

Documents for a StAR application

CV

A tabular CV that lists personal data, education, and language skills in chronological order:

Personal data:

- Name
- Date of birth
- Citizenship(s), place of residence, and residence status
- Marital status & family members (spouse, children) and their place of residence

Education:

- Attended schools/universities (degree, year, location)

Language skills:

- Languages, level

Motivation letter

The motivation letter (1–2 pages) should explain the applicant's study intentions¹ and the future career plans. It must specify the particular degree program and qualification being aspired to. The letter should describe the personal and professional motivation for choosing the degree program and demonstrate how the admission criteria for the intended degree program are met.

Specifically, the reasons for choosing the selected university/degree program in Switzerland are presented. The applicant should explain the significance of the degree program and the desired diploma for his or her professional future and describe the plans after graduation. In addition, previous stays and visa applications in Switzerland

¹ Applicants who wish to pursue doctoral studies in Switzerland may submit their research proposal in addition to their letter of motivation.

as well as social or institutional support networks and their benefits for the applicant should be mentioned.

The following points must be taken into account:

1. The reason and motivation for choosing the degree program
2. The relevance of the intended degree for future professional plans
3. Previous stays in Switzerland and visa applications
4. Social or institutional support networks and their services

Letter regarding the risk situation

A short letter (max. 5 pages) describing the threat to the right of education in the country of origin or residence. A description of the restriction/denial of the right to study and the personal risk situation is expected. In particular, the urgency of the situation should be highlighted. It should be explained whether the applicant has been specifically excluded from access to education and to what extent categories of discrimination such as age, gender, sexual orientation, or disability further increase vulnerability.

The risk situation may be a result of restricted access to education (e.g., restrictions on personal development) or a consequence of activities such as campaigning for fundamental and human rights, which may lead to reprisals or deterrence strategies. The risk situation can be documented by the following: written reports/letters describing the incidents, social media posts, witness statements, recognition of refugee status in a third country, etc.

Academic certificates

Certified copies and official translations of educational qualifications² that enable access to the desired degree program. A recognized high school diploma (upper-secondary school) is required for a bachelor's degree. A bachelor's degree from a

² Diplomas, certificates, list of courses already taken in a degree program that has been started, if necessary: descriptions of the courses taken.

recognized university is required for a master's degree, and a master's degree from a recognized university is required for doctoral studies.

Language skills

Proof of sufficient language skills for the planned course of study³. Generally, you should submit a degree in the language of the planned course of study or a recognized language certificate⁴ with a B2/C1 level in the language of study. Alternatively, you must submit concrete efforts toward admission to the planned course of study (e.g., date for completing a language test).

Identity documents

Copies of valid identity documents (relevant pages of your passport). The documents should be valid for at least 18 months after your planned date of entry, but ideally for three months longer than the planned end of your studies.

Accompanying letter

The nominating institutions should include an accompanying letter with the nomination. This accompanying letter should explain the reasons for the nomination for the StAR program with regard to the limited educational opportunities in the country of origin or residence, as well as the suitability of the nominated person for the intended course of study. If the nominating institution provides additional support (e.g., assistance with university admission, visa applications, or support during the course of study, etc.), this should also be indicated and explained in detail.

³ Language proficiency requirements vary according to the degree program and can be found on the university/institute website.

⁴ English language certificates that are generally recognized: Cambridge Certificate, IELTS Academic, TOEFL, Cambridge Proficiency (CPE), Cambridge Advanced (CAE). (<https://www.perspektiven-studium.ch/en/language/>).