



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of
Foreign Affairs FDFA

A warm welcome to all Swiss citizens abroad

Even if you live abroad, you still have a connection with Switzerland that entails rights and obligations. Registering with the Swiss representation responsible for your country of residence gives you access to consular services.



[Swiss representations
abroad](#)

Under the Swiss Abroad Act, you are legally obliged to register with your Swiss representation and to inform it of any changes (civil status, address, nationality) to the data concerning you.



[Swiss Abroad Act](#)

Your representation's services

Once you have been entered in the Register of the Swiss Abroad, you will have access to the following services:

- communication and assistance in crises;
- issue of Swiss identity documents;
- entry in Swiss registers of civil-status events occurring abroad (marriage, birth, change of name, death, etc.). Registers that are not kept up to date may impede the issue of Swiss identity documents and access to Swiss nationality for children;
- facilitated payment of OASI pensions;
- access to voting on Swiss referendums/initiative and in elections.



[Online desk](#)

Various services are available via the online desk.

Find out about your stay abroad

We recommend that you familiarise yourself with the FDFA website's practical information on Swiss nationals living abroad.



Stay abroad

→ Living and working abroad

Stay in touch

We recommend that you install the *SwissInTouch* app on your smartphone, so that you can receive on a single platform important information from your representation, from headquarters of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs or from partners



www.swissintouch.ch

Ageing well abroad

Even if old age seems a long way off, it is important to ensure you are well-prepared for it. Living abroad may mean that governmental support, along with familial and social networks, may not be as readily available as they are in Switzerland.



Retiring abroad

Please read the brochure and the information on our website so that you do not find yourself in a difficult situation where you might require assistance or your independence is compromised.

Personal responsibility

One of the FDFA's main tasks is to support Swiss citizens living abroad. This assistance is not unlimited however, and there is no legal entitlement to it.

The Swiss Abroad Act and Ordinance place particular emphasis on the principle of personal responsibility: every individual shall exercise personal responsibility when planning or undertaking a stay abroad or when working abroad and try to overcome any difficulties on their own. This means that whatever assistance Swiss representations may provide is subsidiary and, in particular, that consular protection is not a right.

It is therefore your responsibility to take necessary steps to avoid finding yourself in difficult circumstances and, if necessary, to seek solutions on your own.

Swiss representations are available to assist you within the scope of the responsibilities assigned to them.



Swiss Abroad Act



HELPLINE EDA | DFAE

+41 800 24 7 365

+41 58 465 33 33

rund um die Uhr | 24h sur 24 | 24 ore su 24

Skype: helpline-eda

E-Mail | Courriel | e-mail:

helpline@eda.admin.ch

www.helpline-eda.ch

www.helpline-dfae.ch

www.helpline-fdfa.ch

Swiss partners and institutions

Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA)

The OSA offers you information and personalised advice online, and publishes the Swiss Review, the magazine for the Swiss Abroad. The OSA also offers holidays and training for youngsters.

Find out more and exchange information on Swisscommunity, the platform for the Swiss abroad.

Swissinfo

Swissinfo is the SRG's online information service in ten languages. It highlights the diversity of Switzerland's presence in the world and provides targeted information to all Swiss abroad, so that they can fully take part in the democracy of their home country.

Soliswiss

Advice on all matters relating to emigration, globetrotting, travel and return to Switzerland.

educationsuisse

educationsuisse provides you with all the information you need about education in Switzerland and Swiss schools abroad.



[Swiss Review](#)



[Swisscommunity](#)



[Swissinfo](#)



[Soliswiss](#)



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Swiss Armed Forces



Guichet en ligne DFAE
Online-Schalter EDA
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HOUSE OF
SWITZERLAND

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Easy answers about life in Switzerland



The Federal Assembly — The Swiss Parliament