

# OSA news

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# OSA advice

*I've heard that the Swiss Abroad can vote electronically in some cantons. Which ones are they?*

The following cantons allow their citizens abroad to vote over the Internet: Aargau, Basel-Stadt, Berne, Fribourg, Geneva, Lucerne, Neuchâtel and St. Gallen. Other cantons, such as Vaud and Thurgau, plan to introduce e-voting for their citizens abroad in the course of 2018.

The introduction of electronic voting falls under the remit of the cantons which have sole discretion as to whether or not to provide their citizens with this additional means of voting. This is why not all cantons currently provide the Swiss Abroad with this opportunity.

The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad is campaigning for the introduction of e-voting for all Swiss Abroad, regardless of which canton they vote in.

For further information, see the factsheet on electronic voting published by the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad: <http://aso.ch/fr/politique/themes-politiques>

The OSA's Legal Service provides general legal information on Swiss law, particularly in areas which concern the Swiss abroad. It does not provide information on foreign law or intervene in disputes between private parties.

## OSA Youth Service:

Discover Switzerland with other young Swiss Abroad and make new contacts

The winter camps have already come and gone. A total of 50 young Swiss Abroad enjoyed the magnificent winter weather in the Swiss mountains again this year where they headed straight for the slopes. Preparations for the summer camps are now getting under way. The teams of leaders are fully focused on planning the camp activities to ensure participants have a wonderful time once again.

The Youth Service is organising the following camps and activities this summer:

### Camps for young people

- Camp with sport and recreational activities in Saas-Grund (Valais): 14/07 to 27/07/2018
- Camp with sport and recreational activities in Wyssachen (Berne): 28/07 to 10/08/2018
- Outdoor camp (starting in Valais): 28/07 to 10/08/2018
- Camp with sport and recreational activities in Fiesch (Valais): 11/08 to 24/08/2018
- Swiss Challenge, the whole of Switzerland: 14/07 to 27/07/2018

### Politics camp and the Congress of the Swiss Abroad

Our politics camp is ideal for anyone wanting to find out all about Swiss politics. Before the Congress of the Swiss Abroad in Visp, the Youth Service will be running a highly diverse two-week programme. Swiss politics will be explained simply, objectively and clearly. The camp will also include workshops and meetings with Swiss politicians on the topic of "Switzerland without Europe – Europe without Switzerland". In addition to the workshops and political topics, participants will also have the chance to explore the magnificent mountain landscape of the canton of Valais and to visit the city of Berne. All of this is topped off by participation in the Congress of the Swiss Abroad.



### Language courses

The camps provide an excellent chance for participants to discover their roots and Switzerland. Our language courses present another fantastic opportunity. On our German and French courses, participants study one of the four national languages to enable them to communicate or they develop already acquired skills. The Youth Service is running the following courses:

- German course in Zurich: 09/07 to 20/07/2018
- French course in Fribourg: 09/07 to 20/07/2018
- German course in Basel: 23/07 to 03/08/2018
- German course in Brig: 06/08 to 17/08/2018

Information and registration:

[www.aso.ch](http://www.aso.ch) or [www.swisscommunity.org](http://www.swisscommunity.org).

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# educationsuisse – the Swiss education system

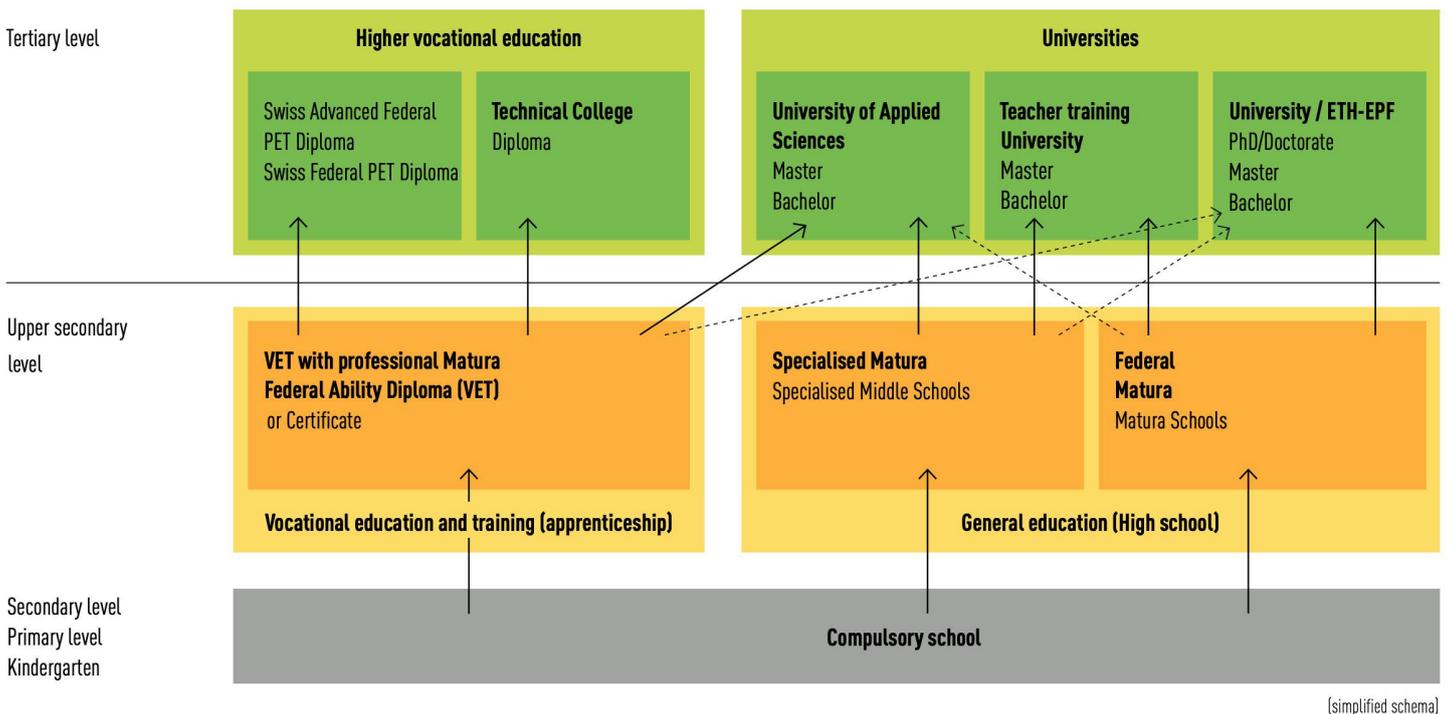
Switzerland offers an extremely wide range of educational courses and training opportunities. Dual-track vocational training combining practice and theory is a special feature of the system. This basic vocational training can take place in a host company – whether a private company or a public body – combined with one or two days of school a week. There is also sometimes the opportunity to attend classes on a full-time basis (apprentice workshops or commercial schools). Lessons are also combined with hands-on training at tertiary level in higher vocational education. Two thirds of all young people undertake basic vocational training (apprenticeships) after compulsory education. Many of them also obtain their vocational school-leaving qualifications alongside their apprenticeship enabling them to study at universities of applied sciences later on.

