Family reunion

Please note: foreign spouses and children of Swiss and EU/EFTA nationals must follow the immigration procedure outlined below. However, they are not subject to the quota restrictions.

Requirements:

1. Three national (type D) visa application forms, fully completed and signed by the applicant. Applications which are not duly completed, dated and signed will not be accepted. Please also indicate your e-mail address and a contact phone number. In case of minors (under 18 years of age), both parents will need to sign. Custody agreements/orders will have to be submitted.

2. Four identical recent passport photos (please consult the requirements on the webpage). Digital files and photocopies will not be accepted.

3. Two copies of valid passport or travel document (photo, data and signature pages only)

4. Two copies of passport or travel document of spouse/partner/parent. If applicable, please also include two copies of the Swiss resident permit.

5. Non-U.S. Citizens: 2 notarized copies of proof of residency in the USA, e.g. a valid permanent resident card (green card), H1B visa (plus I-797), F-1 visa (plus I-20), etc.

6. Spouses/partners: 2 notarized or certified copies of marriage certificate or partnership contract

Children: 2 notarized or certified copies of birth certificate

Spouses and children of Swiss nationals: if the marriage or birth has already been registered in Switzerland, please submit 2 notarized copies of your family certificate (Familienschein, Familienausweis oder Familienbüchlein). If the marriage or birth has not been registered yet, please submit the necessary documentation for registration (www.swissemb.org/consularaffairs) to the competent Swiss representation.

Documents in any other language than English, German, French or Italian require a certified translation.

7. Adults: Proof of language competency (A1) in the language spoken at the future place of residence in Switzerland or confirmation of enrolment in a language course that will allow this level to be acquired.

The Swiss representations do not conduct language tests. Please consult the factsheet on proof of language skills (Page 2) and FAQ for further details.

8. Visa fee: please check the website for the current fees. For spouses and children of Swiss and EU/EFTA nationals, and for children under six years of age, the visa is free of charge.

Your request will be forwarded for a decision to the competent cantonal foreign police where you intend to stay, and the representation will only be able to issue your visa upon receipt of the authorization. Please note that the procedure takes at least 8-10 weeks.

Once the authorization has been given, you will have to submit the following documents to the competent Swiss representation in order to obtain your visa:

1. Original passport or travel document

2. Passports with issued visas can be mailed back. If you wish to do so, please provide a prepaid, self-addressed return envelope with a tracking number of a secure carrier. Applicants must indicate their name and address both as sender and recipient. The Swiss representation does not assume any liability for the loss of documents submitted or returned by mail.

Please note that this is not an exhaustive list. If necessary, you may be requested to submit additional documents or may need to present yourself at the competent Swiss representation for a personal interview.