

Most Innovative Education Specialist

TechSpark Academy

Switzerland



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TechSpark Academy allows teenagers to gain critical insights into how the digital world is conceived and developed. Sparking curiosity by introducing students to industry-standard software and tools used to build apps, websites, games, robotics and much more, the school covers seven different STEM areas in camps, in-school sessions and workshops throughout Switzerland. Eight to 18-year-olds enjoy fun, up-to-date courses rooted in interactive, hands-on learning, filling a gap in traditional education and equipping kids with the increasingly in-demand skills key to a tech-filled future.

With over 1,400 students and about 94 instructors, TechSpark partners with 12 premium private schools in Switzerland's top cities, including Zurich, Zug, Luzern, Lausanne and Geneva. All instructors are motivational STEM graduates from the country's two elite polytechnic universities – ETH Zurich and EPFL, ranked 6th and 14th respectively in the 2020 QS World University Rankings®. Highly skilled, they deliver classes not only addressed to the digitally minded, but to all young people who want to discover the technologies that power today's world. Students work in small groups with a 1:5 instructor-student ratio, ensuring that they benefit from personal attention.

TechSpark's best-selling courses include the computer language Python – used by Google – Instagram, YouTube, Swift, and other AI applications. The school is also amongst the first in the world to teach cybersecurity, with their highly popular Hacker Mode course. Their work has been recognised by a partnership with Google, and their cybersecurity weekends are run at the search engine's premises in Zurich – the largest Google office outside of the US. The 'hackathon' is co-taught by the school's instructors, and Google employees.

The judges praised TechSpark for making important tech skills accessible, interesting, and easy-to-understand for children. TechSpark are proud co-sponsors of Coding for Girls, together with local tech innovator Nextthink, an initiative which encourages young girls to embrace digital technologies. They also boast their own non-profit arm, TechSpark Giving. The school consistently demonstrates its commitment to tech both in and out of the classroom. With future plans for TechZhen Immersion – a 10-day trip to China's Silicon Valley – and guided virtual camps for students outside of Switzerland, TechSpark is a leading educator in STEM sectors.



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