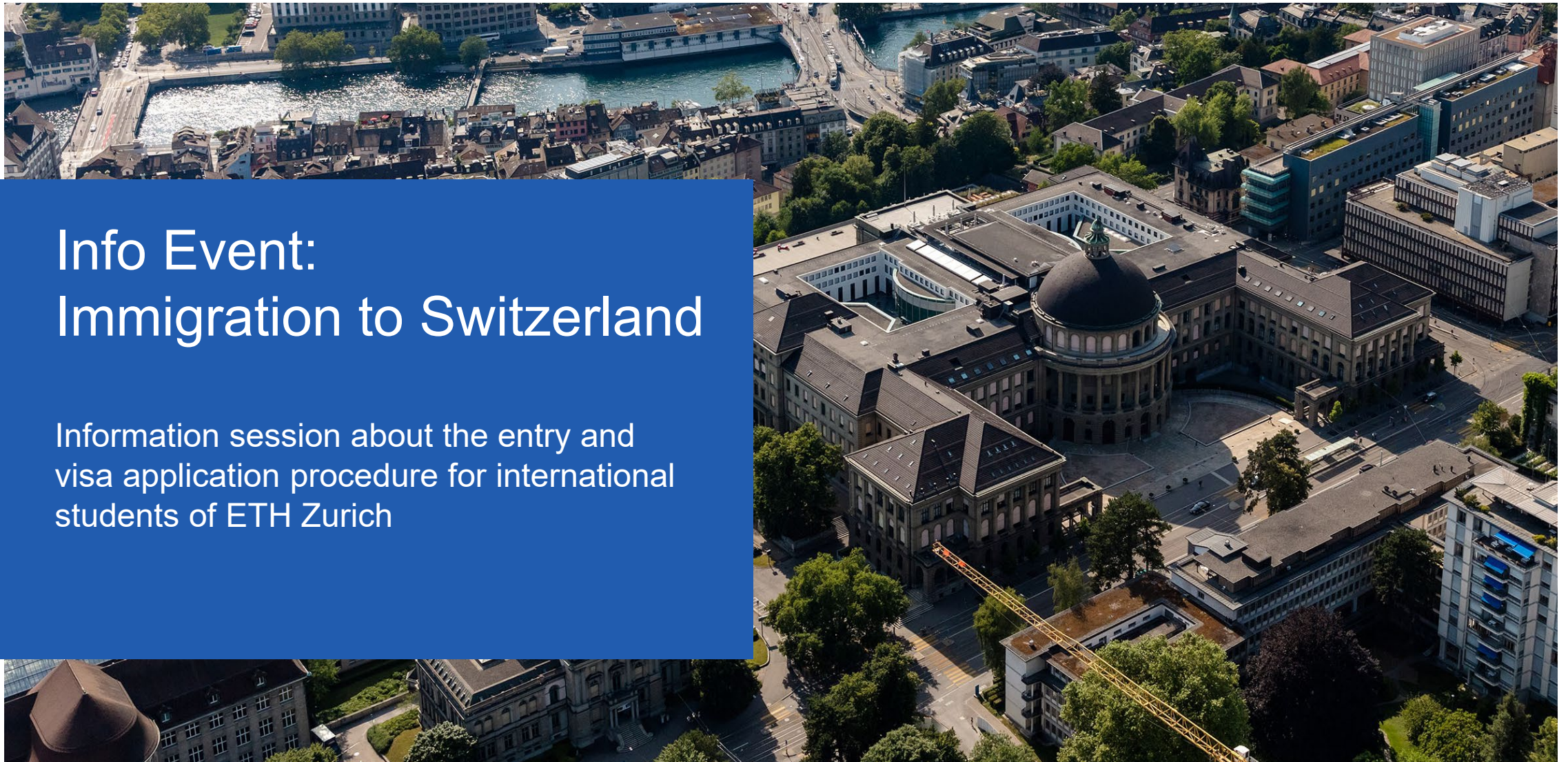
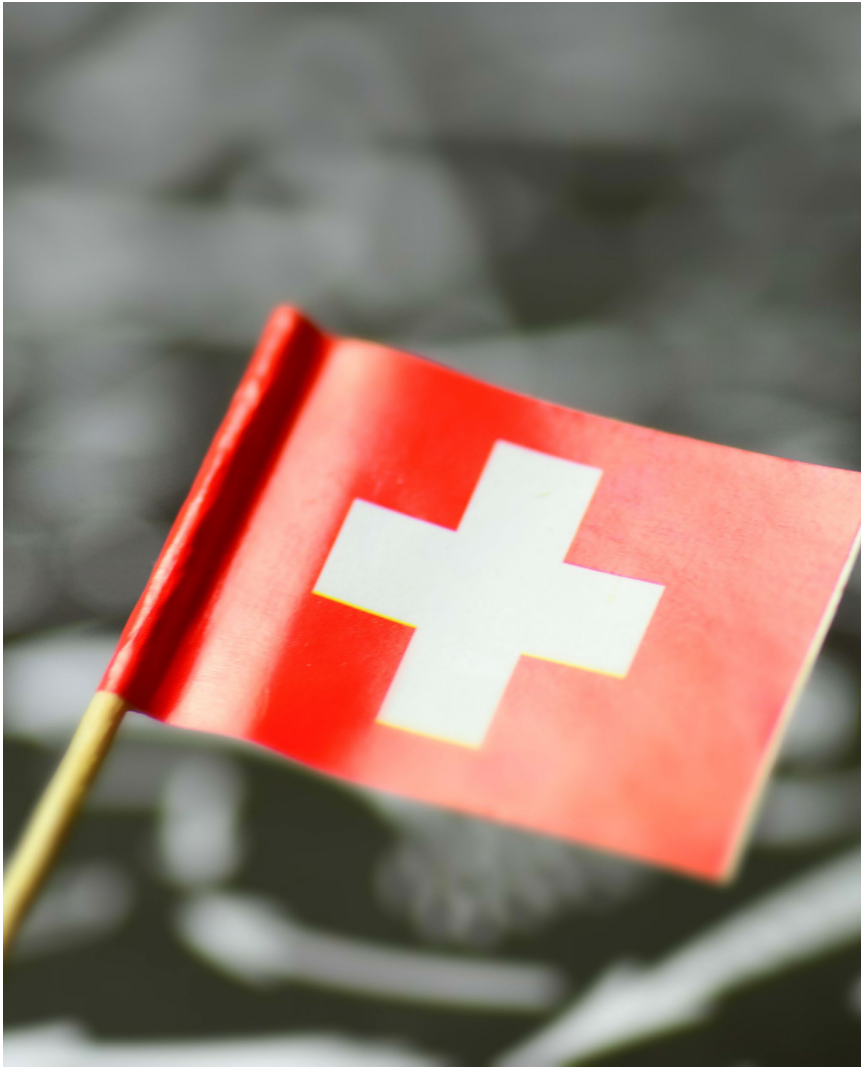


