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Swiss Permits – An Overview






Living and working in Switzerland for EU/EFTA and non-EU/EFTA citizens











This publication contains general information with regard to various topics that may be of interest for Swiss and foreign high-net-worth-individuals and/or family owned businesses. For individual, case related information and enquiries, please contact one of our tax and legal specialists from the Swiss FOB & PW team.

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Residence period	EU/EFTA	Non-EU/EFTA
0 – 3 months	No permit required 	Visa required for most nationalities
3 months – 5 years	Residence permit „B EU/EFTA“ 	Residence permit „B“ 
Unlimited period	Settlement permit „C EU/EFTA“ 	Settlement permit „C“ 

Work period	EU/EFTA	Non-EU/EFTA
0 - 8 days	No permit required	Visa required for most nationalities
Up to 90 days	Online registration procedure → Registration at least 8 days before starting to work in Switzerland	Online registration procedure → If work and residence permit in an EU/EFTA country for at least 12 months
Up to 4 months	Short term permit “L EU/EFTA” → for short-term assignments 	Short term permit “L EU/EFTA” → for short-term assignments 
4 - 12 months	Short term permit “L EU/EFTA” → Subject to local quota for assigned EU/EFTA nationals 	Short term permit “L” → Subject to local quota 
1 - 5 years	Residence permit “B EU/EFTA” → Subject to local quota for assigned EU/EFTA nationals → Valid for up to 5 years; renewable 	Residence permit “B EU/EFTA” → Subject to local quota → Valid for up to 12 months; renewable 
	Cross-border permit „G EU/EFTA“ → Swiss employment contract and residence within the EU/EFTA countries → Weekly return required 	Cross-border permit “G” → Residence in the cross-border region of Switzerland for at least 6 months with a residence permit → Weekly return required 
Unlimited period	Settlement permit “C EU/EFTA” 	Settlement permit “C” 

Residence permit

- B Permit
- Validity: up to 5 years (renewable)
- Foreign nationals with a gainful employment
 - ✓ Employment contract of at least 12 months or unlimited duration
 - ✓ Geographical mobility
- Foreign nationals without gainful employment (students, pensioners, joining family members)
 - ✓ Sufficient financial means
 - ✓ Health and accident insurance in Switzerland
 - ✓ Suitable accommodation
- Registration with the migration office of the canton in which he/she wishes to stay
- Documentation
 - ✓ Valid passport or identity card



Settlement permit

- C Permit
- Granted after an uninterrupted stay in Switzerland of 5 years, respectively 10 years, depending on nationality, if all criteria are fulfilled
- Valid for an unlimited period of time
- Proof of language skills (depending on nationality and canton of residence)



Residence permit

- B Permit subject to quota
- Validity: up to 1 year (renewable)
- Foreign nationals with a gainful employment
 - ✓ Change of employer or canton subject to authorisation
 - ✓ Entry visa required for most nationalities
- Foreign nationals without gainful employment (students, pensioners, joining family members)
 - ✓ Sufficient financial means
 - ✓ Health and accident insurance in Switzerland
 - ✓ Suitable accommodation
 - ✓ Proof of close personal or cultural links to Switzerland
 - ✓ Entry visa required for most nationalities
- Registration with the migration office of the canton in which he/she wishes to stay
- Documentation
 - ✓ Valid passport or identity card



Settlement permit

- C Permit
- Granted after an uninterrupted stay in Switzerland of 5 years, respectively 10 years, depending on nationality, if all criteria are fulfilled
- Valid for an unlimited period of time
- Proof of language skills (depending on nationality and canton of residence)



Family reunification for EU/EFTA citizens

- EU/EFTA nationals holding a valid Swiss residence permit or short term permit may be joined by their family members (irrespective of their nationality)
- Family: spouse, own children or spouse's children (younger than 21 years) and own parents or spouse's parents
- Requirements: suitable accommodation and sufficient financial means (only if individual is self-employed or unemployed)
- Right of family members to stay in Switzerland is contingent upon the original right of an EU/EFTA citizen to stay in Switzerland, i.e. B permit issued to family members have the same duration of validity as the B permit issued to the original applicant
- Spouse and children coming to Switzerland based on family reunification have the right to work anywhere in Switzerland
- In case of divorce: family members in principle lose their right to remain in Switzerland; right to stay if requirements to apply for a B permit are met

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