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## Signatures from 137 countries for OSA's e-voting petition

E-voting must be made available to all Swiss Abroad by 2021. The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) submitted this demand to the Federal Chancellery on 30 November. Thousands of Swiss citizens living abroad support the demand.

OSA's online petition in support of e-voting is literally backed by people all over the world. By the time the signature deadline was reached, Swiss citizens from 137 countries had signed the petition, which was submitted to the Federal Chancellery on 30 November. Through their signatures thousands signalled their support for the demand that Switzerland rapidly introduce an electronic voting and election system. The petition addressed to the Federal Council and parliament specifically calls for e-voting to be made available to all Swiss Abroad by 2021.

OSA feels confirmed in its position: it is convinced that e-voting is the only way to guarantee that all Swiss Abroad are able to exercise their political rights.

A total of 172,100 Swiss citizens living abroad are registered on an electoral register and can therefore vote in Switzerland. However, often their voting intentions remain unfulfilled. Since the election documents often arrive too late, voters living far away from their home country are frequently unable to vote. At the meeting of the Council of the Swiss Abroad on 10 August in Visp, several delegates emphasised that e-voting was ultimately the only way to guarantee that Swiss citizens living abroad were able to exercise their political rights.

Through the petition the Swiss Abroad are now starting to exert more pressure over this issue. However, it remains to be seen how the Federal Council and parliament will react to the petition. At the time of writing, the authorities had yet to respond to OSA's request. (MUL)

[www.evoting2021.ch](http://www.evoting2021.ch)

## University or apprenticeship?

Advice from [educationsuisse](http://www.educationsuisse.ch) on education in Switzerland

University or apprenticeship? These are two different education pathways, which are not mutually exclusive. Indeed, the Swiss education system is characterised by a high degree of flexibility. Consequently, there are many ways to begin or to change to a different education programme. The educational opportunities are highly diverse. An overview of the Swiss education system can be found on our website [www.educationsuisse.ch](http://www.educationsuisse.ch).

Anyone who wishes to study in Switzerland with a foreign high school diploma, should inquire about the admission requirements of the universities well in advance; sometimes admission fails because a basic subject is missing. The next step is to find the right field of study. The [swissuniversities website www.studyprogrammes.ch](http://www.studyprogrammes.ch), can be of some benefit here. Many universities, universities of applied sciences and universities of teacher education organise information days, which usually take place in autumn or winter. Several universities also have their own study counselling offices.

Those who would like to complete an apprenticeship after compulsory schooling or high school, can choose from around 250 occupations. The official website of the Swiss Career and Academic Studies Consulting, [www.berufsberatung.ch](http://www.berufsberatung.ch), offers a wealth of information such as job descriptions, education descriptions, tips and much more. Once the area of interest has been defined, trial apprenticeships (1-5

days) in an enterprise are a suitable way of receiving an insight into the profession. One normally starts finding an apprenticeship at least a year before commencement of the apprenticeship. Sometimes companies require aptitude tests (such as Multicheck), which must be attached to the application.

A so-called bridge year can be a good interim solution for those who are still uncertain about their career choice. Such additional school years of pre-vocational training years are organised in all cantons.

In order to successfully complete an education in Switzerland, sufficient knowledge of a national language is important. A good command of English is an advantage, but by no means enough. Only a few university-level degree programmes (Master's) are offered entirely in English. (RG)

Information sheets on individual topics, general information and personal advice, also on career and academic choices, can be obtained from [educationsuisse: info@educationsuisse.ch](mailto:info@educationsuisse.ch), Tel. +41 (0) 31 356 61 04. Our employees speak German, French, Italian, English and Spanish.

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