

Zeitschrift: Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad
Herausgeber: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Band: 38 (2011)
Heft: 1

Rubrik: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad

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OSA ADVICE

QUESTION:

I live abroad and am expecting a baby soon. I would like to know whether my child will automatically receive Swiss citizenship, as I am Swiss, or whether there are procedures to be completed? Could my child hold dual nationality?

ANSWER:

Under the law on the acquisition and loss of Swiss nationality, Swiss nationality is acquired from birth. This applies to children of married couples where at least one of the parents is Swiss as well as to children of Swiss citizens not married to the father of the child. Children who are minors and have a Swiss father who is not married to the mother obtain Swiss nationality as though from birth once their parentage has been confirmed.

However, the Swiss representation where you are registered must be notified of the birth. This is important because children born abroad to parents where at least one of them is Swiss lose Swiss nationality at the age of 22 if they still have another nationality and a Swiss authority abroad or in Switzerland has not been notified of their birth or they have not provided notice themselves or have failed to state in writing that they wish to retain Swiss nationality. After this age, the granting of Swiss nationality remains possible for a period of 10 years if justifiable reasons exist for the failure to provide notice. If the child has close links with Switzerland, the granting of nationality remains possible beyond this period. However, in order to avoid future administrative procedures, it is advisable to provide notice of the birth as soon as possible to your embassy or consulate, which will check the documents and pass on the information to the authorities in Switzerland for registration of the child in the civil status and commune of origin registers.

Switzerland recognises dual nationality without restriction. From Switzerland's perspective, it is therefore possible to hold Swiss nationality and that of another state. In contrast, this is not necessarily the case for other countries. In some countries, obtaining Swiss nationality can result in the loss of the other nationality. Please contact the authorities in the other country concerned for further information on this matter.

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

SARAH MASTANTUONI
HEAD OF THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT

Young Swiss abroad enjoy the winter in Switzerland

Switzerland offers everything you could ever want from a dream winter holiday. Young Swiss people abroad are advised to book their holiday or educational visit with OSA now.

Switzerland's ski resorts are the highest in Europe on average. You won't get as close to the heavens anywhere else. The Swiss abroad discover the alpine landscape at OSA's winter sports camps. Enjoying a holiday as part of a group is great fun. Swiss abroad from all corners of the globe exchange experiences, give an insight into the countries they live in and discover the land of their forefathers. Inhibitions about speaking a foreign language are quickly overcome as what really matters is personal contact. OSA's trained ski and snowboard instructors ensure a fantastic experience in a safe, fun environment. A highly diverse fringe programme provides entertainment and a great atmosphere. There are still places available for the following offers:

Winter sports week in Wengen (Berne) (26.02. – 05.03.2011)

Wengen is a car-free, sun-kissed chalet village with real character. The winter sports week is open to young adults aged 18 and over and is set amidst the majestic mountain scenery of the Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau. Both sport enthusiasts and night owls will find exactly what they are looking for in Wengen.

Price: CHF 800

Easter camp in Fiesch (Valais) (16.04. – 24.04.2011)

Those looking for snow in spring can enjoy the longer days to the full in the Aletsch region. This famous ski resort offers magnificent panoramas. The modern holiday village also provides a wide range of sports in

indoor halls and outdoor facilities.

Price: CHF 700

Visit a university and discover Switzerland

If you are looking to enhance your educational prospects during your holidays, you will find the perfect offers and support from OSA. You will stay with one of our welcoming host families who will give you a real insight into everyday Swiss life. We will arrange a day-time programme tailored to your individual needs.

Information on the offers mentioned is available from:

*Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Youth Service, Tel.: +41 (0)31 356 61 00
youthb@aso.ch, www.aso.ch*

Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad: summer camps for children aged 8 to 14

Are you aged 8 to 14? Would you like to spend 14 days in Switzerland getting to know your homeland better? Then sign up for a holiday camp run by the Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad. We organise summer holiday camps in Switzerland's most beautiful regions during July and August.

Programme

Our camps give you the opportunity to see the sights, to discover lakes, mountains, rivers and incredible scenery, to go on short hikes and perhaps even visit some cities. Some days are also spent at the camp, where we organise games, sporting activities and various workshops.

You will also have the chance to learn lots of useful things about Switzerland. For example, we look at the Swiss languages, Swiss songs, Swiss recipes and typically Swiss games and sports.

The interaction between participants beyond all linguistic, cultural and national boundaries provides an opportunity to enjoy an unforgettable experience and to make lots of new friends.

Prices

The prices of the offers are set out in the list below. The Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad wishes to give all Swiss children abroad the opportunity to have a holiday in Switzerland at least once if possible.

We therefore offer reduced camp rates. The relevant application form can be requested with the registration form.

Travel/meeting point

The meeting point is at Zurich airport around lunchtime. Travel to and from Zurich airport is organised and paid for by parents.

Leaders

Experienced, multilingual teams of leaders ensure that the two-week holiday camps are well-organised and offer a wide variety of activities.

Registration

The exact details of the individual holiday camps and the registration form can be found, from Tuesday, 1 February 2011, at www.sjas.ch. We are also happy to post you our information brochure on request. The deadline for registration is 15 March 2011.

Summer camps 2011

Sat. 2.7. – Fri. 15.7.11: Enney (Fribourg)
for 36 children aged 8–11,
price: CHF 900

Sat. 2.7. – Fri. 15.7.11: Schönried (Bern)
for 24 children aged 11–14, price:
CHF 900

Sat. 16.7. – Fri. 29.7.11: Lantsch/Lenz (Grisons)
for 36 children aged 11–14,
price: CHF 900

Sat. 16.7. – Fri. 29.7.11: St. Cergue (Vaud)
for 36 children aged 8–11,
price: CHF 900

Wed. 20.7. – Fri. 29.7.11: Swisstrip
for 20 children aged 12–16,
price: CHF 950

Sat. 30.7. – Fri. 12.8.11: S-Chanf (Grisons)
for 40 children aged 11–14,
price: CHF 900

Sat. 30.7. – Fri. 12.8.11: Flühli (Lucerne)
for 36 children aged 8–11,
price: CHF 900

Sat. 30.7. – Sun. 7.8.11: exclusive: "Pipistrello",
circus project for around 30 children aged 8–14,
price: CHF 900

Sat. 13.8. – Fri. 26.8.11: Melchtal (Obwalden)
for 48 children aged 8–14,
price: CHF 900

Please contact the office in Berne for further information:

Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad
Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3006 Berne
Tel. +41 (0)31 356 61 16, Fax +41 (0)31 356 61 01
E-mail: sjas@aso.ch, www.sjas.ch, "Our forthcoming activities"



89th Congress of the Swiss Abroad: 26 to 28 August 2011, Palazzo dei Congressi in Lugano

Participants at the 89th Congress of the Swiss Abroad in Lugano will debate direct democracy in an international context. More about the topic and the latest information on the 2011 Congress can be found at: www.aso.ch/de/angebote/auslandschweizer-kongress.

Put the Congress dates in your diary today. We look forward to seeing you.

Please send me the registration documents for the 89th Congress of the Swiss Abroad (26–28.8.2011 in Lugano) in spring 2011.

My contact details are:

Surname/first name: _____

Address: _____

City/postcode/country: _____

E-mail: _____

Please write clearly in block capitals.

Please send the completed form to: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, Communications & Marketing, Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3006 Berne, Fax: +41 (0)31 356 61 01 or send us an e-mail to communication@aso.ch.