

International Students: What it needs to work in Switzerland during and after your studies

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Agenda

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Working in Switzerland *During* your Studies: EU/EFTA Nationals

If you are an EU/EFTA national and your residence permit has been issued for study purposes:

- You may work part-time **up to 15 hours per week** during the semester.
- You need to submit Form 1 (Canton Lucerne), a covering letter confirming that you are still studying and working part-time and your work contract to the migration office.
- You may work **full-time during the semester break**.
- If you would like to work **more than 15 hours per week** during the semester you need to submit Form 1 (Canton Lucerne), your work contract and a copy of your passport to the migration office.

→ Studying must remain the main purpose of the stay!

→ Working must not extend your studies!



Working in Switzerland During your Studies: Non-EU/EFTA Nationals (including Great Britain)

If you are a **Non**-EU/EFTA national and your residence permit has been issued for study purposes:

- **After six months in Switzerland at the earliest** you may work part-time **up to 15 hours per week** during the semester.
- The employer must submit: 1. Form 2* (Canton Lucerne), 2. your work contract which is limited to 15 hours per week and the end of your studies, 3. a confirmation of your university that the programme is compatible with 15 hours of work per week (and **full-time during the semester break**), 4. your confirmation of enrolment at the university.
- You may only start working as soon as you have received your **work permit**.

→ Studying must remain the main purpose of the stay!

→ Working must not extend your studies!

Compulsory *Internship* During your Studies: EU/EFTA Nationals



If you are an EU/EFTA national and your residence permit has been issued for study purposes:

The same rules apply as for working during your studies. (Slide 3)

Compulsory *Internship* During your Studies: Non-EU/EFTA Nationals (including Great Britain)

If you are a **Non**-EU/EFTA national and your residence permit has been issued for study purposes:

- The internship must be **compulsory** for your study programme.
- There is no need to wait for six months before you start your internship.
- It must not exceed half of the total period of the programme.
- The employer must submit Form 2* (Canton Lucerne), your work contract (limited to the duration of your internship), your confirmation of enrolment at the university and a confirmation of the university that the internship is an integral part of the programme.
- You may only start working as soon as you have received your **work permit**.

Working in Switzerland *After* your Studies: EU/EFTA Nationals

If you are an **EU/EFTA** national:

- You need a residence permit for work purposes; it doubles as work permit.
- Your residence permit for work purposes will only be issued if you have a written confirmation of employment (at least 12 hours per week guaranteed)

Working in Switzerland After your Studies: Non-EU/EFTA Nationals (including Great Britain)

- Your employer must apply for your work permit from the authorities at your place of work.
- As a rule, you must leave Switzerland after completing your studies and await any decision by the migration authorities abroad (exception: please see next slide).
- The admission of an employee from a Non-EU/EFTA country must be in the overall economic interest of Switzerland. In particular, the respective labour market situation as well as future, sustainable economic development must be taken into account. The consent of the cantonal migration office is not enough; the State Secretary for Migration (SEM) needs to consent.
- Your residence permit is subject to quota system. A permit can only be issued if a quota is available.
- You can only be employed if it can be proven that the vacant position cannot be filled with suitable domestic or EU/EFTA employees to fill the vacancy.
- You can only be authorised to work if you are a manager, specialist or another qualified worker. The professional qualifications must match the new activity to be carried out. When granting residence permits, professional qualifications, professional and social adaptability, language skills and age must also indicate sustainable integration into the labour market and the social environment.

