

SWITZERLAND CLASSIC



COUNTRY INFORMATION

Located in Central Europe and one of the Alpine countries, Switzerland is world famous for breath taking scenery, wonderful chocolate and excellent cheese. Bordering Germany, France, Italy, Austria, and the Principality of Liechtenstein, Switzerland is a mix of different cultures and backgrounds. Switzerland has four official languages: German, French, Italian and Romansh. In the German-speaking part, people speak Swiss German (a German dialect that differs a bit from the German spoken in Germany). However, the Swiss are known as being multilingual, therefore you can hear many different languages when meeting people.

Area: 41'285 square kilometres

Population: 8.42 Milion

Capital: Bern

Language: German, French, Italian, Romansh

National Holiday: 1st August

COUNTRY MAP



Age criteria: 15-18 years old

Starting months: August and February/March

Language requirements: 2 years of German

Visa: Mandatory - extra fees apply

Area choice: None, placements are in the German speaking part of the country,

Preparation course: STS Welcome Camp, extra fee apply.

Orientation in September after students have arrived.

School year: August -July

School day: approximately 8:00-16:00/17:00

Subjects: Mandatory and a few optional subjects

Optional trips: Options to join trips during the year

Insurance: Mandatory (Swisscare Insurance)

THE SCHOOL

Exchange students are usually placed at a Gymnasium or Mittelschule. Aside from the mandatory subjects, such as German, English, Math, History, Biology, Chemistry, Geography, Physical Education, Arts and Philosophy, students are offered the option to take other languages as well, like French, Italian, Spanish, Greek or Latin. Sports are not widely practiced at regular schools.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Full Zapp application
- Good health
- Good grades (minumum C average)
- Good knowledge of English
- Skype Interview before acceptance
- A minimum of 2 years of German

THE CULTURE

Switzerland is the country where everything runs like clockwork. This does not mean, that Swiss people don't have any time, it is just normal that people are hard-working and expect things to be done on time. Being punctual and reliable are typical Swiss characteristics. The Swiss are very aware of nature and its beauty, and take efforts in conserving the natural resources.

HOST FAMILY

Lots of families live in rented apartments or houses. In many families the mother is a housewife and/or works part-time. Families usually consist of two parents and one or two children. However, there are also lots of patchwork or single parent families. The main meal is taken in the middle of the day, either together or at school. In the evening, dinner is served around 6 or 7 pm. Swiss teenagers generally enjoy a lot of freedom; they are independent and decide for themselves what to do after school. They love being outside. During the summer, the cafés, restaurants and parks are filled with teenagers. However, it is expected that their parents know where they are and that they observe their curfews. The same is expected of exchange students, they are expected to be a fairly independent as their kids are.

SPORTS

There are hardly more than two hours of sports per week on the schedule. However, many different kinds of sports are offered on a local level, through village clubs or town sport centres, and students are encouraged to participate in sports or other clubs in their free time.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

STS organize several trips during the exchange. At the orientation meeting we discuss options and you can decide what you would like to do.