

in the first year

During the first year, there are many additional tasks that will help you settle in Appenzell Ausserrhoden in the long term. This checklist shows you the key points to keep in mind.

1. Integration and Community Life

► Social contacts are important for settling in Switzerland. Talking to neighbours, acquaintances or participating in a club helps to practise the language and better understand everyday life.

Those who get involved find connections more quickly – and soon feel at home.

- [Associations in Appenzell Ausserrhoden](#)
 - [Events in Appenzell Ausserrhoden](#)
 - [benevol.ch / Volunteering](#)
 - [Women's group Appenzell Ausserrhoden](#)
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2. Diplomas, Education and Further Training

► Foreign **diplomas** must be recognised in certain professions (e.g. health, education, technology) in order to work in Switzerland.

- [Check – Do I need recognition for my profession?](#)
- [HEKS MosaiQ Ostschweiz - Counselling for highly qualified migrants](#)
- [Overview of responsible authorities and institutions](#)
- [Explanation of diploma recognition – how to proceed?](#)

► Switzerland offers many educational programmes and **further training opportunities** – also for adults. Please inform yourself early about suitable options.

- [Swiss education system graphic](#)
 - [Career, study and education counselling](#)
 - [Vocational guidance explained in multiple languages](#)
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3. Mobility

► Vehicle import: If you import a car from abroad, you must register it within 12 months. Clarify in advance whether the vehicle can be approved in Switzerland – this will help you avoid problems and delays.

- Application for vehicle as part of relocation goods for the customs office
- Road Traffic Office Trogen

► Driving licence exchange: Your foreign driving licence must also be exchanged within this period, or you will lose your driving rights. Persons from non-EU/EFTA countries must also take a driving test. Driving lessons are recommended.

- Application for licence exchange
- Road Traffic Office Trogen

► Public transport in Switzerland is well developed and reliable. Many people use the train, bus, tram or regional passes like the GA or Halbtax in everyday life.

- sbb.ch / Top offers
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4. Taxes

► With a B permit, the tax is deducted directly from your salary (**withholding tax**). A tax return is usually not required.

► With a C permit, you must submit a tax return every year (**ordinary taxation**).
Special case in Appenzell Ausserrhoden: Even with a B permit, you may submit a tax return – if you apply for it in advance.

- Tax Office Appenzell Ausserrhoden
 - comparis.ch / compare taxes
 - Application for ordinary taxation
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5. Counselling and Support Services

► In many municipalities, there are counselling centres that are free of charge or low-cost – for example on questions related to work, housing, family, residence or health. These services help you to find your way and provide solutions when things get difficult.

- *[find help / Health and Social Services – Help made easy](#)*
- *[Victim support SG-AR-AI](#)*
- *[Emergency numbers](#)*
- *[Domestic Violence Brochure](#)*

► The canton also offers free legal consultations. These offer short, free legal advice to all residents. Consultation sessions are held regularly.

- *[Contacts for legal advice](#)*
 - *[Infostelle Arbeit / Legal advice on labour law \(4 hours free\)](#)*
 - *[Free legal advice on tenancy and leasehold law](#)*
 - *[Heks Ostschweiz - Counselling Centre against Racism and Discrimination](#)*
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6. Canton Portrait: Appenzell Ausserrhoden

► **Appenzell Ausserrhoden** is one of the 26 cantons of Switzerland. With a population of 56,641 people in 2024, it is one of the smaller cantons. The canton is known for its vibrant traditions and natural diversity.

- *[Short profile of Appenzell Ausserrhoden](#)*
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7. Fundamental Rights

► In Switzerland, **fundamental rights** are enshrined in the Federal Constitution. They apply to all people – regardless of origin, language, gender, religion, age or sexual orientation.

- All people are equal before the law.
- Women and men have equal rights.
- Discrimination is prohibited – for example based on origin, religion or sexuality.
- Everyone is free to choose their religion and express their opinion.
- Freedom of expression and of the press are guaranteed.
- Same-sex couples may marry.
- No one may be beaten or threatened. (→ Help in case of domestic violence)

- Federal Constitution
 - Heks Ostschweiz - Counselling Centre against Racism and Discrimination
 - Emergency numbers
 - Domestic Violence Brochure
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8. Duties

► Anyone living in Switzerland enjoys many **rights** – but also has responsibilities and **duties** towards society. These duties apply to everyone, regardless of nationality. Important duties include (you are personally responsible for the timely and correct fulfilment of the following tasks):

- Obeying the law and respecting the decisions of authorities
- Paying taxes and charges
- Taking out health insurance (mandatory for everyone)
- Complying with the school attendance requirement for children
- Fulfilling the duty to report when moving, changing jobs or during family reunification (e.g. informing the municipality of address changes)
- Separating and disposing of waste properly

► For foreigners, the following also applies:

- Personal responsibility (you are responsible for implementing all necessary measures correctly and on time)
- Compliance with residence and employment conditions
- Learning the national language and avoiding debt is essential

Respectful behaviour towards others, the environment and public institutions is also part of social responsibility

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

www.hallo-ar.ch/en/test/subtest-1-2