



Faculty of Law, Criminal Justice and Public Administration

LL.M. INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS LAW

ENTRY AND STAY IN SWITZERLAND

VISA APPLICATION

Depending on your country of origin, you may need to apply for a visa to study in Switzerland: [Overview of ID and visa provisions according to nationality.](#)

Go to the nearest Swiss embassy or consulate and present:

- A general outline of your study project with the length of your studies,
- A valid passport,
- An acceptance letter (*Attestation d'admission à l'immatriculation*) from the University of Lausanne,
- An official guarantee of your ability to finance your studies in Switzerland.

RESIDENCE PERMIT

The first step to obtain a residence permit is the mandatory registration at your local Residents' registration office (*Contrôle des habitants*) within 8 days of your arrival in Switzerland. To save time, we suggest [pre-registering via the online form.](#)

More details:

<https://www.unil.ch/bienvenue/en/home/menuinst/etudiants-internationaux/permis-de-sejour.html>

POST-GRADUATION STAY IN SWITZERLAND

Job-seeking in Switzerland

EU/EFTA Nationals

The Bilateral Agreement on the free movement of persons (FMP) confers upon the citizens of Switzerland and of the EU Member States the right to freely choose their place of employment and/or residence within the national territories of the contracting States Parties. For employment lasting longer than three months, EU/EFTA citizens require a residence permit. Register with the communal authorities in the place you reside before taking up work.

Third-country nationals (non-EU/EFTA)

Once graduated, foreign nationals can obtain a residency permit for six months in order to look for a job in Switzerland that is consistent with their qualification.

Conditions:

- Providing a certifying letter from the University confirming the end of study
- Having the necessary financial means
- Having suitable housing

During the six months, the person is allowed to work a maximum of 15 hours per week.

Detailed conditions are set out at Article 21 "Precedence" of the Federal Act on Foreign Nationals (FNA).

PhD Studies

The University of Lausanne provides a stimulating environment and thoughtful supervision to candidates suitable to undertake PhD studies. A significant number of projects have been completed in recent years and were published by major domestic and international publishers.

Students wishing to undertake PhD studies must:

- Contact their desired supervisor,
- Obtain confirmations from the University (Service des immatriculations) and the Law School (Dean's Office) that they are admissible for PhD Studies at the University of Lausanne,
- Prepare a CV, a motivation letter clearly stating career objectives, planned period and place of research and funding available, and a transcript of grades obtained in their Master Studies.

A limited number of paid PhD / Research Assistant positions are available. These positions are advertised when open but one should still inquire with one's desired supervisor in view of up-coming opportunities.

Third party funding may be available from various sources such as:

- SNSF - Doc.CH in the humanities and social sciences (HSS)
- Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships for Foreign Scholars and Artists

Permanent residence permit

Periods of stay in Switzerland for education or training can count in order to be granted a permanent residence permit but under specific conditions only.

These conditions are set out at Article 34 "Permanent residence permit" of the Federal Act on Foreign Nationals (FNA).

Please contact the Population office (SPOP) should you have any questions regarding your personal situation.

Admission to the bar in Switzerland

In Switzerland, eligibility for bar admission varies according to cantonal rules; students are, therefore, responsible for determining whether they meet the requirements for bar admission.