# Info Event: Immigration to Switzerland

Information session about the entry and  
visa application procedure for international  
students of ETH Zurich







# Agenda

1. General information about immigration to Switzerland
2. EU/EFTA Nationals
3. Non-EU/EFTA Nationals
  - a. with visa obligation
  - b. with a valid Schengen permit
  - c. specific countries without visa obligation
  - d. with a Swiss residence permit (change of Canton)
4. After arrival
5. Upcoming events
6. Q&A

# 1. General information about immigration to Switzerland

## Entry to Switzerland: who is responsible

- Entry to Switzerland is regulated by the [State Secretariat for Migration \(SEM\)](#) and the [Cantonal Migration Offices](#).
  - Check if a [visa is required](#)
  - EU/EFTA nationals do not need a visa to take up residence in Switzerland.
  - Students of Non-EU/EFTA countries (or *Third countries*) need a Visa D (for residence > 90 days). The visa application has to be submitted to the [Swiss Embassy](#) responsible for the applicant's place of residence. The visas are issued by the Cantonal Migration Offices.  
**→ Entering Switzerland as a tourist does not allow to take up residence!** 
- A valid travel document is mandatory when entering Switzerland
  - EU/EFTA nationals: valid ID or passport
  - Non-EU/EFTA nationals: valid passport (check the validity requirements with the Embassy!)
- Residence permit registration (after arrival) is subject to the Municipalities or Cities.

## 2. EU/EFTA

### EU/EFTA nationals

- If you are a national of an EU or EFTA country, you do not need to obtain a visa before entering Switzerland.
- However, you are obliged to register and apply for a residence permit at the Resident's Registration Office ("Personenmeldeamt") in Zurich or City/Village Hall after arrival (within 14 days).  
→ Please see our [website](#) for detailed information
- With a Swiss residence permit (change of Canton): register directly at the new place of residence.

