

**Information for International Newcomers
to the Canton of Uri**

*Welcome –
from all of us!*



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01.01.2016

Willkommä bi yys!



Welcome to our canton!

You have chosen to live in Uri. We're glad to hear it: our canton has a centuries-old tradition of welcoming people from foreign lands!

Thanks to its location by Gotthard, Uri has long been an important European transit state. Millions of people have come through Uri over the course of history; some of them remained. Their ideas and their energy helped Uri to become what it is today: a modern and vibrant part of Switzerland. Uri offers attractive residential areas, good transport connections and an excellent education system – set amidst a breathtaking mountain landscape.

The people in this lovely canton trace their origins to a variety of cultures. That does not lessen their respect for one another; ours is climate of tolerance and openness. We also have a well developed sense of community here, which is why there are so many associations in Uri. These offer numerous opportunities for making and maintaining contacts with new people.

Take advantage of opportunities like these. It is our wish that you will soon feel at home here and take an active part in our society. We would like you to prosper, in your professional and private life, and to contribute your own ideas and energies towards helping our canton thrive. This brochure is intended to assist you along the way and to provide you with the most important information about your canton, Uri.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Beat Jörg'.

Beat Jörg

Member of the Government Council



The three levels of government in Switzerland

Switzerland is divided into 26 cantons and is also called the «Bund», which refers to the Swiss Confederation or the federal government.

The canton of Uri has 20 communes, governed by local councils. Federal government, cantons and communes have different areas of responsibility.

What are the federal government's duties?

The federal government takes over functions subject to uniform regulations throughout Switzerland. Examples are foreign affairs or the regulation of residence of foreign nationals.

What are the cantonal administration's duties?

The canton takes over functions that concern all of the canton's communes. Examples are hospital care, policing or the apprenticeship education system.

What are the duties of the local council administration?

- Registration of all residents
- Organisation of primary school
- Provision of social support for its residents
- Provision of infrastructure, like the water supply or rubbish collection
- Further services

Who determines what the federal government does?

Swiss citizens have far reaching democratic rights. Not only do they elect their parliaments and governments, they also regularly vote on specific issues.

Information about the canton of Uri:

