

## Language learning and skills development

Did you go to school abroad and are now looking for work or planning to develop your skills further in Switzerland?

### „Parlez-vous français?“ „Sprechen Sie Deutsch?“ „Parla italiano?“

Whether you are interested in work or skills development: One of the most important prerequisites is mastery of one of Switzerland's national languages. The four national languages of Switzerland are German, French, Italian and Romansh (Rumantsch grischun); native Romansh speakers are bilingual and speak either German or Italian as well.

If you live in a German-speaking region of Switzerland: Start with Standard German! This will provide you with a good foundation to later understand – or even speak – Swiss German dialects.

For unskilled labourers, basic knowledge of the local language may be sufficient. Increasingly, however, employers also expect unskilled workers to be able to read and write at least to a limited extent. For more challenging occupations, a higher level of mastery is required. If you wish to pursue further education and skills development or even academic studies, however, you need to be able to read and understand complex texts and write such texts yourself: depending on your objectives, you will hence require a different level of mastery of the local language. For this reason, it is important to find out which language courses will enable you to reach your objectives.

By the way: language learning is not only important for work and skills development in Switzerland. It also helps you in day-to-day life, enabling you to interact with neighbours, shop attendants, teachers and doctors, or to fill out forms and interact with government bodies and authorities, etc.

An overview of language courses can be found here:

In Deutsch: [www.berufsberatung.ch](http://www.berufsberatung.ch) > Aus- und Weiterbildung > Fremdsprachen > Suche

En français: [www.orientation.ch](http://www.orientation.ch) > Formations > Apprendre une autre langue > Recherche

In italiano: [www.orientamento.ch](http://www.orientamento.ch) > Formazioni > Corsi e soggiorni linguistici > Ricerca

Vocational, educational and career guidance counsellors can also provide you with more information about language courses.