

# Integration

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# What is integration?

Integration is when you feel at home in Switzerland, when everyone feels part of the same community, when everyone is involved in the good of all. Gradually, each person has to play a part in economic, political, cultural and social life as best they are able. Respect, mutual support and equal opportunities are important for successful integration.

## How does integration happen?

Integration takes place in everyday life: at home, at work and during leisure time. Everyone is free to move around and communicate with others. People from all countries and cultures must be treated equally and with respect. The rules for successfully integrating foreigners are set out in Article 4 of the Federal Act on Foreign Nationals and Integration (Loi fédérale sur les étrangers et l'intégration) (FNIA) [FR].

## Inclusion: a responsibility for society as a whole

Inclusion concerns everyone. Inclusion is for the good of all. The state (the Confederation, cantons and communes) and society must facilitate equal opportunities for all. Foreigners must be encouraged to take part in public life. Integration takes place first in regular structures such as:

- school
- training
- work
- health

Sometimes integration offerings are needed to help strangers get into mainstream structures. For example, an integration class, with French classes and other lessons, so that they can later enter a vocational school.

## Integration policy

Since 2014 the Confederation and the cantons have created the Cantonal Integration Programmes (Programmes d'intégration cantonaux) (CIPs). These combine offerings for foreigners.

The CIP syllabus covers different areas:

- Information and advice
- French courses
- Training and work
- Early childhood
- "Living together"
- Combating discrimination and racism
- Interpreting and translation

Each canton creates its own programmes according to its needs.

Since 2019 integration offerings for people coming from asylum have been part of these programmes (the Swiss Integration Agenda (Agenda Intégration Suisse) (SIA)). In addition to the CIPs, the Confederation also supports other national projects and programmes (FR).

## **In the Canton of Jura: the two main services for integration are**

- The Office for the Integration of Foreigners and the Fight against Racism (Bureau de l'intégration des étrangers et de la lutte contre le racisme) (BI)

In the Canton of Jura, the office implements the policy of integrating foreigners and combating racism.

The office is the point of contact between the public, the administration, institutions and associations.

The office is part of the Social Action Service (Service de l'action sociale), under the responsibility of the Department of the Interior of the Canton of Jura (Département de l'intérieur du canton du Jura).

- The Jura Association for Welcoming Migrants (Association Jurassienne d'Accueil des Migrants) (AJAM)

The AJAM accepts asylum-seekers (refugee B, F, N and S permits).

The AJAM supports them in their new life in the Canton of Jura.

The association helps people:

- receive medical care
- find a job
- find accommodation
- integrate into the social life of the Jura.

The Canton of Jura has delegated this work to the AJAM.

The AJAM also manages the Animation and training centre for women and families (Centre d'Animation et de Formation pour Femmes et Familles) (CAFF) and the Community Health Centre (Maison de Santé Communautaire) (MdSC).

## **Additional information (links, addresses, information sheets, brochures)**

[www.bonjour-jura.ch/en/integration/what-is-integration](http://www.bonjour-jura.ch/en/integration/what-is-integration)

# Integration offerings

Integration offerings help foreigners become more familiar with ordinary structures so they can fit into them more easily. For example, school, training, work and healthcare. In this way, foreigners are better able to participate in the life of society.

## 1. Information and advice

People arriving in the Canton of Jura receive information and advice on, for example:

- everyday life
- rights and duties
- French courses
- support for young children
- training
- work
- protection against racism.

Upon arrival, people are invited to a welcome session. The municipality and canton welcome them and provide them with information about life in the canton and useful services.

For more information and advice on integration and combating racism, contact this office:

Office for the Integration of Foreigners and the Fight against Racism (Bureau de l'Intégration des étrangers et de la lutte contre le racisme)

Faubourg des Capucins 20—2800 Delémont

email: [secr.bi@jura.ch](mailto:secr.bi@jura.ch)

Tel. 032 420 51 12

Monday and Thursday from 8.30 a.m. to 12 noon and 1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Friday from 8.30 a.m. to 12 noon and 1.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The AJAM offers information and counselling services specifically for people coming from asylum.

## Resource centre for all

At the Jura Cantonal Library (Bibliothèque cantonale jurassienne) in Porrentruy, a documentation centre is open to everyone, the public and professionals alike. Information on integration and racism can be found.

