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Federal votes

The proposals submitted to the people are set by the Federal Council at least four months prior to the voting date.

The Federal Council decided at its session on 25 October 2023 to submit the following proposals to the people on 3 March 2024:

- Federal Popular Initiative "For a better life in retirement (Initiative for a 13th OASI pension payment)"
- Federal Popular Initiative "For a secure and sustainable pension system (Pensions Initiative)"

All information on proposals submitted to the people (voting pamphlets, committees, recommendations by the parliament, Federal Council etc.) can be found at www.admin.ch/abstimmungen or in the Federal Chancellery app "VoteInfo".



Popular initiatives

The list of pending popular initiatives is available in French, German and Italian at https://www.bk.admin.ch/Politische_Rechte_Volksinitiativen



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How can I acquire Swiss nationality from outside the country?

Foreign nationals with close family ties to Switzerland may submit an application for naturalisation to their Swiss representation abroad under current Swiss citizenship law and subject to certain conditions.

Some countries grant citizenship through being born in the country, known as birth-right citizenship ('ius soli'), such as the United States, Canada, Australia and some South American countries. Switzerland grants citizenship on the basis of the parents' nationality ('ius sanguinis'), regardless of the place of birth. The Federal Act on Swiss Citizenship, which came into force on 1 January 2018, and its accompanying ordinance have been adapted to meet the needs of a changing society. In order to submit a naturalisation application from abroad, applicants must meet certain conditions, including having close ties to Switzerland. Submitting an application to a Swiss representation abroad is the first step in the naturalisation process. Below are some examples that may help you in applying for citizenship.

I am married to a Swiss person.

When and subject to what conditions may I obtain Swiss citizenship?

Provided you have lived for six years in a stable marital relationship with your Swiss spouse and have maintained close ties to Switzerland, you may submit a naturalisation application to the Swiss representation under Article 21 para. 2 of the Federal Act on Swiss Citizenship. Your Swiss spouse must have had Swiss nationality when you got married or have subsequently acquired citizenship through reinstatement or simplified naturalisation based on descent from a Swiss parent. If the marriage was before 1 July 2022, the duration of a prior registered partnership may count towards the duration of the marriage. If you were married after 1

July 2022, the duration of the partnership registered prior to that date does not count towards the duration of the marriage (unless the registered partnership was converted to marriage).

My Swiss father never married my mother. He acknowledged paternity when I was born in 2005. Am I entitled to Swiss nationality?

Children born to a Swiss father before 31 December 2005 and whose parents were not married are not entitled to Swiss citizenship, even if their father acknowledged paternity. If your father already had Swiss nationality

when you were born and acknowledged paternity before you acquired the age of majority, you may submit a naturalisation application under Article 51 para. 2 of the Federal Act on Swiss Citizenship (provided you maintain close ties to Switzerland).

My mother lost her Swiss nationality after she married my father, who is a foreign national.

Am I still entitled to Swiss nationality?

Provided you maintain close ties to Switzerland, you may submit a naturalisation application under Article 51 para. 1 of the Federal Act on Swiss Citizenship.

“Three-quarters of Swiss people living abroad have one or more other nationalities.”

The Swiss passport: for many Swiss who live abroad, it is more than just a document. It is part of their identity and a link to Switzerland.
Photo: Keystone



My spouse has just given birth to our child. Can the baby lose their Swiss nationality?

If you fail to notify the Swiss representation of the birth of your child, your child will lose his or her Swiss nationality by forfeiture on his or her 25th birthday.

You are therefore advised to announce the birth quickly by submitting the original version of the child's birth certificate. Once the birth has been entered in the Swiss Civil Register, you may order a Swiss passport for the child.

I've lost my Swiss nationality.

May I apply for reinstatement?

Anyone who has lost their Swiss nationality may apply to have it restored within ten years of having lost nationality. This application is subject to having close ties with Switzerland and meeting other conditions. Once those ten years have elapsed, the person must reside in Switzerland for three years before requesting reinstatement.

What qualifies as having close ties to Switzerland?

Maintaining close ties to Switzerland means: having stayed in Switzerland at least three times over the six years preceding the application, for a minimum of five consecutive days;

- being able to engage in everyday conversation in one of Switzerland's national languages;
- having basic knowledge of Switzerland (geography, history, politics, society);
- being in contact with Swiss people;
- being able to nominate referees residing in Switzerland who can confirm your stays in the country and your contacts.

What other criteria and conditions do I have to meet?

You must not pose a security or public order risk, or a threat to Switzerland's internal or external security, you must respect the values of the Federal Constitution, contribute to the economy or be undergoing training/education and you must encourage and support the integration of your family members.

"In 2022, there were over 500 applications reviewed by Swiss representations abroad. Most of the applications were from neighbouring countries."

This advance payment covers the costs of the State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) and the cantonal authorities (CHF 600 per adult and CHF 350 per child not included in the application by one of the parents) as well as the representation fees for services rendered, for example advice, case file review, interview, processing civil status documents, clarification and research (CHF 75 per half-hour).

Then there are extra costs incurred, such as the review of civil status documents by third parties or Swiss civil status authorities. These fees are not repayable in the event of a negative decision by the SEM or a withdrawal of the application during the process. Payment by instalments is not allowed.

Where can I obtain the information and documentation I need to submit a naturalisation application?

You can find some very useful information, particularly on the conditions, processes and documents required, on the Swiss representation's website under 'Services' then 'Citizenship'.

On request, the Swiss representation can provide you with the necessary documentation to submit a naturalisation application so that you can prepare your file. On receipt of your file, the representation will organise a date with you for a personal interview, which will normally be held in one of Switzerland's national languages.

How long does the process last?

The Swiss representation generally issues its investigation report to the SEM within 12 months of receiving the full application file.

The SEM normally makes a ruling on the simplified naturalisation or reinstatement application within 12 months of receipt of the file with the investigation report issued by the competent Swiss representation.

Any change of address or civil status (marriage, separation, divorce, birth, death, adoption, etc.) during this time must be communicated to the competent Swiss representation.

FDFA, CONSULAR DIVISION

You can find more useful information here

How to become Swiss (SEM):

revue.link/nationality

FAQ – Swiss nationality (SEM):

revue.link/faq

Law on Swiss nationality

(in English):

revue.link/en141

Ordinance on Swiss nationality

(in German):

revue.link/buev

Questions? Go to the internet page of your representation or contact the representation if you can't find the appropriate answers on the website:
revue.link/swissrep