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## Residence permit

**Foreign nationals who wish to stay in Switzerland for more than 3 months require a residence permit to enter Switzerland.**

To obtain a residence permit, you must submit an application to the [Migrationsamt](#) (© Authority for Migration) of the Canton of St.Gallen.

Whether the application is approved depends on various factors:

- what is your nationality?
- How long would you like to stay in Switzerland?
- what is the reason for your stay?

### EU/EFTA nationals

The Agreement on the [Freizügigkeitsabkommen](#) (🔗 [Free movement of persons in Switzerland](#)) with the EU/EFTA allows you to live and work in Switzerland. A permit is required if the stay lasts longer than 3 months in a calendar year.

The following EU/EFTA permits are available:

- Permit L (short-term residence permit)
- Permit B (Residence Permit)
- Permit C (Settlement Permit)
- Permit G (permit for [Grenzgänger](#) (🔗 [People who do not live in Switzerland but work here. You commute across the Swiss border.](#)))

Detailed information can be found here: [Permits EU/EFTA Canton of St.Gallen](#)

## Submit an application

After entering Switzerland, you must personally register with the residents' [Einwohneramt](#) (🔗 [Authority responsible for residents' registration](#)) of your municipality and submit the application for a foreigner's permit (form A1).

The application will be reviewed and as soon as it has been approved, the [Migrationsamt](#) (🔗 [Authority for Migration](#)) will issue the foreigner's identity card.

## Submit an application

The application will be reviewed and you will receive a notification from the Migration Office.

## Contact

Foreigners' Department  
Migration Office  
Oberer Graben 38  
9001 St.Gallen

Phone 058 229 36 90

Counter opening hours: 08:00-11:30 / 13:30-17:00

[🔗](#) [Canton of St.Gallen - Permits from EU/EFTA countries](#)

## Application forms and leaflets

Important for the residence permit:

- Application for a Foreigner's Permit (Form A1)
- Posting confirmation (required for workers posted to Switzerland for assignments of more than 90 working days per calendar year)
- Form Proof of Financial Obligations

Leaflets

- Residence for the purpose of gainful employment EU/EFTA
- Residence for self-employment EU/EFTA
- Cross-border commuter permit EU/EFTA
- Posted workers and self-employed provision of services
- Prov. Residence permit for the preparation of marriage in Switzerland
- Inactive EU/EFTA
- School and study visit EU/EFTA

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[🔗](#) [Online Counter Application Submission](#) [🇩🇪 deutsch](#)

## Persons from other countries (third-country nationals)

For people from other countries ([Drittstaaten](#) ([? Non-EU/EFTA countries](#))), the regulations for entry into Switzerland are more restrictive.

It depends on how long your stay will be and for what purpose you want to enter Switzerland: for example, tourism, visiting, employment, family reunification or studying.

Detailed information can be found here: [Authorisations from third countries](#)

Submit an application before entering the country:

### [Submit an application](#)

The permit must have been issued before entering Switzerland.

## Contact

Foreigners' Department  
Migration Office  
Oberer Graben 38  
9001 St.Gallen

Phone 058 229 36 90

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[↗](#) [Canton of St.Gallen - Permits from third countries](#)

## Application forms and leaflets

Important for the residence permit:

- [Application for a Foreigner's Permit \(Form A1\)](#)
- [Form Proof of Financial Obligations](#)

Fact sheets for third-country nationals

- [Residence for gainful employment](#)
- [Temporary residence permit to prepare for marriage in Switzerland](#)
- [Family reunification](#)
- [Relocation of pensioners](#)
- [Language school stay](#)
- [Undergraduate and Doctoral Candidates](#)
- [Hardship permit \(change of status F to B\)](#)

Further information sheets (visitor visa)

- [Leaflet on entry into the Schengen area / visa procedure \(GRÜEZI\)](#)
- [Undertakings](#)
- [Invitation](#)

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## How do you get your foreigner's permit?

## Appointment at the ID office

After the [Migrationsamt](#) (📍 [Authority for Migration](#)) has approved your stay, you will receive an invitation to the [Ausweisstelle](#) (📍 [This authority issues identity cards for foreigners.](#)) in St.Gallen.

