Article first published in Swiss Review – Regional News Oceania 5/22

**Mobility: knowledge and innovation thrive on global exchange**

Support for international mobility, both outbound and inbound, is an important instrument of the Swiss Confederation’s education and research policy. Each year, the Federal Commission for Scholarships for Foreign Students awards **Excellence scholarship** to talented doctoral and post-doctoral researchers from over 180 nations, including all countries in Oceania.

Thanks to **bilateral trainee exchange agreements** concluded by Switzerland with a number of partner countries, including Australia and New Zealand, young professionals can expand their professional and linguistic skills abroad for up to 18 months. The mobility of young Swiss professionals and graduates also contributes to the international recognition of Swiss educational qualifications and standards abroad.

In recent years, the Embassy of Switzerland in Australia has expanded the offer of instruments and pathways available to young researchers and professionals eager to experience international mobility between Switzerland and Australia. From 2019, the **ThinkSwiss Research Scholarship** programme allows undergraduate students from Australia to pursue short-term research projects at a Swiss university. The **Mertz Fellowship** programme, launched in September 2022, targets early-career researchers from the polar and high-altitude science communities in Switzerland and Australia.

The Embassy in Canberra is competent for the three scholarship programmes (Excellence, ThinkSwiss and Mertz Fellowship) and the main point of contact for Australian nationals interested in the Young Professionals programme in Switzerland. For New Zealand nationals interested in the Excellence scholarships or Young Professionals programmes please contact the Swiss Embassy in Wellington.

Since the beginning of 2022, Switzerland has been included in the **Australian Work and Holiday programme**. Young Swiss aged 18 to 30 have now access to 12-month visas to experience life in Australia while working, studying and traveling. This opportunity is an important milestone for the bilateral relations between Switzerland and Australia and for people-to-people links. The Swiss representations in Australia are not involved in this process; applications have to be lodged with the Australian Department of Home Affairs online.

As of 1 January 2022, **Australian citizens do no longer need a long-term National D visa for studying, working or for family reunions in Switzerland**. However, they need an authorisation, an assurance of residence permit, by the competent Swiss authorities. All related queries must be addressed directly to the competent cantonal immigration and labour market authorities before entering Switzerland. The Swiss representations in Australia are not involved in this process.

**Information and contacts**

SWISS GOVERNMENT EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP

Call for applications open – deadline to apply 30 November 2022

<https://bit.ly/2WzpDsB>

Contact: canberrra.scholarships@eda.admin.ch

 Contact: wellington@eda.admin.ch

THINKSWISS RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP

Call for applications open – deadline to apply 15 January 2023

<https://bit.ly/3QRdxaD>

Contact: canberrra.scholarships@eda.admin.ch

MERTZ FELLOWSHIP FOR POLAR AND HIGH-ALTITUDE RESEARCH COLLABORATION

Call for applications open – deadline to apply 30 October 2022

<https://bit.ly/3dr0oaI>

Contact: canberrra.scholarships@eda.admin.ch

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS / TRAINEE EXCHANGE

For Australian and New Zealand nationals:
<https://bit.ly/2M67ZZR>

For Swiss nationals interested in an exchange in Australia:
<https://bit.ly/3BJuzlF>

 For Swiss nationals interested in an exchange in New Zealand:
<https://bit.ly/3BYqR97>

WORK AND HOLIDAY VISA

<https://bit.ly/2rUil64>

VISA AND ENTRY TO SWITZERLAND FOR CITIZENS OF AUSTRALIA:
Cantonal Immigration and Employment Market Authorities

<https://bit.ly/3dlgrXx>