



Integration

Foreigners are expected to integrate into society. This includes obeying the law, providing for oneself economically, and learning an official language of the place of residence.

Important Principles

All Swiss residents must abide by the Swiss constitution (e.g. equality of men and women) and abide by the law. It is expected that one is, as far as possible, economically independent. In addition, foreigners are expected to learn the official language of their place of residence as quickly as possible. Integration depends on efforts from both sides. An openness towards foreigners is expected of the local population.

Independence

The confederation, cantons, and communities provide foreigners with fair access to economic, social, and cultural life. In return foreigners must make independent efforts to integrate themselves. It is expected that they make use of available programs.

Taking Part in the Social Life

A good way of integrating oneself into Swiss society is joining a club. Attending festivities and events held by the community of residence is also a good way of meeting people. It may not be easy at first. Not all Swiss residents are equally open towards other cultures. Sometimes patience and perseverance is necessary.

Advice / Support

In the Canton of Bern, there are various agencies available to newcomers. The community of residence is always a good first source of information. There are also specific information centers for immigrants. In Canton Bern, there are four regional contact points for integration (Ansprechstellen Integration | antennes d'intégration). Here information about life in Switzerland is available and specific questions on various subjects are answered. Persons who do not yet speak German or French may be accompanied by an interpreter or request an interpreter. Several centres offer information in other languages as well. Several centers offer information in other languages as well.



Kanton Bern
Canton de Berne

hallo-bern.ch
salut-berne.ch

**Additional information (links, addresses, information sheets,
brochures)**

www.hallo-bern.ch/en/language-and-integration/integration

hallo-bern.ch

Information for a good start at the new place of residence
Language and Integration / Integration