Kantonale Verwaltung Uri

6460 Altdorf

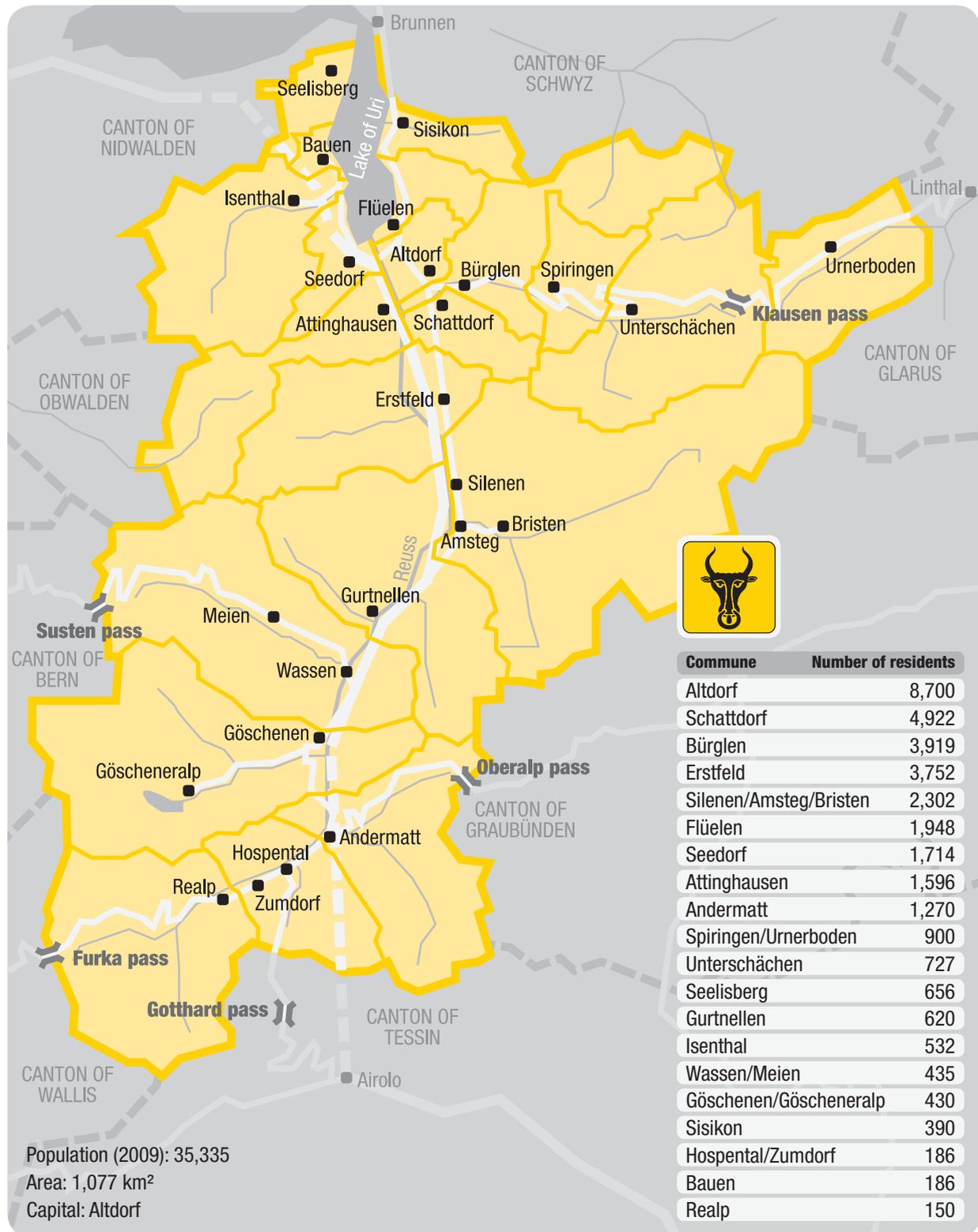
Telephone: 041 875 22 44

E-Mail: info@ur.ch

www.ur.ch

Did you know that the Canton of Uri was one of the cantons that founded the first confederation of Swiss states, along with Schwyz, Obwalden and Nidwalden?

Uri



Homepage of local councils:
www.ur.ch > Behörden > Gemeinden

Did you know that Uri borders the cantons
 of Graubünden, Tessin, Wallis, Bern, Obwalden,
 Nidwalden, Schwyz and Glarus?

Basic values

What are my rights and duties?

Switzerland, and therefore also the Canton of Uri, attaches great importance to high values on personal freedom and the rights and duties of individuals. Mutual respect and tolerance, along with the acceptance of those same values in our community, are prerequisites for those freedoms.

The main basic values and rights:

- Human dignity is inviolable
- All humans are equal before the law
- Men and women have equal rights
- Liberty rights
- The rights of individual liberty end where they infringe on the liberties of one's fellows.

The main basic duties:

- Payment of taxes
- The taking out of and payment of health insurance
- Social benefit contributions on the part of the gainfully employed and the wealthy
- Compliance with school attendance obligations and cooperation with schools and teachers

What is expected of people who move to Uri?

In Uri you are expected to participate in the economical, social and cultural way of life. It is required that you get accustomed to the social and general living conditions in Switzerland and especially acquire German language skills.

To do this you have many possibilities:

- Get to know your neighbours
- Become a member in a club
- Attend events arranged by your commune or the canton.
- Participate in traditional Uri customs
- Do volunteer work in the cultural, sports or social sector
- Attend a German language course

**Information about the Swiss Confederation
and Swiss Legislation:**

www.admin.ch

Information on Switzerland:

www.ch.ch

**Did you know that 50% of the Swiss population
are active in a club?**

Rules for your stay

? What steps do I have to take?

Foreign nationals holding a valid entry, permanent residence or residence permit who wish to remain in the Canton of Uri long-term must register with the residents registration office of their new local council within fourteen days of their arrival. Before doing so they must notify authorities in their old municipality of their departure. You must present your entry, permanent residence or residence permit, two photographs and your passport or identity card upon registration. The migration authority will issue your new residence permit after you have registered.

? What do I have to inform my local council of?

- Change of residency within the canton or the council area
- Deregister when moving to another canton or abroad

? What do I have to inform the cantonal department for work and migration of?

- Stays abroad of longer than 6 months



? Can my family join me?

If you are from an EU/EFTA country, your family can join you assuming you have adequate housing.

Your family consists of your spouse, and any children or grandchildren who are under 21 or whose maintenance is secured. Parents or grandparents are also regarded as family members as long as their maintenance is secured.

Enrolled students can bring their spouses (and children who are entitled to maintenance) only if their maintenance is secured.

If you are from a country outside the EU/EFTA, your spouse and single children under the age of 18 can join you, as long as the family will be living together and adequate housing is available. If you are dependent on social welfare payments, then your family will not be allowed to join you.

Your family has to join you within five years. Children over the age of 12 years have to join you within 12 months.

Office for Labour and Migration/Migration Department
Amt für Arbeit und Migration/Abteilung Migration
www.ur.ch/migration

State Secretariat for Migration (SEM)
Staatssekretariat für Migration (SEM)
www.bfm.admin.ch > Themen > Einreise
www.bfm.admin.ch > Themen > Aufenthalt

Did you know that registering and organising your stay is your own individual responsibility?

Living

? How do I find rental housing?

You can find rental housing as follows:

- Check ads in newspapers and in the «Uristier» brochure
- Check specialised internet sites
- Check directly with real estate agents for available housing

? What is important to know as a residential tenant?

Normally, you would sign a written rental contract which specifies the rental property, the costs, the notice dates, the rental deposit, general specifications and the house rules.

Rent is normally paid monthly – up front at the beginning of the month. Normally, the tenant pays for additional costs like heating, hot water and cable TV.

Make sure you check whether your rental costs include the additional costs (heating etc.) or not!

During the meeting when tenancy of the housing unit is officially transferred to you, it is advisable to go through the unit with the landlord to check its condition and to note down in writing any defects (or minor damage) you may find.

The rental deposit is a sum, not to exceed the amount of three months' rent, that is paid into a special rental deposit account as security for the landlord. The account is set up in the tenant's name. The deposit, plus accrued interest, is returned to the tenant when he or she moves out of the unit, assuming there is no dispute with the landlord relating to the transfer of the unit.

Taking out liability insurance for rental property is recommended.

