



OFFERS FOR YOUNG SWISS ABROAD

- Ski, Sport and Leisure camps in Switzerland
- Language Courses (online and in Switzerland)
- Advice and Support for studying & training in Switzerland
- Congress of Young Swiss Abroad



HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- Be a camp leader in a youth camp (incl. remuneration, bed & board)
- Join the Parliament of the Young Swiss Abroad
- Become a paid English Language assistant in a Swiss School
- Do Military Service in Switzerland
- Study or train in Switzerland



Roland Isler



Carmen Trochsler



Beat Knoblauch



Katja Wallimann Gates



For questions reach out to the CSA Delegates, the local representatives of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad!

info@csa-oceania.org | www.csa-oceania.org
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In Switzerland for education or training

Information on education in Switzerland specifically for young Swiss Abroad

A good education provides an excellent foundation for a person's professional future. Switzerland is known worldwide for its excellent education system. But the past year, characterised by the Covid-19 pandemic, posed a great challenge to Swiss educational and training institutions and their students and trainees. Universities and universities of applied sciences had to switch to online teaching at very short notice. Apprentices in dual vocational training had to adapt to new rules in their training companies and could sometimes only attend vocational schools virtually. Much social exchange was lost, but the most important thing remained: teaching and training continued without interruption at all levels. Wherever possible, a return to face-to-face teaching is taking place.

Young Swiss people abroad also have the opportunity to come to Switzerland for vocational training or university studies.

Educatiosuisse offers information, advice and support free of charge:



- **Information** relating to different educational options such as university studies or vocational training
- **Information relating to specific questions** regarding admission requirements, required language skills, deadlines, accommodation, insurances, etc.
- **Individual counselling** on the topic of education in Switzerland
- **Vocational and study counselling** in cooperation with a professional career counselling provider (fee-based)
- **Assistance** in applying for cantonal scholarships and administrative support
- **Student grants** from educationsuisse and private foundations

The educationsuisse staff speak German, French, Italian, Spanish and English. They will be glad to help and answer questions about education in Switzerland via email, telephone, Skype or on-site in Bern.

Information and contact

The Swiss education system is illustrated and outlined in an easy-to-follow diagram on www.educationsuisse.ch. The website also contains a lot more information on education in Switzerland. For specific questions, contact info@educationsuisse.ch or phone +41 31 356 61 04.

Educatiosuisse
Alpenstrasse 26, 3006 Bern
Switzerland
www.educationsuisse.ch

The ETH professor Thomas Ihn and assistant Philip Verwegen give their lecture in an empty lecture theatre. Such images have characterised everyday life at Swiss universities in recent months.
Photo: Keystone

Switzerland is home to some of the world's top universities, but did you know that some of them also have quite a history to look back on?

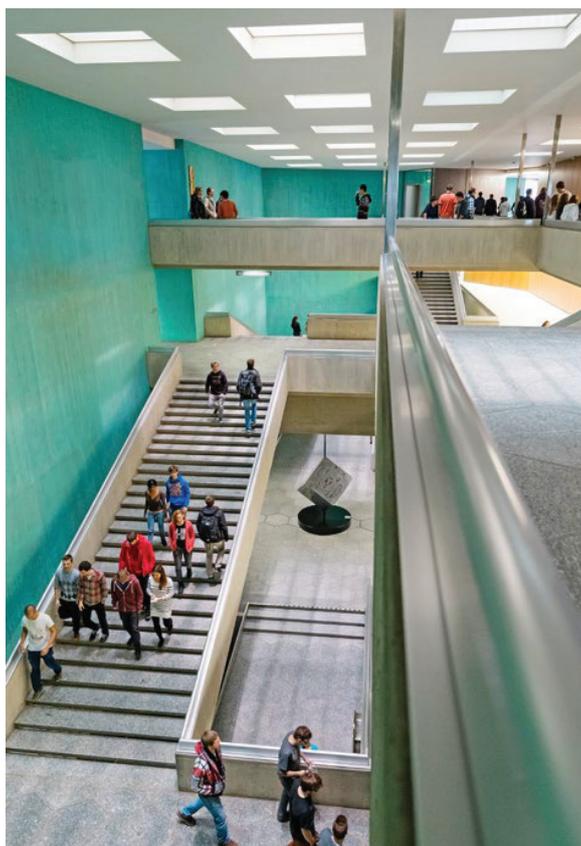
- **University of Basel.** Founded in 1460, it is one of the oldest in the world.
- **University of Lausanne.** Founded in 1537, it was a school of theology until 1890.
- **University of Geneva.** Founded in 1559 by reformer John Calvin as a seminary.
- **University of Zürich.** Founded in 1834 from four existing colleges and a new faculty.
- **University of Bern.** Founded in 1834 when it was transformed from an academy into a university.

