



Swiss Permit Regulations

EU / EFTA Members

Freedom to work is for the following countries EU- und EFTA:

- **EU:** Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Great Britain, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Sweden, Spain, Cyprus, Malta
- **EFTA:** Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein

L Permit

This permit is issued for employment contracts that are up to 1 year in duration. You as an employee can obtain it by taking a copy of your signed contract, a copy of your valid rent contract and your passport to the registry office (Kreisbüro, Einwohnerdienste etc.). Always make sure that you ask for a confirmation of registration to have something on hand.

Should the employment contract be extended, this L permit can be extended by giving the registry office a copy of the new signed contract showing the new end date.

B Permit

This permit is for foreigners with employment contracts over a year. The B permit is valid for 5 years. There is no fixed quota anymore on the B permit. If you are in possession of an unlimited employment contract, you will get a B permit.

C Permit

Unrestricted living in Switzerland (ie no time restrictions) without the right to vote. Not liable to tax at source anymore. Depending on your nationality you can apply for it after 5-10 years living in Switzerland with a B-permit.

EU Plus Members

Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Czeck Republic, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania

Foreigners of one of these countries still need a permit which the employer has to apply for. But generally applications for specialists will be accepted without any objections.

Non EU Members

Short Term Permit (L)

Short term permits are issued up to a period of 4 months. There is no quota/restriction on how these are issued. The issuing canton office can produce and approve this permit within their own authority.

In special circumstances this permit can be extended by a maximum of 24 months. This requires an application via the issuing canton office whereby the permit is then changed to a longer term L-permit. This process takes 3 to 6 weeks. Application goes via Bern.

Yearly Permit (B)

Currently, B permits will only be issued for highly qualified foreigners with several years of experience and diplomas with the option for unlimited employment contracts.