In addition to monthly rental payments, every household has to pay a fee to the national broadcasting authority to access radio and TV programmes (e.g. TV, car radio or mobile phones). The tenant is responsible for registering with the Swiss collection company BILLAG.

BILLAG Schweiz

Infoline: 0844 834 834
E-Mail: info@billag.com
www.billag.ch



? What do I have to consider when living in a rental apartment?

In most rental apartments or houses there are house rules, which have to be obeyed. For example, quiet hours have to be respected from 10 pm to 7 am and from 12 pm to 1 pm at lunchtime. Noise should be kept to a minimum on Sundays and public holidays as well.

If you intend to host a party, it is advisable to notify your neighbours of this in advance.

Common spaces, such as laundry facilities, staircases, parking areas or a lift, should not be cluttered with personal belongings and should be kept clean. Normally there is a schedule for using the laundry. In many houses or apartment blocks smoking in communal rooms is prohibited!

If conflicts arise with your landlord then you can contact the tenant council or the authority for dispute resolution in rental issues.

Tenant Council

Mieterinnen- und Mieterverband Uri

Mieterinnen und Mieterverband Luzern (responsible for Uri), Hertensteinstrasse 40, 6004 Luzern
Telephone: 041 220 10 22 (9 until 12.00)
mvlv@bluewin.ch / www.mieterverband.ch

Cantonal authority for dispute resolution

Kantonale Schlichtungsbehörde in Zivilsachen

Bahnhofstrasse 43, 6460 Altdorf
Telephone: 041 875 22 90
E-Mail: schlichtungsbehoerde@ur.ch
www.ur.ch > Behörden > richterliche Behörden

Did you know that about 60% of the Swiss population live in a rental apartment?

Living



How do I dispose of my waste?

In Switzerland there is a lot of emphasis on being environmentally friendly. This can also be seen in the recycling and disposing of waste. Waste is sorted and remaining household waste is collected once a week in special rubbish bags which are subject to a fee.

You will be informed about the various options for waste disposal by your local council.

WHAT	WHERE	HOW (WHEN)	PRICE
Household waste	Collection (in ZAKU bags)	Put on road side (every week)	Buy special ZAKU bags 35l/50l/60l
Garden waste	Collection (green bins)	Put on road side (every two weeks)	free
Glass	Separate collection points*	Separate by colours	free
PET (Drinking bottles)	Shops	Press air out of bottles	free
Cans	Separate collection points*	Clean out	free
Batteries	Point of sale	Or separate collection point*	free
Paper	Collection	Put on road side in bundles (about every two months)*	free
Carton	Collection	Put on road side tied up (about every two months)*	free
Textiles	Texaid-Container*	Put in bag	free
Electronic devices	Separate collection points*	Obligation to return	free
Toxic wastes	Separate collection points*	Up to 10kg/delivery	free
Oil	Separate collection points*	Separate different oils!	free
Carcasses	Collection point for carcasses*	Up to 200 kg, otherwise it will be picked up	free
Shoes	Texaid-Container*	Tie together in pairs	free
Lights	Shops	Not in the rubbish!	free
Bulky items	Separate collection points	Not in the rubbish!	CHF –.50/kg
Styropore	Separate collection points	Not in the rubbish!	CHF 2.–/kg
Building waste	Separate collection points	Not in the rubbish!	CHF –.10/kg
Boiler	Separate collection points	Not in the rubbish!	CHF 50.–/for one.
Wood	Separate collection points	Do not burn!	CHF –./kg
Motorcycle	Separate collection points	Without petrol and oil	CHF 10.–/for one.
Tyres	Separate collection points	Up to 70cm radius	CHF 7.–/for one. with rims, without CHF 4.–/for one.

* Specific collection dates and places for your commune, see www.zaku.ch

Information about

«Waste and Recycling» in German:

www.abfall.ch

Information about

«Waste management Uri» in German:

www.zaku.ch

Did you know that recycling waste conserves energy, recovers resources and creates jobs?

Work

? Do I need a work permit?

If you are a citizen of an EU/EFTA country, you have access as an employee to all professions and qualifications in the Swiss job market. The recognition of diplomas is regulated.

? Which rights and duties do I have as an employee?

Employees have the following rights:

- Receiving agreed salary
- At least 4 weeks holiday per year
- A job reference
- Protection of your personal details
- The right for one month trial period, unless otherwise agreed

Employees have the following duties:

- To fulfill the instructions of their employer
- To take due care and represent the interests of their employer
- Carry out their work as agreed

? What does my work contract contain?

Information on the content of a work contract is available in the section about work.

Generally, even a verbal work contract is legally binding. However it is always advisable to insist on a written work contract.

In many industries or large companies the rights and duties of employers and employees are recognised in collective employment agreements.

For certain groups of professions the authorities publish so called normal employment agreements. Most of these normal employment agreements are regulated by the canton.

Find out about the rules and regulations that apply for your sector.



? What are the rules for dismissal?

The rules for dismissal are normally stipulated in the employment contract, the normal employment contract of certain professions or in the collective employment agreements of certain industries. The notice period is the same for both parties.

If there is no written arrangement, the Swiss Civil Code (OR) is applied as follows:

- Within the probation period: seven working days
- Within the first year of employment: one month from the end of a month
- From the second to the ninth year of employment: two months from the end of a month
- From the tenth year of employment: three months from the end of a month



Information about working conditions:
www.ur.ch > «Arbeitsbedingungen»

Information about employment law, collective employment agreements, normal employment agreements and other topics relating to employment: www.seco.admin.ch > Arbeitsrecht

Work



? When am I protected from dismissal?

