

People who are naturalised in Switzerland by a regular proceeding first require a naturalisation permit from the Confederation. To obtain this, applicants will have to satisfy the following requirements:

- 12 years' residence in Switzerland (any years spent in Switzerland between the 10th and the 20th years are counted double);
- integration into the Swiss way of life;
- familiarity with Swiss habits, customs and traditions;
- compliance with the Swiss rule of law;
- no danger to Switzerland's internal or external security.

The federal naturalisation permit is a prerequisite for the applicant's subsequent naturalisation in community and canton. Communities and cantons have their own, additional naturalisation requirements, such as residence requirements, financial requirements and naturalisation fees, which vary a great deal, but often amount to about one month's salary. Thus applicants only become Swiss nationals after they have also been naturalised in their communities and cantons (three-stage procedure Confederation/canton/community).

Naturalisation proceeds in three stages. Thus the federal naturalisation permit only constitutes the Confederation's "green light" for the acquisition of Swiss nationality. 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.

Apart from regular naturalisation, there is also facilitated naturalisation. In particular, this benefits Swiss nationals' foreign spouses (possibility of facilitated naturalisation after five year's residence in Switzerland and three years of marriage), as well as children of Swiss nationals who do not yet hold Swiss nationality. Facilitated naturalisation depends on the satisfaction of the following general requirements:

- integration into the Swiss way of life;
- compliance with the Swiss rule of law;
- no danger to Switzerland's internal or external security.

Naturalisation is in the responsibility of the Federal Department of Justice and Police. As a rule, the fee is CHF 330.00.

As a consequence of the acquisition of Swiss nationality, applicants assume all the rights and duties (e.g. right to vote, obligation to do military service).

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