



# Welcome to Richterswil/Samstagern

Information for newly arrived foreign nationals

Responsible for Integration: Kim Weber, as of 2025

## Overview

# Topics we can have a look at

- **Politics:** Country, Cantons, Communities; political system and direct democracy; permits and participation rights
- **Language:** Where to learn German? When is it important? What's special about Swiss German?
- **Switzerland and being Swiss:** Culture and prejudice
- **Work:** Looking for employment? What to do if I loose my job?
- **Taxes:** How much and for what?
- **School system:** Mandatory school years; dual vocational education; individual & further education
- **Children and youth:** extra-familial childcare; personal education in the family
- **Insurances:** What's mandatory? What is it for? How much do I pay?
- **Health care system:** Where to ask for help? How does it work?
- **Richterswil & Samstagern:** Club life, culture and leisure activities
- **Neighbourhood and home life:** importance of friendly coexistence; unwritten communal rules; waste management
- **Getting around:** Public transport; travel

# Politics

## Country, Cantons, Communities Political system and direct democracy Permits and participation rights



**Switzerland:** 9.034 million inhabitants  
Foreigners thereof: 2.4 million

1291: «Rütlichschwur», founding legend of the Old Swiss Confederacy  
1848: Foundation of the Swiss Federation  
1st of August: National Independence Day



### Division of powers:

Legislature (Nationalrat, Ständerat)  
Executive (e.g. police)  
Judiciary (courts)



26 **Cantons** constitute the Swiss Federation

**Canton of Zurich:** 1.62 million inhabitants,  
17.9% of all inhabitants in Switzerland



### Democratic system:

National, cantonal and municipal elections, one vote per Swiss citizen  
women's suffrage since 1971

Elections, petitions, referendum;  
active and passive voting rights



**Bezirk Horgen** (regional political district)

**Gemeinden Richterswil and Samstagern**  
(municipalities)  
Both combined 14000 inhabitants



### Different permits:

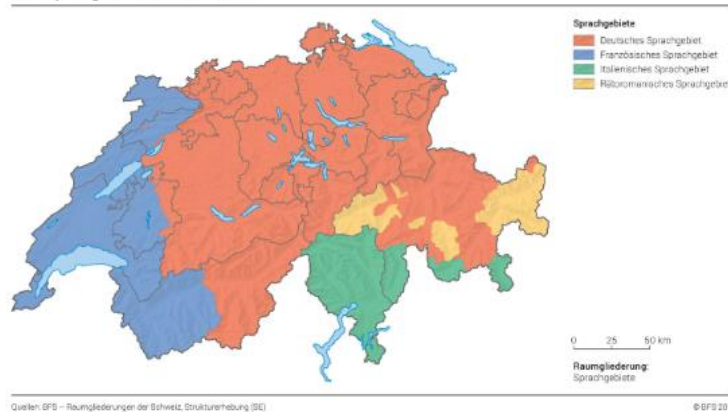
No active or passive voting right on national or cantonal level, but in certain municipalities (not Richterswil/Samstagern though)

Different durations and prerequisites for obtaining the Swiss citizenship

Four languages – one country

# Language and Communication

Die 4 Sprachgebiete der Schweiz, 2016

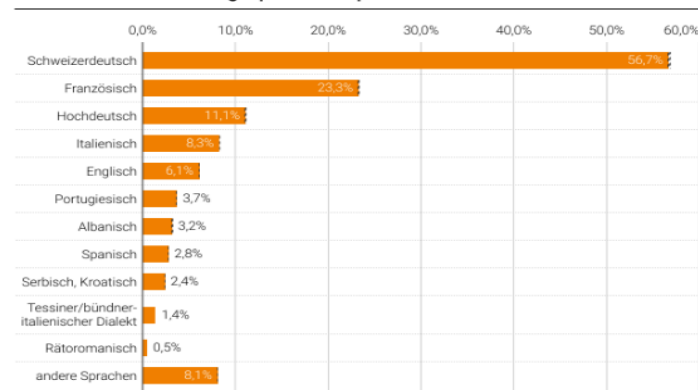


The four national languages of Switzerland are German (orange), French (blue), Italian (green) and Romansh (yellow).

German, or high German is taught in schools in the Canton of Zurich and is the fastest and most promising way to get it touch with people. The colloquial language is Swiss German.

Direct eye contact; Handshakes; Per-Sie / Per-Du

Üblicherweise zu Hause gesprochene Sprachen



➤ Overview German courses in the canton of Zurich

➤ German course in Richterswil, subsidized by the municipality

## Culture

# Swiss perks and prejudice



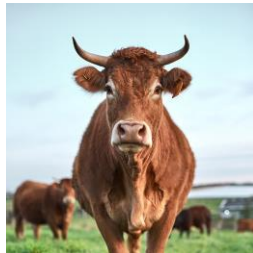
In Switzerland, great importance is placed on order, punctuality, and respect for rules.