The employer is not allowed to dismiss an employee in any of the following situations: illness or accident, pregnancy or childbirth, participation in a federal aid mission abroad, compulsory military service of at least eleven days, civil defence service or Red Cross service.

? What is the average weekly working time?

The average weekly working time is 42 hours per week. The number of working hours depends on your employer, the duties and the industry. The weekly working time should be stipulated in the work contract.

The weekly working time cannot exceed 45 hours for factory workers, office workers, technical personnel and other employees like distribution and sales employees in larger companies. For all other employees there is a maximum working time of 50 hours per week.

RAV Regional work placement centre of Uri **RAV Regionales Arbeitsvermittlungszentrum Uri**

Klausenstrasse 4

6460 Altdorf

Telephone: 041 875 24 39

E-Mail: arbeit.migration@ur.ch

www.treffpunkt-arbeit.ch

Cantonal work and migration department

Amt für Arbeit und Migration

Klausenstrasse 4, 6460 Altdorf

Telephone: 041 875 24 18

E-Mail: arbeit.migration@ur.ch

www.ur.ch/arbeit

Federation of Trade Unions

Gewerkschaftsbund

Sekretariat

Reto Röthlin

Sonneggstrasse 1, 6463 Bürglen

Telephone: 041 870 13 16

E-Mail: reto.roethlin@bluewin.ch

Schweizer Gewerkschaftsbund: www.sgb.ch

? What does my salary consist of?

The salary is documented on a payment slip. This provides a detailed description of gross and net salary and all deductions and additions. Child supplement payments are one example of an addition to your salary. Deductions are for old age and survivor's insurance (AHV), for disability insurance (IV), for loss of income fund (EO), for unemployment insurance (ALV), for non-occupational accident insurance (NBU) and for occupational pension schemes (PK). In addition, either withholding tax is deducted or you have to pay yearly income and asset taxes.

The payments towards compulsory health insurance are not part of the salary deductions in Switzerland. Please refer to the section «Health».

? What can I do if I am unemployed?

Register with the regional work placement centre (RAV), where you will receive support.

You should immediately start looking for a new job. Keep track of all your efforts in trying to get work. To receive unemployment benefits you will have to prove that you have seriously tried to get a job and that you fulfil the requirements for benefit entitlement.

You will receive more information at the regional work placement centre (RAV Uri).

Did you know that working illegally actually harms employee protection?

Taxes

In Switzerland the costs for public infrastructure, transport, defence, the police, education, health, social security, culture and sport are mainly covered by taxing the income and assets of private individuals, by taxing companies and through the value added tax.

In Switzerland, income and wealth taxes are levied by the Confederation (federal tax) and by the cantons and local councils (cantonal and communal taxes).

Each of the 26 cantons has its own tax law and places a greater or lesser tax burden on income and wealth. For this reason, the tax burden in Switzerland varies from canton to canton and local council to local council.

Withholding tax for foreign employees domiciled in Switzerland

All foreign employees who do not hold a category C permanent residence permit are subject to withholding tax. Employers are required to deduct taxes owed directly from salaries or wages (withholding at source). Withholding tax incorporates cantonal and communal taxes and direct federal taxes, as well as church taxes when applicable.

The following distinctions are drawn in the taxation scales:

- Scale A for single taxpayers
- Scale B for married taxpayers (single-income); the scale takes into account the number of children («no children», «with 1 child», «with 2 children» etc.)
- Scale C for married taxpayers (dual-income); the scale takes into account the number of children («no children», «with 1 child», «with 2 children» etc.)
- Scale D for income from subsidiary earnings; special scale

A tax return is filed at a later date in the case of salaries exceeding CHF 120,000. (See also the information below)



Ordinary tax assessment for persons holding category C permanent residence permit or with gross salary of over CHF 120,000

Regardless of the amount of earnings, individuals domiciled in Switzerland are required to submit a truthful declaration as to their total income (salary certificate, return on assets, etc.) and expenses connected with their professional activities. The tax return must be submitted to the communal tax office.

The tax office establishes the tax factors (income and wealth) for each year. Taxes for private individuals are levied in the municipality in which they live and must be paid once a year.

Information about taxes:
www.ur.ch/steuern

Did you know that Switzerland has bilateral tax agreements with several countries in order to avoid double taxation of foreigners living in Switzerland?

Social security



What does «social security» mean?

Each of the various forms of social insurance plays an important role in the complex social security system. Together they, in conjunction with the public social welfare, ensure that the population is safeguarded against situations of dire (financial) need.

