

Information sheet on entering, staying and working in Switzerland

In the implementation of the bilateral agreements between the EU and Switzerland, the conditions for entering, staying and working in Switzerland have been significantly simplified. For citizens of EU17¹ and of EFTA², there is already complete freedom of movement for people. This means they are virtually on an equal footing with Swiss citizens in the jobs market.

The same conditions will gradually be created also for citizens of EU8³ in the years to come, but for the time being they are still subject to certain restrictions.

Visas are now only necessary for citizens of some third countries (i.e. outside EU/EFTA).

Permits

Anyone who wants to work in Switzerland needs a residence and work permit. The employer must apply for this **beforehand** from the cantonal office concerned (Baselstadt AWA; Baselland KIGA).

If a person needs a visa, the employer's application for a work permit is sufficient. The appropriate enquiries regarding the entry visa are subsequently handled internally by the offices. The employer will be informed of the decision.

A list of the documents needed for an application from citizens of third countries can be found at

http://www.bfm.admin.ch/bfm/en/home/themen/arbeit/nicht-eu_efta-angehoerige/gesuchsunterlagen.html

Addresses of the relevant cantonal offices

Kanton Basel-Landschaft

KIGA: Amt für Industrie, Gewerbe und Arbeit
Bahnhofstrasse 32, 4133 Pratteln 1
Tel.+ 41 61 552 77 77, Fax + 41 61 552 77 88
<http://www.baselland.ch/KIGA.273479.0.html>

Kanton Basel-Stadt

AWA: Amt für Wirtschaft und Arbeit
Utengasse 36, 4005 Basel
Tel.+ 41 61 267 87 87, Fax + 41 61 267 99 39
<http://www.awa.bs.ch/>

Kanton Jura

Service des arts et métiers et du travail (SAMT)
1, rue due 24-September, 2800 Delémont
Tel.+ 41 32 420 52 30, Fax + 41 32 420 52 31
<http://www.jura.ch/>

Further information is also available on the website of the Federal Office for Migration: <http://www.bfm.admin.ch/bfm/en/home/themen.html>

¹ EU17: BE, DK, DE, FI, FR, GR, IT, LU, MT, NL, AT, PT, SE, ES, CY, GB, IR

² CH, LI, NO, IS

³ EU8: PL, CZ, HU, SK, EE, LV, LT, SI

Entry / residence visa

Anyone who has a visa for Switzerland does not need to obtain an additional, separate visa for travel within the Schengen area. The converse also applies.

Country of origin	Visa needed to stay	
	up to 3 months	over 3 months
Schengen area ⁴ and others ⁵	No	No
USA, Australia, Canada, Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania	No	Yes
China, India, Russia, South Africa, Taiwan, Turkey, UAE, Albania, Bosnia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Serbia	Ja	Ja

- Citizens of third countries with a valid permit to stay or settle in Switzerland (B or C permit) can travel freely without a visa in the Schengen area, but have to carry their passport with them.
- With regard to Bulgaria and Romania, a passport is necessary for visa-free entry.
- The full list with precise details can be found at http://www.bfm.admin.ch/bfm/de/home/themen/rechtsgrundlagen/weisungen_und_kreisschreiben/visa.html under “Anhang 1, Liste 1: Ausweis- und Visumvorschriften nach Staatsangehörigkeit”.

Residence and work permit

- In the case of citizens of third countries, it is usually possible for qualified specialists, managers, scientists and recognized creative artists to obtain a permit.
- BaselArea is happy to offer assistance in obtaining permits.

Applicant's citizenship

EU17 (old EU countries incl. Malta and Cyprus)	EU8 ⁶ and third countries incl. Bulgaria and Romania
<p><i>Cross-border commuter permit G EC/EFTA (EU17)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Residence in EU, work in Switzerland, weekly return home – Virtual equality with Swiss working people <p>For detailed information on cross-border commuter permits, see separate information sheet.</p>	<p><i>Cross-border commuter permit G EC/EFTA (EU8)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Residence in EU for 6 months, work in CH, weekly return home – Allocation, precedence to residents, check on remuneration and working conditions
<p><i>Short-stay permit (L-EC/EFTA permit)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Entitlement if employment contract in CH can be shown to be between 3 months and 1 year (less than 3 	<p><i>Short-stay permit (L permit)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – For key positions – Valid for 12 months, extendable by 12 months

⁴ BE, BU, CH, DK, DE, EE, FI, FR, GR, IS, IT, LV, LT, LU, MT, MC, NL, NO, AT, PL, PT, SE, SK, SI, ES, CZ, HU

⁵ CY, GB, IR, JP, LI, NZ

⁶ For EU8 countries the same regulations usually apply as for EU17 countries, together with additional rules on allocation quotas, preference for Swiss/EU¹⁷ citizens, checks on remuneration and working conditions, and any other permit obligations.

months: reporting obligation only)	
<p><i>Residence permit (B-EC/EFTA permit)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Valid 5 years – if employment contract in CH can be shown to be at least 1 year falls – in the event of a full-year stay, residence and focus of person's life is in Switzerland 	<p><i>Residence permit (B permit)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Valid 1 year – Allocation, precedence to residents, check on remuneration and working conditions – in the event of a full-year stay, residence and focus of person's life is in Switzerland
<p><i>Settlement permit (C-EC/EFTA permit)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Is issued in principle after 5 years' residence in CH – Equality with Swiss people on the jobs market 	<p><i>Settlement permit (C permit)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Can be applied for after 10 years (USA: 5 years) of uninterrupted residence – No restrictions on jobs market, self-employment possible