



Council of International Fellowship CIF Switzerland



**offers an International
Professional and Cultural Exchange Program
for Social workers in Switzerland
April 22 to May 08, 2020**

CIF

The Council of International Fellowship (C.I.F.) is a private, voluntary, non-profit, politically and religiously independent organization. It was founded in 1960 following the Cleveland International Program in the USA - later on Council of International Programs (CIP) and CIPUSA. The goal of CIF is to promote international understanding and world peace through intercultural training and exchange of experience for professionals in human services. Throughout Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, North and South America and Oceania more than 30 countries have established national branches. Most of them also run CIF International Professional Exchange Programs.

International Professional Exchange

The Swiss CIF International Professional Exchange Program 2020 is designed **for 4-8 social workers and other professionals in closely related fields** who are interested in sharing experiences **in social work with children, youth and families in different settings**. The program is organized in collaboration with FICE Switzerland (Fédération Internationale des Communautés Educatives). It is supported by local and national social services, the Swiss Association of Social Workers AvenirSocial and Universities of Applied Sciences, Department of Social Work. It is organized in line with the Manual for International Professional Exchange Programs of CIF International.

- Participants will get general information and orientation on life in Switzerland, including the political, social security, social welfare and educational systems.
- They will participate in different workshops. Topics are social services around children, youth and families in the fields of public and private services for families, out of home care, health services and intercultural work. Presentations and discussions will be concentrated on particular fields along the needs of participants. The group will be looking particularly at different attitudes, methods and experiences. Participants get an introduction, visit social service facilities, exchange with their co-participants and reflect carefully on what they have seen and heard.
- Exchange is a very important part of the whole program. Participants are asked to present information about the specific situation of their own workplace. Personal experiences during the program are compared and looked at from the perspective of the participants' own backgrounds.

Accommodation

Participants will start as a group in a youth hostel in Baden (double rooms) and then live with a Swiss host family (single rooms) for two weeks.

Conditions of participation

Participants need a diploma in social work or from another closely related field, plus a minimum of two years of work experience in the social field, and very good knowledge of the English language.

Participants are expected to arrive Wednesday, April 22 and to leave Friday, May 08; beyond these dates CIF Switzerland cannot take on any responsibilities.

Participation requires full commitment, therefore family member or friends' visits during the program are not accepted; CIF Switzerland will not take on any responsibility for any such friends or family members.

Expenses and fees

Transportation within the program is paid for by CIF Switzerland and covers excursions to different places in the country.

Host families are responsible for accommodation, breakfast and dinner.

Participants are responsible for their own lunches and for extra expenses which are not related to their participation in the actual program. Examples of extra expenses are personal toiletries, souvenirs, all expenses before and after the duration of the program, and long distance communication costs such as telephone calls and internet use.

The fee for each participant amounts to 400 Swiss francs and is to be paid upon arrival. In special circumstances, reductions are possible, if notified with registration.

Health insurance

CIF Switzerland needs a certificate proving that the participant has health insurance, covering medical treatment, hospital stays and medication. The certificate is to be presented by mail one month before arrival. CIF Switzerland cannot cover health expenses and does not take any responsibility in this regard.

Visa protocols

Participants are responsible for their visa to Switzerland/Schengen. The president of CIF Switzerland will issue an invitation letter on behalf of the Swiss embassy, if required by visa protocols.

Weather conditions

In April and May the weather in Switzerland can be everything from cold and stormy to warm and sunny; see www.meteoschweiz.admin.ch. Participants are asked to bring with them raincoats, warm as well as lighter clothing and good shoes.

Information

CIF National Branch or contact person in your country, or
CIF Switzerland

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Registration

The registration needs to be received by CIF Switzerland by November 15, 2019. If there is a national branch or contact person for CIF in the participant's country, the registration form (www.cifinternational.com/programs) must be sent there in time to allow the necessary steps. An interview with a representative of the national branch or contact person will be organized and a letter of reference will be attached to the registration form.