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Your start in St.Gallen

Welcome to your new everyday life in the Canton of St.Gallen.

Here you will find important key data on what you should do and when:

directly after arrival:



Residence permit

You must register with the Residents' Office within 14 days.



School is compulsory

Enrol your children in a school where you live.



Initial information / welcome interview

In many congregations, you will be invited to a welcome meeting or you will receive information material.



Bank account

If you have the confirmation of residence and your employment contract, you can open a bank account. A bank account is required for many other steps.



Work permit

Find out about the different types of work permits.

within 3 months:



Foreigner's ID card

After the Migration Office has approved your stay, you will be invited to an appointment at the ID office in St.Gallen.



Learn German

Learn to speak German as quickly as possible for daily life. There are language courses at a reduced price.



Health insurance

You will need compulsory health insurance. You must complete this within 3 months.



Grocery shopping with little money

Do you have little money available for everyday life?



Waste disposal

Learn about recycling and waste disposal where you live.

in the 1st year:



Exchanging your driver's license

You have 1 year to apply for your Swiss driving licence at the Road Traffic Office.



Reduction of health insurance premiums

If you earn little, you can apply for a premium reduction - it is best to register immediately.



Fill out your tax return

Check with the municipality to find out if you need to fill out the tax return and what the deadlines are.



Leisure activities

Get active and find leisure activities that suit you!



Social security

The social security system in Switzerland is complex. Inform yourself well in advance to avoid problems later on.

Information about living in Switzerland

- Content is available in 18 languages .
- Many topics are explained in videos.