.

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