



Q&A Students/Graduates ETH/University of Zurich

Part-time employment during studies (Art. 38 VZAE)

Is self-employment permitted as part of part-time employment?

No. Pursuant to Art. 38 VZAE, an application from an employer is required. Therefore, self-employment is not permitted in this context.

Is part-time employment permitted during a leave semester?

No. As a leave semester extends the duration of studies, applications to work during this period are not approved.

When does the 6-month waiting period before being allowed to start part-time employment begin?

The waiting period begins on the date of entry for the purpose of education.

Does the waiting period also apply if it coincides with the semester break?

Yes. Even in this case, employment is only permitted after six months.

Internship during studies (Art. 39 VZAE)

Is it possible to obtain a permit for an internship that is not a mandatory part of the study program if the university confirms its support?

In principle, internships can only be approved if it can be demonstrated that they are an integral part of the study program. If the internship is not required by the regulations, the university must specifically confirm its necessity.

As a PhD student employed at 80%, may I complete an internship with a private employer?

Yes, if the internship is an integral part of the doctoral program or if the university has specifically confirmed its necessity.

Facilitated admission (Art. 21 para. 3)

Does facilitated admission mean that the employer does not have to prove priority for domestic workers if there is a significant economic or scientific interest?

Yes. Facilitated admission for graduates of Swiss universities means that the employer submitting the application does not need to prove priority for domestic workers.

Is facilitated admission still possible if the 6-month short-term residence permit for job seeking has expired and the graduate has returned to their home country?

In principle, facilitated admission is still possible after the six months have expired. However, the application should be submitted as soon as possible after graduation. It is no longer available after spending several years abroad.

Can facilitated admission be granted even if no L permit for job seeking has yet been issued?

Facilitated admission may be granted if the degree has been successfully completed in Switzerland. The short-term residence permit for job seeking is not a mandatory requirement under Art. 21 para. 3.

Are postdoctoral researchers without a Swiss university degree entitled to a 6-month stay to look for a job?

Currently, postdoctoral researchers are not entitled to facilitated admission and therefore cannot obtain a short-term residence permit for job seeking.

Miscellaneous

If you work from home for an employer based in another canton, in which canton must the work permit be obtained?

In this case, the work permit must be obtained in the canton where the company is based.

Is it true that employers must submit the details (including CVs) of at least 20 candidates from Switzerland and the EU/EFTA to demonstrate compliance with the priority for domestic workers?

Applicants must generally list all candidates considered and specify their nationality, residence status, and reason for rejection. There is no minimum number of candidates that must be listed, and CVs do not have to be submitted.