



# *Medical Residency in Switzerland*

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Location: Lucerne



# Personal Journey

- Graduation year 06/2023 MSE program
- I started my medical training in psychiatry in 09/2023
- Planning to start my medical residency in internal medicine in 2026/2027

# Overview of Medical Residency Programs in Switzerland

- General Structure:
- 45 different medical specialties
- There is no stage/foundation year!!! > Direct medical training
- Example Internal Medicine: Basic Training of 3 years in IM,  
+ Additional Training of 2 years (free choice: research, peds, surgery)
- Duration of Medical Residency: 5-6 years on average
  
- <https://www.siwf.ch/weiterbildung/facharzttitel-und-schwerpunkte.cfm>

## Allgemeine Innere Medizin

privatrechtliche Schwerpunkte

- ▶ Geriatrie (SIWF) →
  - ▶ Klinische Notfallmedizin (SGNOR)\*
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## Anästhesiologie

privatrechtlicher Schwerpunkt Klinische Notfallmedizin (SGNOR)\* →

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## Angiologie

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## Arbeitsmedizin

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## Chirurgie

privatrechtliche Schwerpunkte

- ▶ Chirurgische Senologie (SIWF)
- ▶ Klinische Notfallmedizin (SGNOR)\* →
- ▶ Spezialisierte Traumatologie (SGC und SO)\*
- ▶ Viszeralchirurgie (SGVC)\*

## **Gynäkologie und Geburtshilfe**

privatrechtliche Schwerpunkte

- ▶ Operative Gynäkologie und Geburtshilfe (SIWF)
- ▶ Gynäkologische Onkologie (SIWF)
- ▶ Fetomaternale Medizin (SIWF) →
- ▶ Reproduktionsmedizin und gynäkologische Endokrinologie (SIWF)
- ▶ Urogynäkologie (SIWF)
- ▶ Gynäkologische Senologie (SIWF)

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## **Hämatologie**



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## **Handchirurgie**



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## **Herz- und thorakale Gefäßchirurgie**

privatrechtlicher Schwerpunkt Klinische Notfallmedizin (SGNOR)\*



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## **Infektiologie**

privatrechtlicher Schwerpunkt Infektionsprävention und -kontrolle im Gesundheitswesen (SIWF)



# Requirements for Medical Residency in Switzerland

- Required qualifications: MD degree from an EU country
- Language proficiency certificate – Level B2 in German, Italian, or French (In hospitals a C1 level is often required)
- **Direct recognition** of your diploma: EU or Swiss nationality or married to an EU/Swiss citizen (CV, certified copy of your ID or passport, certified copy of your diploma (Diploma in English – no translation needed), language certificate B2/native language) Costs: 1000 – 1200 € (duration: 2-5 months)
- Registration of non-recognizable diplomas (non-EU citizens): working 3 years as a resident doctor > pass national medical license exam > diploma recognition (MEBEKO)

# Application Process

- THERE IS NO CENTRALIZED APPLICATION SYSTEM !!!
- 1) APPLY TO JOB POSTINGS (google search: Assistenzarzt/ärztin Schweiz)
- 2) SPONTANEOUS APPLICATIONS TO HOSPITALS (CV, Application letter, Letters of Recommendation)
- You have to apply 1-2 years in advance, depending on your medical specialty!

# Costs and Financial Planning

- High living costs in Switzerland
- Clinical rotations for students: salary 1000 – 1200 €
- e.g., apartments in main cities: 1500 – 2500 € (alternative: co-living 800-1000€)
- health insurance: 300 – 500 €
- living costs per month: around 3500-4500 € depending on your lifestyle
- Salary for medical residents: 7000 – 8000 €/month > net amount of approximately 5000 - 5500 € (social contributions and taxes deducted)

# Post-Residency Opportunities

- 1.) Research programs at university hospitals, PHD
- 2.) Subspecialties (e.g., emergency medicine, gynecological oncology, pediatric cardiology,... )
  
- Gross salaries for resident doctors depend on the year of training  
(80 000 – 110 000 € / year)
- Gross Salaries for attending doctors vary between 160 000 – 350 000 € / year (depending on specialty, work in hospitals vs. private sector)

# Challenges and Tips

- You will have a big advantage in the application process for medical residency if you do your **clinical rotations in Switzerland**. (Show your motivation, skills and competencies, take the opportunity to network)
- Improve your **language skills** (if needed) – use 6<sup>th</sup> year to get a B2/C1 level
- Start **applying in small hospitals** (category B hospitals) 2 years in advance. (Category A hospitals (university/city hospitals) require previous training in smaller hospitals)
- If you have difficulties in getting a place in your residency of choice, try to apply for a medical residency where it is easier to get in (e.g., rehabilitation medicine, geriatrics) and then change your specialty after 1 year.

# Personal Insights and Reflections

- Switzerland is a great place to do sports and enjoy nature.
- Depending on the area of the country, it can be pretty challenging to find friends and to get included in Swiss communities.
- Salaries seem to be high for medical residents compared with other countries, but living costs are also among the highest in the world (accommodation, heating, insurance, food, hobbies,...).
- Long working hours: 50h/week in contract (often 60h/week)
- Holidays: 25 days (5 weeks)

# Links

- **Diploma recognition**

<https://www.bag.admin.ch/bag/de/home/berufe-im-gesundheitswesen/auslaendische-abschluesse-gesundheitsberufe/diplome-der-medizinalberufe-aus-staaten-der-eu-efta.html>

- **Medical Residency Programs List**

<https://www.siwf.ch/weiterbildung/facharzttitel-und-schwerpunkte.cfm>

# Contact

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## Lucerne Main City Hospital



# Luzern



# Zurich



Thank you for your attention!

