Comparison of routes to university

academia Matura

	International A Levels	Swiss Matura	International Baccalaureate (IB)	Federal Vocational Baccalaureate (FVB) + Passerelle
Target group	Teenagers and young adults with clear academic goals	Teenagers following the traditional grammar school route	Students at international schools	Learners completing an apprentice-ship
Number of subjects	6 subjects	13 subjects	6 subjects + additional requirements	FVB subjects plus Passerelle
Flexibility	Very high, with an individual study plan	Low	Medium	Low to medium
Teaching format	One-to-one tuition / very small classes	Classroom teaching	Classroom teaching	Classroom teaching / independent study
Compatibility work / sport	Very good	Limited	Limited	Demanding
Access to university CH	University & university of applied sciences	University & university of applied sciences	University & university of applied sciences	Direct access to university of applied sci-ences, university only with Passerelle
Studying abroad	Widely recognised internationally	Possible	Widely recognised internationally	Limited
Time required	Focused and efficient	High	Very high	High
Language of instruction	English	National language: German, French or Italian	Depending on the provider: English, German, French or Spanish	National language: German, French or Italian
Mathematics / science component	Can be chosen depending on degree goals	Compulsory subjects	Compulsory components	Very high with Passerelle
Foreign languages	Can be chosen depending on degree goals	Compulsory subjects	One foreign language compulsory	Compulsory subjects
Individual support	Very high	Medium	Medium	Low to medium
Typical challenge	Choosing the right subjects is crucial	Broad academic workload	Heavy workload	Significant additional workload
Special feature	Clear, structured route with a focus on individual strengths	Traditional academic pathway	Holistic but intensive programme	Indirect route to university

International A Levels offer a clear, flexible and efficient route to university, especially for learners with specific degree goals, particular life circumstances or a preference for individual support.

The right option depends on personal goals, previous educational background and individual circumstances — and that is exactly where our guidance comes in.