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Regulated professional activities

Music teaching

Introduction

Under the Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons (AFMP^[1]), professionals from the EU/EFTA can have their qualifications recognised if the professional activity for which they are qualified in their country of origin is regulated in Switzerland

This document aims to describe the Swiss regulations in the sector concerned. Regulated professional activities are those that are subject to specific training requirements and where access to the profession in question is only possible for professionals holding a specific qualification that is defined in relation to the Swiss education system. Foreign professionals can only access a regulated professional activity once their qualifications have been recognised.

If holders of foreign professional qualifications wish to pursue a professional activity other than those described in this document, they are free to do so without obtaining recognition of their qualifications (non-regulated professional activity). In this case, it is the job market which will dictate their chances of finding employment or being awarded jobs in the case of self-employed persons.

The qualification requirements and responsibilities differ depending on whether music is taught within the context of formal education (primary school, lower-secondary school or upper-secondary baccalaureate schools) or outside this formal framework.

1) Teaching music within the context of formal education (primary school, lower-secondary school or upper-secondary baccalaureate schools)

Teaching within the context of formal education is [regulated](#) for the whole of Switzerland. This rule also applies to the teaching of music. [The Swiss Conference of Cantonal Ministers of Education \(EDK\)](#) is the competent authority for the recognition of foreign teaching credentials

^[1] Bilateral agreement of 21 June 1999 between the Swiss Confederation and the European Community and its Member States on the free movement of persons, SR 0.142.112.681.

for primary school, lower-secondary school and upper-secondary level baccalaureate school (which prepare young people for enrolment in higher education).

Qualification required to teach music at primary school (pupils aged 5-12):

- **Bachelor's degree in primary school education awarded by a Swiss university of teacher education or by a Swiss cantonal university**

This is a generalist study programme that allows qualification holders to teach at least 6 subjects, which may include music. At primary school level, teachers are always qualified to teach several subjects.

The study programme includes scientific subjects, subject-specific didactics, education sciences and vocational didactics.

Qualification required to teach music at lower-secondary school (pupils aged 12-15):

- **Master's degree in lower-secondary school education awarded by a Swiss university of teacher education or by a Swiss cantonal university**

During training, it is possible to obtain teaching credentials in one discipline or up to a maximum of five disciplines. Generally speaking, however, the number of disciplines tends to be three or four.

Qualification required to teach music at upper-secondary baccalaureate schools (which prepare pupils for admission to higher education):

- **Teaching credentials for baccalaureate schools**

The study programme leading to teaching credentials for upper-secondary baccalaureate schools includes scientific disciplines (at Bachelor's and Master's degree levels) and practical training totalling a minimum of 60 ECTS credits. The practical training portion is covered either after completing the scientific disciplines portion (consecutive structure), in parallel to the scientific disciplines, or is an integral part of the scientific disciplines.

Those who complete the study programme to obtain their teaching credentials for upper-secondary baccalaureate school may also teach at upper-secondary specialised schools.

2) Teaching music outside the context of formal education – specific cantonal requirements

Recognition by SERI must be obtained in order to carry out this professional activity in the cantons of Vaud and Lucerne. Music education at a music school¹ under contract with a state entity (i.e. one that provides instrumental and vocal music training without being compulsory and therefore not formally part of the school syllabus) is regulated in these two cantons.

In the **Canton of Lucerne**, a 'Master of Arts in Music Pedagogy' or a 'Bachelor of Arts in Music and Movement' are required.

[Remuneration Ordinance for Teachers and School Service Personnel \(BVOL\) \(Annex 1\)](#)

9. Music school teachers

Occupational category D; Payscale category 20

Job description:

Teaching pupils at a music school: individual classes, group classes and ensemble classes

- Planning, preparing, organising, conducting classes and assessing learning progress
- Providing guidance and support to pupils
- Assessing learning progress and grading pupils
- Working with parents/custodians and institutions
- Contributing to school projects aimed at designing and planning music school activities
- Developing and assessing music school activities
- Evaluating one's own teaching activities
- Pursuing continuing education and training in all areas of activity (incl. in one's own area of expertise)

Additional tasks include teaching baccalaureate school classes where pupils learn how to play a musical instrument and/or sing solo. Such classes are taught as a specialism, elective or main subject for pupils who are preparing for the general baccalaureate in music.

- Grading pupils
- Contributing to or conducting final examinations and baccalaureate examinations

Qualification:

- Master of Arts in Music Pedagogy or other equivalent qualification

¹ In Switzerland, the Association of Music Schools (ASEM) is comprised of cantonal associations representing a total of 420 music schools operating under a public mandate. The Swiss cantons and municipalities structure publicly mandated music schools in very different ways. Depending on how they are structured, publicly mandated music schools may be legal entities established under either private or public law. Of the 420 publicly funded schools that are members of ASEM, 50% are private and 50% public. These schools may either be private (i.e. established as a foundation, a local association or other private-law entity) or public (i.e. directly established within a cantonal or communal service).

