



Student visa

in 15 steps

Steps:

1. Who needs a student visa?	2
2. Who does not need a student visa?	2
3. When should supporting documents be submitted to the Regional Consular Center in Stockholm?	2
4. Which supporting documents must be submitted?	2
5. How to submit the supporting documents?	3
6. How much does it cost? When and how to pay?.....	3
7. After receiving the supporting documents, visa and postal fees (if applicable), what does the Regional Consular Center do?	4
8. When will the competent cantonal migration authority take a decision?	4
9. How will the applicant be informed that the application has been accepted?	4
10. What must the applicant do after receiving the authorisation?.....	4
11. After receiving the passport and the photocopy of the authorisation, how long will the Regional Consular Center need to issue the visa?	4
12. The applicant received his/her passport with the entry visa. What shall he/she do next?	4
13. Is a non-EU/EFTA student allowed to enter Switzerland without a student visa?.....	5
14. Do EU/EFTA citizens as well as citizens of Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Great-Britain, Japan, Malaysia, Monaco, New Zealand, San Marino, Singapore and Vatican City need a visa to enter Switzerland?	5
15. Legal notice regarding leaving Switzerland after completion of studies (not applicable if the goal of the studies is to achieve a Swiss tertiary degree)	5

1. Who needs a student visa?

Non-EU/EFTA nationals living in a Nordic (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway or Sweden) or a Baltic (Estonia, Latvia or Lithuania) country who do not hold a recognized and valid residence permit or a valid national visa D issued by another Schengen State at the time of the planned entry into Switzerland.

The intended stay in Switzerland must exceed 90 days.

2. Who does not need a student visa?

If, at the time of the planned entry into Switzerland, a non EU/EFTA national still has [a recognized and valid residence permit](#) or a valid national visa D issued by another Schengen State, he or she no longer needs an additional visa D issued by the Regional Consular Center in Stockholm. The person can go directly to Switzerland without authorisation. [The recognized passport](#) must be valid at least 3 months at the planned date of entry.

The granting of a residence permit is primarily the responsibility of the cantonal migration authorities. The foreigner must therefore submit an application for a residence permit to the cantonal migration authority of his future place of residence in Switzerland. The cantonal authority has the right to ask the foreigner to wait abroad for a reply to his application. If the conditions for admission are clearly fulfilled, the cantonal authority may also allow the applicant to wait in Switzerland for a reply.

Some foreign nationals do not need a visa, see step 14.

3. When should supporting documents be submitted to the Regional Consular Center in Stockholm?

Supporting documents should be submitted between 3 to 6 months before the scheduled entry into Switzerland. If submitted less than 3 months, it is possible that the visa cannot be issued before the beginning of the studies.

4. Which supporting documents must be submitted?

- 3 [National \(type D\) visa application forms](#)**, duly filled in and signed by the student;
- For minors only:**
Both parents need to sign the application forms and add photocopies of their passports.
Additional documents to submit: birth certificate of the child;
- 2 photocopies of the passport** (pages with photo, personal data and signature only)
The passport has to be issued within the last 10 years, with at least three months validity after the scheduled arrival and with at least 2 blank pages;
- 3 identical recent passport photos** (please consult the requirements [here](#));
- 2 photocopies of the residence permit** issued by a Nordic or a Baltic country which will be expired at the planned date of entry;
- Letter of admission to the university/school in Switzerland** ([original and 1 photocopy](#));
- 2 photocopies of diplomas, university degrees** with translation in English, German, French or Italian;
- Motivation letter** ([original and 1 photocopy](#)) stating the objectives of the study, signed and dated by the student;

- Proof of payment of the Swiss university/school fees** or proof of exemption from the Swiss university/school fees (original and 1 photocopy);
- Proof of financial means** (bank statements covering the last 3 months, bank certificates, etc. – original and 1 photocopy). For questions about minimum amount available, contact the [competent cantonal migration Office](#).
If study sponsored by a third person: a signed and dated sponsorship letter will have to be submitted along with a copy of the sponsor's passport (pages with photo, personal data and signature only) and his/her bank statements covering the last 3 months;;
- 2 curriculum vitae** in English, German, French or Italian;
- 2 photocopies of proof of language skills** such as TOEFL or IELTS certificates if available. German, French or Italian language skills certificates if available.

The Regional Consular Centre does not make copies of documents on behalf of the applicant. Incomplete visa application will not be accepted and returned to the applicant. If necessary, the applicant may be requested to submit additional documentation.

5. How to submit the supporting documents?

Supporting documents can be submitted by post or a courier service (DHL, Fedex, etc.) of your choice.

By post, use the following address:

Embassy of Switzerland, Regional Consular Center, Box 26143, 100 41 Stockholm

By courier service (do not select service point delivery), use the following address:

Embassy of Switzerland, Regional Consular Center, Valhallavägen 64, 114 27 Stockholm

The applicant or a third person can also submit the supporting documents directly to the Regional Consular Center, Valhallavägen 64, in Stockholm during the opening hours from Monday to Friday, between 09:00 and 12:00 ([except public holidays](#)). No appointment is required.

Supporting documents **cannot** be sent by email.