#### **Special case: cross-border commuters («Grenzgänger» or «Frontaliers»)**

*Students living in other countries near the Swiss border*

- The Migration Office of the Canton of Zurich does NOT issue cross-border commuter permits for students.
- Different regulations may apply in other cantons.
- Please contact the [Migration Office](#) of the respective canton if you have any questions.

## 2. EU/EFTA



If you are planning to take up residence in another Canton than the Canton of Zurich

- try to keep your European Health Insurance
- more information at our info event on health insurance (24.09.)

# 3. Non-EU/EFTA Nationals

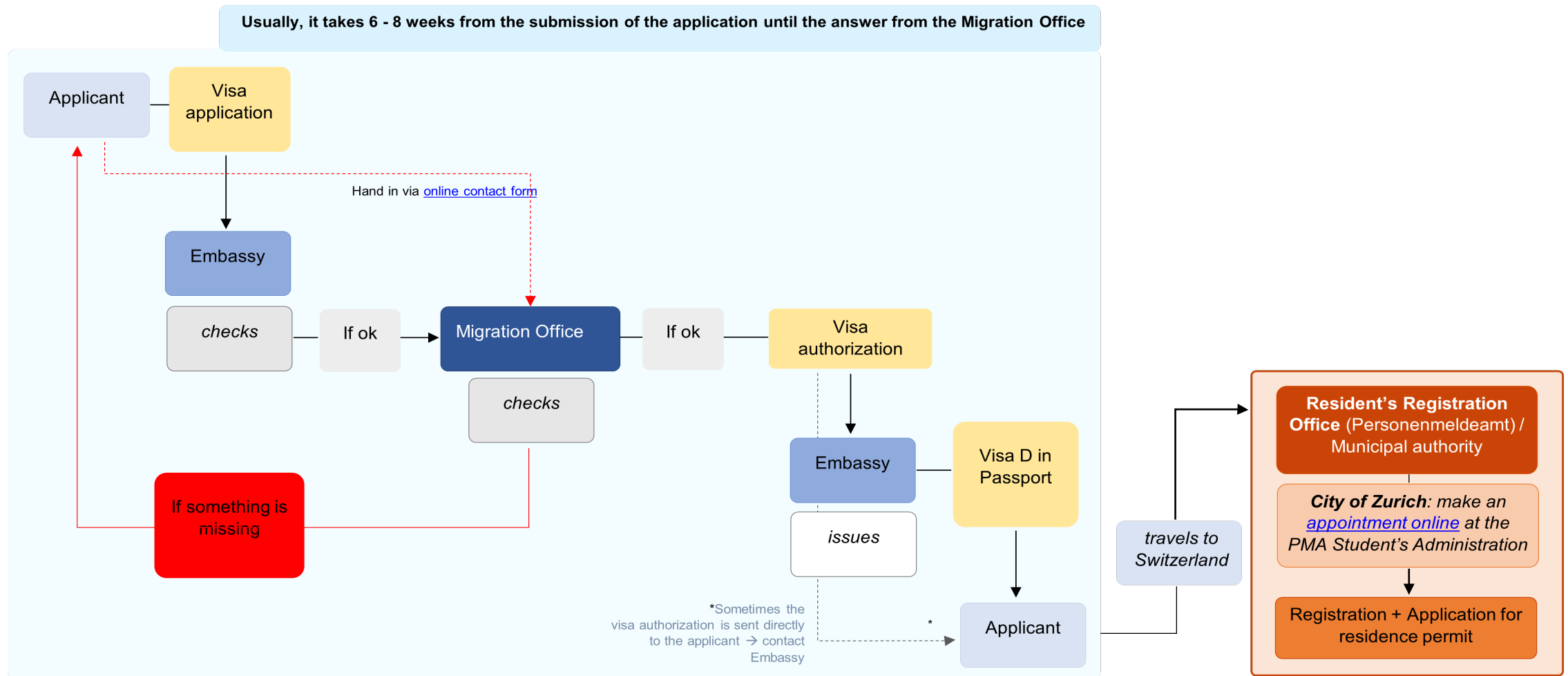
## Visa and permit procedures

- a. with visa obligation  
*basically, all students from Non-EU/EFTA countries.*
- b. with a valid Schengen-permit  
*students who already reside in a Schengen-country and have a valid residence permit.*
- c. specific countries exempt from visa obligation  
*citizens of Australia, Brunei, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, UK.*
- d. with a Swiss residence permit (change of Canton)  
*students who already reside in Switzerland and want to move to another Canton.*

