

## **Access to the Job Market**

Whether or not a person is granted permission to work or start a business in Switzerland may vary according to citizenship and reasons for entering Switzerland. All persons working in Switzerland must register with social insurance and pay taxes.

### **Work Permit**

The granting of a work permit is usually determined at the same time a residence permit is granted. Generally, people with residence permits can work in Switzerland. Depending on the nationality and the duration of the work, the employer or the worker applies for the permit. The following addresses provide further information on the subject, including assistance for people who do not yet live in Switzerland, yet would like to work here. Recognised refugees (B permit) and temporarily admitted people with or without refugee status (F permit) do not require a special permit. However, the start and end of each employment must be reported to the canton using an official form (Meldeverfahren). The canton in which you work is responsible. Registration is free of charge. Asylum seekers (identity card N) need a permit.

### **Owning a Business**

Whether or not a person in Switzerland can start their own business may vary according to citizenship and permit. The process is simpler for people from EU/EFTA countries as well as people with a C permit. The migration office (Migrationsamt) informs migrants about whether or not starting a business is possible. The cantonal economic development service (Standortförderung) offers support in the implementation of business ideas.

### **Illegal Work**

It is illegal and punishable to work without having social insurance, a work permit, or without declaring income in the tax return. This is illegal work (Schwarzarbeit). Illegal work has consequences for both the employer and the employee involved. In addition, illegal workers are not insured in the case of an accident and are not paid a contribution to their pension. People who suspect that they have not been employed correctly should consult a pro bono legal service (Rechtsberatungsstelle).

## **Young People**

Generally young people who have reached the age of 14 can work. Simple tasks over short periods of time (e.g. summer jobs) are allowed before the age of 14. Parents and employers must ensure that young people are not overburdened. Special labour regulations apply to young people under the age of 18.

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

[www.hallo-baselstadt.ch/en/work/access-to-the-job-market](http://www.hallo-baselstadt.ch/en/work/access-to-the-job-market)