

ARRIVAL IN GENEVA – PRACTICAL INFORMATION

1. VISA – RESIDENCE PERMIT

For European or EFTA Students

European students don't need a Visa to enter Switzerland. Yet you must present a valid ID card or passport. At your arrival in Geneva, you must apply for a [student residence permit](#) within ten days. [Application form \(E\)](#) has to be sent to:

Office Cantonal de la population et des migrations
Case postale 2652
1211 Genève 2

You will also have to announce your departure by filling in the [OCP departure](#) form and sending it to the same address.

For non-European Students

Non-European students must apply for a Visa at the [Swiss representation of your place of residence](#) before your enter Switzerland (at least two months in advance).

You must then complete the [Application form \(E\)](#) and send it together with the [requested documents](#) to:

Office Cantonal de la population et des migrations
Case postale 2652
1211 Genève 2

You will also have to announce your departure by filling in the [OCP departure](#) form and sending it to the same address.

2. HEALTH INSURANCE

During your stay in Geneva you must have health care.

You are exempt from this requirement if you can present either a European health insurance card (available from your insurer) or, in the case of countries that do not issue such a card, a form providing proof of equivalent insurance cover. You have to send proof of your insurance cover to:

Service de l'assurance-maladie
62 route de Frontenex
1207 Genève, Suisse
sam@etat.ge.ch
Tél. +41 (0)22 546 19 28

If you do not have equivalent health insurance coverage, you must subscribe to health insurance in Switzerland. Several companies offer inexpensive insurance for foreign students:

[Golden care](#)
[CSS Assurance Student Care](#)
[Swisscare Insurance – Student pass](#)
[TradiConsult SA](#)

IMPORTANT: you have to contact the Service de l'assurance-maladie within 3 months of your arrival in Geneva.

On expiry of this deadline you will have to subscribe to a compulsory basic insurance from a statutory Swiss health insurance company. In addition, **you must also have a third part liability insurance.**

— HEAD Genève

3. HOUSING

HEAD-Geneva does not provide campus accommodation. Students must find apartments or rooms by their own means. Since the housing market is very tight in Geneva, we advise you to look for a place where to stay as soon as possible. Here are a few links :

1. HES-SO Genève Foundation for Students Housing GELOGE (priority to HES-SO students, such as HEAD students)

GELOGE offers three 3 students halls (foyers) welcoming students registered at any Geneva University of applied sciences, HEAD – Genève included.

[Foyer de Champel](#) - [Foyer Dassier](#) – [Foyer Pinchat](#)

[Geloge application form](#) has to be sent to: info@geloge.ch

2. Cité Universitaire de Genève

[The Cité Universitaire](#) accommodates primarily students from all over the world that have registered at the University of Geneva or any other equivalent institution (as HEAD – Genève) and are aged 18 to 35.

3. Private student residencies

[Centre universitaire protestant 1](#)

[Centre universitaire protestant 2](#)

[Centre chrétien pour jeunes](#)

[Centre international réformé John Knox](#)

[Centre Saint-Boniface](#)

[Foyer l'Accueil \(for girls only\)](#)

[Foyer Georges William](#)

[Foyer international pour jeunes filles \(for girls only\)](#)

[Foyer international Saint-Justin](#)

[Foyer Universitaire de Carouge \(for girls only\)](#)

[Home Saint-Pierre \(for girls only\)](#)

[La Cigüe](#)

[Résidences Universitaires Internationales](#)

[Villa Clotilde \(for girls only\)](#)

4. Other links

[Homestay Accommodation](#) Free-of-charge housing in exchange for services rendered to the host.