Student Visa

Please note: only Americans or foreign residents and foreign students in the United States who have a valid permanent resident card or a valid U.S. visa (e.g. categories F1 (I-20), H1B, G1, J1, etc.) may apply for a visa. If you have a B1 and/or B2 visa, you must apply in your country of residence.

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). Digital files and photocopies will **not** be accepted.

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

4. 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.

5. Two copies of confirmation/registration letter from the school, university, etc. in Switzerland including information about the language in which the course is held.

6. Two copies of confirmation of payment of school tuition fees

7. Two copies of statement containing exact details of income and assets, with official proof and/or bank statements. In case of parental or third party financial support, please provide two copies of letter of support, copies of sponsor's passport, details of income and assets (bank statements).

8. Two copies of previous diplomas and school certificates

9. Two copies of a resume (biographical data, schools attended, etc.)

10. Two copies of a brief essay on the applicant's future plans

11. The visa is free of charge.

Please submit your complete application file by mail. Choose a secure carrier with a tracking option. We are not accepting application files at the visa counters.

Your request will be forwarded for a decision to the competent cantonal foreign police where you intend to study and the representation will only be able to issue your visa upon receipt of the authorization. Please note that the procedure takes at least 8-10 weeks.

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 present yourself at the competent Swiss representation for a personal interview.