## 2. French courses

Learning French is important to understand each other well and to find a job or training. It also helps to solve everyday problems.

### French courses in the Canton of Jura

The COMUNICA programme offers French courses for foreigners, from beginner level (A1) to advanced level (B2). These courses are inexpensive. The COMUNICA programme also provides courses for people who are not familiar with our alphabet or have difficulty reading or writing: literacy courses.

Some municipalities pay part of the registration fee.

The Animation and training centre for women and families (Centre d'Animation et de Formation pour Femmes et Familles) (CAFF) offers French courses for women, with a childcare service on site. These courses are inexpensive.

There are other French courses in the area.

The AJAM also offers courses in languages specifically for people coming from asylum

### What level of French?

The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages – Learning, Teaching, Assessing (CEFR) is often used to determine a person's level of French.

This framework ranges from level A1 (beginner) to level C2 (perfect mastery).

Vocational training often requires a B1 or B2 level.

The fide test checks the level of French for everyday life in Switzerland. It tests the level of oral (spoken) and written language. The results are given in a "language passport". This passport can be used to look for a job, apply for a residence or settlement permit, or apply for Swiss nationality.

## 3. Training and work

Many people come to the Canton of Jura to work. In addition, 5% of foreigners come to the Canton of Jura for vocational training.

But it is often difficult for foreigners to integrate into the world of work. This is difficult for a number of reasons: the administrative procedures are complicated, the schools and training courses in their country are not the same as in Switzerland, experience and qualifications from their country are not recognised in Switzerland, people do not speak French well enough, they do not have many friends or acquaintances.

Sometimes people face discrimination or injustice when looking for work or at their place of work.

## **Help to find a job**

The Regional Employment Office (Office régional de placement) (ORP) helps people look for work .

Two brochures are available from the Office for the Integration of Foreigners and the Fight against Racism (Bureau de l'intégration des étrangers et de la lutte contre le racisme). The titles are:

- “Finding a job in the Canton of Jura” (Rechercher un emploi dans le canton du Jura) (information and tools)
- “All equal in terms of employment. Good Practice Guide for the Prevention of Racism and Discrimination in the World of Work” (Tous égaux face à l'emploi.Guide des bonnes pratiques pour la prévention du racisme et des discriminations dans le monde du travail) (especially for employers)

## **Help to find and start training (FR)**

The PréFOR and PAI + programmes are for young people between the ages of 16 and 25 who have arrived in Switzerland.

These programmes help young people to enter vocational training later on.

The Post-Compulsory Training Service (Service de la formation post-obligatoire) assists young people and adults who have finished compulsory schooling in finding [vocational] training(90315).

The AJAM also offers assistance in finding training specifically for people coming from asylum.

## 4. Early childhood (from 0 to 4 years)

The first years of life are important for a child's development. The child learns a great deal in this time. It is important to give the child a solid foundation, especially for their school career.

The Animation and training centre for women and families (Centre d'Animation et de Formation pour Femmes et Familles) (CAFF) offers workshops for parents and children. In these workshops, we talk about parenting. We also talk about this subject: "How to prepare the child for a good start to school".

"Little:steps" ("Petits:pas") is a programme offered by Families2000 (Familles2000). This programme supports the development of children. It helps them integrate into society. Through games and activities with their parents, children learn to talk, move, have friends, manage their emotions, etc.

"Book Bath" ("Bain de livres") organises activities focusing on books and stories in more than 80 languages.

Books and games on living together: there are books and games for children to talk about different cultures and living together. Some books and games are available at the Jura Cantonal Library (Bibliothèque cantonale Jura) in Porrentruy.

### French and children

Children who speak a foreign language should be in touch with French-speaking children as soon as possible. It is important that they learn French before going to school. The nurseries, kindergartens and special offerings for parents and children are great for this.

Parents also have to use their own language a lot with their children. This is very important too.

For example: talking to children a lot, listening to them, telling them stories in their own language.

Schoolchildren can also attend classes in their own language. These courses are called: the language and culture of origin courses (LCO courses). These courses are usually organised by the embassy or consulate or an association from the home country.

Schools provide full information about LCO courses.

