

# QUEERING INTEGRATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION!

How can LGBTQI+ immigrants  
access higher education?

webinar

**Thursday 29 April**

**at 6:30 p.m**

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Sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression are often at the roots of migration and refugee status determination. According to Eurostat, 580,800 LGBTQI+ asylum-seekers applied for international protection in European Union member states in 2018. In Switzerland, the State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) does not keep track of the exact number of such asylum-seekers, and there are no exact figures for refugees and other migrants from the LGBTQI+ community who are studying in Swiss higher education institutions (HEIs).

In this webinar, we will discuss how LGBTQI+ migrants can access higher education. What support must HEIs offer to make this possible? Are they equipped to do so? What factors must be taken into account to safeguard the right to education in HEIs and refugee camps that offer higher education programmes? What institutional approach should HEIs take and how can they work together? How can the university community facilitate assimilation? What is “queering integration”? Will the COVID-19 pandemic bring queering integration to the fore?

We will also highlight the education integration initiatives for migrants at the University of Geneva (Academic Horizons, InZone and Scholars at Risk); welcome centres and initiatives launched by institutions in Geneva (the Department of equality and diversity at UNIGE, the Cantonal Office for the Integration of Foreigners, and ASILE LGBT); and the actions taken by the University of Bologna to help detained refugee Patrick Zaky, whose case has caused international concern – which is why a picture of a gathering in support of Zaki has been chosen as the icon for this webinar.

This event is being coordinated by the University of Geneva’s Maurice Chalumeau Centre for Sexual Sciences and by the Department for Integration, and aims to shed light on the existential and institutional barriers that may prevent refugees and other migrants from accessing higher education because of their sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression. But more importantly, this webinar will push us to think of how we can break through these barriers in the spirit of higher education’s core ideals.

With the participation of:

**Prof. Chiara Elefante**, Vice-chancellor, University of Bologna, Italy

**Prof. Rita Monticelli**, Coordinator of the Women’s and Gender Studies master’s programme, University of Bologna, Italy

**Paul O’Keeffe**, InZone, University of Geneva, Switzerland

**Rosida Koyuncu**, ASILE LGBT Geneva, Switzerland

**Paras Arora**, Stanford University, U.S.A

**Gabriela Sawaya**, School of higher education in social sciences, France

**Cihangir Can**, Graduate Institute Geneva (IHEID), Switzerland

<sup>1</sup> LGBTQI+: Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and any other person not included in this who faces discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression.