



Residing in Switzerland and taking up gainful activity

According to the Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons (AFMP) between Switzerland and the EU, citizens of EU/EFTA¹ member states have the right to enter, remain and take up gainful employment in Switzerland – as long as the conditions set forth in the AFMP are met.

Specific conditions apply to economically inactive persons, service providers and cross-border commuters. More information is provided in corresponding [factsheets](#).

Gainful employment lasting up to three months

Citizens of EU/EFTA member states do not require a residence permit to take up employment with a company in Switzerland for a period of up to three months per calendar year. Nevertheless, such employment requires the electronic notification of short-term stays. An online notification form must be submitted no later than the day before starting work. [Link to online notification procedure](#).

Gainful employment lasting more than three months

Gainful employment lasting longer than three months per calendar year is subject to issuance of a residence permit. Residence permits are issued upon presentation of proof of employment (e.g. employment contract). Residence permits are valid for the whole of Switzerland and entitle the holder to change jobs and occupations. The period of validity of residence permits depends on the duration of employment.

For employment lasting between three months and one year, workers are entitled to a short-stay permit (L EU/EFTA), whose period of validity matches the duration of the employment contract.

For employment lasting for one year, several years or for an unlimited duration, workers will be issued a residence permit (B EU/EFTA), which remains valid for a period of five years.

EU/EFTA citizens wishing to work in a self-employed capacity in Switzerland will initially receive a B EU/EFTA permit valid for five years – if they are able to show the existence of an effective self-employed activity when submitting their application.

¹ Citizens of EFTA member states have the same rights as citizens of EU member states. Special rules apply to citizens of the Principality of Liechtenstein.