

Integration

Foreigners are expected to integrate into society. This involves abiding by the law, being economically independent, and learning German.

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 language spoken in 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 programmes.

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 Appenzell Ausserrhoden, various support services are available for newcomers. A good first point of contact is always the local municipality. However, there are also specific support services for migrants. The Informationsstelle Integration provides information about life in Switzerland and answers specific questions on various topics. Those who do not yet speak German can bring someone to translate or request an interpreter.

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

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