



Checklist Overview of work permit regulation in Switzerland

Principle: All foreign students wanting to work in Switzerland need to notify the competent authorities and/or to apply for a work permit (depending on their nationality), independently of whether the employment is paid or not (sanctions apply).

Nationality	Level	Part-time	Semester break	Short-term employment	Long-term employment
EU /EFTA Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Cyprus, Malta, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia Free Movement of Persons (Freizügigkeitsabkommen, FZA)		Possible (notification to the inhabitants' office) Possible (notification to the inhabitants' office)	Full-time work possible (notification to the inhabitants' office) n/a	For less than 3 months/year no work permit is required, but • the employer has to notify the competent authorities before the start of the employment Job search: After graduation from a Swiss university (as well as any other time) EU /EFTA nationals can apply for a six months' residence permit with the purpose of job search.	A short-term (L) or long-term (B) permit is issued once the registration at the inhabitants' office is made with the Swiss employment contract Job search: After graduation from a Swiss university (as well as any other time) EU /EFTA nationals can apply for a six months' residence permit with the purpose of job search.





	Level				Long-term employment
lon-EU/EFTA	Bachelor,	Up to max. 15 hours/week (Art.	Full-time work (Art. 38 VZAE)	A work permit is needed before the	A short-term (L) or long-term
All countries not listed	Master students	38 VZAE) may be approved after 6	may be approved if	start of employment for every work	(B) permit (Art. 18 ff. AIG)
bove		months* if	an official application is made by	stay in Switzerland irrespective of the	may be granted if
		an official application is made by	the employer	duration	an official application is made by
Ausländer- und		the employer	 the university confirms that the 		the employer
ntegrationsgesetz (AIG),		• the university confirms that the	studies will not be delayed or	A mandatory internship	there are not enough qualified
/erordnung über		studies will not be delayed or	disturbed	(Art. 39 VZAE) may be approved if	persons available on the Swiss
Zulassung, Aufenthalt und		disturbed	 the salary and working conditions 	an official application is made by	job market (Swiss, EU /EFTA,
rwerbstätigkeit /VZAE)		• the salary and working conditions are	are in line with country and industr	the employer	other B and C permit holders)
		in line with country and industry	y standards	 the university confirms that such is 	• the employee is clearly qualified/
		standards	it is during official university	a mandatory part of the study	specialized
			semester break dates	programme	the salary and working conditions
		* Exemption: Master students with		the period of the mandatory	are in line with national and
		a Bachelor degree from a university		internship does not make up more	industry standards
		abroad working for their Swiss		than half of the study duration	there is enough permit quota
		university/institute <mark>do not hav</mark> e to <mark>wait</mark>		the salary and working conditions	available (quotas are maintained
		6 months		are in line with national and	per calendar year and distributed
				industrystandards	the cantons according to econo
				• the student has adequate housing	necessity)
				Job search:	 the employee has adequate housing
				After graduation from a Swiss university	
				Non-EU/EFTA nationals can apply for a	Job search:
				six months' residence permit with the	After graduation from a Swiss unive
				purpose of job search. No recruitment	Non-EU/EFTA nationals can apply fo
				effort needs to be shown in hiring	six months' residence permit with th
				graduates from Swiss universities who	purpose of job
				take a job of high scientific or economic	search. No recruitment effort needs
				value (Art. 21 Abs. 3 AlG).	be shown in hiring graduates from
			Value (Al L. 21 ADS. 3 AlO).	Swiss universities who take a job of	
					high scientific or economic value (A
					21 Abs. 3 AIG).





Nationality	Level	Part-time	Semester break	Short-term employment	Long-term employment
Non-EU/EFTA All countries not listed above Ausländer- und ntegrationsgesetz (AIG), Verordnung über Zulassung, Aufenthalt und werbstätigkeit /VZAE)	PhD students	Part-time work (Art. 38 VZAE) may be approved after 6 months' educational duration if an official application is made by the employer there is no link between the job content and the doctoral studies the salary and working conditions are in line with country and industry standards the university confirms that the studies will not be delayed or disturbed More than 15 hours/week (Art. 40 VZAE) may be approved if an official application is made by the employer a strong link between the job content and the doctoral studies is in place (proof needed) the salary and working conditions are in line with country and industry standards it concerns doctoral studies (working at the university or outside) the university confirms that the studies will not be delayed or disturbed Up to max. 70% if working for the University of St.Gallen or one of its institutes	n/a	A work permit is needed before the start of employment for every work stay in Switzerland irrespective of the duration A mandatory internship (Art. 39 VZAE) may be approved if an official application is made by the employer the university confirms that such is a mandatory part of the study programme the period of the mandatory internship does not make up more than half of the study duration the salary and working conditions are in line with national and industry standards the student has adequate housing Job search: After graduation from a Swiss university Non-EU/EFTA nationals can apply for a six months residence permit with the purpose of job search. No recruitment effort needs to be shown in hiring graduates from Swiss universities who take a job of high scientific or economic value (Art. 21 Abs. 3 AIG).	A short-term (L) or long-term (B) permit (Art. 18 AIG) may be granted if • an official application is made by the employer • there are not enough qualified persons available on the Swiss job market (Swiss, EU/EFTA, other B and C permit holders) • the employee is clearly qualified/specialized • the salary and working conditions are in line with national and industry standards • there is enough permit quota available (quotas are maintained per calendar year and distributed the cantons according to econom necessity) • the employee has adequate housing Job search: After graduation from a Swiss universit Non-EU EFTA nationals can apply for a six months residence permit with the purpose of job search. No recruitment effort needs to be shown in hiring graduates from Swiss universities who take a job of high scientific or economic value (Art. 21 Abs. 3 AIG).