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The “Swiss Review” online instead of printed

Practical tips for switching

The “Swiss Review” is published both in printed form and in an on-line version. OSA, which is the publisher of the “Review”, wants to keep it this way. However, printing and shipping costs are an enormous expenditure item and shipping is not always the most ecologically sensible option. Those who appreciate the advantages of the electronic version are therefore advised to switch from print to online. By doing this, you will receive the “Review” earlier and have access to all content at any time and from any location. When doing so, it is important to report that you are switching! It does not help the environment or save costs if you read the electronic version of the “Review” before the printed version lands in your mailbox, only to throw it into the waste paper basket without having read it.

How do I switch?

- The recommended way is to report the change from print to online to the Swiss representation in your country of residence. This can be done either by email or by letter.
- Another option is to use the online desk of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), which was created for Swiss Abroad. > www.eda.admin.ch > Living abroad > Online desk FDFA. Prior registration is required to use the online desk.



Whether on paper or on a screen the content of the “Swiss Review” is always identical, regardless of its form.
Photo: Thomas Schneider

- The last option is to send an email to swissabroad@eda.admin.ch. However, in order to simplify the administration of change requests, the first two options are preferred.

Voluntary subscription fee

As important as it is for the “Review” to keep printing and shipping costs low, it is clearly committed to the printed edition. Readers who particularly appreciate receiving the printed edition are now able to support it with a voluntary subscription fee. Your support expressed in this way will help us to offer the “Review” on paper in the same quality for many years to come.

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New guide explains key issues of social security law to those working abroad

People are becoming more mobile, business work increasingly so. Thus an overview of key insurance law issues is increasingly important. The new guide “Arbeiten oder Leben im Ausland – wer ist in der AHV versichert?” (Working or living abroad – who is insured in the OASI?) contributes to this overview. In a language that is simple and easy to understand, it describes where people who work abroad or emigrate are insured. The guide is good for those considering moving abroad as well as those already living abroad who wish to provide possible new arrivals with advice on OASI matters.

The common examples chosen and list of questions help simplify the relevant insurance criteria. In the introduction, the legal basis of national and international social security law is explained. The main part deals with the insuring of the employed and self-employed who go to work abroad or work in several countries at the same time, as well as those not working who emigrate.

The information presented deals separately with the EU/EFTA states and the contracting and non-contracting countries, and is supplemented by numerous examples and overviews. In addition, it shows how to proceed so that

persons employed abroad continue to be insured in the OASI. As a practical handbook it is suitable for specialists who deal with cross-border cases. Thanks to its understandable language, it also gives interested laypeople a good overview of the topic. The book is available only in German. (MUL)

SYBILLE KÄSLIN, CHRISTINE VON FISCHER, “Arbeiten oder Leben im Ausland – wer ist in der AHV versichert?” (Working or living abroad – who is insured in the OASI?), 236 pages, Stämpfli Verlag Bern, CHF 78.

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Stiftung für junge Auslandschweizer
Fondation pour les enfants suisses à l'étranger
Fondazione per i giovani svizzeri all'estero
Fondazione per giovani svizzeri a l'estero

Signatures from 137 countries for OSA's e-voting petition

E-voting must be made available to all Swiss Abroad by 2021. The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) submitted this demand to the Federal Chancellery on 30 November. Thousands of Swiss citizens living abroad support the demand.

OSA's online petition in support of e-voting is literally backed by people all over the world. By the time the signature deadline was reached, Swiss citizens from 137 countries had signed the petition, which was submitted to the Federal Chancellery on 30 November. Through their signatures thousands signalled their support for the demand that Switzerland rapidly introduce an electronic voting and election system. The petition addressed to the Federal Council and parliament specifically calls for e-voting to be made available to all Swiss Abroad by 2021.

OSA feels confirmed in its position: it is convinced that e-voting is the only way to guarantee that all Swiss Abroad are able to exercise their political rights.

A total of 172,100 Swiss citizens living abroad are registered on an electoral register and can therefore vote in Switzerland. However, often their voting intentions remain unfulfilled. Since the election documents often arrive too late, voters living far away from their home country are frequently unable to vote. At the meeting of the Council of the Swiss Abroad on 10 August in Visp, several delegates emphasised that e-voting was ultimately the only way to guarantee that Swiss citizens living abroad were able to exercise their political rights.

Through the petition the Swiss Abroad are now starting to exert more pressure over this issue. However, it remains to be seen how the Federal Council and parliament will react to the petition. At the time of writing, the authorities had yet to respond to OSA's request. (MUL)

www.evoting2021.ch

University or apprenticeship?

Advice from educationsuisse on education in Switzerland

University or apprenticeship? These are two different education pathways, which are not mutually exclusive. Indeed, the Swiss education system is characterised by a high degree of flexibility. Consequently, there are many ways to begin or to change to a different education programme. The educational opportunities are highly diverse. An overview of the Swiss education system can be found on our website www.educationsuisse.ch.

Anyone who wishes to study in Switzerland with a foreign high school diploma, should inquire about the admission requirements of the universities well in advance; sometimes admission fails because a basic subject is missing. The next step is to find the right field of study. The [swissuniversities website www.studyprogrammes.ch](http://www.studyprogrammes.ch), can be of some benefit here. Many universities, universities of applied sciences and universities of teacher education organise information days, which usually take place in autumn or winter. Several universities also have their own study counselling offices.

Those who would like to complete an apprenticeship after compulsory schooling or high school, can choose from around 250 occupations. The official website of the Swiss Career and Academic Studies Consulting, www.berufsberatung.ch, offers a wealth of information such as job descriptions, education descriptions, tips and much more. Once the area of interest has been defined, trial apprenticeships (1-5

days) in an enterprise are a suitable way of receiving an insight into the profession. One normally starts finding an apprenticeship at least a year before commencement of the apprenticeship. Sometimes companies require aptitude tests (such as Multicheck), which must be attached to the application.

