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## Do I require a visa for Switzerland?

Travellers wishing to enter Switzerland for the purpose of tourism, business trips and visits (provided the stay is not longer than 3 months and without any paid work) do **NOT** require a Schengen visa for Switzerland if they hold a valid:

**1) BRITISH PASSPORT:** must contain one of the following remarks:

“British Citizen” (B.C)

“British National (Overseas)” (B.N:O.)

**2) TRAVEL DOCUMENTS:**

- UK travel documents, issued to refugees by the Home Office, with blue cover, two black stripes (gold stripes since 16.08.96) in the top left hand corner and mentioning agreement of 28 July 1951.

- LATVIA Aliens' Passports

**3) NATIONAL-, OFFICIAL-, DIPLOMATIC-PASSPORT, IDENTITY CARD:**

- of all EU countries and EEA

**4) NATIONAL-, OFFICIAL-, DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT:** of any of the following countries

Andorra	Costa Rica	Corea Rep. of	San Marino
Argentina	Croatia	Macao (MSAR only)	USA
Australia	Cyprus	Malaysia	Uruguay
Brazil	El Salvador	Mexico	Vatican
Brunei	Guatemala	Monaco	Venezuela
Canada	Honduras	Nicaragua	West Indies (Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, St.Kitt and Nevis)
Chile	Israel	New Zealand	Hong Kong (HKSAR)
	Japan	Panama	Singapore
Paraguay	Mauritius	Seychelles	
<b>Macedonia*</b>	<b>Montenegro*</b>	<b>Serbia* **</b>	

\* only holders of Biometric-Passports are exempt from the visa

\*\* Serbian passports issued by “Kordinaciona uprava” require a Schengen-Visa to travel to Switzerland

## **5) DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS:**

Albania	Dom.Republic	Namibia	Morocco
Algeria	Ecuador	Peru	Turkey
Bolivia	Iran	Philippines	Ukraine
Columbia	Macedonia	Thailand	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Cuba	Moldova	Tunisia	

## **6) OFFICIAL PASSPORTS:**

Philippines (issued by the Philippine government for government-members only)

## **7) SERVICE PASSPORTS**

Algeria	Bolivia	Dom.Republic	Ecuador
Colombia	Cuba	Morocco	Macedonia
Namibia	Peru	Thailand	Tunesia
Bosnia and Herzegovina			

## **8) SPECIAL PASSPORTS**

Bolivia	Dom.Republic	Ecuador	Colombia
Cuba	Morocco	Macedonia	Moldova
Nambia	Peru	Thailand	Tunesia

**If you do not fulfil the above conditions you have to obtain a Schengen visa.**

**Please note that the visa application must be submitted to the Swiss Mission responsible for your place of residence. A visa application not submitted to the correct Swiss Mission may be rejected.**

## **9) SCHOOL TRIPS EXEMPTION:**

Pupils of UK schools who would normally require a visa to enter Switzerland are exempt from the visa requirements if they are listed on a "List of Travellers" form which must be shown to immigration officials. They must also,

- be travelling on a school trip
- be accompanied by a teacher from the school
- have their own valid travel document
- have a valid UK residence permit or visa

To obtain the List of Travellers form the teacher involved should apply online at:

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/listoftravellers>

Further information about the List of Travellers can be obtained from

British Council information Centre

Tel. 0161957 7755

Email: [general.enquiries@britishcouncil.org](mailto:general.enquiries@britishcouncil.org)

## **General Information**

### **Duration of stay**

Foreign nationals who are not engaged in gainful activity can reside in Switzerland for a period of up to three months without a residence permit. Tourists and business visitors who travel repeatedly to Switzerland but stay less than three months each time must apply for a residence permit if their total stay exceeds six months within a period of twelve months.

### **Residence permit**

For enquiries about Swiss student visas, work permits and taking up residence without employment or gainful activity (retirement) please contact the following mail: [visaswiss.uk@vfshelpline.com](mailto:visaswiss.uk@vfshelpline.com) or check the webpage: <http://ch.vfsglobal.co.uk>. Thank you.