



Migration and residence

Swiss migration policy distinguishes between citizens of EU/EFTA states and citizens of third-party states.

- For EU/EFTA citizens, rules governing access to the labour market as well as family reunification are less restrictive.
- Persons who travel to Switzerland with the intention of staying for a longer period are required to register with the municipality within 14 days of their date of arrival. For holiday purposes (without gainful employment), EU/EFTA citizens may stay for a maximum of 3 months in Switzerland.
- Citizens of third-party states require a visa to enter the country, issued by the Swiss consular authority with responsibility for the country of origin (exception: persons who are not subject to visa requirement). Only a limited number of persons are admitted for long-term stays (contingents – further information is available under [Third-country nationals \(admin.ch\)](#) → Entry, residence & working → Short-term stay → Third-country nationals.

IDs and permit types

The nature of your residence permit depends on your country of origin (EU/ EFTA or third party state), the reasons for your stay and the terms and conditions of stay.

The following permit exist:

L short-term residence permit (less than one year)

B residence permit (1 year or 5 years)

C permanent residency (5 years)

N residence permit during asylum procedure (3 to 6 months)

F provisional admittance (1 year) (refugees and asylum-seekers)

G International commuter permit (duration of the contract of employment or 5 years in the case of a permanent contract of employment)

Depending on the nature of your permit (L, B, C, G, N, F) you will have different rights and obligations. There are further sub-categories within a category (a B permit for students differs, for example, from a B permit for workers). Detailed information is available on the website of the *Migrationsamt* (Migration Office) of Basel-Stadt. If you have any specific questions about your permit, length of your visit, about the extension procedure etc., please contact the *Migrationsamt*.

Migrationsamt [Migration Office]

Spiegelgasse 12

CH-4001 Basel

Phone +41 61 267 70 70

migrationsamt@jsd.bs.ch

www.bdm.bs.ch → Über uns → Organisation → Migrationsamt

Relevant laws governing residency rights in Switzerland

www.admin.ch → 142.20 Swiss Federal Act of 16 December 2005 concerning Aliens

www.fedlex.admin.ch → 0.142.112.681 Treaty of 21 June 1999 between the Swiss Confederation on the one hand and the European Community and its member states on the other hand concerning freedom of movement

Family reunification

The rules governing who is entitled to arrange for which family members to move to Switzerland (family reunification) are complicated. Here too, different rules apply to the citizens of EU/EFTA states than those that apply to citizens of countries outside EU/EFTA. A summary of the rules is provided on the website of the *Migrationsamt* [Migration Office] of Basel-Stadt. Requests for family reunification may also be submitted to this office.

IMPORTANT NOTICE! In the case of family reunification, you must submit your application within 1 to 5 years of your own arrival in Switzerland, depending on the particular case. Please make sure you inform yourself in good time at the *Migrationsamt*.

Migrationsamt [Migration Office]

Spiegelgasse 12
CH-4001 Basel
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Rights and Obligations

The Swiss Federal Constitution provides you with information about the relevant rights and obligations and explains the way in which Switzerland is governed. This information and social contacts are important prerequisites for your successful settling in. Familiarity with the German language will help you in your daily life on a long-term basis. Therefore, provided that you are in possession of a B permit, the canton Basel-Stadt offers you a German language course voucher. Please, use this opportunity and redeem the voucher in time. Further information about the German language courses can be found on: www.deutschkurse.bs.ch. When staying in Switzerland long-term, in addition to learning the language, you are also required to familiarise yourself with the local living conditions and to participate in the country's economic life.

www.fedlex.admin.ch → 101 Bundesverfassung der Schweizerischen Eidgenossenschaft vom 18. April 1999