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OSA advice

I have foreign qualifications and would like to work in Switzerland. Which body do I need to contact to get my qualifications recognised?

The body responsible for the recognition of qualifications varies depending on the type of qualification. Recognition of qualifications is necessary for the regulated professions where a degree, certificate or attestation of competence is required as the legal basis to practise (for example, chiropractors, lawyers, doctors, etc.).

The Federal Office for Professional Education and Technology (OPET) is responsible for the recognition of qualifications with regard to professional training and universities of applied sciences. It publishes a brochure on its website setting out the competent body depending on the profession in question.

As far as university degrees are concerned, the Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities (CRUS) also publishes the competent bodies on its website. For non-regulated professions, there is no need in principle to obtain recognition of the foreign qualifications in order to work in Switzerland. It is up to the employer to decide whether to recruit someone holding foreign qualifications. For admission to courses of study in Switzerland with foreign qualifications, you must get in direct contact with the educational institution where you wish to take the particular course.

Further information:

www.bbt.admin.ch > Recognition of foreign qualifications > Agencies responsible for the recognition

www.crus.ch > Recognition/Swiss ENIC

SARAH MASTANTUONI, Head of the Legal Department

The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad's Legal Department provides general legal information on Swiss law and specifically in areas that concern the Swiss abroad. It does not provide information on foreign law and does not intervene in disputes between private parties.

A springboard into Switzerland

In view of the precarious economic situation in many parts of the world, increasing numbers of young Swiss people abroad – and their parents – are showing an interest in education in Switzerland as the foundation for a future career and as a way of securing a livelihood in later life. The number of enquiries made to the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad's Youth Service about longer educational stays has therefore increased over the course of the past year. Enquiries made to grammar schools, universities, other educational institutions and host families to accept young visitors from abroad for longer than the usual two to four weeks "as an exception" have also risen. The Youth Service is setting up the "Springboard" project in order to take account of the changing requirements of our compatriots abroad.

Following preliminary enquiries and registration, OSA – in collaboration with AJAS, the Association promoting Education for Young Swiss Abroad, and the educational institutions (universities, colleges, secondary schools and training enterprises, etc.) – will aim to provide participants with support and organisational assistance during

the first three to six months of this new chapter in their lives. Acting as a hub, OSA will mediate between guests and hosts, educational institutions and training supervisors and perform organisational tasks. The educational institution or training supervisor will then take on the role of "mentor" in the vocational training and in the professional network.

Hosts, for their part, must be prepared to provide their guests with support during their stay in Switzerland, to help them integrate into everyday life and to provide them with a "social network" and a family environment in their new homes. This is extremely important as many guests will not (yet) have many contacts in Switzerland. Hosts will be remunerated for their services monthly as a contribution towards the costs incurred for food, accommodation and their time commitment.

We would be very pleased to provide you with further details and information on the planned approach as well as about other services provided by the Youth Service. Contact us at youth@aso.ch.

An overview of the offers available in 2013 can be found at www.aso.ch > Offers.

Note: There are still places available for the Easter camp in Davos!

PRISCA BLINDENBACHER / YOUTH SERVICE



A courageous leap can change so much



Young Swiss abroad playing at last year's camp

Summer camps 2013

Are you aged 8 to 14? Would you like to spend 14 days in Switzerland getting to know your homeland better? Then sign up for a holiday camp run by the Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad. We organise summer holiday camps in Switzerland's most beautiful regions during July and August.

Programme

Our camps give you the opportunity to see the sights, to discover lakes, mountains, rivers and incredible scenery, to go on short hikes and perhaps even visit some cities. Some days are also spent at the camp, where we organise games, sporting activities and various workshops.

You will also have the chance to learn lots of useful things about Switzerland. For example, we look at the Swiss languages, Swiss songs, Swiss recipes and typically Swiss games and sports.

The interaction between participants beyond all linguistic, cultural and national boundaries provides an opportunity to enjoy an unforgettable experience and to make lots of new friends.

Language at camp

The people who take advantage of our offers come from all over the world and therefore speak different languages, such as Ger-

man, French, English, Spanish and Italian. The leaders run the programmes in German, French and English. So, the language at each camp does not depend on the language spoken at the camp's location.

Prices

The prices of the offers are set out in the list below. The Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad wishes to give all Swiss children abroad the opportunity to spend a holiday in Switzerland at least once if possible. We therefore offer reduced camp rates. The relevant application form can be requested with the registration form.

Summer camps 2013

Sat. 29.6.–Fri. 12.7.13: Beatenberg (Berne) for 40 children aged 11–14, price: CHF 900

Sat. 29.6.–Fri. 12.7.13: Madetswil (Zurich) for 36 children aged 8–11, price: CHF 900

Wed. 3.7.–Fri. 12.7.13: Swiss trip for 24 children aged 12–16, price: CHF 950

Sat. 13.7.–Fri. 26.7.13: Erlinsbach (Aargau) for 36 children aged 8–11, price: CHF 900

Sat. 13.7.–Fri. 26.7.13: Flond (Grisons) for 42 children aged 11–14, price: CHF 900

Sat. 27.7.–Fri. 9.8.13: Dangio-Torre (Ticino) music camp for 40 children aged 11–14, price: CHF 950

Sat. 27.7.–Fri. 9.8.13: Mont-de-Buttes (Neuchâtel) for 36 children aged 8–11, price: CHF 900

Sat. 10.8.–Fri. 23.8.13: Schüpfheim (Lucerne) for 42 children aged 8–14, price: CHF 900

Sat. 10.8.–Fri. 23.8.13: Bergün (Grisons) for 36 children aged 11–14, price: CHF 900

Travel/meeting point

The meeting point is at Zurich airport around lunchtime.

Travel to and from Zurich airport is organised and paid for by parents.

Leaders

Experienced, multilingual teams of leaders ensure that the two-week holiday camps are well-organised and offer a wide variety of activities.

Registration

The exact details of the individual holiday camps and the registration form can be found, from Friday, 1 February 2013, at www.sjas.ch. We are also happy to post you our information brochure on request. The deadline for registration is 15 March 2013.

Please contact the office in Berne for further information:

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