Did you know that Switzerland has more to offer than Watches, Chocolate and Cheese?

Switzerland boasts a very dynamic and competitive education and research landscape...

Kurt Wüthrich
ETH Zürich
Nobel Prize in Chemistry for 2002

...with 27 Nobel Prizes from 1901 to 2002

Albert Einstein
Nobel Prize in physics for 1921
The Unique Swiss Education Landscape

Wide arrays of international (Alumni-) networks and programs

More than 500 Years of higher Education

Outstanding education in Hospitality and Tourism

Open university system to students with recognized degrees

A tradition of scientific excellence

Four National Languages and a highly international Population

Central location in Europe

German
French
Italian
Rumantsch

Strong ties with Industry
Major Domains of Excellence
Engineering

Part of the engineering industry has its roots in tunnelling in the Alpine regions and the textile industry, which developed spinning and then weaving machines in the early 19th century.

Microtechnologies used in the watch industry have a long tradition in Switzerland: watches were made in winter, when there was less work on the farms. They require precision and reliability, some of the major assets of Swiss people.

Based on this historical background, Switzerland has established the worldwide recognized Federal Institutes of Technology where topics including engineering sciences, architecture and natural sciences are taught.
Major Domains of Excellence
Life Sciences

The life sciences hub in Switzerland includes multinationals such as Novartis, Roche, Syngenta, Lonza, Ciba Specialty Chemicals, as well as a vibrant pool of fast developing and innovative SMEs.

Embedded in the world renowned Research Hub in the Chemical, Pharmaceutical and Biomedical industry, Swiss Universities have developed a strong position in public research.
Major Domains of Excellence
Business Administration and Finance

Banks and financial institutions play an important role in the Swiss economy and prestigious Banking and Private Banking Institutes in Switzerland are among the world leaders and the largest employers in Switzerland.

Another central industry is insurance, where Switzerland is the largest exporter in Europe.

The continuing demand for young talents from the Finance sector led to the establishment of some highly regarded education programs at the Swiss university level.

Additionally, the vocational education offered at the Universities of Applied Sciences helps to keep up the strong reputation of the financial sector in Switzerland.
Major Domains of Excellence
Hotel Management and Tourism

The beginning of modern Tourism in Switzerland can be traced back to the 19th century, when the number of upper-class young British guests reached a significant level. In this context, the very first hotel school in the world was established in Switzerland and since served as a model for many hospitality schools worldwide. Many hotels and other service industries around the world employ Swiss educated managers because of their value for service, attention to detail, genuine culture for hospitality, and effectiveness in managing a diverse workforce.
Major Domains of Excellence
Architecture, Arts and Design

Switzerland is home to a large number of famous Architects with International Reputation...

Peter Zumthor
Thermal Spa, Vals

Mario Botta
Church of Santo Volto Torino
© www.botta.ch

Herzog & de Meuron
Bird’s Nest Shanghai

...it is also establishing itself as a creative hub and a global player in Design & Arts

Swiss Institutions of higher Education offer curricula with international reputation and attract the most creative and talented prospective students
Some Famous Alumni of Swiss Universities

Leonhard Euler
Famous Mathematician
Alumnus of the University of Basel

Albert Einstein
Physicist
Alumnus ETHZ

Friedrich Durrenmatt
Famous Swiss Author
University of Bern

Mario Botta
Architecture
Lecturer USI

Claude Nicollier
Astronaut
Alumnus of the University of Lausanne

Ruth Dreifuss
Former Member of the Federal Council
Alumna of the University of Geneva

Daniel Borel
Co Founder of Logitech
Alumnus of the EPFL

Josef Ackermann
CEO Deutsche bank
Alumnus of the University of St. Gallen
### General Information about Switzerland

#### Facts and Figures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Switzerland</th>
<th>Singapore</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land Area</td>
<td>41'285 km²</td>
<td>710 km²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population (2009)</td>
<td>7.8 Million</td>
<td>4.9 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population Density (per km²)</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>7022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Official Languages</td>
<td>4 (German, French, Italian, Rumantsch)</td>
<td>4 (English, Malay, Chinese, Tamil)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP (2008)</td>
<td>500 Billion USD</td>
<td>182 Billion USD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temperature High/ Low</td>
<td>30°C in summer -5°C in winter</td>
<td>30°C all year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highest Point</td>
<td>Dufourspitze 4643 m above sealevel</td>
<td>Bukit Timah 166 m above sealevel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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The Swiss confederation is made out of 26 cantons and 4 linguistic regions. The Swiss landscape is famous for its diversity with the breathtaking Alps, Jura mountains and Swiss plateau. Switzerland is landlocked and borders Germany, France, Italy, Austria and Liechtenstein. Berne is the federal capital but Zurich is the largest city. Switzerland is famous for being a neutral country and has neither joined the European Union nor the European Economic Area. General information about Switzerland’s customs, culture and history may be found at Swissworld [www.swissworld.org/](http://www.swissworld.org/).
Travel & Leisure
Switzerland is extremely charming with postcard perfect mountains, dreamy lakes and rolling hills. The following websites will allow you to discover Switzerland from your computer.