Studying at Switzerland's universities

educationsuisse provides advice to young Swiss Abroad who want to come to Switzerland to pursue their education.

In Switzerland, over 255,000 students are currently enrolled in Bachelor's, Master's or doctorate courses. The proportion of women studying at Swiss universities has risen to around 52 per cent in recent years.

With the exception of one private University of Applied Sciences, all of Switzerland's universities are public institutions. The ETH Zurich, the EPF Lausanne and a number of other Swiss universities are well placed in the international rankings (ogy.de/rankings). These rankings are based on various criteria and are mostly geared to a specific target audience (students, researchers, sponsors, prospective students). No rankings can reflect or ultimately compare all the aspects that contribute to a good university. Factors such as geographical location and the local culture also need to be taken into account.



Semester time at the ETH Zurich Hönggerberg campus

Photo: ETHZ / Alessandro della Bella

ments apply to students who wish to study medicine. Prospective students must normally register with any one of these institutions by the end of April.

Nine Universities of Applied Sciences

Around 80,000 students are currently enrolled across Switzerland's nine Universities of Applied Sciences, where over 60 educational departments offer practical study primarily in the areas of health, social sciences, business management, innovative technologies, music, and art. To gain admission, students need to have completed an apprenticeship-based vocational baccalaureate or a high-school diploma followed by a subsequent year of work experience.

Universities of Teacher Education

There is a University of Teacher Education in nearly every canton. Around 21,000 students are currently training to become teachers at the various school levels (nursery school, primary school, lower-secondary level, upper-secondary level) or in special needs education (e.g. speech therapy). Admission requirements vary depending on the specific course of study. (RG)

The educationsuisse staff recommend starting your research well in advance. Please do not hesitate to contact them for information or advice.

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Find out as much as you can

Gaining a footing in today's constantly evolving job market is a daunting prospect for many young people. Before making any career decisions, it therefore makes sense to consider your own interests and aptitudes. Online tests such as the "Study interests" survey are helpful tools in this regard (ogy.de/studien-check; available in French, German and Italian). Your own circle of friends and acquaintances can also provide you with insights into the world of work. Former students are another useful source of information. For example, Switzerland's official vocational and academic counselling website www.orientation.ch now also includes profiles of former students who describe the transition to professional life as well as possible career options after university (ogy.de/portraits). (RG)

Universities and the ETH and EPF

Some 157,000 students are currently enrolled across Switzerland's ten universities and two federal institutes of technology ETH and EPF. The universities offer courses in law, economics, mathematics, natural sciences, humanities, and social sciences, while the ETH and EPF focus on engineering, mathematics, and natural sciences. To gain admission, students need to have obtained their Swiss high-school diploma (Matura) or a foreign equivalent. Special require-

Gaining work experience in Switzerland

educationsuisse gives advice on all matters related to education in Switzerland as well as tips on gaining initial work experience in Switzerland.

Would you like to work as a language assistant at a Swiss upper secondary school or a vocational school for a year?

Young students or recent graduates from countries whose official national language is English, German, French, Spanish or Italian can gain teaching experience in Switzerland. As native speakers, they enrich language lessons and exemplify cultural aspects of their country of residence. Language assistants receive a salary which just covers their living costs in Switzerland. Applications for the 2021/22 school year are being accepted until the end of March 2021.

For detailed information about the Language Assistants programme, please consult ogy.de/movetia or send an email to edith.funicello@movetia.ch.

Would you like to work as an au pair in Switzerland?

Working as an au pair for a family with children can be a good opportunity for young Swiss Abroad to get to know their country of origin better. The salary is nothing to write home about, but they receive free board and lodging and enough spare time to attend a language course, for example.

Various organisations arrange au pair placements. Please contact [educationsuisse](http://educationsuisse.ch) for a list of addresses.

Would you like to help out on a farm in Switzerland for several weeks?

