



Kanton Zürich
Sicherheitsdirektion
Migrationsamt

Information about integration and residence status



Grüezi and welcome to Switzerland! In this brochure, you will find useful information about integration and its impact on your residence status.

Foreigners are encouraged and expected to integrate in Switzerland. This means that you should understand and adapt to living conditions in Switzerland. The more integrated you are, the easier it will be to upgrade your residence status. Cantonal and communal government offices can help you with the integration process and provide you with useful information on suitable integration support options.

The Canton of Zurich Migration Office will check your integration status each time it issues or renews your permit. If you integrate only poorly or not at all, then this will adversely affect your residence status.



Integration criteria

Integration means:



You have no criminal record.



You respect the fundamental rights enjoyed by the people of Switzerland.

Examples:

- You respect the equal rights of men and women.
- You respect freedom of expression.
- You respect religious freedom.



You comply with the decisions and instructions of Swiss public authorities.



You pay your bills.



You understand and speak German.

For information on language courses in your area, please contact the communal office in your place of residence. The Fachstelle Integration (Canton of Zurich Integration Office) can also provide you with assistance (<https://integration.zh.ch>).

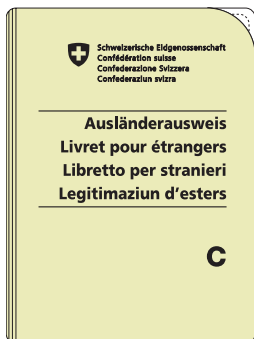


You are gainfully employed and do not receive welfare benefits.

What benefits does successful integration bring to you?

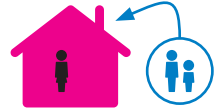
Settlement status (type C permit)

If you are well integrated, your current residence status (type B permit) may be upgraded to settlement status (type C permit). Settlement status has no set expiry date and only the type C permit document itself has to be reissued every five years. A prerequisite for settlement status is that you are well integrated in Switzerland and understand and speak standard and/or Swiss German at language level A2.



Family reunification

Integration is also a prerequisite to qualify for family reunification, which allows you to bring your foreign spouse and unmarried children under the age of 18 to live with you in Switzerland. Family reunification is possible if:



- The apartment where you live is large enough to enable your family to live comfortably based on Swiss standards of living.



- You are not currently a recipient of welfare or supplementary social insurance benefits.



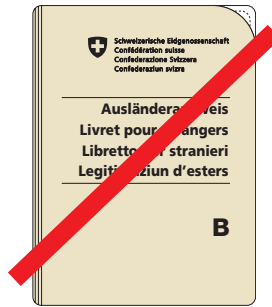
- Your spouse speaks German at language level A1.



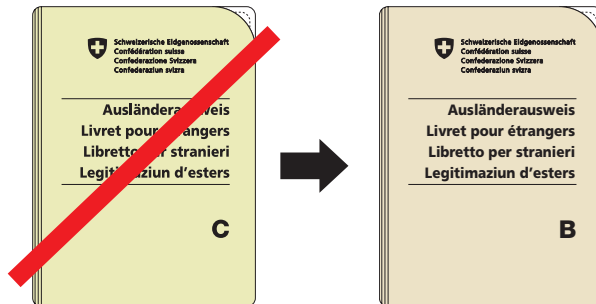
- The reunification deadlines have been kept.



What happens if you do not integrate?



If you hold a type B permit and do not integrate, then it is possible that this permit will not be renewed and you will have to leave Switzerland.



Potential downgrading of residence status

If you hold a type C permit (permanent residence) and do not integrate, you could lose this status and be downgraded to a type B permit (residence). If you have a type B permit and do not integrate, then it is possible that you will lose this and will have to leave Switzerland.



Integration support options



Start the integration process as early as possible. There are many support options available to you. The Fachstelle Integration (Canton of Zurich Integration Office) website (www.integration.zh.ch) explains the various integration support options available in the Canton of Zurich. If you have any questions, please contact the integration officer in the commune where you live to obtain competent advice.

Additional information on immigration legislation



More detailed information on immigration legislation can be found in the guidelines issued by the Canton of Zurich Migration Office (www.ma.zh.ch).



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Berninastrasse 45
8090 Zürich
Telefon +41 43 259 88 00
www.ma.zh.ch

