



## Regular naturalisation

People who have been resident in Switzerland for twelve years - the years spent in this country between the completed 10th and 20th years are counted double for this purpose - may apply for naturalisation. Our office examines whether applicants are integrated in the Swiss way of life, are familiar with Swiss customs and traditions, comply with the Swiss rule of law, and do not endanger Switzerland's internal or external security. In particular, this examination is based on cantonal and communal reports. If the requirements provided by federal law are satisfied, applicants are entitled to obtain a federal naturalisation permit from the Federal Aliens Office.

Naturalisation proceeds in three stages. Thus the federal naturalisation permit only constitutes the Confederation's "green light" for the acquisition of Swiss nationality. However, the cantons and communities have their own, additional [residence](#) requirements which applicants have to satisfy. Swiss citizenship is only acquired by those applicants who, after obtaining the federal naturalisation permit, have also been naturalised by their communities and cantons. As a rule, there is no legally protected right to being naturalised by a community and a canton.

<b>Applicants are</b>	people who have lived in Switzerland for twelve years
<b>Application to be submitted to</b>	depending on the canton <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Confederation</li><li>• Canton</li><li>• Community</li></ul>
<b>Decision-making competence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Confederation</li><li>• Canton</li><li>• Community</li></ul>
<b>Right of appeal</b>	As a rule, none
<b>Requirements at federal level</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 12 years' residence</li><li>• Integration [into Swiss society]</li><li>• Familiarity [with Swiss customs, traditions and lifestyle]</li><li>• Compliance with rule of law</li><li>• No danger to internal or external security</li></ul>
<b>Requirements at cantonal level</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Residence requirements</a></li><li>• Canton's own admission requirements</li></ul>
<b>Requirements at communal level</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Residence requirements</a></li><li>• Community's own admission requirements</li></ul>

Last update: 01.03.2001

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 15, 2005 10:23 AM  
**Subject:** AW: Naturalisation in Switzerland

Dear Sir

With reference of your mail of 28<sup>th</sup> February 2005 we can inform you as follows:

The aspect of the social and cultural integration of an applicant in Switzerland is examined and judged by the communal and/or cantonal authorities. There are different ways of examination (interview, written test and others). Therefore we advise you to contact the communal authorities of the place where you wish to make your application directly.

Further information on naturalization you find on the internet site of the Federal Office of Migration ([www.bfm.admin.ch](http://www.bfm.admin.ch)).

With kind regards

BUNDESAMT FÜR MIGRATION  
Sektion Bürgerrecht

***lic. iur. Matthias Greuter***