Switzerland's universities provide a wide range of outstanding courses. There are ten traditional universities which are public insti-

tutions (Geneva, Lausanne, Fribourg, Neuchâtel, Berne, Basel, Lucerne, Zurich, St. Gallen and Svizzera Italiana) and two federal institutes of technology in Zurich and Lausanne. Many public universities of applied sciences also provide vocational courses at university level. The teacher training colleges train young people as qualified teachers to work at the various levels of the school system.

Please contact our staff via email, by telephone or make an appointment to visit in person (see contact details below or at [www.educationsuisse.ch](http://www.educationsuisse.ch)) if you have any questions about the Swiss education system or any general questions regarding education in Switzerland for young Swiss people abroad or concerning educationsuisse's advisory services. Our employees speak German, French, English, Italian and Spanish.

## Swiss Educational System



The Swiss education system is renowned for its high degree of freedom to choose educational paths. There are various ways of gaining a place on, switching or catching up on training or educational courses. Anyone holding the qualifications required can generally embark on the course of their choice.

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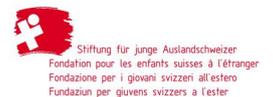


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## FYSA – summer camps for children aged 8 to 14

From the end of June to the end of August 2018, Swiss children abroad can enjoy a fantastic experience while also discovering Switzerland and its culture together with 30 to 50 other children from all over the world at two-week FYSA summer camps.



At the camps run by the Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad, participants will visit attractions, discover lakes, mountains, rivers and landscapes on short hikes, and explore cities. Some days will also be spent at the camp base where participants will enjoy games, sporting activities and various workshops. They will also, of course, have the opportunity to gain fascinating insights into Switzerland. We will look at Swiss songs, Swiss recipes and typically Swiss games and sports, for example.

The interaction with participants from other countries and the exchange across linguistic, cultural and national boundaries present a unique opportunity to make new friends and enjoy some unforgettable moments.

There are still places available at our holiday camps. The full details and the registration form can be found at [www.sjas.ch/en/camps](http://www.sjas.ch/en/camps). We would also be pleased to send you our information brochure with an overview of the offers available by post on request.

The Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad wishes to give all Swiss children abroad the opportunity to discover Switzerland in this way on at least one occasion. We can therefore offer reduced rates in justified cases. The required form can be requested on the registration form. We would be pleased to provide you with further information.

### THE SWISS ABROAD ON INSTAGRAM



## “The Swiss stick together in Japan”

*The 27-year-old Luca Orduña went for broke. He set off for Japan for the first time in his life at the age of 22 and launched his own business.*

“Working in Japan means I challenge myself every day and am forced out of my comfort zone. I’ve always been fascinated by Asian culture and languages. I visited Japan for the first time at the age of 22 thanks to a grant from the Swiss-Japanese chamber of commerce. After spending this year in Japan, the big question was: What next? With a friend I came up with the idea of setting up a distribution company specialising in the Asian market for Swiss watch brands.

I speak only Japanese at work and with my customers. Even after five years in Japan, there are still times when I don’t understand the finer points of the language. I also sometimes find it difficult to think outside the box and to try not just to make improvements but to present new and innovative solutions as well. I live in Tokyo right by the famous Shibuya Crossing. Despite all the people, I never find the city hectic as everyone is so respectful here. I also enjoy taking part in the activities organised by the Swiss in Japan and see a great sense of togetherness here. Another thing I really appreciate about Japan is the fact that it has so much to offer in terms of natural beauty. Thanks to the four distinctive seasons, there are snow-covered mountains and skiing in winter and warm lakes and the ocean in summer for water sports and swimming. However, what impresses me most about Japan is its cuisine. The countless restaurants serve the best Japanese food as well as dishes from all over the world. I really like the fact that people share food in Japan, which makes dining a more sociable occasion.”

This interview was published on [swissinfo.ch](http://swissinfo.ch), the online service of the Swiss Broadcasting Company which is available in ten languages. Do you also live abroad? Then add the tag [#WeAreSwissAbroad](https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/weareswissabroad/) to your photos on Instagram.