

Checklist for Students with **Visa-Free Entry** and/or **Valid Schengen Residence Permit**

This checklist is intended for:

Students from countries exempt from visa requirements (e.g. Australia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, and the United Kingdom) and Students from non-EU/EFTA countries with a valid Schengen residence permit issued by a Schengen state ([Overview of identification and visa requirements by nationality](#)).

Before arriving in Switzerland

- No visa is required, but:
- 2–3 months before entering Switzerland, an «assurance of a residence permit» must be applied for. For this purpose, the same documents must be submitted as for students who are subject to visa requirements.
Instead of a visa application form, an [online application for entry authorization](#) (Gesuch um Einreisebewilligung) must be submitted together with the relevant documents to the Zurich Migration Office [via Online-Form](#).
- Start looking for accommodation early. More information can be found at [www.zhdk.ch/stud-ierendenberatung](#) under «Housing».
- Prepare all documents in full (proof of financial means is very important).

Applying for a Residence Permit

The following documents must be completed and/or submitted:

1. [Application for entry authorization](#) (available on the Zurich Migration Office website). Note: leave items 17–20 blank (taking up employment). Instead of a copy of the employment contract, submit a copy of the confirmation of your study placement.
2. Passport (valid for at least 3 months beyond the expected end of studies) **and** Schengen residence permit (valid on the day of entry to Switzerland)
3. Confirmation of admission / enrolment from ZHdK
4. Proof of sufficient financial resources to cover the cost of living and return journey in one of the following ways:
 - a. Evidence of CHF 21'000 or equivalent amount in national currency deposited in a bank account. The amount must be indicated by the bank in Swiss Francs, Euros or at least US Dollars. The account must be in the student's name and not in the parents' name. Letters of financial support from parents are NOT accepted as proof of financial means. The bank must be authorised in Switzerland (a Swiss bank or a foreign bank with a branch in Switzerland) and appear on the following [Finma list](#).
 - b. Written guarantee (Attachment 2) from a solvent individual resident in Switzerland (either a Swiss citizen or a foreign national possessing the right of residence with a C or B permit). Please submit the following supporting documents:
 - copies of a current statement from the local or regional debt prosecution office for the last three years **and**
 - copies of the three most recent salary statements **or**
 - copies of the last tax declaration including a tax invoice **or**
 - copy of a bank statement

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- c. Proof of a scholarship or bursary to be paid out to the student in Swiss Francs, Euros, US Dollars.
 - d. Signed declaration of any other third-party, such as a foundation or similar institution vouching for the applicant.

Confirmation must be resubmitted when extending a residency permit.

- 5. Please provide a tabular curriculum vitae listing all schools, universities attended, and providing details of your professional education (copies of German translations of diplomas and completion certificates must be enclosed, if no such copies exist in either English or French).
- 6. Letter: Applicants should provide a written statement giving details of their reasons for studying in Switzerland and of their plans upon completing their course of study.
- 7. For minors (i.e. individuals under the age of 18 years):
 - Proof of adequate accommodation (e.g. tenancy agreement with a student hall of residence or written confirmation of accommodation arrangements made with a private individual, friend, etc.). For details, please see our guide under «Housing» at: [Student Advice Service](#)
 - Written proof of adequate supervision/care.

Written consent of the applicant's parents that their child has permission to study in Switzerland.

After arriving in Switzerland

- **Within 14 days** of entering Switzerland, you must register at the local residents' registration office of your municipality of residence.
- In the city of Zurich, it is [mandatory to book an appointment online in advance](#) at the Residents' Registration Office Zurich.
- As a rule, the Residents' Registration Office requires proof of accommodation in Switzerland (e.g. a rental contract).
- The residence permit is usually issued for a period of one year, and can be extended, provided that the required financial requirements are met (proof of CHF 21,000).

Important to Know

- Entering without a visa does not mean that you may study without a permit.
- A residence permit is mandatory.
- Even without a visa, the same documents as for visa-required students must be prepared.
- Costs: In the City of Zurich, the Residents' Registration Office charges CHF 182 both when applying for and extending the residence permit (CHF 40 registration fee and CHF 142 for the residence permit).
- For questions regarding entry with a Schengen residence permit, you should always contact the migration office of your future canton of residence.

Contact: Kanton [Zurich Migration Office Contact Form](#).

Enclosure

Form «Verpflichtung» (only for 5 b)



Verpflichtung

Der/die Unterzeichnete:

Familienname:
Vorname:
Geburtsdatum:
Staatsangehörigkeit:
Adresse:

verpflichtet sich gegenüber den zuständigen Behörden von Bund, Kanton und Gemeinde für den Lebensunterhalt von:

Familienname:
Vorname:
Geburtsdatum:
Staatsangehörigkeit:

während der Anwesenheit in der Schweiz aufzukommen, falls die betreffende Person dazu nicht in der Lage sein sollte.

Diese Verpflichtung umfasst alle durch die Anwesenheit verursachten Kosten bis zum Betrag von Fr. 21'000.- für zwölf Monate, namentlich sämtliche Auslagen für Unterkunft, Nahrung, Bekleidung, Arzt- und Spitalkosten sowie gegebenenfalls die Kosten der Rückreise in den Herkunfts- oder Heimatstaat.

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Ort und Datum

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Unterschrift