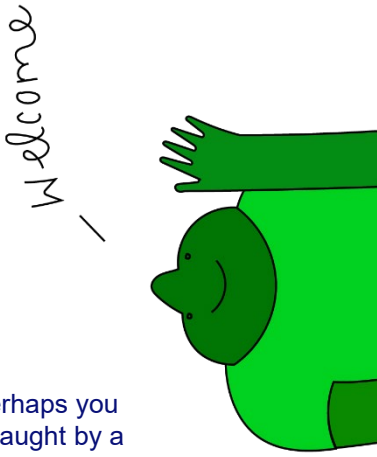


Leaflet for international students at Bern Academy of the Arts

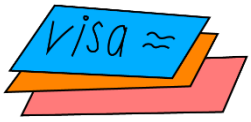
Thank you for applying for the aptitude test at Bern Academy of the Arts. Perhaps you will get the opportunity to study at a small but very innovative university be taught by a number of outstanding professors. During your studies you would live in the capital of Switzerland - a very attractive country for people from all over the world.

But in order for you to benefit from these advantages, you need to meet certain requirements. The entry requirements for international students, particularly those from non-EU countries, are clearly defined. To facilitate your entry formalities, we have summarised the key points below:

Swiss entry requirements

Citizens of EU or EFTA countries do not need a visa. Students from non-EU and non-EFTA countries must apply for a visa at the Swiss Embassy in their home country. As soon as we have confirmed that you have been granted a place of study, you have to apply for a student visa. **Please note that the visa procedure can take up to three months!**
For further information please check this Website.

Important: A tourist visa does not entitle you to study in Switzerland.



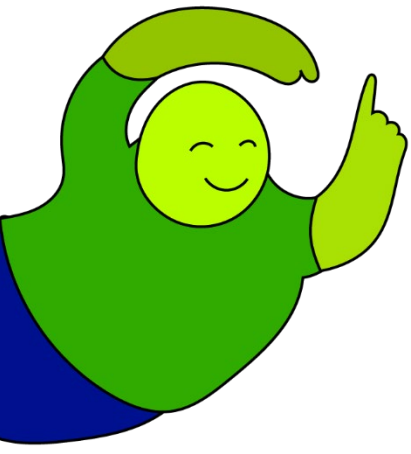
Once you have completed the entry formalities, you can travel to Switzerland. No later than 14 days after entry, you have to submit an application for your residence permit to the Immigration Office (Fremdenpolizei) of the city of Bern or any other city in Switzerland where you wish to take up residence.

Where to get your residence permit:

- **If your residence address is in Bern:**

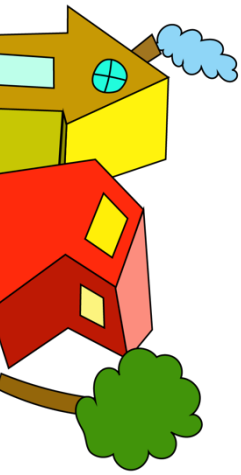
  "Einwohnerdienste, Migration und Fremdenpolizei" Predigergasse 5, Postfach, CH-3000 Bern 7
  You can also submit the documents by post
  Tel. +41 (0)31 321 53 00, einwohnerdienste@bern.ch see also:
  https://www.bern.ch/themen/umzug/

- **If your residence address is NOT in Bern:**
  "Einwohnerkontrolle" or " Fremdenpolizei" of the city you are staying in.





Flat-hunting in Bern and surroundings



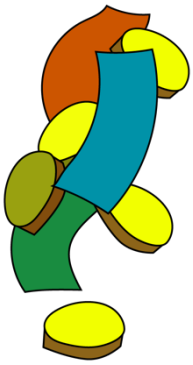
A Swiss residential address is mandatory when you apply for a visa and for a residence permit (rental agreement of the flat, in the case of sublease, a sublease and main rental agreement must be submitted).
The hall of residence called studentlodge has different rooms available between CHF 700 and CHF 800.