«Social security» covers the following risks:

- Medical treatment associated with illness or accident
- Loss of income associated with illness, accident and maternity
- Old age, death and disability
- Unemployment
- Family-related burdens

Uri Social Insurance Centre
Sozialversicherungsstelle Uri
 Dätwylerstrasse 11
 6460 Altdorf
 Telefon: 041 874 50 20
 E-Mail: info@svsuri.ch
www.sozialversicherungsstelleuri.ch

The three-pillar principle

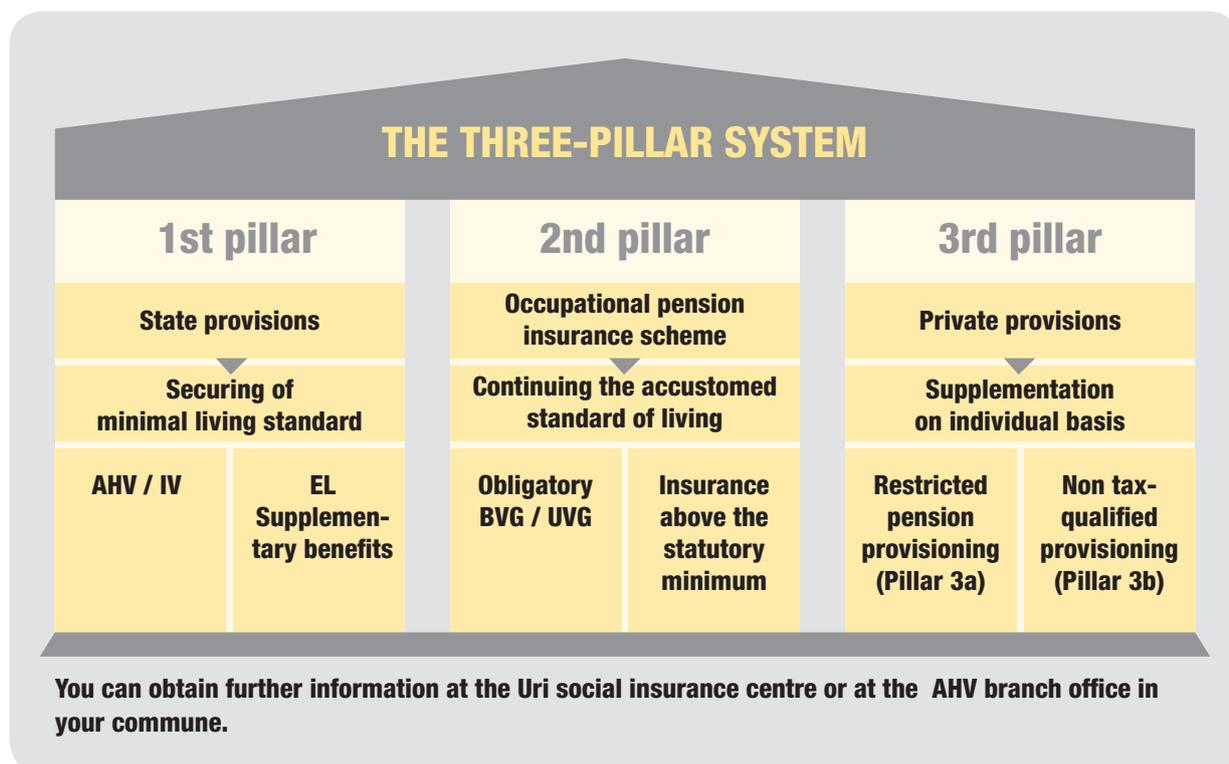
Switzerland's federal constitution requires the Confederation to put in place measures ensuring sufficient old-age, survivors and disability provisioning. These measures are based on three pillars:

Old-age and Survivors Insurance (AHV), Disability Insurance (IV) and Supplementary AHV and IV Benefits (EL) constitute the first pillar. These schemes safeguard the subsistence needs of the aged, survivors and people with disabilities. Individuals whose income (pensions, salaries) and assets are insufficient to finance the necessities of life are eligible for EL (supplementary benefits).

The second pillar comprises the occupational benefit plan which covers the years following retirement or the onset of a disability. This plan safeguards the possibility for private persons to reasonably maintain their accustomed standard of life.

The third pillar relates to private provisioning measures and is voluntary. Private provisioning measures can serve as a substitute for the second pillar for individuals who earn money through self-employment.

Information about AHV/IV:
www.ahv-iv.info



Social security



Accident insurance

All employees who work in Switzerland are insured for accidents and occupational illness from their first day of work. If you work for more than 8 hours per week then you are also insured against non-occupational accidents.

People who do their work in their own homes, or in someone else's (household help, cleaning personnel) must also be insured through their employer. Unemployed people are also always subject to mandatory insurance.

Self-employed family members who work in the family business should insure themselves voluntarily in an occupational accident insurance scheme.

People, such as housewives and househusbands, children, students and retired persons, are not insured. They have to arrange accident insurance coverage through their health insurance provider.

Regional Social Support Services:

Sozialdienst Uri Nord (Altdorf, Attinghausen, Bauen, Flüelen, Isenthal, Seedorf, Seelisberg, Sisikon)
Telephone: 041 874 12 28

Sozialdienst Uri Ost (Bürglen, Schattdorf, Spiringen)
Telephone: 041 874 04 66

Sozialdienst Urner Oberland
(Andermatt, Erstfeld, Göschenen, Gurtnellen, Hospental, Realp, Silenen, Wassen)
Telephone: 041 882 01 41

Sozialdienst Unterschächen
Telephone: 041 879 11 66

Unemployment:

See under section «Work»

Health insurance:

See under section «Health»

Uri Social Services Department:

Amt für Soziales

Klausenstrasse 4, 6460 Altdorf
Telephone: 041 875 21 52
E-Mail: sozialamt@ur.ch
www.ur.ch/gsud

Maternity

Women receive maternity insurance benefits if they are AHV-insured during the 9 months before giving birth, are gainfully employed for at least 5 months during that period and are deemed to be employed at the time birth occurs. The entitlement period is generally 14 weeks.