People value politeness and formal manners, and many everyday agreements and arrangements are confirmed in writing.



It is important to keep documents well organized and carefully stored.

The Swiss also cherish their natural surroundings. With clean forests, mountains, and lakes, outdoor activities are safe and widely accessible.



Work life

# Finding a job

General information:

- Work permit and residence permit
- Recognition of foreign qualifications
- Jobhunting

Helpful institutions:

- BIZ: Local further education and training center
- LBZ: Free 15-Minute Career Consultation
- RAV: Regional Employment Centre (for unemployed)
- SAH: Advisory center for migration and integration law
- SECO: The State Secretariat for Economic Affairs

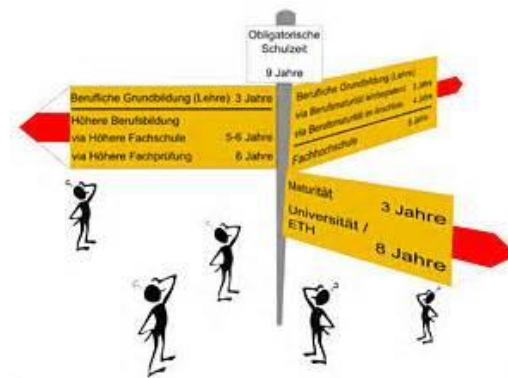
Tax with B and L permit:

- Source tax (Quellensteuer): Tax directly deducted from wages  
If your annual income exceeds CHF 120'000.00 gross -> file tax return



## Education

# School system



- Switzerland's education system
- School in Richterswil and Samstagern
- Elternmitwirkung Schule Richterswil Samstagern (voluntary parental involvement in school)
- Scholarships and loans

| LEVEL OF EDUCATION                                                  | INSTITUTION/TYPE OF EDUCATION                                                                                 | STANDARD AGES                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Primary level<br>(Kindergarten and Primarschule)                    | <u>Compulsory education</u>                                                                                   | 4-11                            |
| Lower-secondary level<br>(Sekundarschule)                           | <u>Compulsory education</u>                                                                                   | 12-15                           |
| Upper-secondary level<br>(Ausbildung / Berufslehre<br>or Gymnasium) | <u>Basic vocational education and training</u><br>or<br><u>Secondary schooling</u>                            | 15-19<br>(also adult education) |
| Tertiary level<br>(Fachhochschule, Universität)                     | <u>Professional education institutions</u><br>or<br><u>Universities and higher education<br/>institutions</u> | 19-24<br>(also adult education) |

Welcoming Conversation

# Childcare and family

➤ Some excerpts from the Website Richterswil Kids, Youth & Family:

Daycare:

- Daycare below school age (Kindertagesstätte / KiTa)
- Lunch and after school care center for Kindergarten and school age (Hort)

Guidance:

- Guidance for parents (Familienberatung)
- Parenting Advice and Youth Welfare (Erziehungsberatung KJZ)
- Office for Youth and Career Counseling (AJB)

Free time:

- Child and Youth Center (Kinder- und Jugendarbeit Richterswil)
- Public swimming pool (Badi Richterswil)
- Library (Bibliothek Richterswil)
- Associations / clubs (Vereine): Scouts (Pfadi or Cevi), Football club (FC Richterswil), Parents' association (Elternverein) and much more...



## Insurances

# Social security

### ➤ Important social insurances:

Old-age and survivors' insurance (AHV)

Disability insurance (IV)

Supplementary benefits (EL)

Income compensation allowance in the event of service, maternity, other parent, caring for a sick child and adoption

Family allowance (FZ)

### ➤ Other important insurances:

Health insurance (KV) -> mandatory (see next slide)

Accident insurance (UV) -> mandatory (see next slide)

Unemployment insurance (ALV)

Personal liability and household insurance (Haftpflichtversicherung)



| AHV + AI<br>AVS                                                                     |  | Versicherungszusammen AHV-AI<br>Certificat d'assurance AVS-AI<br>Certificato di assicurazione AVS-AI<br>Certificat d'assicurazione AVS-AI<br>Insurance Certificate |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| SIEBENTHAL                                                                          |  |                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Name / Nom / Noms / Nume / Name                                                     |  |                                                                                                                                                                    |
| ANGELIKA                                                                            |  |                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Vorname / Prénom / Prename / Prenume / First Name                                   |  |                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 01. 10. 1971                                                                        |  |                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Geburtsdatum / Date de naissance / Data di nascita / Dat da nascit / Date of birth  |  |                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 756.1234.5678.90                                                                    |  |                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Versichertenr. / N° d'assuré / No d'assicurato / N° d'assicurato / Insurance Number |  |                                                                                                                                                                    |



