



RETURNING TO SWITZERLAND

All Swiss citizens coming back to their 'old' new homeland after a more or less long period of residence abroad are bound to come up against a certain number of administrative problems.

The following information sheet is to facilitate your homecoming by indicating some useful addresses. However obvious it might seem, we would like to remind you that every Swiss national is completely free to take up residence wherever he desires in Switzerland and no permit is required. The commune chosen is also competent in cases where the person repatriated is in need, and is obliged to turn to welfare services for help.

THE CHANGE OF ADDRESS

It is important that you give notice of your change of address to:

- ✎ the authorities in your former country of residence
- ✎ the Swiss consulate or embassy where you are registered
- ✎ your various insurance companies, the post office
- ✎ the registry office in your new commune of residence (within 14 days of your arrival)
- ✎ those liable for military service must also register with the head of section for their commune of residence within 14 days of arrival.

FINDING A JOB

Any Swiss citizen can work in Switzerland without a permit. You will obtain information on the Swiss job market from the following organizations and sources:

- ✎ Federal Office of Migration (FOM), Quellenweg 15, 3003 Berne, Tel. +41 31 322 42 02, Fax +41 31 322 44 93, www.swissemigration.ch
- ✎ Regional and cantonal Labor Offices: www.job-area.ch
- ✎ Professional organizations, see www.seco.admin.ch
- ✎ Daily newspapers www.zeitung.ch
- ✎ Private employment bureaus, see www.yellowpages.ch

FINDING ACCOMMODATION

We advise you to contact real estate agents in the area you would like to live. The following web sites will be useful: www.yellowpages.ch, www.immoline.ch, www.immoclick.ch, www.bernard-nicod.ch, www.immo.search.ch, www.homegate.ch .

SWISS CUSTOMS

You are allowed to import belongings duty free to Switzerland with your removal, which you will continue using personally. However, you are required to apply for this exemption from customs duties on the appropriate form available at the Central Customs Office, Monbijoustr. 40, CH-3003 Berne, Tel. +41 31 322 65 11, www.zoll.admin.ch
http://www.ezv.admin.ch/zollinfo_privat/zu_beachten/00352/02332/02334/index.html?lang=en



MILITARY SERVICE

As a rule, any Swiss expatriate who moves back to Switzerland before he is 25 years old and who has not yet completed military service abroad, is obliged to enroll for training at the Recruit School. You will obtain more detailed information from your Swiss mission or the Federal Defence, Population Protection and Sports Department (DDPS), General Staff Headquarters, Military Obligations Section, Rodtmattstrasse 110, 3003 Berne, Tel. +41 31 324 80 60, www.vbs-ddps.ch

OLD AGE IN SWITZERLAND

The Pro Senectute Suisse Foundation, Lavaterstr. 60, P.O. Box, CH-8027 Zurich, Tel. +41 44 283 89 89, Fax +41 44 283 89 80, email info@pro-senectute.ch, Internet: www.pro-senectute.ch can provide general information on retirement and old age in Switzerland.

WELFARE SERVICE

Your commune of residence's welfare service will be able to advise and help you.

The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad disposes of the relief fund "Kilcher", out of which upon specific conditions a modest financial support in the form of a loan without interest can be granted to Swiss abroad returning to Switzerland. The fund aims to assist returnees in bridging a financial distress situation (where e.g. the welfare benefit has not yet been received and winter cloths are exigent) or to reintegrate (e.g. by means of a language-, computer- or integration-course to reestablish in Switzerland).
➔ In order to be eligible for such a contribution, the repatriation should be no longer than a year ago; furthermore the contributions are **subsidiary to the welfare service** and therefore a request for social benefit has to be filed at the respective commune of residence beforehand.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Swiss citizens having had their last paid employment in an EU or EFTA member-state must, in principle, apply for unemployment benefits in the country of their last paid employment. Those whose last paid employment was in a non-EU or EFTA member-state can apply to the Labor Office in their commune of residence when they return to Switzerland. The latter can claim unemployment benefits for a period of 3 months if they can provide proof of paid employment abroad for at least 12 full months over the past 2 years (salary certificate).

The Labor Office of the commune of residence will also inform on the special legislation for those who have just finished training. Internet: www.job-area.ch

HEALTH INSURANCE

According to the law which came into force on January 1, 1996, basic health insurance is compulsory for any person residing in Switzerland. Within three months of taking up residence, Swiss expatriates returning to Switzerland must arrange for basic insurance by joining the insurance company of their choice. This legislation enables you to take out basic insurance at any time without incurring prejudice (no reserves nor age conditions). Federal Office of Public Health: www.bag.admin.ch



SWISS TAXATION SYSTEM

As a general rule you will pay tax at the communal, cantonal and federal levels. You can ask your commune of residence or your Cantonal Finance Department for information on the regulations in force. Internet: www.estv.admin.ch.

TRAINING IN SWITZERLAND

Compulsory education

The schools system in Switzerland is governed by cantonal laws. For all useful information concerning your children's education you can contact the schools officer at your commune of residence in Switzerland.

Post-compulsory education

The following organizations will be able to advise you:

- ✎ Education of young Swiss abroad in Switzerland (AJAS),
Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3006 Berne, Tel. +41 31 356 61 04, E-Mail: ajas@aso.ch
- ✎ Swiss Association for Schooling and Careers Guidance), Zürichstr. 98, CH- 8600 Dübendorf,
Tel. +41 44 822 00 22, www.svb-asosp.ch
- ✎ Federation of Private Schools, Christoffelgasse 3, CH-3007 Berne, Tel. +41 31328 40 50,
www.swiss-schools.ch

DRIVER'S LICENSE

Within 14 days of taking up residence in Switzerland, you should register with your Cantonal Road Traffic Office in order to convert your foreign driver's license into a Swiss driver's license.

FOREIGN SPOUSE

By virtue of family reunification, your spouse is, in principle, entitled to a residence permit in Switzerland. Depending on your spouse's nationality, a visa will be required. Applications for visas should be sent to Swiss representations. Please request the detailed entry formalities.

Other source of information: Federal Office of Migration (FOM), Quellenweg 15, CH-3003 Berne, Tel. +41 31 325 95 11, Fax: +41 31 325 96 51. www.foreigners.ch

We wish you a smooth homecoming!

WELCOME BACK TO SWITZERLAND!