

— HEAD Genève

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](#) has to be sent to:

Office Cantonal de la population et des migrations
Service des étrangers
Route de Chancy 88
Case postale 2652
1211 Genève 2 - Suisse
sejour.ocpm@etat.ge.ch
tél. +41 (0)22 546 46 46

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

For non-European Students

Non-European students should apply for a D Type (Student) Visa, required for stays of more than three month's duration. You have to submit your [visa application](#) to the Swiss representation competent for your place of residence at least three months in advance. You'll find more information about entry to and residence in Switzerland on the [Swiss Federal Administration website](#).

At your arrival in Geneva, you must contact the Office cantonal de la population to apply for a student residence permit and to announce your presence on Swiss territory. [Application form \(M\)](#) and its [complement for students \(E\)](#) have to be sent to:

Office Cantonal de la population et des migrations
Service des étrangers
Route de Chancy 88
Case postale 2652
1211 Genève 2 - Suisse
sejour.ocpm@etat.ge.ch
Tél. +41 (0)22 546 46 46

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 yet issue such a card, a form providing proof of equivalent insurance cover. This form can be obtained and sent to:

Service de l'assurance-maladie
62 route de Frontenex
1207 Genève, Suisse
sam@etat.ge.ch
Tél. +41 (0)22 546 19 00

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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 compulsory basic insurance from a statutory Swiss health insurance company. In addition, **you must also have a third part liability insurance.** We also recommend taking out home-contents insurance.

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 :

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.

Foyer Champel welcomes students registered at any Geneva University of applied sciences, HEAD – Genève included. Different types of furnished rooms are offered. For more information: foyer.heds@hesge.ch.

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](#)

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

[La Cigüe](#)

[Résidences Universitaires Internationales](#)

[Résidence Village-Suisse](#)

[Résidence Le Voltaire](#)

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

Other links

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

[C.A.R.](#) This useful link provides general information about accommodation, catering and cultural activities in Geneva.