Family allowance

The family allowance is intended to partially compensate parents for the costs incurred in connection with the maintenance of their children. The family allowance comprises child and education allowances, as well as the birth and adoption allowances instituted by individual cantons.

In the canton of Uri, the child allowance is CHF 200 per month. This allowance is issued from the month of the child's birth until the child's 16th birthday.

The education allowance is CHF 250 per month per child. This allowance is issued from the end of the month in which the child turns 16 until the child completes his or her education/training or the child's 25th birthday, whichever comes first.

The family allowance is governed by the regulations in force in the municipality in which an individual is employed. Registration and payment is effected by way of the employer.



What happens if I can no longer secure my own livelihood?

In such cases social assistance comes to your aid. It constitutes a guarantee of continued subsistence and prevents people or groups of people from being excluded from participating and sharing in the community. Outcome oriented social assistance includes not only material help (financial support and other monetary payments) but also personal support, which is indispensable. If you are in a situation of social hardship, please obtain more information from the social assistance service of your council.

Did you know that the comprehensive net of social security insurance schemes for people who work and live here provides them with protection against risks?

Health

? Do I have to insure myself against illness and accidents?

Taking out health insurance is obligatory in Switzerland. The health insurance providers are required by law to accept you for basic insurance coverage; supplementary insurance is voluntary. You can choose the amount you pay in and the scope of benefits not covered by the basic insurance. A retention fee always applies however.

Your basic health insurance covers the following:

- Generally the health insurance company covers all treatments which are carried out by a medical practitioner. You should be informed before you undergo the treatment if it is not covered.
- The basic health insurance covers treatment and hospital stay in the general ward of the cantonal hospital in Uri and 16 other hospitals recognised by the Canton. Any supplementary costs incurred for treatment and accommodation in a private or semi-private ward will be billed to you or be covered by supplementary insurance if you have the relevant coverage.
- The basic insurance bears the costs for any and all medications prescribed by a doctor, as long as they are on the list of recognised medicinal products.
- The basic health insurance also covers costs of various preventative measures which are helpful in avoiding illness, like immunisations or eight basic check-ups for pre-school children, also gynaecological prevention check-ups every three years, and a mammography every two years for women over 50 or yearly for women at risk.

? When do I qualify for a premium reduction?

Insured individuals who live in Switzerland on low incomes are eligible for a reduction in their health insurance premiums. After-tax income is the principal factor determining eligibility. Criteria, reduction amounts and procedures vary from canton to canton. Whether or not an individual qualifies for a premium

Information about offers and premiums of different health insurance companies:
www.bag.admin.ch

Information and advice on health in various languages: «Gesundheitsratgeber»
www.migesplus.ch > Publikationen

Prevention and health promotion:
www.gesundheitsfoerderung-uri.ch



reduction is generally determined automatically. Withholding-tax payers must fill out an application form. This is available at www.ur.ch/praemienverbilligung, or directly at your local health office or local council administration.

? Where do I receive medical treatment ?

In Switzerland, whether or not you have a free choice of doctors depends on which health insurance model you selected. The addresses of practising doctors are listed in your local telephone book or online at www.ur.ch > keyword «Gesundheitsdienste».

? Are my dental costs also insured?

No, they are not covered in the basic health insurance. You can however opt to have an additional premium to insure dental costs.

? Do I have to pay for my children's visit to the doctor or dentist with their schools?

The state schools regularly organise visits of all children to the dentist and doctor for check-ups. These are free of costs.

? Is it okay to drink the tap water in my home?

