ADVICE

The OSA offers the Swiss Abroad free advice on issues relating to emigration, living abroad and returning to Switzerland.

This advice is provided in cooperation with partner organisations on topics including health insurance, military service, education and training, OASI/DI, citizenship, exercising political rights, and other legal and administrative questions.



"THE OSA COMMITTED TO WORKING FOR THE SWISS ABROAD SINCE 1916

Financial support

Would you like to support the OSA financially? Donations can be made to our post office account: **PC 30-6768-9** (IBAN CH71 0900 0000 3000 6768 9)

OSA partner organisations

educationsuisse (Swiss schools abroad and education advice for the Swiss Abroad) www.educationsuisse.ch

Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad (FYSA) www.sjas.ch

Organisation of the Swiss Abroad

Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3006 Bern Tel. + 41 (0)31 356 61 00 Fax + 41 (0)31 356 61 01 info@aso.ch www.aso.ch www.swisscommunity.org www.revue.ch



INFORMATION NETWORKING REPRESENTATION ADVICE



Auslandschweizer-Organisation Organisation des Suisses de l'étranger Organizzazione degli Svizzeri all'estero Organisaziun dals Svizzers a l'ester



THE ORGANISATION OF THE SWISS ABROAD

The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) is a centre of expertise on all matters concerning Swiss people living abroad.

The OSA is a politically and religiously neutral, independent non-governmental organisation. It defends and represents the interests of Swiss citizens living abroad and offers them a wide range of services.

The Swiss diaspora is spread across every continent. This multilingual and multicultural community plays a significant role in shaping Switzerland's image in other countries. It is therefore of central importance to maintain a strong bond between Swiss citizens living abroad and those in Switzerland. To achieve this objective, the OSA has set itself four tasks: to inform, network, represent and advise the Swiss Abroad.

Further information about the OSA's scope of activities and services can be found on its website: www.aso.ch.

INFORMATION

The OSA informs fellow citizens abroad about events and developments in Switzerland.

The OSA fulfils this information mandate in many different ways: via its website (www.aso.ch), the news-letter and the magazine "Swiss Review". About 400,000 copies of this magazine are produced in five languages and sent around the globe. It is also available online at www.revue.ch and via the Swiss Review app.

NETWORKING

The OSA offers a wide range of services to strengthen the bonds both among the Swiss Abroad and between Swiss citizens in Switzerland and those living abroad.

Offers: Together with its partner organisations, the OSA offers a number of services for the young Swiss Abroad: camps, language courses, introductions to the political system in Switzerland, etc. The OSA also organises the annual Congress of the Swiss Abroad, which is open to anyone who is interested.

Bonds: To maintain direct connections with Swiss citizens living abroad, the OSA has access to a network of more than 700 Swiss associations and institutions as well as their umbrella organisations around the globe. Thanks to SwissCommunity.org, the virtual platform for the Swiss Abroad, which is also present on Facebook, YouTube and Twitter, it also has a direct connection to fellow citizens worldwide.

REPRESENTATION

Ten percent of all Swiss nationals live outside Switzerland. Serving the interests of the community of the Swiss Abroad is therefore of utmost importance.

It is the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA), supreme organ of the OSA, which assumes this task. The CSA is largely composed of delegates chosen from among the Swiss Abroad. The Swiss federal authorities recognise the CSA as the official voice of the "fifth Switzerland". Thanks to the parliamentary group of the Swiss Abroad, which comprises almost 100 parliamentarians, the OSA has a direct link to the Swiss federal parliament.

The greatest achievements of the CSA include the implementation of the Swiss Abroad Act and the introduction of postal voting for the Swiss Abroad. The OSA is currently engaged in political lobbying to introduce e-voting for the Swiss Abroad. The OSA also encourages its fellow citizens abroad to register to vote so that they can participate in political debate and have a voice in Switzerland.

