

Lausanne – just around the corner

Just 45 minutes from Geneva international Airport by road or rail, Lausanne is easily reachable from all international destinations. And being located at major rail and road interchanges, all of Central Europe is within easy reach.

Lausanne – a landscape city

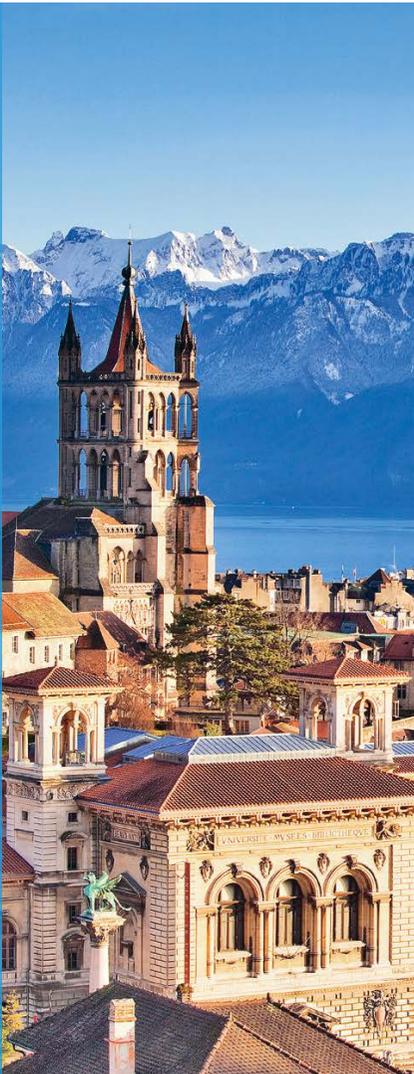
The city of Lausanne overlooks Lake Geneva, the largest lake in Western Europe, and faces the majestic splendour of the snow-capped Alps. It boasts a backdrop of scenic beauty that is truly breathtaking.

Lausanne – a human city

Home to a population of 130 000 and the hub of a metropolitan area of 250 000, including 80 000 international residents, Lausanne boasts business, cultural, sports and educational facilities that are truly remarkable for a city of its size.

Lausanne – a conference city

Lausanne's compact size, perfect accessibility and well-developed infrastructure make it a top choice for international conferences. Not least, its standing is supported by a cosmopolitan, multilingual population and workforce.



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World Conference of Science Journalists Lausanne 2019

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Proposal for candidacy Reaching new heights in science journalism

The three national science journalists' associations of Switzerland, France and Italy invite colleagues from around the world to Lausanne for the World Conference of Science Journalists, WCSJ, on 1–5 July 2019. If this candidacy is successful, the conference will be held under the auspices of the World Federation of Science Journalists, WFSJ.



World Conference
of Science Journalists
Lausanne 2019



Exchanging ideas and teaming up – a tradition in Central Europe

Beautifully situated on the shores of Lake Geneva, Lausanne is a meeting place and a crossroads at the heart of Europe. Here, in Switzerland, with France just a short boat ride away and Italy not far beyond, cultures and languages meet, ideas are exchanged, and people of all backgrounds work, play and make plans for a brighter future together.

In a region famed for its mountains, it is perhaps the landscape that has inspired this sense of common purpose. Mountaineering is a strong tradition in all three of our Alpine countries, and a fitting metaphor for WCSJ 2019. Just like those who team up across borders and cultures to scale the daunting peaks, WCSJ 2019 in Lausanne will reach out globally, bringing together journalists and communicators from all corners and continents to build a community with a common goal: reaching new heights in science journalism!

Bringing people together – fostering dialogue

In order to promote truly international professional exchange and networking, WCSJ 2019 puts a strong focus on enabling travel and conference attendance by means of scholarships. A diverse range of national and European institutions is willing to support these. Special attention is being given to the involvement of journalists from the Balkans and from French-speaking Africa through dedicated workshops and sessions.

Lively exchanges will be encouraged through innovative conference formats. From big, openly discursive sessions where people face-off against each other, to small “dare to ask” workshops, the newly built (2014) SwissTech Convention Center can modulate all of its meeting rooms to suit all needs. In this way, technology will serve the real-life interactions of people to maximum effect.

Addressing the real issues

WCSJ 2019 in Lausanne will offer a professional programme following three main themes:

Skills and tools

Participants will be offered a well-designed programme that will help them improve their skills in finding and telling better stories. With a strongly hands-on approach, they will hear about finding the newest and most promising tools, escaping hype, taking advantage of data, getting familiar with new formats, and pitching efficiently... It will all be there, and it will all be openly discussed. We all have many things to share and much to learn from one another.

Identity

This theme will explore issues related to our values, our ethics, our organisations and practices. How should we deal with pressure, with our own conflicts of interest, or with dwindling resources? How can we improve our profession's diversity? How can we build teams, cross borders, and take advantage of social media without drowning? How can we fund the stories that need to be told without compromising our independence?

Science and beyond

Science is what we are all passionate about – but what is happening to it? Where is it heading? What forces are shaping it, and what does this mean for the way we cover it? This theme will of course put the spotlight on new and fascinating scientific developments, but it will also try to understand the trends, explore what is going on in the wings of science, and put a strong focus on the critical thinking so essential to science journalism.

Science visits

Everything is close in Central Europe, a region abundant with world-leading public research facilities, universities and research-driven companies. To provide participants with immediate benefits, a rich list of laboratory visits, field study trips, press conferences and talks with scientists will deliver a wealth of interesting stories to be told. With locations as diverse as the science they cover, the institutions we'll be visiting are to be found across the whole of Switzerland, France and Italy.

Lunch@labs

Some of these visits and trips will take place during the core conference programme itself. This is possible because the conference venue is located on the campus of two outstanding universities of major international importance: the École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) and the Université de Lausanne (UNIL). While you're there, why not take lunch directly in the lab!

On and in the mountains

The majority of WCSJ 2019's exciting field trips will take place immediately before and after the conference. Given the central location of Lausanne, the range of possibilities is vast. In line with our guiding metaphor, the focus will be on - and in - the mountains. Take your first steps on a glacier, while discussing the latest research on climate change, or descend hundreds of metres underground to discover the science of nuclear waste disposal.

Many institutions will provide transport from Lausanne for journalist visits. Among them are the two High Altitude Research Stations on Jungfrauoch (Bernese Oberland) and Gornergrat (Zermatt), the Mont Terri rock laboratory, the international ice-core depository in Grenoble, the MUSE science museum and research centre in Trento and many more. Most of the trips will cover more than one scientific aspect – and all of them will provide a great source of stories.