

March 23, 2026

Press release from SHL Schweizerische Hotelfachschule Luzern

Mission accomplished: 49 new leadership talents celebrate their SHL graduation at the Grand Casino Lucerne

Lucerne, March 20, 2026 – Beaming faces, powerful words, and enthusiastic applause: On Friday, 49 graduates of SHL Schweizerische Hotelfachschule Luzern celebrated their graduation as Dipl. Hotelier(e)-Gastronom(in) HF (Advanced Federal Diploma in Hospitality Management). The ceremonial event, held for the first time at the Grand Casino Lucerne, marked the culmination of intensive years of study – and at the same time the beginning of a new chapter in an industry full of opportunities, diversity, and dynamism.

At the start, the brass band Abinchova set a powerful tone for the evening with «Prayer» by Bon Jovi, and before the welcome address by SHL Director Christa Augsburg, one of the Foundation Board members Oliver Schärli spoke to the guests. In his speech, he drew a fitting connection to the SHL annual theme and the Guns N' Roses classic «Welcome to the Jungle.» The band was «loud, wild – and enormously successful, » he noted, not unlike the intensity of studying at SHL. Like Tarzan and Jane, students had swung from semester to semester. The graduates had successfully mastered the «SHL jungle» and were now ready for the big jungle – the professional world, with all its surprises, for which they are well prepared.

Grown in the SHL jungle

Afterwards, SHL Director Christa Augsburg addressed the graduating classes. She recalled that starting at SHL had felt for many like entering a dense, unfamiliar jungle – full of new rules, new languages, new expectations, and many new people. During their internships, the students, like young jungle plants, had «grown slowly and steadily with their tasks, » something that was clearly noticeable each time they returned to SHL. After all these challenges, they now stood here no longer as students, but as leaders who would find their place in the vast jungle of the industry and demonstrate that our industry truly lives up to being a jungle – this incredibly wonderful place of untamed beauty, diversity, and fascination.»

In closing, she wished them much success and personal fulfilment – and that in their own personal jungle they would «not only survive, but lead, shape, and help it grow.»

A look back – with humour and heart

An emotional yet humorous part of the graduation ceremony was the speeches by the class representatives: Mads Anton Jeworrek, Fabio Krampf, Nadine Heuberger, and Nuria Verasani for the German-speaking classes, as well as Astrid Baumgartner, Emilia Cucu, and Gian-Andrea Egli for the English-speaking class. All of them reflected on their SHL journey – sharp, self-ironic, and full of connection. Their time at SHL had shown that «time is relative.» They

had cooked, served, calculated, «sometimes improvised,» and above all experienced an unforgettable time.

Stories about lecturers, special moments, and challenges were told not just for fun, «but because they have become an important part of our journey.» And even though new paths now lie ahead, it is not a farewell – the connection to SHL will remain. Mads Anton Jeworrek expressed this feeling particularly fittingly: «What we have learned here, we pack into our backpack. Thank you very much for this wonderful time.»

Highlight: The diploma ceremony

The ceremonial highlight of the evening followed: the presentation of diplomas. To great applause, the 49 graduates received their awards along with the silver-plated «key to success» from Berndorf Luzern AG. Students with the best final grades were also honoured for their outstanding achievements and received generous gifts from Relais & Châteaux.

In the German-language programme, these were Joshua Niklaus (1st place, avg. 5.32), Nadine Heuberger (2nd place, avg. 5.22), and Fabio Krampf (3rd place, avg. 5.05); in the English-language programme, Anna Huber (1st place, avg. 5.46), Gian-Andrea Egli (2nd place, avg. 5.44), and Sarah Steck (3rd place, avg. 5.43).

Accompanied by a Billie Eilish song – performed by Abinchova – the traditional champagne entrance followed before the «dine-around» opened on the SHL campus. First-semester students and the F&B team provided culinary variety and numerous moments of enjoyment. With conversations, reflections, and plenty of laughter, an evening came to a close that was defined by pride, community, and anticipation for everything that lies ahead.

Images (original files in separate link)



Caption for image «UFS 1»:
Diploma class 1 from the German-language programme



Caption for image «UFS 2»:
Diploma class 2 from the German-language programme



Caption for image «MNG»:
Diploma class from the English-language programme



Caption for image «Speech_Oliver Schärli»:
SHL Foundation Board member Oliver Schärli honoured the achievements of the graduating classes in his speech.



Caption for image «Speech_Christa Augsburger»:
SHL Director Christa Augsburger presents the graduating classes with her personal, heartfelt congratulations.



Caption for image «Speech_Klassenvertretende_01»:
Representatives of the German-language diploma classes reflect on their years of study.



Caption for image «Speech_Klassenvertretende_02»:
Graduates Emilia Cucu, Gian-Andrea Egli, and Astrid Baumgartner look back on their studies in the English-language programme.



Caption for image « Diplomübergabe 1 »:
A newly graduated SHL alumna receives her diploma from Christa Augsburg.



Caption for image « Diplomübergabe 2 »:
A newly graduated SHL alumnus receives his diploma from Christa Augsburg.



Caption for image « Schulische Bestnoten_DE »:
Top graduates (from left to right) in the German-language programme: Timo Albiez (Deputy SHL Director), Fabio Krampf (3rd place), Nadine Heuberger (2nd place), Joshua Niklaus (1st place), Christa Augsburg (SHL Director)



Caption to image « Schulische Bestnoten_EN / best grades »:

Top graduates (from left to right) in the English-language program: Christa Augsburg (SHL Director), Gian-Andrea Egli (2nd place), Anna Huber (1st place), Sarah Steck (3rd place), Timo Albiez (Deputy SHL Director)

About SHL

Since 1909, SHL Schweizerische Hotelfachschule Luzern in Lucerne, Switzerland, has been a practice-oriented and innovative institution that paves the way for ambitious students to enter the national and international hospitality industry. As one of only two original Swiss hotel management schools, SHL has played a key role in shaping hotel management education in Switzerland. SHL graduates hold leadership positions in hospitality and other service sectors – both in Switzerland and around the world.

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