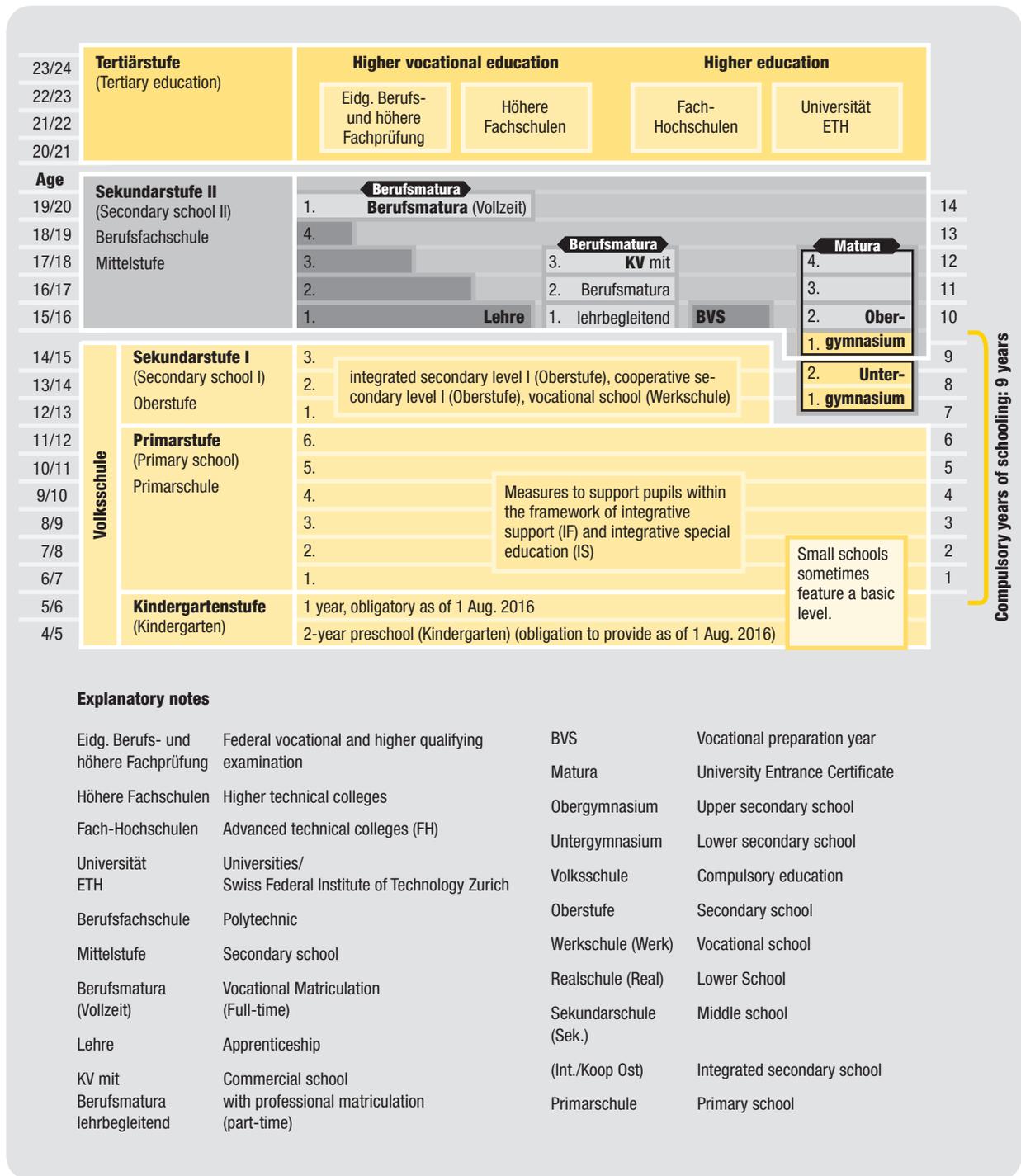
Yes, the water in Switzerland is of a high quality, and it is free. Water is the best and healthiest way to quench your thirst.

Information on refund of health insurance premiums:

Amt für Gesundheit
 Klausenstrasse 4, 6460 Altdorf
 Telephone: 041 875 22 42
 E-Mail: praemienverbilligung@ur.ch
www.ur.ch/praemienverbilligung

Looking after your own health and the health of your family is the best prevention and increases your quality of life!

School and education



How is the school system structured in the Canton of Uri?

In Switzerland, the cantons govern matters associated with compulsory education and the federal government governs those associated with the secondary school II and tertiary levels.

Courses in native language and culture (HSK):
www.ur.ch > «HSK»

School and education



? What is compulsory education in Switzerland?

In Switzerland, education is compulsory in Switzerland from the first to the ninth year of schooling. Kindergarten in Uri is not compulsory but is strongly recommended.

The public schools are neutral with respect to religion. Religious education is the parents' responsibility.

Children with a migration background can attend courses in their native language and culture (HSK-courses). Often these courses are offered outside the canton and also outside the normal schooling hours. The contact details for these courses are available at the schools of your local council.

? How will the school support my child in connection with learning German?

As a rule, newly arriving children receive either intensive or supplementary instruction in German for one to two years. The instruction takes place during normal school hours.

? Where do I get help if my child has difficulties or problems at school?

The first person to talk to is always your child's class teacher. He or she will then refer you on to other specialist departments if required.

? What is expected of parents during the compulsory school years of their children?

Parents are required:

- to urge their children to complete the compulsory schooling
- to cooperate with the schools
- to read the reports of their children and to sign them
- to accept teachers' invitations for assessment interviews
- to seek permission for extra holidays early, to notify the school in advance of any absence authorized by a parent at his or her own discretion and to state the reasons for all absences.

Did you know that parents' support of and interest in their children's education career is one of the most important factors for learning success, which will enable a good start into the working world?

? What are your rights as a parent?

Parents have the right:

- to receive all information necessary for the fulfilment of parental rights and duties
- to be informed about the learning progress and the work and social behaviour of their children
- to examine the assessments of their children's performance
- to talk to teachers individually
- to observe instruction by prearrangement with the teacher
- to be informed at the appropriate time about school pilot projects and reforms
- to receive early notification of any cancellation of instruction
- as a rule, to be invited to one parents' evening per school year during the child's years of compulsory education

? What happens after the compulsory school years?

After completing their compulsory education, young people can undertake an apprenticeship or attend a higher-level school (upper secondary school and later university).

Switzerland has a dual VET apprenticeship system, e.g. the young apprentices work in a company and at the same time attend an apprenticeship school (polytechnic) to gain theoretical knowledge in their professions and general education.

The two paths are to be seen as having equal status.

Gap Year

Those who do decide not to go directly into a VET programme or a higher-level school can take a gap year. One option for these young people is to attend a «gap year offering». For advice please refer to the vocational, academic and career advisory office.