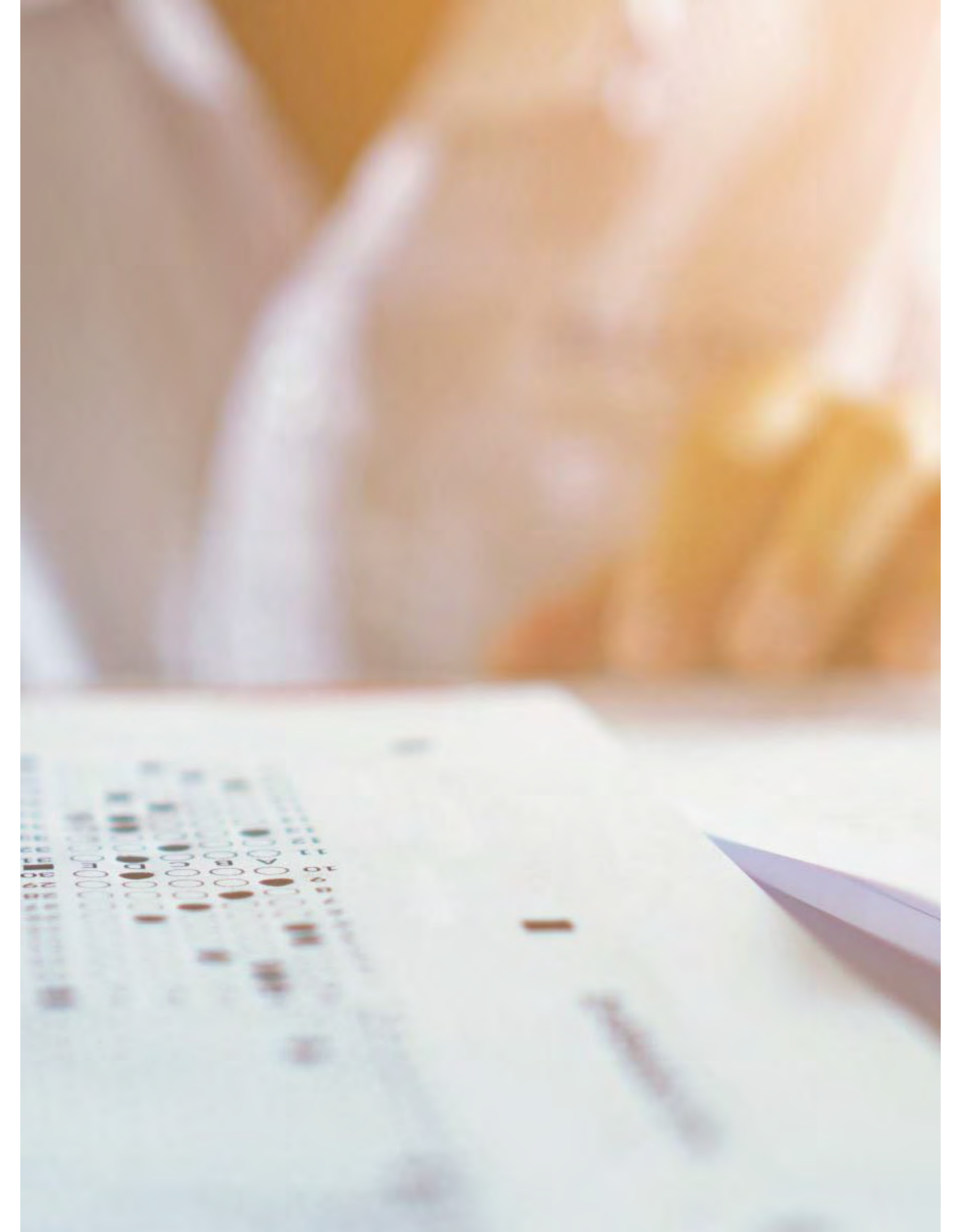


Working in Switzerland After your Studies: Non-EU/EFTA Nationals (including Great Britain)

Exceptions for **Non-EU/EFTA national**:

- “Employment following study in Switzerland: Foreign nationals can be admitted to work without having to provide evidence of their status under the precedence rule* if there is a significant academic or economic interest in their employment. This rule applies only to degrees from recognised Swiss higher education institutions (universities and universities of applied sciences).”
(https://www.sem.admin.ch/sem/en/home/themen/arbeit/nicht-eu_efta-angehoerige/grundlagen_zur_arbeitsmarktzulassung.html#-1698804101)
- “Foreign nationals with a Swiss university degree may be admitted in derogation from paragraph 1 if their work is of high academic or economic interest. They shall be admitted for a period of six months following completion of their education or training in Switzerland in order to find suitable work.” (<https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/2007/758/en>, Art.21)

