



Council of International Fellowship CIF Switzerland



**offers an International
Professional and Cultural Exchange Program
for Social workers in Switzerland
May 19 to June 3, 2016**

CIF

The Council of International Fellowship (C.I.F.) is a private, voluntary, non-profit, politically and religiously independent organization 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 Professional Exchange Programs.

International Professional Exchange

The Swiss CIF Professional Exchange Program 2016 is designed for 4 to 8 social workers and other professionals in closely related fields who are interested in sharing experiences in different fields. **Particular attention is set on working methods in social work with individuals, children and families in different settings.** The program is organized in collaboration with social services, the Swiss Association of Social Workers AvenirSocial, FICE Switzerland and universities of Applied Sciences, Departments of Social Work.

- 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 three workshops of two days each. Topics are social services around children, youth and families, health services and intercultural work. The group will be looking particularly at different attitudes, methods and experiences. Participants get an introduction, visit social services facilities and reflect carefully what they have seen and heard.
- Two days of the program are dedicated to individual activities according to the specific needs of each participant. Topics can be chosen to cover interests such as people with special needs, poverty, community work, volunteers.

- Exchange is a very important part of the program. Participants are asked to present information about the specific situation in their own country. 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 comfortable youth hostel and then live with a Swiss host family 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.

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

Expenses and fees

Transport within the program is paid for by CIF Switzerland.

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.

Health insurance and visa protocols

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 upon arrival. CIF Switzerland cannot cover health expenses and does not take any responsibility in this regard.

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 May/June the weather in Switzerland is usually quite mild and might be sunny and warm; see www.meteoschweiz.admin.ch. Participants are asked to bring with them rain-coats, 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 1.12.2015. 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 administration. An interview with a representative of your national branch will be organized and a letter of reference will be attached to the registration form.