



High School Education in Switzerland

Switzerland is one of the first countries that comes to mind when it comes to high school education abroad with its high living standards, welfare level and advanced education system.

High school education in Switzerland is for students between the ages of 15 and 18. Although high school education, which is called “higher secondary education”, is not compulsory, the majority of students continue their education.

The high school education system in Switzerland is administered by 26 different “cantons”. Each canton determines the curriculum, school calendar and admission criteria for its region. A supervisory body, SERI (State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation) regularly monitors the education systems of the cantons.

The biggest advantage of high school education in Switzerland is that there are many types of high schools. Some of these high schools offer various programs and diploma options such as IB, IGCSE, Abitur, Swiss Matura and French Baccalaureate. Thanks to this wide range of education, students can pursue their university and career goals.

Another advantage of studying high school in Switzerland is, of course, language education. With 4 official languages, Switzerland offers students the opportunity to graduate from high school with a minimum proficiency in two languages. Students can study in French, English, German or Italian.

High schools in Switzerland can generally be divided into 3 groups.

The first one is VET schools that provide vocational education. In these schools, students receive training for vocational applications. After completing 2 - 4 years of education, students receive a federal VET diploma or certificate.



Secondly, there are specialized high school schools. These schools are suitable for students who want to pursue careers in health, social services and education. Students receive both vocational training and basic high school education. The education in these schools lasts three years and at the end students have to take a final exam. If they pass the exam successfully, they receive a high school specialization school certificate and continue their studies at PET colleges.

Thirdly, there are the Baccalaureate schools. Baccalaureate schools are often preferred by students. These schools teach the high school curriculum determined by the cantons. Education in these schools lasts 3 - 6 years. Students who complete their studies in these schools must take an exam and submit a baccalaureate essay. Students graduate with a certificate called Matura and can then go on to higher education at cantonal universities, institutes of technology and teacher training universities.

The main requirements for admission to Swiss high schools are a good average and a language test score certifying language proficiency. In addition, different cantons may require letters of recommendation, letters of intent or apply their own exams and interviews.

Students studying high school in Switzerland have the option of living in a dormitory or staying with a family. Both options have their own advantages. Students who choose homestay stay with a Swiss family. In this way, they can improve their language level in a very short time and ensure that the learning at school continues at home. Students staying in dormitories can socialize with students of their own age group. They can also benefit from the laundry, dining hall, study areas and common areas in the dormitories.

Studying high school in Switzerland, the heart of Europe, provides students with a globally recognized high school diploma and a broad vision. With the help of our expert counselors, you can choose the school that suits your wishes, needs and expectations and carry out the application procedures smoothly.

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