Agriviva, www.agriviva.ch, is an association that organises placements lasting several weeks for young people aged up to 25 and from around the world. In return for free board and lodging and a small amount of pocket money, you will help a farming family with their daily work. These placements are ideal for young people who like to be active, love the outdoors, and are keen to get to know a new family and experience life on a Swiss farm. (RG)

educationsuisse offers young Swiss Abroad specific advice on all matters related to education in Switzerland. Its employees speak German, French, Italian, Spanish and English and are available to answer your questions via email, telephone, Skype or in the office in Berne.

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Language assistant Leslie Schmid, Swiss Abroad from Canada, at work. Photo provided.

Services available from [educationsuisse](http://educationsuisse.ch):

- Information relating to different educational options – university studies or vocational training
- Information relating to specific questions – admission requirements, required language skills, deadlines, accommodation, insurances, etc
- Individual counselling – also in cooperation with a professional career counselling provider
- Assistance in applying for cantonal scholarships and administrative support (only for Swiss nationals)
- Students grants from [educationsuisse](http://educationsuisse.ch) and private foundations

New digital offers for young Swiss Abroad

The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) is developing its digital presence and now has an online offer for young Swiss Abroad entitled “Switzerland”.

March saw the successful launch of the OSA's first-ever digital offer. Ten participants from around the globe went online. Their objective? To acquaint themselves with one of Switzerland's national languages or improve their existing language skills, making use of a high-quality teaching package in the process. It was an encouraging experience, which is why the offer will be repeated in July and August 2021. Further information as well as application forms are available on our website.

Young Swiss Abroad are also due to hold a congress of their own for the first time ever. It will take place online on 15 and 16 July 2021 in conjunction with the Youth Parliament of the Swiss Abroad (YPSA). Topics of interest such as direct democracy and education in Switzerland will feature on what will be a varied agenda. The virtual meeting will also include lighter cultural elements. The complete schedule and application form are also available on our website.

These new online offers are a way for the OSA to stay in touch with and offer a “piece of Switzerland” to young Swiss Abroad around the world, wherever they live.

Our website:

www.swisscommunity.org/en > Youth offers

“Be open to new experiences and ideas”

Swiss Abroad Angela Meraviglia on the opportunities and challenges of studying in Switzerland.

INTERVIEW: RUTH VON GUNTEN, EDUCATIONSUISSE

Angela Meraviglia you are Swiss and grew up in Australia. Why did you decide to study in Switzerland?

In Australia, I completed my training as a florist but I always knew I wanted to study. I just never found the right subject. During a holiday stay in Switzerland, I discovered the study programme in Design Management at the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts. Initially, it was just an exciting idea that I had and not a firm plan. However, I applied. Thanks to my application dossier including my work, my high school diploma and my professional experience, I was accepted. Only when I received the official confirmation did I realise that my life would change completely within a few months.

Tell us more specifically about your Design Management degree programme at the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts.

The degree programme is entirely in English. I am now in my third and final Bachelor's year. I particularly love the breadth of the field of study. It is not just about creating physical things or designing them, but it is always about the whole mind-set. That helps to understand complex problems, to communicate with people and to create solutions that are better for people and our environment.

What language do you speak when you are not in class? And how have you settled in in Switzerland?

I speak a mixture of English and Swiss German with my university friends and Swiss German, which I learned at home, with my relatives. Now I also want to attend a German course at university. Building up a good group of friends in Switzerland was



Angela Meraviglia grew up in Australia, but is now studying in Switzerland.
Photo donated

more difficult than I thought. However, a small job in the hospitality industry helped me to get to know the local way of life and to make new friends.

Was the “small job” alongside your studies enough to cover the high Swiss cost of living?

I have always worked alongside my studies, in hospitality and now at a design agency in Zurich. However, the intensive studies do not allow me to work enough to be financially independent. I have been fortunate to receive a scholarship from my home canton of Zurich, which makes my life a lot easier. I also benefit from a reduced health insurance premium. Switzerland is expensive, but it also has quite a fair social support system.

How is the Corona pandemic affecting your studies?

I studied online for most of last year and it will probably stay that way for my last semester. Studying online works relatively well, but it has significantly changed my university experience. There are both ad-

vantages and disadvantages. For example, I can follow lectures from up in the mountains and save travel time. However, a lot of social interaction gets lost. Furthermore, a full day of lectures in front of a laptop feels twice as long as one in a classroom. Physical teaching and learning cannot be translated one-to-one into online learning. I believe it is even more important to actively engage students in the online format so that concentration remains constant.

