



OUTCAN Info Sheet 2020

Zurich, Switzerland

LOCATION

Country: Switzerland

Town: Zurich (Capital and largest city)

Entry/Exit requirements: Green/Blue passports and posting travel orders.

Other info to Consider:

- Family (non-dependants) can visit and stay 90 days **without visa** (Schengen Area, Non EU).

POPULATION

Size: over 400,000 (2017)

Ethnicity: Mostly nationals

LANGUAGE(S)

Official language: German.

Prevalence of French or English speaking: The standard of education in Austria is very high, so pretty well all schoolchildren get a solid grounding in English.

COST OF LIVING

Exchange rate to consider: Swiss Franc (CHF) 1 CDN = 0,7 CHF (Nov 2020)

QUALITY OF LIFE

Climate and potential for severe weather, natural disasters:

- Avalanches present a risk year round in mountainous areas, where the weather can be unpredictable. Always carefully follow the advice of local authorities.

Laws and Culture:

- Penalties for possession, use or trafficking of illegal drugs are severe.
- If you are a Canadian citizen, but also a citizen of Switzerland, ability to offer you consular services may be limited while you're there.
- Canadians with dual citizenship or who are eligible for Swiss citizenship may be subject to compulsory military service and other aspects of Swiss law.
- You must be at least 18 years old to drive in Switzerland. A Canadian driver's licence or an International Driving Permit is required in order to drive in Switzerland for up to 12 months. A Swiss driver's licence is required for stays longer than 12 months.
- Penalties for drinking and driving are strict. The legal blood alcohol limit is 0.05 percent. Convicted offenders can expect heavy fines or jail sentences, and their driving licence may be confiscated immediately.

Safety and Security:

- Petty crime such as pickpocketing and purse snatching occur.
- There is a threat of terrorism in Europe. Terrorist attacks have occurred in a number of European cities. There is a potential for other violent incidents.

Level of isolation:

- There is only one Canadian family in this location.
- This post is considered remote.

HOUSING

- It is recommended that you ask your sponsor, during your HHT for a list of all the points of contact at CFSU(E) in Geilenkirchen so you can call if you encounter any support issues as you transition to your rental property.

EMPLOYMENT

Are there employment opportunities for spouses?

- Due to tax and legal implications, spousal employment on the economy is not a realistic option.
- There are very limited employment opportunities available through CFMWS, so families should plan to be single income for the duration of the posting.

HEALTH CARE

Access: Health care is excellent, and comparable to Canadian standards.

- English services are widely available, French is very limited.
- All bills associated with the care of dependents are the member's personal responsibility and are to be claimed through PSHCP.

Resources for children with special needs:

- Depending on language required (English/French), area of specialization and degree of support needed.
- It may be a wait before finding an appropriate match and at times may not be possible based on availability of English/French speaking providers or resources.
- It is highly advised that the family consult with Medical Screening Officer in Canada and / or the Canadian Element to ensure that the required services are readily available in either English or French before accepting a posting

Consideration for pregnancy / birth: Health care for pregnancy and birth is available on the economy.

Dental: Dental care can be accessed in town. You are required to pay up front, and you can then claim your expenses.

SCHOOLING

- There are no English language schools indicated for this mission. Contact CEM for dependent education options.
- There are no French language schools indicated for this mission. Contact CEM for dependent education options.

Curriculum vs. Canadian curriculum:

- The curriculum varies depending on choice of school.
- None of them offers Canadian history or geography.

Resources for special need children:

- Special needs services depending on language required (English/French), area of specialization and degree of support needed, it may be very limited.
- Consult with CEM and school prior to any commitments.

CHILDCARE

Things to Consider:

- Local childcare is available.
- When choosing local childcare there is no guarantee that staff will be English or French speaking.

TRANSPORTATION

Things to Consider: Zurich International Airport (ZRH)

- Highway travel requires the purchase of a sticker or "vignette," which must be affixed to the vehicle's windshield
- In winter, snow tires are required; snow chains may be required as well in some mountain areas.
- Excellent public transport.

RESOURCES AND AMENITIES

Is there a Military Family Services centre available in that location?

- No, under MFS(E) Riga & Remote.

Psychosocial / Mental Health Resources:

- Not at post, MFSE SW for dependants only, CAF SW/Mental Health Team for member and family are located in Geilenkirchen, Germany. Padre is located in Italy.

Communications (e.g. Quality of Internet connection): Good, widely available, depending on provider and location.

ACTIVITIES

Access to sports or other leisure activities: Plenty available on the economy, no guarantee for English/French speaking teams

Availability of playgrounds: Yes.

RESTRICTIONS TO CONSIDER

Are common law relationships recognized? Yes

Are same sex couples recognized? Yes

Medications that are illegal in the country: Use without a prescription of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances is illegal. Cannabis is illegal.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- **European Commission Country Reports (2019)**
https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/2019-european-semester-country-reports_en
- **Canadian Travel Advisories**
<https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories>
- **CIA World Factbooks (One Pagers from US)**
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/pl.html>
- **Living Abroad (from Gov.UK)**
<https://www.gov.uk/topic/help-british-nationals-overseas/europe>
- **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**
<https://data.imf.org/?sk=4FFB52B2-3653-409A-B471-D47B46D904B55>

For more comprehensive information, please feel free to reach out to the resources below;

- **MFS(E) Social Worker :** Chebat.Myriam@cfmws.com or Myriam.Chebat@Forces.gc.ca
- **CAF Social Worker:** Martin.Laferrieresimard@forces.gc.ca
- **MFS(E) Riga Remote:** + 371 231 16 869, MFSE.Rigaremote@cfmws.com
- **MFS(E) Regional Office:** +49 (0) 2451-717-173, MFS.Europe@cfmws.com