# Welcoming Conversation

# Health

- Some excerpts from the Health guide to Switzerland:
  - Health insurance is compulsory (basic health and accident insurance)
    - > Take out health insurance within the first 3 months of your stay
    - -> You choose your health insurance company (Compare prices)
    - > Dental and more specialized treatments are not covered by basic health insurance. You are free to take out supplementary insurance
    - > If you work at least 8 hours per week, accident insurance is provided by your employer
  - Support with paying basic health insurance for low-income earners

A family doctor (Hausarzt) is the first point of contact for basic medical problems

Pharmacies (Apotheke) can also offer advice

Emergencies: Seespital Horgen (Hospital in Horgen)

Ambulance: 144; Fire brigade: 118; Police: 117



Leisure activities

# Richterswil / Samstagern



Seebad



Burgruine  
Reidholz  
Wald



Gottfried-  
Keller-  
Platz



Sportanlage  
Burgmoos



Freizeitanlage  
Hüttnersee



Schlosser-  
brunnen  
1625



Hornareal



↖  
Sport clubs



Insel Schönen-  
wirt (bought  
1848 for 100.-)



Ortsmuseum



↖  
↖ Events in Richterswil and  
Associations / clubs (Vereine)

↖ for example Räbechilbi (every November)

## Daily routine in Richterswil

# Home life

Waste management: Waste must be separated for recycling

➤ Paper and cardboard must be bundled and will be collected on specific dates in front of your house. Go to calendar and sign up for notifications

Batteries and plastic are returned to stores

➤ Glass bottles and aluminum cans are taken to recycling centers

Organic waste is disposed of in a green container in front of your house (without bag)

Everything else goes in paid garbage bags, which you can get at the supermarket or post office -> dispose of these in the big container in front of your house

Ruhezeiten: Avoid loud noises between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. and 12 p.m. and 1 p.m.

Dog tax: Register your dog within 10 days

Parking:



Blue zone: Use parking disc, max. 1 hour during day (8 a.m – 7 p.m.). Sat after 6 p.m., Sun and nights for free

White zone: Subject to a fee or free of charge with time restrictions. Check signs and payment machines

Yellow zone: Reserved for private or company use



# Getting around

## Transport



### Public Transportation:

Purchase train tickets at machine, SBB app, counter

- Different Travelcards  
(Half fare, annual GA, GA night, point-to-point card)
- Zone plan Canton Zurich  
(Zurich 110 and Winterthur 120 count as two zones)

Children until 6 Years: free

Children 6 to 16 Years: half price, junior travelcard

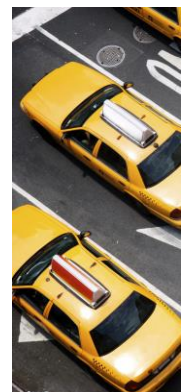
- Spartageskarte Gemeinde  
(cheaper day ticket at the residents' registration office Richterswil)

### Private Transportation:

Driving license: convert license into a Swiss driving license within a year  
(no driving tests for EU citizens)

Car: change license plates within one year.  
Custom clearance for cars -> insurance mandatory

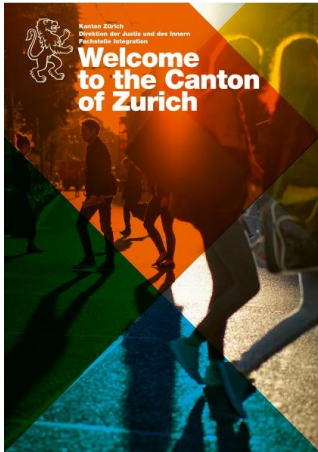
- Further information at local driver and vehicle licensing office
- Mobility Carsharing



Welcoming Conversation

# Further important information / links

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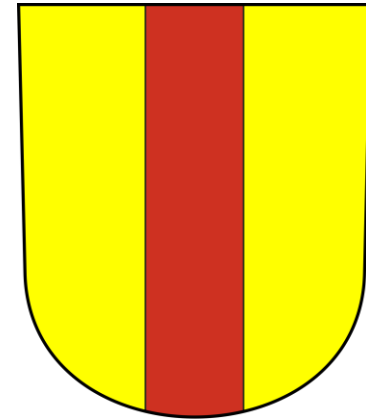
➤ [Welcome to the Canton of Zurich](#)

Information for  
Newcomers provided  
by the Canton of Zurich



➤ [Easy answers about life in Switzerland](#)

Information provided by  
the Swiss Federation



➤ [Life in Richterswil](#)

Website by the muni-  
cipality of Richterswil