



Horizon 11

Information Bulletin for Migrants in Geneva

Right to education: 25 years!

This August, thousands of undocumented children were able to go to school without suffering from discrimination. The right to education is a reality today because of the fight led by CCSI and migrants themselves: 25 years ago, the « illegal » children of seasonal workers came out of the shadows and went to school for the first time! Today, CCSI still fights on your side day after day for children's rights in other fields.

We remind you that education is a fundamental right: schools cannot ask for a residency permit and all children have a right to attend compulsory school, regardless of their nationality and legal status.

Health insurance subsidy

You must ask for the subsidy (financial aid from the State for health insurance) for your child's health insurance each year. If you haven't received the 2016 subsidy yet, please make an appointment with CCSI before the end of the year and bring the insurance policy with you. As soon as you receive the subsidy, please bring a copy of the certificate to our reception with your name and phone number.

The subsidy is a right depending on your income. Requesting it will not affect other proceedings, such as the request for a residency permit. Only children residing in the canton of Geneva have the right to the health insurance subsidy. CCSI cannot request the subsidy for children living in neighboring France.

Primary school: registration

Any child living in Geneva, regardless of his/her legal status, has the right and the obligation to go to school. Children born before 01.08.2012 start school on August 29th 2016.

To be accepted at school, your child must have health insurance. CCSI is in charge of affiliation for children without a residence permit. Make an appointment, and come with the official identification for the child and his/her legal guardian, as well as your address. Your child will be able to start school as soon as you have come to CCSI.

School meals for children

If you live in the city of Geneva and your income is within the range, CCSI can request free school meals for your child. Please come with a copy of the health insurance subsidy and valid passports. For residents of other cities, please ask CCSI if financial aid is available.

Once you have obtained the exoneration, you do not need to bring the invoices to CCSI, you can discard them without paying them. Caution, you must always pay the fixed fees (cotisation in French) and the meals your child didn't attend without a valid excuse.

Health insurance: caution!

If a person calls you on the telephone or comes to your door saying you must change insurance or take on a new contract, **DO NOT SIGN ANYTHING!** Contact CCSI for all matters regarding your health insurance.

Meet & play for children

For children in pre-school age, Geneva offers several meeting and playing places (open to all and free) where parents and their children meet other parents and children, as well as childcare professionals. Outside school hours, children up to the age of 12 are welcome. Here are a few addresses in Geneva city:

- *Espace Parents-Enfants*
Rue du Temple 10

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 10am-1.30pm

Wednesday: 10am-4pm

Lunch is served (free of charge) to families who want it Monday through Friday at 12.15. *Espace Parents-Enfants* stays open during school holidays (except for a month in the summer).

- *Le Cerf-Volant*
Boulevard Carl-Vogt 82

Monday to Friday 2.30-6.30pm

Tuesday and Thursday 9am-noon

Saturday 2-6pm

- *Université populaire albanaise*
Chemin Surinam 7

Monday, Thursday 9-11.30 am

Daycare

It is very difficult to find a place in daycare for pre-school children in Geneva. CCSI can help you increase your chances, but cannot guarantee a place. If you live in Geneva city, go to the Bureau d'Information de la Petite Enfance (BIPE, rue du Cendrier 8). If you live in another area in the canton of Geneva, you must go to the Secteur de la Petite Enfance of your commune – if there is one. If not, pre-register your child in the daycare center(s) closest to your home or workplace. To do so, you must present your child's insurance certificate. After that, CCSI can write a letter of recommendation to support your request. For this, you will need to make an appointment between **January and end of March 2017** with the Consultation *Petite enfance, santé et genre* at CCSI, so that your child can start daycare as of August. Please note that there is no guarantee that your child will have a place in daycare. The cost of monthly payments depends on your income. For full-time daycare, for the lowest income, the cost is approx. CHF 250 per month. There are currently no financial aids for those costs.

EU work permits

Some employers say they cannot hire EU citizens if they don't yet have a work permit. We remind you that the employer only needs to fill in the EU form. If the job offer is for more than 50%, as a European citizen, you are guaranteed to get a work permit.

Working without a permit

If you are living and working in Switzerland without a permit, it is important to **keep anything that can prove a work relationship** (salary receipts, text messages, emails, etc.). It may be very useful if you decide to request a permit in the future.

Public writers

Public writers ("écrivains publics" in French) can help you write a letter, draft a CV, a cover letter for a job offer, etc. Their help is free and confidential. Please note: they do not deal with legal proceedings or anything to do with taxes! You can find them at the following addresses:

- **UAC Plainpalais/Jonction/Acacias**
Monday 9-11.30 am and
Thursday 9-11 am, appointment
needed (AN)
Rue Prévost-Martin 4 bis, 1205
Genève
Tel. 022 418 97 60
- **Point info-services Pâquis**
Tuesday 2-5 pm, AN
Rue Gautier 18, 1201 Genève
Tel. 022 418 95 00
- **Point info-services Plainpalais**
Friday 2-4 pm
Rue Dancet 22, 1205 Genève
Tel. 0800 44 77 00
- **Point info-services Servette**
Monday 9-12am
Rue Hoffman 8, 1202 Genève
Tel. 0800 44 77 00
- **Bibliothèque des Eaux-Vives**
Thursday 4-6pm, AN
Rue Sillem 2, 1207 Genève
Tel. 022 418 37 70
- **Bibliothèque des Minoteries**
Friday 9-11 am, AN
Parc des Minoteries 3-5, 1205
Genève
Tel. 022 418 37 40
- **Bibliothèque des Pâquis**
Thursday 1-4 pm, AN
Rue du Môle 17, 1201 Genève
Tel. 022 418 37 50
- **Bibliothèque de St-Jean**
Friday 9-11 am and 3-7 pm, AN
Av. des Tilleuls 19, 1203 Genève
Tel. 022 418 92 01

• Caritas Genève

Wednesday 9-12 am (French,
English, Spanish)
Wednesday 1.30-5 pm (French)
Rue de Carouge 53, 1205 Genève
Tel. 022 708 04 44

- **Croix-Rouge genevoise, centre d'intégration culturelle** (for CIC members, annual fee 20.-)
Every day 9.30-11.30 am and 2-5 pm, open until 8 pm 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month
Rue de Carouge 50, 1205 Genève
Tel. 022 320 59 55

• Temple des Pâquis

Monday to Friday 8.30-12 am, AN
Rue de Berne 49, 1201 Genève
Tel. 022 734 32 38

• Université populaire albanaise

Every day 9 am to 5 pm, except
Wednesday
Chemin du Surinam 7, 1203 Genève
Tel. 022 340 25 77

Bulgaria and Romania

As of 1st June 2016, Bulgarian and Romanian citizens are treated like all the other EU citizens and have unrestricted access to the job market in Switzerland. If you have any questions about this change of situation, please contact the Consultation Permis de séjour at CCSI.

Your rights at work

Do you work as a cleaning lady, gardener or take care of children? EPER organizes courses to learn about "Your rights" and discuss "Your health comes first". Courses are free and take place on Tuesday and Wednesday evening in Geneva. More information at the reception at CCSI or at 021 613 40 84.

The brochure "Quels sont vos droits" (What are your rights) for domestic workers also contains many useful tips and information. Ask for it at CCSI.