



Applying for a Swiss study visa

Who needs to apply for a visa?

YOU DO NOT NEED A TYPE D VISA IF YOU HAVE:

A passport from a country in the European Union (EU) or from a European Free Trade Association (EFTA) member state (Norway, Liechtenstein and Switzerland).

Citizens of certain countries can enter Switzerland without needing to apply for a visa, including Australia, Brunei, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, and the United Kingdom.

All other passport holders are advised to check your visa eligibility by clicking the link below or consulting with your Education Counselor.

When should I apply?

You should apply for your study visa as soon as you receive your acceptance package. **It can take up to three months to obtain your visa**, so please make an appointment with the Swiss Embassy or Consulate in your country of residence **as soon as you receive your acceptance package**.

If you require a visa, please follow these steps:

01

Contact your local Swiss Embassy or Consulate

Contact the Swiss Embassy or Consulate in your country of residence and make an appointment.

02

Apply for a type D (study) visa

Tell them you need to apply for a **TYPE D VISA** for Glion Institute of Higher Education and that you have been accepted to the school. Please ask them for an ORBIS number and provide this number to your Educational Counselor who will add it to your file in case your visa needs to be tracked. **Please, DO NOT request or attempt to enter Switzerland with a tourist visa.**

Please check your acceptance letter and visa attestation to see which campus your program starts on, and write the following correct school address on the visa application form that the embassy provides.

FOR GLION CAMPUS:

Glion Institute of
Higher Education
Route de Glion 111
CH - 1823 Glion sur Montreux
(Vaud Canton)
Switzerland

FOR BULLE CAMPUS:

Glion Institute of
Higher Education
Rue de l'Ondine 20
CH - 1630 Bulle
(Fribourg Canton)
Switzerland

03

Prepare for your appointment

Please review the list of documents required for your student visa application appointment and take them to the Swiss Embassy or Consulate in your country of residence:

- Copies of all your diplomas and grades (and official certified/notarized English translation if original document is not in French/Italian/German/English).
- A copy of your Curriculum Vitae/resume.
- Study Plan – A short essay explaining why you want to study at GIHE, signed and dated (Master's students: please read the important note below).
- Post Study Statement – Signed and dated.
- English Language Certification.
- Official Bank Guarantee – Required for some countries. It is a bank statement of your financial sponsor detailing their current financial situation.
- Letter of commitment from your financial sponsor.
- Acceptance letter from GIHE (enclosed in your acceptance package).
- Visa attestation from GIHE (enclosed in your acceptance package).
- Vaud Canton visa and residence permit form (**students starting at the Glion campus only**), completed, signed and dated.

Please never give original documents to the embassy/consulate because you will not get them back, only give good/readable copies. Keep the originals for yourself as you will need to present them at the authenticity session once you have arrived on campus.

STUDY & POST STUDY PLAN GUIDANCE FOR MASTER'S STUDENTS

The visa process carries more risk of refusal for Master's students, particularly mature students over the age of 30. To help mitigate these risks, we strongly recommend the following:

- Make sure your Study Plan is convincing, containing the reasons why you have chosen Master's study ahead of direct employment.
- You must state clearly that you will be leaving Switzerland upon the completion of your program, while also detailing your future career intentions.
- If you are married or have family dependents, you should be aware that the study visa does not allow your spouse or family to join you for the duration of your studies.

04

Wait for your return invitation

Once you have presented all of these documents, you must wait for an invitation to return to the embassy or consulate to have the original entry visa (sticker) stamped in your passport and complete all formalities.

05

Pick up your visa

You should receive the original entry visa at the embassy or consulate where you applied. However, if you need to pick it up in a different place, you must inform the embassy or consulate (as well as your Education Counselor) when you apply for the visa.

Important notes

PROOF OF PAYMENT

The visa process can be expedited if you provide evidence of payment. Some embassies even require proof of payment from both the student and the school.

PENALTIES IF YOU ENTER SWITZERLAND WITHOUT A STUDY VISA

Any student who requires a visa but enters Switzerland without the study visa is subject to a financial penalty and may be refused entrance at GIHE.

DEFERRING YOUR STUDIES

If you must defer your studies to the next semester, and you have started the visa formalities at the embassy or consulate, but your passport has not yet been stamped, then the visa can easily be deferred to the next semester. **Once the passport has been stamped, a deferral is no longer possible**, and you will have to start the visa formalities again.

DO NOT MAKE TRAVEL PLANS FOR YOUR FIRST EIGHT WEEKS IN SWITZERLAND

If you require an entry visa for Switzerland, do not make any travel plans to other countries for the first eight weeks after your arrival to Switzerland and until you receive your biometrical residency permit, which you will need to gain access back into Switzerland.

RESIDENCY PERMIT FROM SHENGHEN COUNTRY

If you have a residency permit from a Shenghen country, you are permitted to apply for your student visa type D at your local Swiss consulate or embassy.