**→ Required documents are more or less the same for all applicants**

# 3. Non-EU/EFTA Nationals

## Visa and permit procedures



# 3. Non-EU/EFTA Nationals

## a. with visa obligation

- Visa application has to be submitted to the local Swiss representation of your current place of residence about **3 months before planned arrival**
  - for an entry in September: end of May / beginning of June
  - *However*: consult Embassy to determine if there is a waiting period to obtain an appointment!
- For a complete **list of documents**, see [our website](#):
  - Number of entries: usually *one entry*
  - Duration of the intended stay: *3 years (for BSc 180 ECTS) / 1.5 years (for MSc 90 ECTS) / 2 years (for MSc 120 ECTS) / 1-2 years (for MAS min. 60-90 ECTS)*
  - Address in Switzerland: *If you don't know yet, write "Student room in Zürich" or similar.*
  - Confirmation of tuition fee payment: *information included on your confirmation of registration (MSc); all others: print letter from our [website](#)*
  - Bachelor Diploma: *if you haven't yet received your diploma, then start the application process with your final transcript and/or a confirmation of completion of studies from your university.*



## 3. Non-EU/EFTA Nationals

### a. with visa obligation

- **Financial evidence:** Proof that you can finance your stay in Switzerland

**Zurich: CHF 21,000**

**Basel: CHF 24,000**

- Submission of bank statement (in CHF, € or US\$)
- Only bank statements from banks domiciled in Switzerland (a Swiss bank or a foreign bank with a branch in Switzerland) are accepted, see [FINMA-list](#).

→ **Important:** The account must be your own (not your parents')! Supportive letters from parents are **not accepted** (despite any contrary information from the Embassies)

### Alternatives

- Bank account in another country
- Scholarship
- Guarantor: a person residing in Switzerland (Swiss citizen or residence permit B or C) guarantees the coverage of uncovered costs up to 21,000 / 24,000 CHF.

The form will be sent to you by the Migration Office

Request for submission of a valid proof of financial means:

- a) Guarantee of a solvent person (Swiss citizen or residence permit B or C): Fill out Form below + Bank statement or salary slips or tax declaration + Confirmation about current debts
- b) Bank statement with 21'000 CHF from accepted Bank (FINMA-List)

Nachweis der Sicherstellung der finanziellen Mittel für den Lebensunterhalt und Rückreise durch Vorlage von

- a) Verpflichtung einer solventen Person mit Wohnsitz in der Schweiz (Schweizer oder Ausländer mit Niederlassungs- oder Aufenthaltsbewilligung) unter Beilage der letzten drei Lohnabrechnungen und einem aktuellen Auszug aus dem Betreibungsregister des Wohnortes der letzten 3 Jahre oder Kopien der letzten Steuererklärung inkl. Steuerrechnung mit aktuellem Betreibungsregistrauszug oder eines Bankkontoauszugs mit aktuellem Betreibungsregistrauszug oder
- b) Bestätigung einer in der Schweiz zugelassenen Bank, wonach zu Beginn und bei Verlängerung des Aufenthalts je ein Betrag von Fr. 21'000.- zur Verfügung steht. Bitte konsultieren Sie diesbezüglich die Finma-Liste.

Die Bestätigung der ( ) kann nicht akzeptiert werden, da es sich dabei nicht um eine in der Schweiz domizilierten Bank handelt. Auch die Bestätigung des Arbeitgebers ist für die Sicherstellung der finanziellen Mittel nicht sachdienlich.

**Deadline for submission!**

Bitte beantworten Sie unser Schreiben bis am 9. August 2022. Gemäss Art. 90 AIG sind

*Sie können uns online über das Kontaktformular unter [zh.ch/ma-kontakt](https://zh.ch/ma-kontakt) erreichen und uns die erforderlichen Unterlagen zustellen.*

**Required documents can be submitted directly via the online contact form: [zh.ch/ma-kontakt](https://zh.ch/ma-kontakt)**

**Please have at hand your ZH and ZEMIS-Number!**

### 3. Non-EU/EFTA Nationals

#### a. with visa obligation

- **Visa approved:** Migration Office sends the Visa Authorization to the Embassy (*or directly to you*)  
→ issuance of visa by the Embassy (CHF 95).
- The visa will determine **a period of 90 days** during which an entry to Switzerland is possible.

Please note: these dates refer only to the validity of your visa, NOT your residency! Your residence permit (Type B) will have a validity of 1 year.



*Example: visa valid from 01.09.2024 to 30.11.2024*  
→ During this time period, you can enter Switzerland.

