

English > Work and finances > Job > **Work permit**

Work permit

In many cases, you will need a permit if you want to work in Switzerland. The work permit is based on your nationality and the type of work you intend to do.

The work permit is issued by the Migration Office. Sometimes the Office for Economy and Labour (AWA) also has to make decisions.

Admission depends on your country of origin:

EU/EFTA nationals

Work and stay longer than 3 months a year


The Agreement on the [Freizügigkeitsabkommen \(🇨🇭 Free movement of persons in Switzerland\)](#) with the EU/EFTA allows you to live and work in Switzerland.


You do **not** need a work permit for Switzerland, but you do need a **residence permit**. You will receive this if you present a written employment contract (fixed-term or indefinite) or a similar document.

Self-employment

If you enter Switzerland to take up self-employment, you must provide proof of self-employment that secures your livelihood.

For more information, please see : [Fact sheet on self-employment EU/EFTA](#)

[Information on the submission of applications](#)  deutsch

[Submit an application for a residence permit](#)  deutsch

Short-term work in Switzerland (up to a maximum of 3 months)

If you work for a Swiss company for a maximum of 3 months per year, you do not need a work permit. All you have to **do is sign up**. This is referred to as a short-term provision of services. These would be, for example:

- Servicing
- Repair and maintenance work
- Implementation of courses and seminars

You can register here (no later than the day before the start of work):

[Notification procedure of the State Secretariat for Migration](#)

Collaboration in a project

If you come to Switzerland to work on a project, you need a permit. Project work would be, for example:

- Construction and installation of machines
- Implementation of IT projects
- Conversion of shops


The following documents are required for the submission of an application for project work:

- Form A1
- Confirmation of posting
- Further documents in accordance with section 5 of the leaflet "Posted workers and self-employed service provision"

[Information on the submission of applications](#)  deutsch

[Leaflet "Posted workers and self-employed service provision"](#)  deutsch

[Posting Confirmation Form](#)  deutsch


[Submit an application "Licence as a service provider"](#)  deutsch

Nationals of Croatia


The Agreement on the [Freizügigkeitsabkommen \(🇨🇭 Free movement of persons in Switzerland\)](#) with the EU/EFTA allows you to live and work in Switzerland.

However, there are temporary restrictions if you want to work in Switzerland for more than 3 months. For 2024, there are only a limited number of new residence permits for Croatians.

For the time being, the reintroduction of maximum numbers for Croatian workers will apply until 31 December 2024.

[Free movement of persons in Croatia - Information Canton of St.Gallen](#)  deutsch

[Information on the submission of applications](#)  deutsch

[Submit an application for a work permit: "Start of job / change of job"](#)  deutsch

Nationals of the United Kingdom

Since 1 January 2021, British nationals who want to work in Switzerland for the first time have been treated in the same way as people from third countries.

To work in Switzerland, you need a permit from the [Migrationsamt](#) ([? Authority for Migration](#)) and the Labour Market Authority.

- [Information from the State Secretariat for Migration SEM](#) [🌐 englisch](#)
 - [Information on the submission of applications](#) [🌐 deutsch](#)
 - [Submit an application for a work permit: "Start of job / change of job"](#) [🌐 deutsch](#)
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Persons from other countries (third-country nationals)

You can only work in Switzerland if you are well qualified, for example as:

- Executive/Manager
- Specialist
- Professional with several years of professional experience

The number of persons admitted to the labour market is limited.

Your future employer must prove that there are no people in Switzerland and in the EU and EFTA countries who are suitable for the position to be filled (nationals have priority).

In order to work, you need a work permit in addition to a **residence permit**.

Forms

- [Application Ausländerbewilligung_Formular A1](#) [🌐 deutsch](#)
 - [Information on the submission of applications](#) [🌐 deutsch](#)
 - [Submit an application for a residence permit](#) [🌐 deutsch](#)
 - [Submit an application for a work permit: "Start of job / change of job"](#) [🌐 deutsch](#)
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Schutzstatus S: Vulnerable persons with status S

With protection [Schutzstatus S](#) ([? This status enables refugees to receive protection and admission in Switzerland quickly and easily. There is no need for a proper asylum procedure.](#)), you can work in Switzerland: **Information from the SEM**. Your employer must apply for a work permit before you start work.

This application can be submitted to the Canton of St.Gallen immediately after obtaining [Schutzstatus S](#) ([? This status enables refugees to receive protection and admission in Switzerland quickly and easily. There is no need for a proper asylum procedure.](#)): **Information Canton of St.Gallen**

You can also work independently. To do this, you must apply for a work permit from the **Canton of St.Gallen** before starting work. The canton will check whether you have the money and experience to do the planned work.

During the procedure, the labour market authority may request further documents necessary for the granting of the permit.

Please send an e-mail to schutzstatus@sg.ch for inquiries regarding the processing status.

The organisation **REPAS** helps people with protection status S in the canton of St.Gallen to find a job. The social welfare office of your municipality of residence will register you with REPAS.



- [Information on gainful employment with protection status S](#) [🌐 deutsch](#)
 - [Submit an application for a work permit: "Start of job / change of job"](#) [🌐 deutsch](#)
 - [Ukrainian information on education and profession for people with status S](#) [🌐 ukrainisch](#)
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Temporarily admitted persons (VA) and recognised refugees (AF)

























Recognised refugees (B permit) and temporarily admitted persons (F permit) are allowed to work in any job they find.

All you or your employer have to do is register with the Office of Economy and Labour and comply with Swiss wage and working conditions. After signing up, you can start working right away.







The organisation **REPAS** helps refugees and temporarily admitted persons in the canton of St.Gallen to find a job. The social welfare office of your municipality of residence will register you with REPAS.

 [Notification of your work activity](#)  deutsch

Brochure "Working in Switzerland" in 12 languages

-  [Arbeiten in der Schweiz \(deutsch\)](#)  DE  PDF, 305 kB
 -  [Lavorare in Svizzera \(italienisch\)](#)  IT  PDF, 286 kB
 -  [Trabajar en Suiza \(spanisch\)](#)  ES  PDF, 305 kB
 -  [Trabalhar na Suíça \(portugiesisch\)](#)  PT  PDF, 305 kB
 -  [Travailler en Suisse \(français\)](#)  FR  PDF, 309 kB
 -  [Working in Switzerland \(english\)](#)  EN  PDF, 287 kB
 -  [ПРАЦЕВЛАШТУВАННЯ У ШВЕЙЦАРІЇ \(ukrainisch\)](#)  UK_UA  PDF, 294 kB
 -  [Праца ў Швейцарыі \(weissrussisch\)](#)  BE_BY  PDF, 318 kB
 -  [Работа в Швейцарии \(russisch\)](#)  RU  PDF, 297 kB
 -  [ШВЕЙЦАРИЯДА ИШПАШ \(usbekisch\)](#)  PDF, 378 kB
 -  [ارسيوس يف لمعلا \(arabisch\)](#)  AR_TN  PDF, 447 kB
 -  [การทำงาน ในสวิตเซอร์แลนด์ \(thai\)](#)  TH_TH_TH  PDF, 342 kB
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Explanatory film in other languages

-  [Entry and stay in Switzerland](#)  englisch
-  [Séjour en Suisse](#)  français
-  [Soggiorno in Svizzera](#)  italiano



Portal for Licences and Regulated Professions in Switzerland

Contact points

Find the right contact point, advice or authority in your area: [Contact points](#)

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