Family reunification

Requirements:

1. Three national (type D) visa application forms, fully completed and signed by the applicant. Applications which are not duly completed, dated and signed will not be accepted. Please also indicate your e-mail address and a contact phone number. In case of minors (under 18 years of age), both parents will need to sign and enclose a copy of their passports. Custody agreements/orders will have to be submitted.

2. Three identical recent passport photos: please consult the requirements here.
   US-standard size passport photos will also be accepted. Digital files and photocopies will **not** be accepted.

3. Three copies of valid passport or travel document (photo, data and signature pages only)

4. Two copies of passport or travel document of spouse/partner/parent. If applicable, please also include two copies of the Swiss resident permit.

5. Non-U.S. citizens: 2 notarized copies of proof of residency in the USA, e.g. a valid permanent resident card (green card), H1B visa (plus I-797), F-1 visa (plus I-20), etc.

6. Spouses/partners: 2 notarized or certified copies of marriage certificate or partnership contract
   Children: 2 notarized or certified copies of birth certificate
   Spouses and children of Swiss nationals: if the marriage or birth has already been registered in Switzerland, please submit 2 photocopies of your family certificate (Familienausweis / certificat de famille / certificato di famiglia). If the marriage or birth has not been registered yet, please submit the necessary documentation for registration (www.swissemb.org / services / civil status affairs) to the competent Swiss representation.
   Documents in any language other than English, German, French or Italian require a certified translation.

7. Adults: 2 copies of proof of language competency (A1) in the language spoken at the future place of residence in Switzerland **or** confirmation of enrollment in a language course that will allow this level to be acquired.
   The Swiss representations do not conduct language tests. Please consult the factsheet on proof of language skills (Page 2) and FAQ for further details.
   Spouses of Swiss and EU/EFTA nationals are exempt from the proof of language competency requirement.

8. Visa fee: please check the website for the current fees. For spouses and children of Swiss and EU/EFTA nationals, and for children under six years of age, the visa is free of charge.

Your request will be forwarded for a decision to the competent cantonal migration office where you intend to stay, and the representation will only be able to issue your visa upon receipt of the authorization.

Once the authorization has been given, you will have to mail (no walk-in and no appointment) the following documents to the competent Swiss representation in order to obtain your visa:

1. Original passport or travel document

2. A prepaid, self-addressed return envelope **with a tracking number** of a secure carrier (mailing possible only to an address in the USA). Families/couples should send in only one return envelope. **Applicants must indicate their name and address as both sender and recipient.** The Swiss representation does not assume any liability for the loss of documents submitted or returned by mail.
   Processing time: 5 business days.

Please note that this is not an exhaustive list. If necessary, you may be requested to submit additional documents or may need to appear at the competent Swiss representation for a personal interview.

Important remarks

- FBI record: some cantonal migration offices require a criminal record issued by the FBI for your registration upon arrival. Please contact the competent migration office directly, to find out if you need to submit the form.

  Useful links:

  Identity History Summary Checks with the FBI
  List of cantonal migration offices in Switzerland

- Processing time: it usually takes 8 to 10 weeks from the date of the application until the cantonal migration office makes a decision. For more information, please contact the competent migration office in Switzerland.

- Follow-up: it is the responsibility of the visa applicant to ensure the follow-up and to contact the competent cantonal migration office or the Swiss representation in the USA (depending on where the file is pending) about the progress of the visa application. The surname, name, date of birth and nationality of the applicant must be indicated in all correspondence related to a visa application.