

## Winter School & Retreat



Champéry 2025



Universität  
Zürich



UNIVERSITÉ  
DE GENÈVE

unine  
Université de Neuchâtel



Swiss National  
Science Foundation

The National Centres of Competence in Research (NCCRs) are a funding scheme of the Swiss National Science Foundation.

### 1. General information

Welcome to the **NCCR Evolving Language Winter School and Annual Retreat 2025!** This year, it takes place from Monday February 3 to Friday February 7 at the [Palladium](#), in the beautiful Alpine village of [Champéry](#).

For your arrival by train, we recommend that you get off at the last station "Champéry". Except for those staying at the Hôtel White, please get off at "Champéry-village".

The village of Champéry is within easy walking distance. However, if needed, a free tourist train is available to take you around the village and to the cable car. More information is available [here](#).

For most hotels, check-in is available from 4:00 pm. We recommend that you do so on Monday afternoon, during the dedicated time before the welcome aperitif in the conference room. Check-out is between 11:00 am and noon on Friday. You can store your luggage safely in the conference room at the Palladium.

Name tags can be picked up at the entrance of the Palladium conference room from Monday 1:30 pm until Friday.

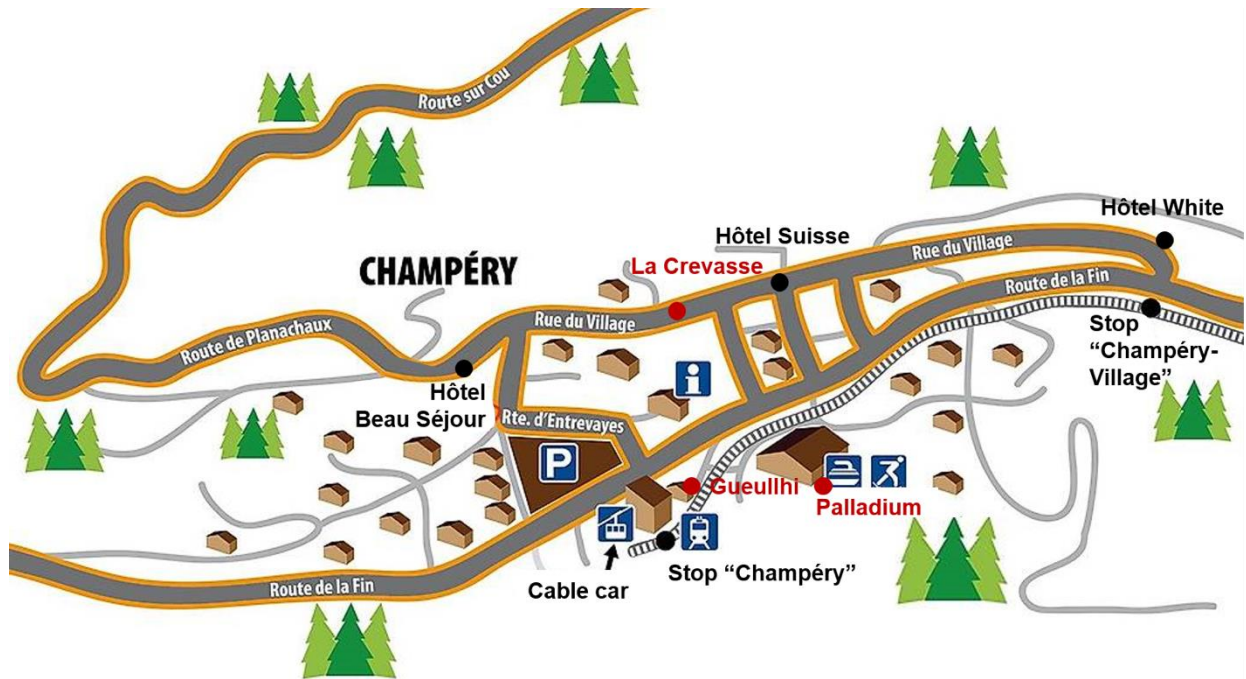
Free WIFI is available in all hotels and in the Palladium conference room.

All lunches are in the Palladium restaurant from noon to 2:00 pm. Dinner is served every evening at 7:00 pm in the [Gueullhi restaurant](#), located less than 5 minutes' walk from the Palladium.