## ERMÄCHTIGUNG ZUR VISUMERTEILUNG (EINREISEERLAUBNIS)

Aufenthaltsdauer: 1 Jahr mit Verlängerungsmöglichkeit

Gültigkeitsdauer  
des Visums:

Diese Ermächtigung  
erlischt am:

17.11.2023 Your visa to enter Switzerland is valid until that date, an entry after this date is not possible

Bedingungen:

Gültiges Reisedokument

Immatrikulation nach erfolgter Einreise

### 3. Non-EU/EFTA Nationals

#### b. with a valid Schengen-permit

- students who already reside in a Schengen-country and have [a valid residence permit](#) are exempt from the visa obligation.
- However: submission of the same documents as students with visa obligation will be required when applying for residence permit (including financial evidence!)
  - difference: submission of these documents at the Resident's Registration Office ("Personenmeldeamt") in Zurich or City/Village Hall *after* arrival.
- **Important:** the Schengen permit has to be valid until you receive your Swiss residence permit (this can take up to 2-3 months!)

*Examples:* Your German residence permit is valid until December 2024 → **ok**  
Your Spanish residence permit expires in July 2024 → **not ok**, apply for a Visa D  
Your Czech residence permit expires in September/October 2024 → **probably too close**.  
Please contact the [Migration Office](#) and ask for advice.



## 3. Non-EU/EFTA Nationals

### c. Specific third-country nationals

- Australia, Brunei, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, UK: no visa required to enter Switzerland.
- However: submission of the same documents as students with visa obligation will be required when applying for residence permit (including financial evidence!)
  - difference: submission of these documents at the Resident's Registration Office ("Personenmeldeamt") in Zurich or City/Village Hall *after* arrival.  
*and* possibility to open a Swiss bank account for your proof of financial means (no need of FINMA-List)
- For students in Basel and other Cantons: an assurance of a residence permit ("Zusicherung zur Aufenthaltsbewilligung") might be required. Please check with the [Migration Office](#) of the Canton of your future place of domicile in time.

## 3. Non-EU/EFTA Nationals

### d. Change of Canton

- Students who have already a residence permit from another Canton must apply for a change of Canton (“Kantonswechsel”) to be allowed to move to Zurich.

Request for change of Canton has to be submitted **8-12 weeks before arrival** in Zurich.

- More or less the same documents as students with visa obligation (including financial evidence) have to be submitted to the Migration Office of the Canton of Zurich via their [online contact form](#) (only available in German):
  - Short cover letter (subject: “Gesuch um Kantonswechsel”) to explain why you have to move to Zürich
  - Copy/scan of your residence permit of the current Canton of residence
  - Confirmation of matriculation (“Immatrikulationsbestätigung”) at ETH Zurich
  - A financial evidence (CHF 21'000 on your bank account)
  - Additional case-specific documents/information may be required after the application.

## 4. After arrival

### a) Residence permit

- Apply for your **residence permit** within 14 days after arrival.  
All relevant information about the procedure is on our [website](#)
  - If you haven't found permanent accommodation yet, please inform the Resident's Registration Office accordingly.  
*Please note that ETH won't be able to assist you in this matter.*
  - **You will get more information on the procedure by email in August**

### b) Health insurance

- Attend the online **information event about Health Insurance** on **24 September** in Switzerland (invitation will follow by email).
  - Please don't take action in this matter before the event.

