

Residential Life and Study Abroad Office - Webster University in Geneva

Swiss Visa Information

The Swiss authorities will notify you whether your visa request has been granted or refused. When approved, you will need to return to the embassy or consulate as directed to get the visa affixed to your passport. Refusals are very rare.

It is imperative that you commence the application procedure for the visa in the USA. That the visa is not issued in time for your departure to Switzerland is not too serious. It may be too close to your departure date for you to send your passport to the Embassy for the visa to be attached. At that stage please call me in Geneva ++41 22 959 8003/4. We can be in touch with the authorities.

Note: Visa applications can take between 6 to 12 weeks to process. Your student visa application is forwarded from your local Swiss consulate to the central government in Bern, then to the cantonal office in Geneva, and back to your local consulate. All these offices tend to be overloaded, especially in the summer period and during Christmas break, and delays are frequent. Check frequently with the consulate to make sure that your visa application is complete and making progress.

When you arrive in Geneva, during your first week here, you will be obliged to apply for a Residence Permit for the duration of your stay, thereby transforming your visa in your passport for the student Resident Permit. At Orientation in August the procedure will be explained to you. Cost for the permit is in the region of CHF190. If you are staying but one 8 x week term you will not need a visa as US Nationals are permitted to reside in Switzerland for 90 days without one.

On departure from Geneva you will be obliged to complete a Departure Form – known as “Formulaire d’annonce de depart”. This is a procedure that all students carry out when leaving Geneva definitively.

All students new to Switzerland are obliged to apply for the Residence Permit and to announce officially their departure from Switzerland to the Office Cantonal de la Population (OCP).

Travel safely!

Angela Murphy

Study Abroad/Residential Life Coordinator

Webster University in Geneva

Telephone direct: ++41 22 959 8003 and 4

Fax direct: ++41 22 774 17