

# Readout Facebook Q&A

## 24 September 2019

Due to the developing nature of these subjects, please make sure to check our [Living in Switzerland Guide](#) & [Preparing for EU Exit Switzerland](#) as well as the [Living in Liechtenstein Guide](#) & [Preparing for EU Exit Liechtenstein](#) for the latest information

<p>Will reciprocal health care for UK retirees in Switzerland - exclusively on UK pensions only- via Form S1, continue as previously?</p>	<p>Dear O., thank you for your message. Reciprocal healthcare arrangements are protected under the UK-Swiss citizens' rights agreement reached in December 2018. This means nothing will change for you and your S1 form will continue to be accepted as before.</p>
<p>Our dog has a EU passport - should we change it for a Swiss one to go back and forth to UK?</p>	<p>Dear O., thank you for your question. Your dog's EU pet passport will remain valid for travel into the UK. However, UK-issued pet passports would no longer be valid for entry into Switzerland and alternative documentation (i.e. an EU health certificate, which can be acquired from your local OV) would need to be used. Alternatively, if you have a pet passport issued by Switzerland, you can use it to bring your pet to the UK and back into Switzerland.</p> <p>For further information, please check the latest guidance on GOV.UK and sign up for updates <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pet-travel-to-europe-after-brexit#return-to-the-uk">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pet-travel-to-europe-after-brexit#return-to-the-uk</a>.</p> <p>You may want to contact the pet travel helpline if you need further advice:</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:pettravel@apha.gov.uk">pettravel@apha.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Telephone: +44 (0)370 241 1710 Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 5pm (closed on bank holidays)</p>
<p>Hey guys, correct me if I'm wrong but currently if somebody leaves Switzerland to live in another EU country they must take half of their pension as a lump sum and the other half stays in a trust fund. However if you leave to a none EU country one is entitled to take the entire pension out as a lump sum.</p> <p>Q. Post Brexit, will UK nationals leaving Switzerland be able to withdraw the entire pension as a lump sum?</p>	<p>Hi S., our understanding of the Swiss pension regulations is that when moving to a country outside of the EU/EFTA, which the UK will become after Brexit, all funds in the company pension scheme (2 pillar) can be withdrawn. This is a decision you need to evaluate carefully. You should seek professional advice to clarify this.</p>

<p>Follow-up question: the UK has a similar pension system (I.e state pension) so the mandatory element (AHV) remains here: normally 10-20% of your pension savings. Correct me if I'm wrong Embassy, but there will not be any changes regarding this once the UK leaves.</p>	
<p>UK in Switzerland does this mean that those of us living in Switzerland (Vaud in my case) can travel to France after Brexit with no added hindrances or restrictions?</p>	<p>Yes. As with the current rules, we advise that you should carry a valid travel document (i.e. your passport) with you when crossing the border.</p>
<p>Will existing students from the UK have to pay for health insurance? And will we still be considered EU/Swiss for employment after completing studies?</p>	<p>Hi J., thank you for your question.</p> <p>Existing students from the UK in Switzerland are covered by our Citizens' Rights Agreement. If you currently benefit from EHIC health cover this will be protected for the duration of your course.</p> <p>For any further questions, you can contact Overseas Healthcare Services at the NHS Business Services Authority (NHS-BSA) by telephone Monday-Friday 8am-6pm and Saturday 9am-3pm (UK time) on +44 (0)191 218 1999.</p> <p>Your permit is also protected by the Citizens' Rights Agreement. The agreement allows UK nationals to switch status, e.g. between the categories of student, worker, self-employed person, economically inactive person and family member. So your right to switch to a work permit after your course is also protected.</p>
<p>When Brexit is finally cancelled, do we just continue the same as we are now?</p>	<p>The current position is that the UK will leave the EU on 31 October. We have reached six continuity agreements with Switzerland which ensure that when we leave the EU the situation for British nationals will remain broadly the same.</p>
<p>What is happening with L permits and someone from the UK being able to obtain one after 31st October?</p>	<p>Hi F., the UK and Switzerland reached a Transitional Migration Agreement, which would apply in a no deal scenario and allow UK workers to move to Switzerland in similar numbers as now until the end of December 2020. The Swiss government announced a specific quota of B and L permits for 2019 available to UK Nationals who want to move here for work (the UK quota for 2020 will be announced later this year). Switzerland has also agreed that UK workers would not need to meet the rules relating to skill level, national preference and economic interest which normally apply to non-EEA nationals applying for work permits in Switzerland. You can find more details on GOV.UK.</p>
<p>Follow-up Q: UK in Switzerland - British Embassy Berne just clarify, if someone from the UK was just apply for an L permit after 31st October.... they will be ok to do so?</p>	<p>Yes, absolutely. We have secured a UK national quota for new B and L permits after Brexit. The quota for 2019 has been announced; please, keep an eye out for a Swiss government announcement for the 2020 quota later this year. You can find more details on the Transitional Migration Agreement here:</p>

	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-swiss-transitional-migration-arrangements-for-a-no-deal-scenario">https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-swiss-transitional-migration-arrangements-for-a-no-deal-scenario</a>
Can you clarify what the position would be for jobs. Currently Swiss applicants are considered first, then EU Nationals and then the rest. What will happen in the future for UK Citizens if Brexit happens.	<p>Thanks for your question, K. UK nationals resident in Switzerland before Brexit are protected by our citizens' rights agreement. This includes your EU/EFTA residence permit and we understand that you will continue to be treated as EU nationals, rather than third country nationals, for job applications.</p> <p>UK nationals arriving in Switzerland after Brexit will fall under the scope of the Transitional Migration Agreement, and will be able to move here for work in similar numbers as now until the end of December 2020. Under this agreement UK workers will not need to meet the rules relating to skill level, national preference and economic interest which normally apply to non-EEA nationals applying for work permits in Switzerland. Please visit GOV.UK for more detail on that.</p>
<b>GENERAL QUESTIONS</b>	
Purchase property	We have previously been asked about the impact of Brexit on the ability to purchase property in Switzerland. The ability to acquire permanent residence (a C Permit) is part of Swiss domestic law and hence regulations surrounding what C permit holders can/cannot do lies within Swiss legislation. In Switzerland, the legislation with respect to which foreigners can buy property is primarily the Lex Koller legislation; at present, there are broadly no restrictions on C permit holders purchasing a primary or a secondary residence in Switzerland, but you should check with your local cantonal authorities to confirm any local requirements.
General question on Biometric permits: I currently hold a First-generation residence permits for foreign nationals (no Biometric data stored), do I need to change it now for a Biometric permit?	The advice of the Swiss government is that your existing permit remains valid and you do not need to take any action at this stage. You should apply for the renewal of your paper permit when it expires, as usual. At that point you will be issued a biometric permit in credit card form.
Travelling across borders	We are often asked about travelling across the border as a resident in Switzerland. As you are already in the Schengen area, you are free to continue commuting into Switzerland, travel and shop through the neighbouring country. As a rule, there are no border checks on individuals at internal borders of the Schengen zone. As with current rules, you should carry a valid travel document (passport) when crossing the border.