* No evidence of priority for certain nationals



Working in Switzerland After your Studies: Non-EU/EFTA Nationals (including Great Britain)

Application „Residence Permit for Job Search“:

- Completed Form 2 (German, English)
- Current rental agreement
- Diploma with date of graduation (if it is not yet available, a letter from the university stating when the degree programme was successfully completed)
- Evidence of sufficient financial means for the next six months (ca. CHF 10'500)
- Copy of your passport



Working in Switzerland *After* your Studies: Non-EU/EFTA Nationals (including Great Britain)

- If you found a job that suits your skills and competences and your future employer is prepared to pay a salary customary to the sector, ask her/him to contact the migration office asap regarding the application for your work permit.
- Within six months of completion of your studies you need to have a valid work permit in order to be allowed to stay in Switzerland.
- If it takes longer than six months to get your work permit, you must leave Switzerland and await the decision of the migration authorities abroad.

FAQ: Working in Switzerland *During* and *After* your Studies

1. Can I work while studying in Switzerland as an EU/EFTA student?

- Yes. If your residence permit is for study purposes, you can work part-time (up to **15 hours per week** during the semester). You must submit Form 1 (Canton Lucerne) along with a cover letter confirming your studies and work contract to the migration office. Full-time work is allowed during semester breaks.

2. Can Non-EU/EFTA students work while studying?

- Yes, but only after at least six months of studies in Switzerland. You can work up to 15 hours per week during the semester. The employer must submit Form 2 (Canton Lucerne), a work contract limited to 15 hours per week, a confirmation form from your university that your studies allow part-time work, proof of enrolment.

3. What are the rules for compulsory internships?

- For EU/EFTA students, the same rules apply as for part-time work.
- For Non-EU/EFTA students, the internship must be compulsory for your study programme. You do not need to wait six months before starting, but the internship cannot exceed half of the total study duration. The employer must submit Form 2, a work contract, and university confirmations.

FAQ: Working in Switzerland *During* and *After* your Studies

4. Can I stay in Switzerland after my studies to look for a job?

- EU/EFTA students: You need a residence permit for work purposes. This is granted only if you have a confirmed job (minimum 12 hours per week).
- Non-EU/EFTA students: You can apply for a Residence Permit for Job Search (valid for 6 months) if your degree is from a recognized Swiss university.

5. What are the requirements to obtain a Swiss work permit after my studies?

- EU/EFTA students: Your employer must apply for a work permit.
- Non-EU/EFTA students must meet strict requirements:
 - The job must be of high economic or academic interest
 - The employer must prove that no suitable Swiss/EU/EFTA candidate is available.
 - The job must match your qualifications.
 - Approval from both the cantonal migration office and the Stat Secretariat for Migration (SEM) is required.

FAQ: Working in Switzerland *During* and *After* your Studies

6. What documents do I need for the “Residence Permit for Job Search”?

- Completed Form 2
- Rental agreement
- Graduation diploma or university confirmation
- Proof of financial means (approx. CHF 10'500.00 for six months)
- Copy of your passport

7. What happens if I don't get a job within six months?

If you don't secure a job and a valid work permit within six months, you must leave Switzerland and apply for a work permit from abroad.

Link list

- [Application \(employment\) Form 2 Canton Lucerne \(Non-EU/EFTA\)](#)
- [Application \(employment\) Form 1 Canton Lucerne \(EU/EFTA\)](#)
- [SEM: FAQ – Free Movement of Persons \(EU/EFTA\)](#)
- [SEM: Basis for admission to the Swiss employment market \(Non-EU/EFTA\)](#)
- [SEM: Federal Act on Foreign Nationals and Integration \(Non-EU/EFTA\)](#)

Thank you!

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