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Information about life in Switzerland with protection status S

You have applied for temporary protection in Switzerland and have either already been granted protection status S or will receive it shortly. To help you get your bearings, here is some useful information about life in Switzerland.

Federalism

Switzerland is a federalist country. The federal authorities, i.e. the State Secretariat for Migration SEM, are responsible for the procedure to grant you protection status S. You will be allocated to live in one of the 26 cantons. This canton is then responsible for many aspects of your stay in Switzerland. If you have any questions, you should therefore contact your local cantonal authorities.

Cantonal authorities



Change of address

As part of the protection status S procedure, SEM will assign you accommodation (this can also be the address you provided of private accommodation). It is important that you remain at this address until you receive your S protection status. This is extremely important in order for SEM to be able to process your application and send you your S permit. If you have an urgent need to change your address (e.g. because you feel threatened in your accommodation), you must obtain SEM's consent.

If you would like to change address after receiving protection status S, you are not free to choose where to live. You must remain in the canton to which you have been allocated. You can find more detailed information under the QR code.

Further Information



Employment

If you have protection status S, you can apply for work without waiting, but you must have a work permit. You may work in a different canton from where you live.

If you are employed by a company, your employer must apply for a work permit from the canton of the place of work before you start. The canton will check whether the employer complies with the applicable salary and employment conditions customary in the region and sector.

If you are self-employed, you must apply for the work permit yourself from the canton of the place you work. The canton will check whether you fulfil the financial and operational requirements of the work you wish to perform.

If you work from home for a foreign employer (e.g. for your previous employer from your home country) or you wish to pursue your previous self-employed activity in a field that has no connection to Switzerland, you do not require a work permit.

If you have protection status S and are looking for work, you can register with the [unemployment insurance and public employment service](#) and receive help in finding work.

Employment agency



Social welfare assistance

If you cannot support yourself, you will receive social welfare assistance from the canton where you live. This covers the basic needs of daily life in Switzerland and can take the form of non-cash benefits (accommodation, food, toiletries, etc.) and/or money. The canton where you live is responsible for these arrangements.

You can obtain further information from the website of the [Conference of Cantonal Directors of Social Services \(CDSS\)](#) and from your canton.

CDSS



Compulsory education

Please contact the commune where you live for information about your child's school education.

Higher education

For admission to higher education, the admission regulations of the respective higher education institution apply. You can find further information at www.swissuniversities.ch.

Swissuniversities



Education

Vocational education and training (VET)

To begin vocational education and training you require a permit (see 'Employment'). However, you do not require a permit to attend training courses preparing you for a VET programme, integration pre-apprenticeships included.

If you require further information on VET programmes, higher education, the recognition of diplomas or other education-related topics, you can contact your local careers advice centre (www.berufsberatung.ch).

Vocational guidance



Language courses and other support services

Persons with protection status S have access to various support services, including special language courses. The [integration office](#) of your canton can provide further information on what services are available.

Integration



Healthcare

You are covered by health and accident insurance through your canton from the date on which you submit your application for protection status S.

Your health insurance gives you access to doctors and hospitals in Switzerland. The cantonal authorities can tell you what doctors you may consult. If possible, wait to see a doctor until you are granted protection status S and receive further information from your canton about health insurance. If you have an acute medical problem before that, you can contact the following services:

- for life-threatening emergencies: the ambulance service (144) or the accident and emergency unit of the nearest hospital
- for non-life-threatening emergencies: a medical practitioner (doctor)

Medication that has been prescribed by a doctor and for which you have a valid prescription is generally paid for by your health insurance. You can obtain your medication from a pharmacy.

Further Information



Further information on healthcare in Switzerland is available at <https://www.migesplus.ch/en/topics/ukraine>.

Travelling within Switzerland

You may travel freely throughout Switzerland and use public transport in 2nd class free of charge until 31 May 2022. Further information on using public transport is available at [Informationen zu Flüchtenden aus der Ukraine - Alliance SwissPass](#)

Further Information



Travelling outside of Switzerland

You may leave and re-enter Switzerland as soon as you are granted protection status S. Please consult the appropriate foreign authorities about the entry regulations that apply there.

Pets

Are you travelling with dogs or cats? These animals can contract rabies, so special regulations apply when entering Switzerland. You must register your animals on arrival in Switzerland and state whether they have been vaccinated against rabies. To do this, please complete the official [registration form](#) and return it to petsukraine@blv.admin.ch. The veterinary office will inform you whether further measures are necessary.

Registration form



Are you travelling with poultry, hooved or cloven-hoofed animals? These animals are not permitted to enter Switzerland due to the high risk of disease. Please contact the veterinary authorities at your current location immediately.

Further Information



Family reunification

Would you like to bring your family to Switzerland? If your family members are seeking protection and do not require a visa (e.g. Ukrainian nationals with a biometric passport), they are permitted to enter Switzerland and apply for protection status on their own. If your family members are seeking protection and require a visa, they can contact a Swiss diplomatic mission or consular post abroad.

Human trafficking or other forms of abuse

Are you being forced to do things you do not want to do? Are you being supervised and controlled? Are you being threatened or subject to violence? Is someone restricting your freedom of movement? If so, contact the authorities immediately for help:

- **In the federal asylum centres (FAC)**
Contact the security staff or supervisors at the federal asylum centre where you are staying.

Victim support



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- **In the cantons**
[Victim Support Switzerland – Information](#)

Emergency services

Police: **117**

Ambulance: **144**

You can find further information and advice at
<https://www.sem.admin.ch/sem/en/home/asyl/menschenhandel/kampagne.html>

Further Information



War crimes

Have you been a victim of, or witnessed, a war crime in Ukraine during the current conflict? Do you have any evidence of such events (e.g. documents, photos, videos or other evidence)? If so, you can contact the [Federal Office of Police fedpol](#).

Further Information



State Secretariat for Migration SEM

You can find answers to frequently asked questions at
<https://www.sem.admin.ch/sem/en/home.html> → The SEM → Latest news → [Questions and answers on the war in Ukraine](#)

SEM



Ukraine helpline:

ukraine@sem.admin.ch or +41 (0)58 465 99 11

Cantonal authorities

You can find information on the individual cantonal authorities by scanning the QR code.

Cantonal authorities



Important contacts and addresses

Ukrainian Embassy in Switzerland

Feldeggweg 5

3005 Bern

Tel.: 031 352 23 16

Website: <https://switzerland.mfa.gov.ua/en>

Embassy



Emergency numbers in Switzerland

Police: 117

Ambulance: 144

Fire services: 118

Assistance in the event of poisoning: 145