6. How much does it cost? When and how to pay?

[Visa and postal fees](#) for visa applicant of Post-Doc in Switzerland are published on our website.

Exemption of visa and postal fees:

- Student of Bachelor, Master and PhD in Switzerland;
- Student married to an EU/EFTA citizen if marriage certificate is provided together with the supporting documents abovementioned (see step 3).

Right after sending the documents, payment must be made (if no exemption applicable) into the following account:

International payment:
Embassy of Switzerland in Stockholm
Bank: Nordea, 105 71 Stockholm
IBAN: SE48 9500 0099 6042 0457 1527
BIC: NDEASESS

Payment within Sweden:
Embassy of Switzerland in Stockholm
Plusgiro 45 71 52-7

The **amount must be transferred in Swedish Crowns (SEK)**. The option **“all fees paid by the sender”** must be chosen in order to avoid any additional fees for the Regional Consular Center.

Add the following reference on bank transfer: “131.12 + student's family and first name”.

Payment by credit card at the counter of the Regional Consular Center if supporting documents are submitted directly by the applicant or a third person. See step 4 for opening hours.

7. After receiving the supporting documents, visa and postal fees (if applicable), what does the Regional Consular Center do?

Within a week, the visa application form will be registered in the visa electronic system and an application number, called Orbis number (CHE-A-XXXXXXX) will be sent by email to the applicant. At the same time, supporting documents will be sent in paper form by diplomatic courier to the [competent cantonal migration authority](#) as the Regional Consular Center is not competent to take a decision.

8. When will the competent cantonal migration authority take a decision?

The [competent cantonal migration authority](#) will take a decision between 8 to 12 weeks after registration of the visa application form in the visa electronic system.

9. How will the applicant be informed that the application has been accepted?

The [competent cantonal migration authority](#) will send to the applicant an authorisation called:
in German: Ermächtigung zur Visumerteilung (Einreiseerlaubnis)
in French: Autorisation habilitant les représentations Suisses à délivrer un visa (AE)
in Italian: Autorizzazione per il rilascio del visto d'entrata, alle rappresentanze svizzere

10. What must the applicant do after receiving the authorisation?

The applicant must send/bring his/her passport together with a photocopy of the authorisation to the Regional Consular Center. See step 4 for all options.

11. After receiving the passport and the photocopy of the authorisation, how long will the Regional Consular Center need to issue the visa?

It will take between 2 and 4 days before the passport with the affix visa will be sent back to the applicant by post (registered mail). An email sent by Postnord will inform the applicant as soon as the passport is on its way. It will take approximately 2 to 4 days for Postnord to deliver the passport back to the student. The Regional Consular Center is not responsible for any delays in the delivery of mail.

If the applicant or a third person bring the passport together with a photocopy of the authorisation to the Regional Consular Center in Stockholm the visa will usually be issued on the same day at latest 16:00. This service is not guaranteed and is subject to change. See step 5 for opening hours.

12. The applicant received his/her passport with the entry visa. What shall he/she do next?

The entry visa allows the bearer to travel through the Schengen states and enter Switzerland during the visa validity. **Within the first 14 days following the initial entry to Switzerland**, the applicant will have to declare his/her arrival at the cantonal Migration Office or Town Hall at the place of residence called as follow in national languages:

German speaking region: Migrationsamt/Einwohnerkontrolle;
French speaking region: Service de la population/Contrôle des habitants ;
Italian speaking region: Ufficio degli stranieri/Controllo degli abitanti).

The permit to stay and study in Switzerland will be issued by the cantonal Migration Office upon notification of your arrival.

13. Is a non-EU/EFTA student allowed to enter Switzerland without a student visa?

A non-EU/EFTA national will not be allowed to enter Switzerland without the visa he/she applied for.

14. Do [EU/EFTA citizens](#) as well as citizens of Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Great-Britain, Japan, Malaysia, Monaco, New Zealand, San Marino, Singapore and Vatican City need a visa to enter Switzerland?

These citizens do not need a visa to enter Switzerland. The cantons are responsible for issuing permits. For detailed information on the application procedure (where to apply in Switzerland, which form to fill out, how long it will take, etc.), contact directly the [competent cantonal authorities](#).

15. Legal notice regarding leaving Switzerland after completion of studies (not applicable if the goal of the studies is to achieve a Swiss tertiary degree)

The purpose of stay is to study and therefore temporary. After the successful completion of the studies, there is the possibility to search for a job of high scientific or economic interest in Switzerland only for a period of six months. After completing the studies or training, there is no entitlement to a permanent extension of the stay. A permanent residence is only possible if the legal requirements are met. For this purpose, a new application for a residence permit has to be submitted to the competent Migration Office. The Office decides on the application based on the Federal Act on Foreign Nationals and Integration (FNIA). The authority can order that the approval procedure be awaited abroad.

This document is published on our website where you can access the hyperlinks:
www.eda.admin.ch/stockholm -> Visa and entry to Switzerland -> Visa – entry to and residence in Switzerland -> National visa for a stay of more than 90 days -> Which documents I should submit with a national visa application -> Documentation to submit with a national visa application

Stockholm, August 2024