What are your plans for the future?

At this stage I am not planning too far into the future, because the world is so uncertain at the moment. In the next few months I will focus on my Bachelor thesis and afterwards look for a job in the design field here in Switzerland.

What tips would you give to young Swiss people abroad who want to study in Switzerland?

I encourage them all to inform themselves about financial support. And to live in a shared apartment, as this is not only a more

affordable way of living but also a great way to get more in touch with Swiss culture. If your studies allow it, you should also look for a part-time job. I also advise spending as much free time as possible exploring this incredibly diverse country. Stay curious, be humble, be open to new experiences and ideas, actively pursue your goal and give yourself time to integrate and ask for support when you need it.

Educatiosuisse offers young Swiss Abroad specific counselling around the theme of “education in Switzerland”.

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“The job as a language assistant is perfect for me”

Isabelle Bucher, a Swiss living abroad, uses her English skills as a language assistant at a Swiss upper secondary school. Her class benefits from the young teacher from Australia – and she herself is getting to know Switzerland better.

INTERVIEW: RUTH VON GUNTEN, EDUCATIONSUISSE

In Swiss upper secondary schools and vocational schools, native speakers enrich language lessons. They not only teach language skills, but also cultural aspects of their country of origin.

These language assistants, usually young students from abroad, come to work through the Movetia agency in cooperation with educationsuisse. Isabelle Bucher is one of them: The Swiss Abroad from Australia is currently working as a language assistant at the Kantonsschule am Burggraben in St. Gallen.

Isabelle Bucher, you grew up in Australia. What were your motives for gaining work experience in Switzerland?

I was looking for a new, challenging job in Switzerland, also to get to know the education system better. The job as a language assistant, which I found through Movetia, is perfect for me. It allows me to gain experience in teaching English outside of Australia. At the same time, I have enough time to finish my bachelor's degree. I also like living in Switzerland.

So you are still studying?

Yes, I am completing my Bachelor of Social Science and Behavioural Studies online, which includes a lot of social pedagogy and psychology, at the University of Melbourne.

Were you able to settle in quickly at the Kantonsschule am Burggraben?

It was easy to settle in. The teachers are very welcoming and helpful. The students were at the beginning surprised to have a teacher all the way from Australia. We have good opportunities to

learn from one another's culture and language.

How do you cope with everyday life in Switzerland?

Switzerland is not entirely new to me, as I was already here as an au pair a few years ago. But certainly, at the beginning it is difficult to get along in a new country. Since I knew only a few people and like to do sports, I looked for sports clubs nearby to build up a network. That helped me! Now I play football and also rugby and touch football – both very popular in Australia and therefore a little piece of “home”.

Are there any differences between Australia and Switzerland that strike you particularly?

I like the completely different lifestyle in Switzerland. For example, there is less pressure to get through the day quickly. There is the lunch break during which you can eat and chat with colleagues. Some people even go home to have lunch with their family! That would be unthinkable in Australia. There, we often eat while working at the computer and find therefore little time for rest. That's why I appreciate things like that in Switzerland. And Switzerland has a great landscape! However, it is very cold here and I miss the Australian weather and the beach, but I also find it nice to be in the mountains. It would be wonderful to have a white Christmas. We celebrate Christmas in summer with a barbecue and 35 degrees.

What are your plans for the future?

I would like to continue working in Switzerland in the field of education. I



have been glad to work as an English assistant and I feel confident in finding the next professional step for me in Switzerland.

What tips would you give young Swiss Abroad who would like to work in Switzerland?

I recommend this programme from Movetia to young people looking to gain professional experience but also for general life experience and immersing themselves in another culture and language. I found Movetia, educationsuisse and the school to be very supportive.

Educationsuisse offers counselling to all young Swiss Abroad on all matters related to education in Switzerland.



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Isabelle Bucher:
“It was easy to settle in.”
Photo donated

Popular online language courses for young people to be repeated

Last year was the first time the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) offered online language courses to young Swiss Abroad aged 15 to 25. The courses were so popular that the OSA intends to offer them again this year.

