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OSA Youth Service

If you are interested in Swiss politics and Europe, and would like to take part in a fabulous programme of recreational activities in your native country, our politics and culture camp is ideal for you.



You'll experience Swiss politics up close at our politics and culture camp – everything is explained in simple terms and in a concise and neutral way. You will meet young politicians as well as experienced ones from different parties who hold various political positions. Visits to the Federal Palace and the parliament of Valais are also on the itinerary. To round off the political programme, we will attend the Congress of the Swiss Abroad at the La Poste culture and conference centre in Visp. This year's theme is the mutual relationship between Switzerland and Europe.

Of course, this camp focuses not just on politics but also on your native country, which has so much to offer. Magnificent mountain scenery, fascinating historical cities and no end of culture. It goes without saying that all of this is part of an extremely diverse two-week programme. This includes mountain hikes, climbing, dinghy sailing, mountain biking, swimming, city tours and museum visits. A truly memorable experience is guaranteed.

The camp costs CHF 750 (including programme, accommodation, meals, excursions and visits), lasts from 28 July to 12 August and is aimed at young Swiss Abroad between 15 and 21 years of age. If we've sparked your interest, then register now!

Information about the offers for young people and to register:
www.swisscommunity.org or www.aso.ch.

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96th Congress of the Swiss Abroad in Visp/VS

From 10 to 12 August 2018 the 96th Congress of the Swiss Abroad will take place in Visp with panoramic views of the mountains of Valais.

The theme of our upcoming congress, 'Switzerland without Europe – Europe without Switzerland', illustrates that the relationship between Switzerland and Europe is a topic that extends far beyond the Europe issue. It is a topic with global dimensions, not only because of potential consequences for Switzerland, but also because of implications for domestic and foreign policy, as well as the economy.

One of the highlights of the congress will be the speech by State Secretary Roberto Balzaretti, who was appointed director of the Directorate for European Affairs (DEA) by the Federal Council on 1 February 2018.

During the event the participants will have the opportunity to meet compatriots from around the world, inform themselves about the current news in Switzerland and talk about their own experiences. Stimulating speeches by interesting personalities from Swiss business and politics, as well as a varied social programme with folklore and living traditions, complete the programme of the 96th Congress of the Swiss Abroad.

Further information about registration is available on our website www.aso-kongress.ch.

FYSA – summer camps for children aged 8 to 14

From the end of June until the end of August, Swiss children abroad can have a fantastic time while also discovering Switzerland and its culture at two-week summer camps with 36 to 42 other children from all over the world.



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 look at the Swiss languages, Swiss songs, Swiss recipes and typically Swiss games and sports.

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 a few places available for our forthcoming holiday camps. Full details and the registration form can be found at 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.

OSA advice

Health insurance:
we're interested in your experiences!

The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) has decided to turn its attention to the issue of health insurance for Swiss people living abroad. We want to know about the difficulties you have encountered in this area and the practical problems that you face as a Swiss person living abroad. By the same token, if you have had positive experiences or wish to share good practices, do please let us know.

The purpose of this is to enable us to discuss this issue at the Council of the Swiss Abroad meeting on 10 August 2018 in Visp, where we will look at ways of improving the situation of Swiss people living abroad in this regard.

Please send us your experiences and first-hand accounts, if possible by email to the following address: info@aso.ch or to:

Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Alpenstrasse 26
3006 Berne
Fax: 031 356 61 01

Thank you for your assistance.

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THE SWISS ABROAD ON INSTAGRAM



"I see Switzerland as a palace at the heart of Europe"

25-year-old Eva Witschi wants to "explore the big, wide world" before one day returning to Switzerland to raise a family. She is currently doing just that in London.

"I felt as though I had hit a brick wall in Switzerland. I was unable to progress career-wise. In contrast, London afforded me the opportunity to work with leading international advertising agencies, something I would never have been able to do in Switzerland. Astonishingly the 40-hour working week is shorter than in Switzerland, but you are not paid for overtime. That doesn't bother me as the experience I'm gaining here is invaluable.

London practically brings the whole world together. You can do almost anything you wish if you know where and how to look. There's even a farm not far from here, right in the middle of a city with millions of people! You can even stroke the animals. At the weekend you can go to museums, cultural events or parties which you won't find in Switzerland. On the other hand, life in Switzerland is much safer. That's probably because it's much more tranquil, uniform and straightforward.

Switzerland is a palace at the heart of Europe. I don't think people in Switzerland appreciate that. When you move away, you realise how precious it is to grow up in such a secure environment, how little university fees cost and how short the distances are that you have to cycle or walk.

Switzerland is my home, a safe haven where I'll probably return to in a few years' time because I want my children to grow up in a palace, too."

This interview was published on swissinfo.ch, the online service of the Swiss Broadcasting Company which is available in ten languages.

Do you also live abroad? Add the tag [#WeAreSwissAbroad](https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/weareswissabroad/) to your photos on Instagram.

OSA Youth Service and [educationsuisse](http://educationsuisse.ch):

Help with starting education and training in Switzerland

The OSA Youth Service and [educationsuisse](http://educationsuisse.ch) jointly support young Swiss Abroad in planning and starting their initial education or training in Switzerland through the 'Springboard' programme.

The advice and approach are tailored to every participant individually. Registration is open to young people who have a place on a course – at a university of applied sciences or a traditional university – or who have been offered an apprenticeship, as well as to those who have not yet decided on a particular educational path. The staff of [educationsuisse](http://educationsuisse.ch) are available to answer any questions about education, planning and financial matters, etc. via email, by telephone or at the office in Berne. They advise participants on how to put their plans into practice and provide them with the best possible support.

Living with a host family

As soon as the definitive acceptance by the educational institution or training provider has been confirmed, the OSA Youth Service checks whether a place with a host family is available in the local area. Host family places are currently only available in German-speaking Switzerland. Participants travel to Switzerland shortly before their education or training begins and can stay with the host family for up to six months. The hosts provide the young people with a room and meals and support them as much as possible when they start their education or training. Regular contact with the staff of the OSA Youth Service and [educationsuisse](http://educationsuisse.ch) helps to resolve any problems. It should be noted that applicants must be 18 years of age when starting their education or training.

Costs and paying for education

There is a one-off contribution to expenses of CHF 500 for planning and organising the host family. Food and accommodation with the host family costs CHF 500 a month. Grants are available to participants whose parents are unable to fully meet the education or training costs.

Registration and contact

The 'Springboard' programme will continue to run during the 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 academic years. For information and to apply, please visit info@educationsuisse.ch.