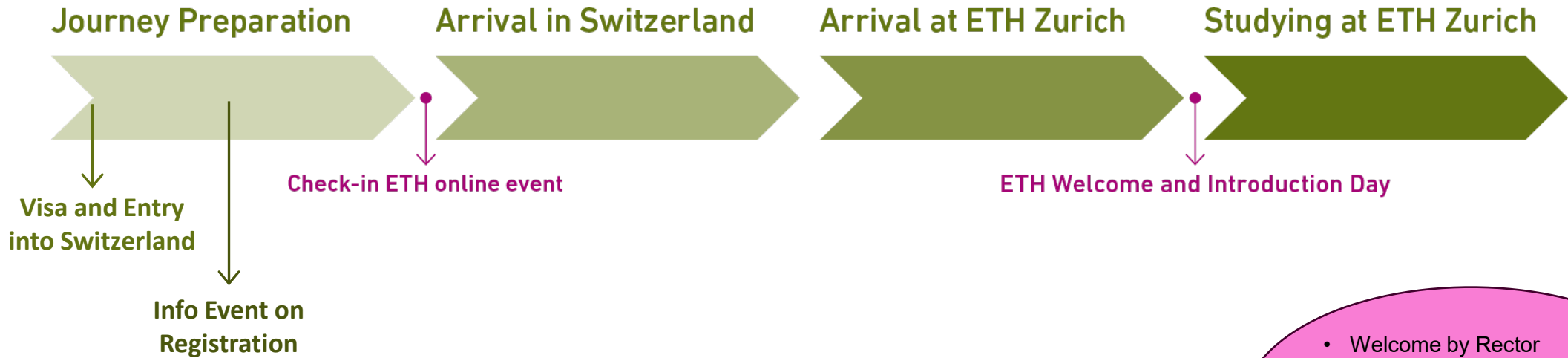


And last but not least...

...read our  
website & FAQ!



## 5. ETH welcome service: Upcoming events for Master's students



### Journey Preparation:

#### Info Event on Registration (Admissions Office)

Online info event

- **May 22, 13:00-14:30 CEST**
- Notification via E-Mail

### START your journey at ETH!

#### Check-in ETH Online Event

Online onboarding event

- August 30, 12:00-16:00 CEST
  - Registration is mandatory
- [www.ethz.ch/master-checkin](http://www.ethz.ch/master-checkin)

- Welcome by Rector Prof. Dr. Günther Dissertori
- Indispensable ETH know-how about the academic culture and contact points
- Network with peer students

Check out the [course offer](#) of the Language Center of UZH and ETH Zurich



## Contact

[internationalstudents@ethz.ch](mailto:internationalstudents@ethz.ch)

ETH Zürich

Academic Services

**International Student Office**

**HG F 13**

Raemistrasse 101

8092 Zurich

Phone hours:      Monday 9-11 am  
                            Wednesday 3-5 pm

Website: [www.ethz.ch/en/studies/international](http://www.ethz.ch/en/studies/international)

## 6. Q&A



# Important Links

## Visa obligation (1)

- Check if visa is required:  
[https://www.sem.admin.ch/sem/en/home/publiservice/weisungen-kreisschreiben/visa/liste1\\_staatsangehoerigkeit.html](https://www.sem.admin.ch/sem/en/home/publiservice/weisungen-kreisschreiben/visa/liste1_staatsangehoerigkeit.html)
- General website SEM - entry: [https://www.sem.admin.ch/sem/en/home/themen/einreise/merkblatt\\_einreise.html](https://www.sem.admin.ch/sem/en/home/themen/einreise/merkblatt_einreise.html)
- General website Migration Office – Canton of Zurich (only in German):  
<https://www.zh.ch/de/migration-integration/einreise.html>
- FINMA-list:  
<https://www.finma.ch/en/finma-public/authorised-institutions-individuals-and-products/>

# Important Links

## Visa obligation (2)

- Documents:
  - ID and visa provisions according to nationality ([PDF, 404 kB, 16.02.2023](#))
  - ID and visa provisions: particularities regardless of nationality ([PDF, 192 kB, 01.01.2023](#))
- Entry with a Schengen residence permit:
  - [List of Residence Permits Issued by Member States \(PDF, 776 kB, 20.03.2023\)](#)
- Swiss representations abroad: <https://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/fdfa/representations-and-travel-advice/schweizer-vertretungen-im-ausland.html>

# Important Links

## Residence permit

- General website SEM – residence: <https://www.sem.admin.ch/sem/en/home/themen/aufenthalt.html>
- Contact and office hours of the Resident's Registration Office (City of Zurich): <https://www.stadt-zuerich.ch/prd/de/index/bevoelkerungsamt/kontakt-oeffnungszeiten/kontakte-und-oeffnungszeiten-pma.html>

## Health insurance

- Cantonal institutions authorised to grant exemption from compulsory health-insurance ([PDF, 162 kB, 26.09.2022](#))
- ETH Information website: <https://ethz.ch/en/studies/international/after-arrival/health-insurance.html>
- SVA Zurich – Information on compulsory health insurance (and exemption): <https://svazurich.ch/unsere-produkte/weitere-produkte/krankenversicherung--kvg-/compulsory-health-insurance/krankenversicherungspflicht-wer-hat-anspruch.html>

## Employment

- Gainful employment and internships for students from Third countries (Canton of Zurich): <https://www.zh.ch/en/wirtschaft-arbeit/erwerbstaetigkeit-auslaender/studierende-und-praktikanten.html>
- ETH information website: <https://ethz.ch/de/studium/international/nach-ankunft/erwerbstaetigkeit.html>