## **5. "Living Together"**

Everyone should feel at home in our canton. Every person is part of society and contributes their skills to the benefit of all. Everybody can get involved in everyday life, in their municipality, neighbourhood or with their neighbours.

Associations, groups of foreigners and religious communities are important for this. It is also possible to do volunteering.

Do you want to create projects to support "Living Together"?

Useful information and advice can be found here:

Office for the Integration of Foreigners and the Fight against Racism (Bureau de l'Intégration des étrangers et de la lutte contre le racisme)

Faubourg des Capucins 20

2800 Delémont

email: [secr.bi@jura.ch](mailto:secr.bi@jura.ch)

Tel. 032 420 51 12

Monday and Thursday from 8.30 a.m. to 12 noon and 1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Friday from 8.30 a.m. to 12 noon and 1.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

### **For women**

The Animation and training centre for women and families (Centre d'Animation et de Formation pour Femmes et Familles) (CAFF) offers workshops and activities for migrant women. These workshops provide an opportunity to speak French and meet new people.

### **For everyone (men and women)**

LARC, run by Caritas Jura, is open to all. This venue offers activities to meet and get to know new people.

The Office for the Integration of Foreigners and the Fight against Racism (Bureau de l'intégration des étrangers et de la lutte contre le racisme) sometimes organises events such as round tables or exhibitions on topics related to integration or racism.

## 6. Combating discrimination and racism

Is someone being treated unfairly? Are they less respected than others because of their

- origin?
- gender?
- age?
- language?
- social situation?
- lifestyle?
- religion, values, or political beliefs?
- or because of a physical, mental or psychological disability?

If so, that person is a victim of discrimination.

We also say: this person is being discriminated against.

The Swiss Constitution says that no one should be discriminated against.

Article 261bis of the Criminal Code punishes public acts of discrimination.

Yet discrimination and racism can be found in many areas of life.

For example, at work, looking for accommodation or dealing with neighbours.

This can take the form of hurtful words, aggression or even injustice.

Unfortunately, this often happens in secret. We don't see it.

### Are you a victim of discrimination or racism?

Or have you seen acts of discrimination or racism?

Then contact this office:

Office for the Integration of Foreigners and the Fight against Racism (Bureau de l'Intégration des étrangers et de la lutte contre le racisme)

Faubourg des Capucins 20—2800 Delémont

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Friday from 8.30 a.m. to 12 noon and 1.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

You will find a listening ear, information and advice.

This office notes and registers all cases of discrimination in the Canton of Jura.

Want to get involved against racism?

This office advises and supports you in your projects against racism.

## 7. Interpreting and translation

When you arrive in Switzerland, you do not yet speak French, or you do not understand it well. But very often, it's important to understand each other.

For simple situations, you can ask friends, family or people in your community to help you translate.

But for important or private conversations (e.g. with a doctor, at school or for official documents), it is better to call a professional interpreter.

Caritas Switzerland's "Understanding" (se comprendre) Service offers professional interpreters.

These are community interpreters. Some are from your country. They speak your language and are also familiar with your culture. They work in person, by phone or by video. These interpreters can also help you with special procedures.

### **Additional information (links, addresses, information sheets, brochures)**

[www.bonjour-jura.ch/en/integration/integration-offerings](http://www.bonjour-jura.ch/en/integration/integration-offerings)

# Asylum in Switzerland

Were you in danger in your country? Did you leave your country to seek asylum? In Switzerland, the Asylum Act (AsIA) defines the rules of asylum. The State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) examines each application carefully. This law states: every person in danger in their country because of their origin, religion, nationality, social group or political opinion, has the right to seek asylum in another country.

## What is asylum?

Around the world, people have to leave their country and seek help in another country. Some people are at risk in their country for the reasons described above. Other people have to leave because of war. Switzerland grants asylum (the refugee B permit) to people recognised as refugees. This means: people who are personally targeted and in danger of their lives. Switzerland gives protection for a limited time (temporary F or S permit) to persons who are not recognised as refugees but who need protection.

## Asylum policy in Switzerland

The SEM (State Secretariat for Migration) decides who can be refugees and be granted asylum in Switzerland. To do this, the SEM analyses each request. It follows rules laid down in the Asylum Act (AsIA), the Geneva Convention and the Dublin Agreements.

A refugee is a person who is at risk in their country because of: their origins, religion, nationality, social group or political opinions.