Intensive two-week courses in German or French are available to young people aged between 15 and 25. Online teaching will give them the opportunity to learn a language or improve their language skills in an effective but creative way together with other young Swiss from all corners of the world, in a fun and social atmosphere.

The language courses will take place from 14 to 25 March 2022 and from 11 to 22 July 2022 and will be run by qualified teachers. With “Switzerland” as the dedicated theme, participants will be able to acquaint themselves with one of the official Swiss languages from the comfort of their own home, thus nurturing an attachment to their home country even if they live far away.

For further details on all OSA Youth Service offers as well as the relevant application forms, visit our website at www.swisscommunity.org > Youth offers.

MARIE BLOCH



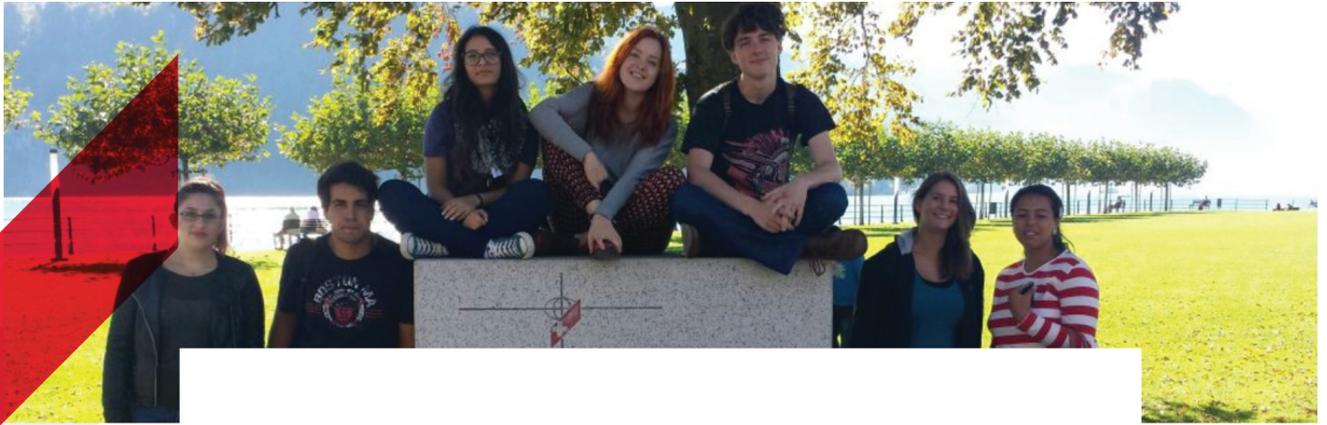
The 2nd Congress of Young Swiss Abroad will be devoted to green issues

The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad is organising the 2nd Congress of Young Swiss Abroad this summer in collaboration with the Youth Parliament of Swiss Abroad (YPSA).

The very first Congress of Young Swiss Abroad was held in July 2021 – and it was a success. Never before has there been a dedicated event of this type providing young Swiss Abroad with a broad-based opportunity for interaction. The congress, which took place online, was organised in collaboration with the Youth Parliament of Swiss Abroad (YPSA), which acts as the voice of all young Swiss living abroad. Topics of interest such as Swiss politics, education, jobs and culture featured on a varied agenda. Thanks to the virtual format, around 50 young people from 23 different countries ranging from France to Sri Lanka, Chile and Australia were able to contribute.

As this online get-together was such an encouraging experience, a second congress is now being planned for 13 July 2022. “Green Switzerland” will be its key theme and focus. From 16 May 2022, you can enrol for the event on our website at www.swisscommunity.org > Youth Offers. Further information as well as a detailed schedule will shortly also be available on the website.

(MB)



Youth Parliament of the Swiss Abroad YPSA

The Youth Parliament of the Swiss Abroad (YPSA) is not a parliament in the conventional sense but a platform for committed and active young people who represent the interests of the youth in their clubs or countries of residence, and who develop projects and realise them.

The YPSA was founded at the Congress of the Swiss Abroad in Geneva in August 2015 and takes the legal form of a Swiss association.

Its main objective is to network young Swiss Abroad and to strengthen their commitment to Swiss associations abroad.

The YPSA is very closely linked to the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, SwissCommunity. However, it acts completely independently.

Contacts and more information on the YPSA:

- Website: www.ypsa.ch 
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/YouthParliamentSwissAbroad 
- Email: youthparliamentswissabroad@gmail.com