Finances

Your living costs in Switzerland are set at **a minimum of CHF 1'500 (€ 1'600) per month** for accommodation, food, fixed costs, health insurance etc. International students are permitted to work for a maximum of 15 hours a week alongside their studies (unlimited during semester breaks). However, part-time jobs are hard to find. Students who are non-EU/EFTA citizens are only allowed to work 6 months after beginning their studies.

Non-EU/EFTA students: The immigration office (or, if you apply for a visa, the embassy in your home country) requires financial proof that you have at least CHF 18'000 at your disposal per year. If you are unable to provide that proof, your residence permit or visa will not be granted.
The following count as **financial proof**:

- An account in your name with a bank that is listed on the Swiss FINMA List→ see link here (financial market supervision).
- Financing through a third party that resides in Switzerland. The proof is to be provided in the form of a guarantee of support and proof of income or capital (with a bank on the Swiss FINMA List) of a person residing in Switzerland. Foreign nationals must have a residence or settlement permit.
- The binding assurance of sufficient scholarship money or education loans (in a currency with a stable exchange rate, e.g. Swiss franc, euro, US dollar, yen) to cover all expenses for the entire period of your stay.



Only for students from Non-EU/EFTA with sparse financial resources and no option of support through relatives or friends, there is a small number of financial guarantees available at HKB. Please note that you have to prove that the above-mentioned variants do not work.

EU/ETA students: They only need to prove CHF 1'500 / month (e.g. scholarships, income from job, proof of income or letter of support from parents, etc.).

Cost of living

Please calculate your financial situation very carefully before deciding to study at the HKB. Living in Switzerland is very expensive. The costs of housing and everyday consumer goods are particularly significant. Prices are on average 50% higher than in neighbouring European countries.



Scholarships

There are various ways to apply for scholarships to study in Switzerland. Please note that to receive a scholarship, you not only need the right profile (age, origin, study program, awards, etc.) as well as a bit of luck. The foundations receive a large number of applications, and this number is increasing. **Therefore, you should not solely on scholarships to finance your stay.**

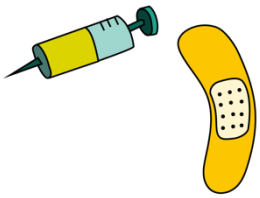
Our university itself has a limited opportunity to award individual scholarships in the form of tuition fee coverage for individual semesters (HKB Scholarship Fund).

You can find information about the HKB Scholarship Fund and other scholarships in Switzerland here.

Are you planning to apply for a Master's program at the HKB in the next calendar year (> 1 year before the start of your studies)?
If so, you can apply for a Swiss Federation scholarship via the Swiss Embassy in your home country. The Swiss diplomatic mission in your home country can provide you with the application forms. Please visit this homepage for more information. You will find the address of the Swiss Embassy in your home country there, and you can contact them regarding the scholarship.



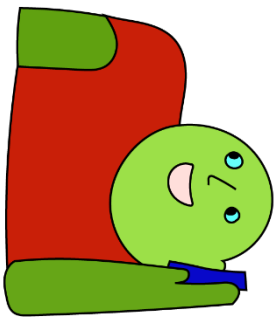
Insurance cover / health insurance



Every person who lives in Switzerland or is temporarily staying in Switzerland for study purposes is legally obliged to choose a health insurance fund (compulsory health insurance). Persons who are staying in Switzerland exclusively for education or training have the option of remaining insured with their health insurance provider in their home country (European health insurance) or taking out insurance with a 'student health insurance provider' such as Swisscare). Students from EU/EFTA countries can only remain insured through the health insurance fund in their home country if they do not work in Switzerland alongside their studies. Even playing a single paid concert counts as work.

You can find more information on this website (the website exists only in German, see Personen in Aus- und Weiterbildung).

For more information on health insurance requirements and possible exemption from them, contact:
Amt für Sozialversicherungen (ASV)
Abteilung Prämienverbilligung und Obligatorium
Tel. +41 (0)31 636 45 00
asv.pvo@jgk.be.ch
Direct link to Amt für Sozialversicherungen "Personen in Aus- und Weiterbildung" (the website exists only in German and French).



For further information, you can contact the advisor for international students at HKB:

Advisor for international students
Mail: welcome@hkb.bfh.ch
Bern Academy of the Arts



Nov 2026