



Family Reunification

Family members of persons living in Switzerland can move to Switzerland under certain circumstances. If family or friends want to visit they might have to apply for a visa depending on the country of origin.

Family Reunification

In principle, there is the possibility of family members (direct relatives or spouses) of persons living in Switzerland being able to move here (family reunification, Familiennachzug|Regroupement familial). Which family members can apply depends on the citizenship and residence status of the applicant. Provisionally admitted foreigners (permit F) can also apply under certain circumstances. It is advisable to discuss the requirements for family reunification with an expert at an early stage. Information is available from the Office for Population Services (ABEV|OPOP), the municipality of residence or the integration contact points. Applications for family reunification must be submitted to the cantonal migration service. Residents of the cities of Bern, Biel and Thun submit the application to the municipal residents' office. **Attention:** Family reunification must be applied for within a certain period of time (usually within 1 to 5 years after entry). The period is shorter for children than for adults (e.g. spouse).

Marriage Preparation

Persons living in Switzerland and wishing to marry a partner who lives abroad can apply for an entry permit for marriage preparation (Vorbereitung der Heirat). This permit allows the partner to enter Switzerland before the marriage and to get married here. The Immigration Services informs applicants of necessary documents and procedures.

Entry Visa

For residents of many countries it is not easy to receive an entry visa for Switzerland, for example, in order to visit family. A letter of invitation and/or financial guarantee (Verpflichtungserklärung|Déclaration de prise en charge) issued by the Swiss resident might be necessary. The Swiss representation abroad examines the application and informs applicants of necessary documents and procedures. The Office for Civilian Services (ABEV | OPOP) also provides information.



Kanton Bern
Canton de Berne

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

www.hallo-bern.ch/en/partnership-and-children/family-reunification

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Information for a good start at the new place of residence
Partnership and Children / Family Reunification