Bring the invitation letter and a valid travel document (passport or identity card) with you to the appointment, where your photo and signature and, if necessary, the fingerprints for the new ID card will be recorded.

Only visit the [Ausweisstelle](#) (📍 [This authority issues identity cards for foreigners.](#)) with a written invitation on the specified date.

## Postpone appointment

If the appointment is not possible, you can reschedule it online.

[📄](#) Postpone an appointment at the ID office

## Information on the new foreigner's ID card

- [📄](#) Domande frequenti Carta d'identità dello straniero in formato carta di credito (italienisch) 🌐 IT 📄 PDF, 71 kB
- [📄](#) FAQ (Pyetje të shpeshta) Karta e identitetit e nënshetasve të huaj në formatin e një karte krediti (albanisch) 🌐 SQ\_AL 📄 PDF, 73 kB
- [📄](#) FAQ Ausländerausweis im Kreditkartenformat (deutsch) 🌐 DE 📄 PDF, 75 kB
- [📄](#) FAQ Foreigner's identity card in credit card format (englisch) 🌐 EN 📄 PDF, 75 kB
- [📄](#) FAQ Iskaznica za strance u formatu kreditne kartice (kroatisch) 🌐 HR\_HR 📄 PDF, 76 kB
- [📄](#) FAQ sur le permis de séjour au format carte de crédit (français) 🌐 FR 📄 PDF, 86 kB
- [📄](#) FAQ Удостоверение личности иностранца в форме кредитной карты (russisch) 🌐 RU 📄 PDF, 95 kB
- [📄](#) Perguntas frequentes sobre o cartão de estrangeiros em formato de cartão de crédito (portugiesisch) 🌐 PT 📄 PDF, 77 kB
- [📄](#) Preguntas frecuentes sobre la tarjeta de extranjería en formato de tarjeta de crédito (spanisch) 🌐 ES 📄 PDF, 76 kB
- [📄](#) SSS kred kartı formatında yabancı kmlk kartı (türkisch) 🌐 TR\_TR 📄 PDF, 77 kB

## Extending your residence permit

You must submit your application for an extension of the residence permit directly to the Migration Office.

Enclose the following documents with the application:

- current authorisation
- Passport of the country of origin (this must be valid for at least 3 months beyond the end of the period of stay)
- Notification from the cantonal migration authority that the permit is expiring (if you have received a notification)

You must submit the application for extension at least **2 weeks before the expiry of the validity**.

## Contact

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Migration Office  
Oberer Graben 38  
9001 St.Gallen

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- [📄](#) Canton of St.Gallen - Permits from EU/EFTA countries 🌐 deutsch
- [📄](#) Canton of St.Gallen - Permits from third countries 🌐 deutsch
- [📄](#) Submit an application for an extension of your residence permit 🌐 deutsch

## Divorce or death of the partner






Persons who have been displaced from Ukraine due to the war receive **Schutzstatus S** (🔗 This status enables refugees to receive protection and admission in Switzerland quickly and easily. It does not have to go through a proper asylum procedure.) in Switzerland.

Here you will find legal information on protection status S:

-  [Brevi informazioni per persone bisognose di protezione – statuto S](#)  PDF, 2184 kB
-  [Brief overview for persons in need of protection – Status S](#)  PDF, 2159 kB
-  [Informations succinctes pour les personnes à protéger – statut S](#)  PDF, 2175 kB
-  [Kurzinformationen für Schutzsuchende – Status S](#)  PDF, 2180 kB
-  [Лица,обращающиеся за защитой – статус S](#)  PDF, 2374 kB
-  [Стисла інформація Особи, що звертаються за захистом - статус S](#)  PDF, 2365 kB

## Information for people from Ukraine

-  [Information for refugees from Ukraine \(SEM State Secretariat for Migration\)](#)  deutsch / ukrainisch / russisch
  -  [Information for refugees from Ukraine \(Canton of St.Gallen\)](#)  deutsch / ukrainisch / russisch
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## Contact points

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

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