

# SWITZERLAND

## *Canada-Switzerland Young Trainee Exchange Program*

### WHAT IS IT?

*The Canada-Switzerland Young Trainee Exchange Program is designed for Canadians who wish to gain professional expertise in their field of training in Switzerland.*

Trainees will not be admitted to Switzerland unless appropriate authorities are satisfied that the remuneration offered meets the prevailing rate in Switzerland for the occupation and locale. Authorities will also want to ensure that the terms of employment are respected.

Trainees will enjoy the same treatment as Swiss nationals in all matters concerning the application of laws, regulations and practices regarding working conditions.

### HOW LONG CAN I STAY?

Generally, authorization for training is granted for one year. However, it is not to be for less than six months. In certain cases and on an individual basis, the training period may be extended to a total of 18 months.

On expiration of the training period, trainees may not remain in Switzerland to look for or to hold another job except when expressly authorized to do so.

### WHO CAN APPLY?

To be eligible for this program, applicants must:

- be Canadian citizens;
- be graduates of a university, institute of technology or equivalent educational institution;

- have a minimum of one year's working experience related to their diploma;
- undertake their period of training in their own profession or trade;
- be 18 to 30 years of age;
- be in good health; and
- have an adequate knowledge of French, German or Italian. (If the applicant's first language is not one of Switzerland's official languages, a certificate or letter of reference from a language teacher must accompany the application.)

### HOW DO I APPLY?

If you are a graduate in the hotel, restaurant, health services or banking fields, the Swiss government will undertake a job search on your behalf on request by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

If you are a graduate in a field other than the ones mentioned above, the Swiss government will accept you if you succeed in finding your own employment.

Trainees are responsible for making their own travel arrangements and for all transportation costs.

Note that the Swiss government will not issue work permits on Swiss territory. It is therefore recommended that applicants obtain a work permit before making travel arrangements.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

**Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade**  
International Youth Exchange Programs  
Youth and Personalities Exchanges  
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