For more information about travel and hotel reimbursements, please refer to the last page of the [Practical Info Sheet](#).

As organizing this kind of event requires a lot of time and logistics, we kindly ask you to inform the organizing team in advance if you are unable to attend, or if you will no longer be joining us for lunch or dinner.

## 2. Venue



### Addresses

#### **Palladium**

Route du centre sportif 1

[Map](#)

#### **Hôtel Suisse**

Rue du village 55

[Map](#)

#### **Hôtel Beau-Séjour**

Rue du village 114

[Map](#)

#### **Hôtel White**

Route de chavalet 3

[Map](#)

#### **Gueullhi restaurant**

Route de la fin 11

[Map](#)

#### **La Crevasse "Chez Fafa"**

Rue du village 71

[Map](#)

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### 3. Program

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#### **Monday, February 3**

- ❖ 2.00 - 3.00 pm: Introduction lecture. What does it mean to take an evolutionary perspective? By NCCR directors
- ❖ 3.00 - 3.15 pm: Coffee break
- ❖ 3.15 - 4.15 pm: Phase 2 timeline: important deadlines and reporting processes by Emilie Wyss
- ❖ 4.15 - 5.15 pm: General Assembly (for all NCCR members)

Check-in

6.00 pm: Welcome aperitif

7.00 pm: Dinner

#### **Tuesday, February 4**

- ❖ 9.00 - 10.30 am: Introduction lecture. Core Properties of Language in an Evolutionary Perspective by Balthasar Bickel
- ❖ 10.30 - 10.50 am: Coffee break
- ❖ 10.50 - 11.35 am: Discussion
- ❖ 11.35 - 11.50 am: Presentations by the Work Packages (WPs) LearningTrajectories, PatternProduction, Diversity Conditions and DiversityFunctions

Noon – 2.00 pm: Lunch

- ❖ 2.00 - 4.00 pm: Making statistics work for (evolutionary language) scientists by Erik Ringen
- ❖ 4.00 - 4.30 pm: Coffee break
- ❖ 4.30 - 5.30 pm: Introduction to VocallBase and CallMark by TTF DataScience

7.00 pm: Dinner

#### **Wednesday, February 5**

- ❖ 9.00 - 10.30 am: Introduction lecture. Neural Architecture for Language: How It Evolved and How It Can Be Studied by Nina Kazanina
- ❖ 10.30 - 10.50 am: Coffee break
- ❖ 10.50 - 11.35 am: Discussion

11.45 am – 1.45 pm: Lunch



Afternoon Social activities. *More information will be given to participants who have registered for the curling initiation*

In the conference room (PIs, SAs, SRs, AIs)

- ❖ 5.30 - 6.15 pm: Overview Masters
- ❖ 6.15 - 7.20 pm: Future of education in the NCCR: PhD Program

7.30 pm: Dinner

Social night at La Crevasse "Chez Fafa": Blind test

### **Thursday, February 6**

- ❖ 9.00 - 10.15 am: Computational modeling of language: how to & what for by Lena Jäger and David Reich
- ❖ 10.15 - 10.35 am: Coffee break
- ❖ 10.35 - 11.35 am: Group activity and discussion moderate by Valentina Borghesani
- ❖ 11.35 - 11.50 am: Presentations by the WPs Stationarity, InformationIntegration, InformationThroughput, MeaningBehavior, and MeaningComputation

Noon – 2.00 pm: Lunch

- ❖ 2.00 - 3.15 pm: Introduction to research ethics part 1 by Samia Hurst and Elodie Malbois
- ❖ 3.15 - 3.45 pm: Coffee break
- ❖ 3.45 - 5.00 pm: Introduction to research ethics part 2 by Dagmar Jung and Gwendolyn Wirobski
- ❖ 5.00 pm: Open discussion with the NCCR directors and closing aperitif

7.00 pm: Dinner

Social night at La Crevasse "Chez Fafa": Karaoke

### **Friday, February 7**

- ❖ 9.00 - 10.30 am: Introduction lecture. Animal origins of human language by Klaus Zuberbühler
- ❖ 10.30 - 10.50 am: Coffee break
- ❖ 10.50 - 11.35 am: Discussion
- ❖ 11.35 - 11.50 am: Presentations by the WPs WorldKnowledge, Events, Hierarchy and Locality

Noon – 2.00 pm: Lunch