MySwitzerland  www.myswitzerland.com
MySwissAlps   www.myswissalps.com
Adventureguide www.adventureguide.ch

Time out in Swiss cities
Swissworld     www.swissworld.org
Catch It Zurich http://guides.travelchannel.com/zurich
Catch It Geneva http://guides.travelchannel.com/geneva
Catch It Basel  http://guides.travelchannel.com/basel
Practical Information

**Visa requirements**

- Singaporean and Malaysian students intending to study in Switzerland do not need to apply for a visa prior to their departure. After arriving in Switzerland however, they have to register at the Migration Office of the Canton of their residence and apply for a student pass. Your school will be able to help and inform you with regard to the paperwork needed.

- Students with other nationalities are advised to check carefully at the Embassy of Switzerland in Singapore website on the requirements and paperwork needed to process the student visa. Also, the school where you are planning to study can help with your application. Please refer to the website below for details:
  

- If you are willing to work during your stay in Switzerland, please make sure to check your visa requirements carefully beforehand, as they may be strict.

- Student immigration papers necessary to study in Switzerland can take some time to process. Please, leave plenty of time for the visa application process, as it can take up to 8-12 weeks.

- Please note that students will need to buy a recognised Swiss health insurance scheme that covers medical costs.

- All passports have to be valid at least 3 months beyond the stay in Switzerland.
Practical Information (con't)

**Finances**

- In order to live and study in Switzerland you are required to provide financial proof from the applicant or sponsor

- Switzerland has a long banking tradition. There are special student bank accounts with low or no account fees. Do shop around and ask for special offers

- More information about opening a bank account may be found in Swissbanking (http://www.swissbanking.com/en/home.htm). Documents needed to open a bank account include official identification such as passport, photo identification, information identifying the source of your income

- Besides a Swiss Franc Bank account, US$ or Euro accounts can also be opened

- The Swiss Franc (CHF) is used in Switzerland. Check X-rates (http://www.x-rates.com/) for the latest exchange rates

Source: European Commission Education & Training
Practical Information (con't)

**Emergency Numbers**

- Generally, Switzerland is a very safe country. Should you need to contact the emergency services we advise you to save the following telephone numbers to your mobile phone for fast access:

  - 117 Police
  - 118 Fire Brigade
  - 144 Ambulance

- Please do note that proof of Health Insurance may be needed even in emergencies

**Telephone Services in Switzerland**

- For international phone calls, the country code prefix is +41

- A prepaid Switzerland SIM Card with a GSM international cell phone is the most convenient and economical calling solution while you travel in Switzerland. Your Swiss SIM Card will require a SIM-unlocked GSM 900/1800 compatible international cellphone

- There are a number of international calling card suppliers, some of which can be found at [http://bit.ly/Internationalcalls](http://bit.ly/Internationalcalls). However, we have no information and can give no guarantees as to their quality
Practical Information (con't)

**Foreign representations**

• Should you need to get in contact with your embassy or consulate while you are in Switzerland, please inform yourself about the details of your countries’ representations at [www.embassyworld.com](http://www.embassyworld.com)

• Singaporeans who are new to Switzerland may register themselves with the Singapore Consulate at the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at [www.mfa.gov.sg](http://www.mfa.gov.sg)

• Information about the Singaporean representation in Geneva can be found at [www.mfa.gov.sg/geneva/](http://www.mfa.gov.sg/geneva/)

**Transport**

• Information on flights through Swiss airports can be found in the links below

  Zurich Airport [www.zurich-airport.com](http://www.zurich-airport.com)
  Geneva International Airport [www.gva.com](http://www.gva.com)
  Swiss International Airlines [www.swiss.com](http://www.swiss.com)

• Public transportation in Switzerland is very sophisticated and reliable. SBB is the national train service provider ([www.sbb.ch](http://www.sbb.ch)). Transport in the cities is often organised by local operators. Please find out which ticket you need and buy it before you board a train or tram, as penalty fees are considerable