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The Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad moves to Berne

## Everything under one roof

**The Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad offers Swiss Abroad children aged 7-15 holidays in Switzerland. It is moving its offices to join the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad.**

The range of services of the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad (SSA, see box) is growing. Probably on January 1 next year the Founda-

tion for Young Swiss Abroad, which at present has its offices in Zurich, is moving to Alpenstrasse 26 in Berne. It will still be a separate legal

entity but in future will share offices with the SSA. The heads of both think that this will not only create synergies in administration and public relations work, but also that it is a logical step which should have been taken earlier.

Every year the Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad organises summer holiday and ski camps as well as stays in host families for about 300 Swiss children aged 7-15 from all over the world. This complements the work of the SSA's Youth Service extremely well.

With the Committee for Swiss Schools Abroad and AJAS, the Association for the Training of Young Swiss Abroad, the Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad is now the third institution working

for the Fifth Switzerland to come under one roof with the Organisation for the Swiss Abroad and to coordinate its activities with it.

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### In the service of the Fifth Switzerland

*The Organisation for the Swiss Abroad has existed since 1916 to defend the interests of the Swiss Abroad in Switzerland, to provide them with information about events in Switzerland and to provide a wide range of other services. It is recognised by the government as the spokesman for the Fifth Switzerland. Its head office is the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad (SSA), and this also provides advice on training and legal matters, publishes Swiss Review, organises ski and sports camps and has a youth exchange programme for Swiss Abroad aged between 15 and 25. Further information may be obtained from:*

The Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3000 Berne 16.

## AJAS

### The vocational certificate and specialised higher education

A new type of training now exists in Switzerland and is naturally accessible to Young Swiss Abroad. It is possible to obtain a vocational certificate which gives the holder access to the specialised universities.

Courses for the vocational certificate are intended for apprentices. They supplement the completed apprenticeship with the broad general knowledge required by specialised universities. The purposes of the vocational certificate are as follows:

- to make apprenticeship more attractive
- to improve basic skills
- to provide knowledge of the humanities, to encourage a broad range of interests and to promote open-mindedness

- to make access to higher studies easier
- to help ensure equivalence with the diplomas of other countries
- to facilitate entry to specialised universities without an examination.

The vocational certificate may be obtained in two ways. The apprentice may take special school courses throughout his apprenticeship and then take the final examinations for both the Federal Capacity Certificate and the new vocational certificate. The second possibility is to obtain the vocational certificate after apprenticeship. This requires a year of study, working full time.

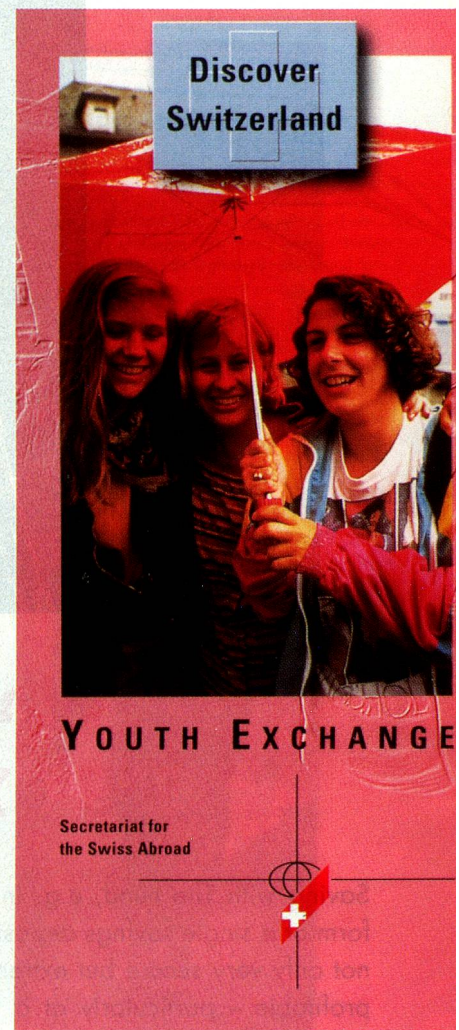
At present there are four categories of vocational cer-

tificate: technical, commercial, for skills and for the arts. The specialised universities will open their doors in 1997. Their aims will be as follows:

- to widen the range of university education available
- to increase the value of higher vocational training
- to strengthen the Euro-compatibility of diplomas
- to make it possible for skilled workers to increase their qualifications
- to help coordinate the various types of training
- to suit private sector requirements.

For additional information, please contact:

AJAS  
Alpenstrasse 26  
CH-3000 Berne 16



## Discover Switzerland

- Youth exchange can open Switzerland's door to you
  - Discover Switzerland as it really is
  - Welcome a young Swiss into your home
- All is possible. Details from:  
SSA Youth Service  
Alpenstrasse 26  
CH-3000 Berne 16