10. Music and movement teachers

Occupational category D; Payscale category 19

Job description:

Teaching music to pupils at compulsory education level

- Planning, preparing, organising, conducting classes and assessing learning progress
- Providing guidance and support to pupils
- Assessing learning progress and grading pupils
- Working with parents/custodians and fellow teachers
- Contributing to school projects aimed at designing and planning music school activities
- Developing and assessing music school activities
- Evaluating one's own teaching activities
- Pursuing continuing education and training in all areas of activity (incl. in one's own area of expertise)

Qualification:

- Bachelor of Arts in Music and Movement or other equivalent qualification

In the **Canton of Vaud**, a degree in music pedagogy from a Swiss university of applied sciences is required.

[Canton of Vaud Act on Music Schools:](#)

Art. 11 Competent authority responsible for establishing requirements regarding professional and pedagogical qualifications

¹ The Cantonal State Council shall issue a degree designating the competent authority and describing the procedure for deciding which qualifications are required to teach music.

Art. 14 Recognised music school for basic music education

¹ In order to be recognised within the meaning of this Act as a music school for basic music education within the meaning of this Act, a music school must meet the following cumulative conditions:

a. to c.

d. offer education organised according to the procedures laid down by the Foundation;

e. have a director who holds the qualifications or equivalents required to teach music;

f. have a teaching staff with the required qualifications or equivalents;

g. adhere to the Foundation's requirements regarding the working conditions of teaching staff;

h. to k.

Implementing regulations for the Federal Act of 3 May 2011 on Music Schools

Chapter I Teaching credentials

Art. 1 Professional and pedagogical qualifications required

¹ In recognised music schools, music education for non-professional purposes must be provided by persons holding a bachelor's and a master's degree in music pedagogy awarded by a music college or by persons holding a qualification that satisfies the requirements of the position.

² The Service in charge of culture (hereinafter referred to as 'the Service') shall keep a list of Swiss qualifications that match these requirements. This list shall be publicly accessible.

³ The procedure for the recognition of foreign qualifications shall be subject to federal legislation.

Art. 2 Equivalent education and training; validation of non-formal and informal learning

¹ In recognised music schools, music education for non-professional purposes may be provided by persons who have completed education and training deemed equivalent to that laid down in Article 1. However, their working conditions may differ, in accordance with the circumstances, from those of persons holding the requisite professional and pedagogical qualifications within the meaning of Article 1.

² The Service may recognise other evidence of formal qualifications, combinations of training or combinations of training and professional experience as equivalent if the applicant has:

- a. at least a bachelor's degree from a music college, a musical instrument qualification awarded by a Swiss music conservatory or a comparable qualification, and
- b. at least five years of documented full-time work experience in music education at a music school.

³ The applicant shall submit his/her request to the Service, together with the original or a certified true copy of the following:

- a. the qualification that he/she possesses, and
- b. proof of work experience at a music school.

⁴ The employment certificate at a music school must provide the following details for each school year:

- a. the number of weeks taught
- b. the number and duration of lessons each week
- c. the subject matter taught (type of musical instrument, solfeggio, etc.)
- d. the type of course (individual or group course).

It must be signed by the director of the music school in question.

⁵ Generally speaking, the Service shall decide within two months of receipt of the complete file.

3) Specific details for EU/EFTA citizens who wish to provide services in Switzerland

3.1) Basic principle

In accordance with the Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons (AFMP), professionals who are legally established in the EU/EFTA may provide services in Switzerland without permanently establishing themselves in the country. In such cases, the duration of service provision is limited to 90 days per calendar year.

If the profession they wish to pursue is regulated, they can take advantage of a fast-track verification procedure for their professional qualifications, as set out in EU Directive 2005/36/EC² and the DRPA³. The service provision **must be declared in advance to SERI**⁴.

3.2) Other obligations

In all cases, persons intending to provide services **must also register with the State Secretariat for Migration** (www.sem.admin.ch > Entry & Residence > Notification procedure for short-term work in Switzerland). This obligation also applies to non-regulated professional activities.

3.3) Who is a service provider?

Service provision is an economic activity that is practised on a self-employed basis or without conclusion of an employment contract with a Swiss employer. It is remunerated work of a temporary or occasional nature (limited to 90 working days per calendar year) carried out in Switzerland by an individual who is established in a member state of the EU or EFTA. If you require further information, SERI provides a more detailed note on the service provider concept on its website.

Persons who are not service providers within the meaning of the AFMP will not be able to take advantage of the fast-track procedure for the verification of qualifications. They should instead contact the competent authority to seek recognition of their qualifications under Title III of Directive 2005/36/EC.

² Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 September 2005 on the recognition of professional qualifications, OJ L 255 of 30.9.2005, p. 22, in the current version in accordance with the agreement on the free movement of persons and the revised EFTA Convention.

³ Federal Act of 14 December 2012 on the Declaration Requirement and the Verification of Service Provider Qualifications in Regulated Professions, SR 935.01.

⁴ www.sbf.admin.ch/declaration