

Information about visa, residence permit & health insurance

What visa do I need to study in Switzerland?

Students from any of the EU/EFTA countries do not need a visa to study in Switzerland. However, you will need to apply for a residence permit within 14 days of arrival. After your arrival you will go to the city council with the International Student Advisor to apply for an [L Permit](#) (max. one year stay in Switzerland). The processing and issuance of the residence permit costs about CHF 150.

Students from a non-EU/EFTA country have to apply for a student visa at the Swiss embassy or consulate in their home country. Depending on the length of stay, there are two types of visas for students:
C Visa for a shorter stay (summer schools, seminars, etc.)

D Visa for an extended stay (e.g. for an exchange semester lasting longer than three months)

Where should I apply for a Swiss visa?

When applying for a Swiss visa, you should book an appointment at your local Swiss embassy or consulate. Be careful to book the appointment around six months in advance, since this procedure can and will take time. The documents you submit will need to be in either French, German, or English. In case they aren't, you will need certified translated copies.

Do I need health insurance?

Health insurance is compulsory for students staying in Switzerland longer than three months. Check before your exchange semester if your current health insurance is valid in Switzerland and what it covers (e.g. European Health Insurance Card). If not, please contact the International Student Advisor