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Tips for job hunting in Switzerland

"I want to return to Switzerland and look for a job. Can you give me any tips or information?"

As a Swiss citizen, you can work in Switzerland without a permit. If you are intending to look for a job in Switzerland, remember that just sending a CV is normally not enough. Swiss employers expect a complete application. Besides a targeted cover letter and a CV including photo, your application should include job references as well as copies of degree certificates or other relevant qualifications. The State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) has published brochures containing valuable tips on its internet platform. Here is the direct link to an overview of SECO publications and offers: ogy.de/work-swiss

There are no official rules governing the translation of documents such as degree and other certificates. If a certain document could be a very important factor in whether or not you get the job you want, it might be worth having the document translated into one of Switzerland's national languages.

The Consular Directorate (CD) of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) offers the Swiss Abroad a special service in relation to the job search itself, whereby it forwards job applications to cantonal employment offices for the attention of the regional employment centres in your preferred regions. Interested employers can then look at your application at their own leisure. Here is the direct link to the CD website for job seekers: ogy.de/employment-in-switzerland

A selection of links to job search engines and job recruitment agencies is available on the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) website. Your local employment office will also be able to help you as soon as you are registered and domiciled in Switzerland. Here is the direct link to job search engines and job recruitment agencies on the OSA website: ogy.de/find-a-job

Useful links

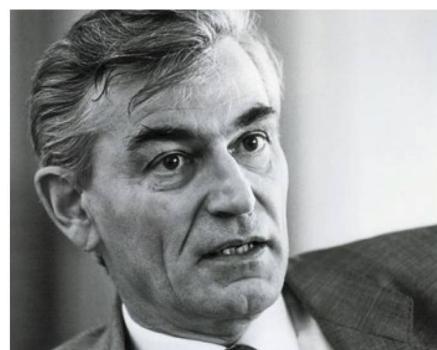
SECO: ogy.de/work-swiss

FDFA/CD: ogy.de/employment-in-switzerland

OSA: ogy.de/find-a-job

In memory of Georg Stucky

Georg Stucky headed the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) from 1998 to 2007. In August, he died at the age of 89. His legacy includes paving the way towards voting rights for the Swiss Abroad. The OSA owes Georg Stucky a debt of gratitude, as we look back fondly on his legacy.



Georg Stucky in 1989 – during his time as National Councillor

Photo: Walter Rutishauser, collection of the Library Am Guisanplatz

What a rich and fulfilling life he led! Georg Stucky worked and lived for many years in Hamburg, the Middle East and North Africa. He was the Swiss honorary consul to Libya and had first-hand knowledge about the hopes and concerns of the Swiss Abroad. Stucky was a church councillor, a cantonal government member, a National Councillor and a director at various companies. He was a member of the OSA Executive Board for 15 years, acting as vice-president from 1992 to 1998 and then president until 2007. All this is a testament to how highly people regarded Georg Stucky – and how great and lasting his legacy is.

I first encountered Georg Stucky at a meeting between the cantonal governments of Zug and Basel-Stadt. Our paths crossed again in the National Council. We became friends during the years that we spent together in the National Council Economic Affairs and Taxation Committee and, later on, in the OSA Executive Board.

Georg Stucky began championing the cause of the Swiss Abroad even before he joined the OSA. In 1986, he submitted a motion calling for an amendment to the Federal Act on the Political Rights of Swiss Citizens Abroad that would give Swiss Abroad the right to vote on all federal matters. In doing so, he played a key role in the introduction of postal voting for the Swiss Abroad at federal level. It was in 1995 that the Swiss Abroad were able to use postal voting in the federal elections for the first time.

Georg Stucky continued to promote change during his time as OSA president, e.g. introduction of e-voting; increase in the number of Swiss Abroad eligible to vote; voluntary old-age and survivors' insurance (OASI) and disability insurance (DI).

"Georg lived and breathed the OSA," his wife told me. That much was obvious. All of us within the OSA have fond memories of him and owe him a debt of thanks. We extend our most sincere sympathies to his wife Elisabeth and family.

May he rest in peace.

Remo Gysin

President of the OSA

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