

We have receive quite a number of requests of Swiss People who are wanting to visit Australia. They seek information and tips about where to go and what to do and administrative help if possible. Most of the requests come from the younger generation, who would like to study and do some work experience here in Australia to gain further cultural insights.

That's the reason why we put together this FAQ (frequently asked questions) document.

FAQ:

Economic Situation – Perth WA (April 2016)

In Western Australia the mining boom is now over since at least 2015. Therefore mining companies have reduced their staff and are now only hiring limited numbers of staff. Not only in the mining industry, but also other industries are starting to feel the economy decrease in Western Australia. To get a job has therefore become far more difficult than before. Regrettably rumours have said, 'that more mining companies will reduce their staff'.

How can I get information about the employment market?

We encourage that you join on Facebook groups of Backpackers or Backpacker Perth, French in Perth, Germans in Perth or you can get your feel for Australia by Woofing (Willing Workers On Organic Farms) Website: <http://www.woof.com.au/> and various other organisations.

Read on the Australia immigration website of the government what trades and special skills they are currently looking for and offer easy access to visas. But be aware that this conditions do change every 6 month.

Highly qualified professionals

Please contact directly the international recruiters like Michael Page and various others in Australia.

Is it possible to work in Australia?

Yes, if you are at a certain age and would like to do an interim-ship. Then your job/employment possibilities are quite good. There exists the following agreements between CH and AUS which you might wish to consider:

- http://germany.embassy.gov.au/beln/Swiss_trainee_exchange.html
- <https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/australia/en/home/switzerland-and/youth-mobility.html>

457

Sponsorship

Visa

Companies can hire you by organising a 457 Visa. To get a 457 visa means, that a company or institution wants you to work and is meant to be your 'sponsor', as they will pay you a salary. But, this category of visa also causes some more or less efforts for the sponsor. Therefore be aware, that the procedure can be extremely tardy and there may also pop up some major costs for you by applying for numerous official

documents and in the end the visa. To fast track you can hire an agent to work for you, what makes life at that stage a lot easier, (but not cheaper).

- See for instance: <http://www.aits-australia.ch>

Can I contact Swiss Companies to ask them for a job?

Yes, you can contact Swiss Companies situated in Australia, but be aware that these are mostly run as global companies and are therefore multinational and not any more connected to Swiss representatives. There are few small businesses, which are mostly operated by Swiss, which may not have the capacity to take on an interim-ship junior.

You can find Swiss Companies, but not only on the website of the Swiss Chamber of Commerce

- <http://www.swisscham.com.au> . On this page you will find the contact details and also job offers.

Smaller companies or companies, which do not trade internationally are not members of the Swiss Chamber of Commerce. To get connected to these companies you might contact the Swiss Clubs as each state of Australia or contact the Swiss Consulate.

- <https://www.helpx.net>. Young people often use the service provided from this website. You register and set up a profile and then browse the different possibilities to help private people to get free accommodation in exchange. You may have to do the odd jobs nobody likes to do, nevertheless free accommodation and meal is worth some hours of work per day, and maybe a good start-up to get settled and used to Australia.

What about my English skills / what English skills might be required to get a job?

Be aware that to apply for a job in Australia in almost every case requires a defined score IELTS level of your English skills. The band score level required depends on what qualification level you are looking for a job. Important to know: that IELTS test is only valid for two years.

- <https://www.ieltsessentials.com/global/testinformation/destinations/ieltsforaustralia>
- <https://ielts.britishcouncil.org>

Further useful websites:

- <https://www.internations.org/>

It seems that often international people like to connect to other internationals and use the website of the intonations. The basic membership is free, but you will quickly see that you need to pay a fee to get the information where they meet, when an event is on. Nevertheless you can connect to people which you find interesting and start to network for free.

- <http://www.gumtree.com.au/> this website provides everything from second hand products to job offers. Whatever you are looking for it is worthwhile having a go to find or sell it on gumtree.

- <http://www.seek.com.au/> is one of the most used websites to find a job in Australia. Before you send any resume to companies do double check that your documents are according to the Australian standards. When you are not following this rules, they will go straight into the bin. This is because often recruiter companies are hired to select possible candidates and you know it recruiters follow their check-lists and use a professional software to compare your resume with the job ad online. You might investigate what are the software's used and how they work, otherwise you will experience a disappointing time.

In Australia you do not get a reply from a company, saying we received your application. Normally you get nothing or an answer in 3 to 5 days when they are interested. It may also depend on the process of the HR department. (*suggestion is apply for many positions that are suitable at once and request to that company that you would like a return email or letter stating that you would like confirmation whether you have the position you applied for or not.*)

- <http://www.bobinoz.com> gives you a complete review of what I could mean to immigrate (or travel and work) to Australia...

Rent a flat / accommodation

- www.flatmates.com.au You can find this information online about possible shared houses. You can browse the offers and connect with the people you might like to live together for a while.
- NB: Warning: There are some dodgy landlords who cheat by not returning the bonds to the tenants. They operate in a loop whole of the law because they categorise their tenants as lodgers. Lodgers are then not protected by the act for tenants. And because the backpackers often leave on the same day in Australia the landlord has some dodgy excuses why you are not getting the bond back. You fly out and they win. We do advise that you just browse the name of the landlord and check on the backpacker groups on Facebook if the name comes up.

This FAQ should give you some hints on how to tackle your challenges to eventually set up a great Adventure in Australia. If you find further information of great value, please help to contribute by sending them via email: president@swissclubwa.org to us. Thank you.

Feel free to contact the Swiss Club you find nearby to get the latest information about the economic situation. We are always delighted to get a message from somebody who comes from back home in Switzerland.

All the best & good luck

Lorenz Wuthrich

Swiss Club WA