People are recognised as refugees if they are:

- threatened and in great danger for one of the following reasons:
- not being protected by their country
- not being able to take refuge in another part of their country

The State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) examines each asylum application carefully. The Swiss Asylum Act explains how the asylum procedure works. It also explains several aspects of life in Switzerland such as accommodation, residence permits, family reunification, access to work, social assistance, health insurance and integration.

Switzerland also follows the rules of the Dublin Agreement. These rules define which country should consider the asylum application. In general, this is the country where the person first applied.

## **The Jura Association for Welcoming Migrants (Association Jurassienne d'Accueil des Migrants) (AJAM)**

The AJAM welcomes people who have come from asylum (N, F, S and B refugee permits).

The AJAM supports them in their new life in the Canton of Jura.

This association helps people:

- receive medical care
- find a job
- find accommodation
- integrate into the social life of the Jura.

The Canton of Jura has delegated this work to the AJAM.

The AJAM also manages the Animation and training centre for women and families (Centre d'Animation et de Formation pour Femmes et Familles) (CAFF) and the Community Health Centre (Maison de Santé Communautaire) (MdSC).

### **Integration of persons who have come from asylum (N, F, S and B refugee permits)**

Integration of these people takes place in three steps:

#### **1. The first welcome: arrive and see their needs**

People arriving in the Canton of Jura first go to a collective centre.

Social workers look at and assess the needs of each person. Together, they make an integration plan, with personal objectives.

This step lasts two weeks.

#### **2. Socialisation: getting to know life in Switzerland**

This step helps people integrate into life in the Jura (engaging in activities and having friends). Social educators and social workers help people build their new lives in Switzerland.

This stage lasts from six months to 1.5 years.

#### **3. Professional integration: finding a job**

Labour specialists offer help in finding and keeping a job.

These specialists are called: "job coaches". They also help people to have their foreign credentials recognised or to take vocational training.

This stage lasts several years, until the end of the support by the AJAM.

## **How long does the AJAM support last?**

In general, the AJMA supports people until they are employed and independent.

## **The AJAM's integration offerings for people who have come from asylum**

There are integration offerings for adults and young people

### **1. Offerings for adults**

These are the offerings for adults:

#### **- Information workshops**

After arriving in Switzerland, people take part in several information workshops.

These workshops are mandatory.

The workshops are held in French and in the language of origin. They cover different topics such as health, life in the Jura, work, housing.

#### **- French courses**

Different French courses are offered to all people: young and old, with or without family, with or without work.

These courses are of different levels: from Beginner (A1) to Advanced (B2).

### **2. Offerings for young people**

Children up to the age of 15 attend school in their municipality.

Generally, from the age of 16, young people undergo vocational training.

But young foreigners can first take special training to improve their French and other skills (e.g. mathematics).

These are the offerings for young people:

#### **- Bravo**

For young people between the ages of 16 and 25, who have no training and who are starting to learn French.

This programme helps these young people reach level A1 in French. It also offers the basics in mathematics and computer science.

#### **- PréFor (for pre-training)**

For young people aged 16 to 25 with level A1 in French.

This programme helps these young people to enter vocational training.

It teaches French up to level B2.

It also provides mathematical and computer skills.

### **- PAI+ (for pre-apprenticeship integration)**

For young people aged 16 to 25 with level B1 in French.

This programme helps these young people enter the world of work. It prepares young people for an apprenticeship (federal certificate of vocational education and training (AFP) or federal vocational diploma (CFC)).

The programme lasts 1 year.

### **Different permits in the field of asylum**

After arriving in Switzerland, people will change their permit several times.

This depends on the steps and results of their asylum application.

The permit that a person receives (N, F or B refugee) is the sign of their legal status.

The legal status shows how the person is recognised in the asylum system in Switzerland.

Different legal status (or permits) do not give the same rights in a person's life.

For example, depending on the permit, it is different for:

- the right to family reunification (bringing your family to Switzerland)
- the right to work
- the right to social assistance
- the right to travel

Here is a table that explains the different permits, depending on legal status

### **Additional information (links, addresses, information sheets, brochures)**

[www.bonjour-jura.ch/en/integration/asylum-in-switzerland](http://www.bonjour-jura.ch/en/integration/asylum-in-switzerland)