

**Zeitschrift:** Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Band:** 79 (2013)  
**Heft:** [3]  
  
**Artikel:** The non Swiss perspective : how to become Swiss  
**Autor:** Latham, David  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-943752>

### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

### **Terms of use**

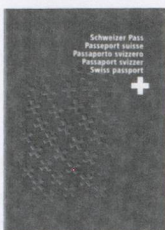
The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

**Download PDF:** 14.12.2025

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**



# The non Swiss perspective: How to become Swiss



Every one you non Swiss reading this will have, at some point, wondered if you too can be Swiss. So here is a short introduction on how the process works.

*First of all you must develop a strong passion for ocean yacht racing.*

To become Swiss, there are basically three paths: through birth, marriage (not automatic) or naturalization.

## Birth:

Being born in Switzerland doesn't mean you are automatically granted Swiss Citizenship. Your mother must be Swiss, your father must be Swiss if married to your mother or if he is not, he must formally acknowledge his paternity before you reach legal age.

## Marriage:

If you are married to a Swiss, you may apply for "fast-track" citizenship. You must be well integrated, law abiding and not a danger to Swiss security. There are, of course, a few other requirements that you must meet: You have been married to a Swiss for at least three years and have lived in Switzerland for at least five years, including one year immediately prior to application.

If you live abroad, you can still apply but you must have been married for at least six years and your spouse must have been Swiss prior to marrying you.

## Regular Naturalisation:

Foreigners with no direct blood ties to Switzerland through either birth or marriage must live in the country for at least 12 years before they can apply for citizenship. (Years spent in the country between age ten and 20 count double). You must be well integrated, familiar with customs and traditions, law abiding, and pose no threat to internal or external security.

The Federal Migration Office will then "green light" your request to begin the naturalization process but that does not mean citizenship is certain. Rather, cantons and municipalities have their own requirements that must be met. One canton, for example, might require that you live for two years in the region,

while another might require a decade. So what are these "additional requirements"? Each canton has their own set of rules. Some of Berne's rules are as follows for ordinary naturalization:

- ✦ 12 years of residence in Switzerland, including three of the last five years prior to application.
- ✦ At least 2 years in the canton of Berne prior to application.
- ✦ If you are married, one spouse must have lived in Switzerland at least 12 years and the other for five years and you must have been married for three years.
- ✦ Comply with Swiss law and not be a danger to Swiss Security.
- ✦ Be integrated into the Swiss community.
- ✦ Be familiar with Swiss habits and customs.
- ✦ Sufficient language capability in either German or French.
- ✦ Attend naturalization school and pass a test (there are some exceptions to the test).

I do not pretend to be an expert on the matter as all the information here is from the following websites: If you wish to pursue Swiss Citizenship, then please do your own research.

By David Latham

[http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/specials/switzerland\\_how\\_to/politics/Becoming\\_a\\_citizen.html?cid=29288376](http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/specials/switzerland_how_to/politics/Becoming_a_citizen.html?cid=29288376)

[http://www.bfm.admin.ch/bfm/en/home/themen/buergerrecht/einbuergerung/erleichterte\\_einbuergerung.html](http://www.bfm.admin.ch/bfm/en/home/themen/buergerrecht/einbuergerung/erleichterte_einbuergerung.html)

[http://www.pom.be.ch/pom/de/index/zivilstand-pass-id/einbuergerung/ordentliche\\_einbuergerung.html](http://www.pom.be.ch/pom/de/index/zivilstand-pass-id/einbuergerung/ordentliche_einbuergerung.html) (translated by Google Translate)

## Wissen Sie das?

Sweden's Ingvar Kamrad, founder of furniture chain Ikea, remains Switzerland richest resident for the tenth year, according to an annual ranking by business magazine Bilanz. His assets, including the chain of Ikea stores, are valued at 35'000'000'000 Francs.

<http://www.bilanz.ch/die-300-reichsten-2012>

## Consigli della Nonna

### Handy tips for Vinegar

#### Keep away rats and mice

If you find your compost bins are attracting rats and mice, make sure you aren't including any meat or uncooked food. Spray the bottom edge with undiluted vinegar as a further precaution.

#### Ant attack

Spray countertops with neat vinegar and allow it to dry in order to deter ants.

By Ursula Nixon



## Punography

- I don't enjoy computer jokes; not one bit.
- Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.
- I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.
- Broken pencils are pointless.
- I tried to catch some fog, but I mist.
- England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.
- I used to be a banker, but then I lost interest.