A so-called bridge year can be a good interim solution for those who are still uncertain about their career choice. Such additional school years of pre-vocational training years are organised in all cantons.

In order to successfully complete an education in Switzerland, sufficient knowledge of a national language is important. A good command of English is an advantage, but by no means enough. Only a few university-level degree programmes (Master's) are offered entirely in English. (RG)

Information sheets on individual topics, general information and personal advice, also on career and academic choices, can be obtained from [educationsuisse: info@educationsuisse.ch](mailto:info@educationsuisse.ch), Tel. +41 (0) 31 356 61 04. Our employees speak German, French, Italian, English and Spanish.

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Emotional moments in the second home country – Scenes from the summer camps for children and young people

Girls in traditional wrestling breeches, young people in the mountains making friends with a local goat, daredevils on a jagged rock near Saas Grund and language students on the shores of Lake Geneva. These are just some of the highlights and memorable moments experienced by Swiss children and young people living abroad during camps in their second home country.

Cycling, hiking, wrestling, climbing, chatting, having a party: the pictures speak for themselves. Such snapshots are made possible by the courses and camps for Swiss Abroad aged 8 to 25, which are organised every year by the Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad (FYSA) and the Youth Service of the OSA. The goals of the projects for children and young people are:

- The participants become better acquainted with their second home, Switzerland.
- Young Swiss Abroad from all over the world are brought together.
- An understanding of the mentality and way of life of their second home country, as well as its culture, history and society, is acquired.
- Every young Swiss Abroad is allowed at least one stay in Switzerland. In order to make this stay possible for everyone, we collect donations to support financially disadvantaged families by contributing to camp and/or travel expenses.

The participation of many volunteers is necessary in order to carry out these projects. Every year, almost 160 camp leaders and 30 host families contribute to ensure that the young Swiss Abroad have a great stay in Switzerland. In addition to the objectives mentioned above, the quality of the implementation of the projects is also very important. The summer and winter camps are planned and implemented according to the "Youth-Sports" guidelines (Y+S). In order to prepare our camp leaders well, an annual camp leader training course is offered. The language courses are held in cooperation with renowned language schools.

The Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad (FYSA) organised nine children's holiday camps this summer. A total of 339 children between the ages of 8 and 14 from over 70 countries participated. In the summer, the Youth Service organised five youth camps, three language courses and several stays with a host family. A total of 200 young people from over 60 countries participated in the youth programmes. It is a pleasure to note that all the camps and courses of both the FYSA and the OSA Youth Service were fully booked.



- 1) Aiming high: Young people on a via ferrata in Saas Grund.
- 2) The Youth Service's outdoor camps are also group experiences. On the Euschel pass in the Jaun region.
- 3) Learning languages also means getting to know Switzerland: Language students on a day trip to the Chillon Castle.
- 4) Summit meeting with a goat: A special kind of encounter at the sports camp for young people in Saas Grund.

- 1) 1 August celebrations on the Ballenberg.
- 2) The crowd of children meets the Federal President. Alain Berset (centre, back row) hosts a "Meet'n'Greet" in the Federal Palace.
- 3) "Swiss wrestling" in the children's camp: Approaching an old Swiss tradition – all while wearing traditional wrestling breeches.
- 4) Visiting the Swiss Air-Rescue (Rega) in Samedan (GR).



The Youth Service's summer offers of 2019

Next summer, the Youth Service of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) will be offering language and holiday camps for young Swiss Abroad aged 15 and over. You can find more information about the camps and, starting on 7 January 2019, will be able to register at www.swisscommunity.org/en/youth/youth-offers. It is possible to apply for financial support for all camps. Our offers at a glance:

13.07. – 26.07.2019 Sports camp 1 and Swiss Challenge
13.07. – 26.07.2019 German and French language camps
27.07. – 09.08.2019 Sports camp 2 and outdoor camp
03.08. – 18.08.2019 Politics and culture camp

We would also be pleased to send you our information brochure with an overview of the offers available by post on request. The registration deadline is 15 March 2019. For more information, feel free to contact the Youth Service:

Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA), Youth Service,
Alpenstrasse 26, 3006 Bern, Switzerland
Tel. +41 (0)356 61 24, Fax +41 (0)356 61 01
Email: youth@aso.ch
www.swisscommunity.org/en/youth/youth-offers

Summer camps for children aged 8 to 14

From the end of June to the end of August 2019, Swiss children living abroad can have a fantastic time with around 40 other children from all over the world while also discovering Switzerland and its culture at summer camps lasting two weeks. Registration for the summer camps will begin on 7 January 2019. The summer camps 2019 will take place on the following dates:

Sat. 29.06. – Fri. 12.07.2019
Sat. 13.07. – Fri. 26.07.2019
Sat. 27.07. – Fri. 09.08.2019
Sat. 10.08. – Fri. 23.08.2019

The exact details of the various offers (locations, age groups, etc.) will be available from the middle of December 2018 at: www.sjas.ch/en. We would also be pleased to send you our information brochure with an overview of the offers available by post on request. The registration deadline is 15 March 2019.

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. For further information, please contact the FYSA office:

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The Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad (FYSA) is an independent organisation recognised by the Zewo foundation, which offers ten camps per year for children aged 8 to 14. The Youth Service is a department of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA), which organises leisure, educational and political activities for young people aged 15 and over. Both partner organisations work independently of each other, have their own websites and registration procedures, but cooperate closely.