

Information Sheet on the Integration Criteria¹

The revised Federal Act on Foreign Nationals and Integration (Aliens and Integration Act, AIG) became effective on 1 January 2019. The changes associated with the Aliens and Integration Act AIG aim, on the one hand, to promote the integration of foreigners by removing obstacles to integration and, on the other hand, to demand more binding responsibility for this integration. The following general principle applies hereto: The more rights people with foreign citizenship receive, the better their integration should work out. This means that language skills, in particular, are closely linked to residence status. The following integration criteria are used to evaluate the integration of the individual person:

Integration criteria (Art. 58a AIG)

▶ Language skills

Depending on the residence status, different language skills are required for granting and renewing a permit.

▶ Observance of public safety and order

- No violation of legal or official fundamental orders.
- Compliance with public and private law obligations (e.g. no debt collection, no tax debts, no bankruptcies, etc.).

▶ Respect for the values of the Federal Constitution

Observance of the principles of the rule of law and of the free and democratic constitutional order of Switzerland. Particular emphasis is placed on the following fundamental rights and obligations:

- equal rights for men and women
- the right to life and to personal freedom
- freedom of belief, conscience and expression
- the obligation to attend compulsory education

▶ Participation in economic life or in the acquisition of education

- Coverage of the cost of living by income, assets or benefits of third parties to which a claim exists (e.g. old-age and survivors' insurance - AHV and disability benefits - IV, unemployment benefit)
- No benefit from social welfare
- Participation in the acquisition of professional education or in further training courses

Consequences of insufficient integration:

If the integration criteria are not met, the residence permit may not be renewed or the permanent residence permit may be revoked and replaced by a residence permit (downgrading). Family reunification can also be refused or naturalisation applications rejected.

Family reunion: Observe deadlines!

¹ As of 1. June 2019

The following language certificates are required for the various residence permits

Residence permit	Granting the residence permit	Required language skills
Einbürgerung	Facilitated naturalization of Swiss spouses after 5 years	Oral B1, written A2
	Ordinary naturalization after 10 years	Oral B1, written A2
Niederlassungsbewilligung	Ordinary granting after 10 years of residence	Oral A2, written A1
	Early issue of permanent residence permit in the case of good integration after 5 years of residence	Oral B1, written A1
	Spouses of Swiss citizens after 5 years of married life	Oral A2, written A1
	Spouses of permanent residents after 5 years of married life	Oral A2, written A1
	Granting after 5 years of residence for persons from Belgium, Denmark, Germany, France, Greece, Italy, Liechtenstein, Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Spain	No request
Residence permit in the process of family reunification	Spouses of persons with a C, B or F permit	Oral A1, written no request
	Spouses of persons from EU/EFTA countries	No request
	Spouses of Swiss citizens	No request

Further information:

- ▶ For questions on residence, renewal/conversion of the permit, family reunion, deadlines: Migration & Passport Office: Migrationsamt & Passbüro, Mühlentalstrasse. 105, 8200 Schaffhausen, Tel. 052 632 74 76, migrationsamt@ktsh.ch
- ▶ For advice and questions on integration and language acquisition: Integrationsfachstelle Integres, Krebsbachstrasse 61, 8200 Schaffhausen, Tel. 052 624 88 67, info@integres.ch, www.integres.ch
- ▶ Recognized language certificates: www.fide-info.ch/ > Liste anerkannte Sprachzertifikate