B-V-S (School Gap Year)

The BVS school is a voluntary 10th school year with the focus on successful entrance into an apprenticeship or a further school.

Information on schools:

www.bildungsportal-uri.ch > Gemeindeschulen



School and education



K-B-A (Combined Gap Year)

The KBA year is a goal-oriented gap-year offering intended to prepare young people for a successful start of an apprenticeship or a vocational basic education with attestation.

I-B-A (Integrated Gap Year)

This offering is open to young non-native German speakers whose age makes them ineligible to attend compulsory schooling (over 15 years of age) but who are not yet ready to enter VET due to inadequate language skills.



Can I continue my education as an adult?

Social and economic changes have resulted in an increased role for adult education, as «lifelong learning». Further education courses are offered by private and public institutions. They enable adults to extend their professional and general knowledge.



Can I acquire a vocational qualification as an adult?

It is possible for someone with the appropriate kind and duration of experience to acquire a vocational or professional qualification for any occupation later on in life. You will have to acquire the occupational knowledge and general knowledge covered by the basic education/ training (unless this was already covered in your first basic training). You can find out about further options at the occupational, education and career guidance counselling office or at www.berufsberatung.ch. college for entrance requirements.



Are my diplomas recognised in Switzerland?

Switzerland and the European Union mutually recognise the educational diplomas for every profession, which are recognised in the single member states. The national contact office at the federal office for professional training and technology provides information about application and the competent authorising authorities.

Foreign university entrance certificates are not recognised on a federal basis. Please refer directly to the university or college for entrance requirements.

State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation, SBFI:
Contact point for the recognition of foreign qualifications

Kontaktstelle Diplomanerkennung

Effingerstrasse 27

3003 Bern

Telephone: 031 322 28 26

E-Mail: kontaktstelle@sbfi.admin.ch

www.sbfi.admin.ch/diploma

Swissuniversities – Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities, Office for information on recognition:

Swiss ENIC

Effingerstrasse 15, 3000 Bern

Telephone: 031 335 07 32

E-Mail: communications@swissuniversities.ch

www.swissuniversities.ch > Services > ENIC

Information about choosing an occupation, higher education and career pathways:

www.berufsberatung.ch

Information on the acceptance of foreign diplomas:

www.migraweb.ch

> Schule und Bildung > ausländische Diplome

Information on further education:

www.bwzuri.ch or at

www.weiterbildung-uri.ch

Vocational, academic and career advisory office:

Berufs-, Studien- und Laufbahnberatung

Klausenstrasse 4, 6460 Altdorf

Telephone: 041 875 20 62

E-Mail: biz@ur.ch

www.ur.ch/berufsberatung

Did you know that 80% of pupils who finish their compulsory schooling in Uri go on to complete an apprenticeship and 20% go on to an upper secondary school?

Children



How is their stay regulated?

Swiss-born children of migrants with a residence or a permanent residence permit have the same permit as their parents.

The permit right applies to the children of foreign national parents from non EU/EFTA countries until the child's 18th birthday, subject to the condition that the child remains single and continues to live with his or her parents. Afterwards they have to apply for their own permit. In the case of children with parents from EU/EFTA countries this right applies until their 21st birthday.

After a divorce, the parent with the right of custody has the right to decide on where the children involved live. This means that the parent with the custody rights can for example return to his native country with the children. The visiting rights of the parent without custody right have to be granted.



What is it important for parents to know?

Parents are responsible for their child's upbringing and care and need to make the necessary decisions accordingly. The well-being of the child should be central.

Depending on their circumstances, parents need to raise the child, support, promote and protect its physical, mental and moral development.

Parents have the responsibility to provide their child with an education that matches their abilities and interests. For this purpose they should cooperate with the schools.

If the well-being of the child is endangered and the parents fail to rectify that or are unable to, an official public guardian will take the necessary steps to protect the child (KESB).

The parents are required to financially support the child, its education and any child protection measures until the child comes of age (18th birthday) or has completed its initial education.

Did you know that the promotion and encouragement of the first native language is an important basis for acquiring the new local language?



Childcare offerings

The «stiftung papilio» is the place to go in Uri if you have any questions relating to family life. Its offerings include childcare, midday meals, and socio-educational offerings.

Playgroup for pre-school children

Playgroups offer children aged three or older the opportunity to gain important playful experiences in a set group, which is the basis for good personal and learning development. More information is available at your local council.

Play groups:

www.ur.ch > «Spielgruppen»

Advice services:

www.ur.ch > «soziale Institutionen»

stiftung papilio

Gotthardstrasse 14, 6460 Altdorf

Telephone: 041 874 13 00

E-Mail: info@stiftung-papilio.ch

www.stiftung-papilio.ch

Mother and father advice service, Uri

Mütter- und Väter-Beratung Uri

Rüttistrasse 71, 6467 Schattdorf

Telephone: 041 871 04 04, E-Mail: info@spitexuri.ch

www.spitexuri.ch

Marriage, births and death

What is required for getting married?

Information about the required documents is available from the registry office, which also organises the registry wedding ceremony. For residents of Uri the responsible registry office is the Uri registry office.

An additional religious ceremony must be organised with your own church community.

Legal requirements for marriage:

- You must be 18 years old and capable of judgement
- You cannot be married already
- Your stay in Switzerland must be legal
- The law prohibits marriage between (half-)siblings or between a child and a parent (biological or adoptive) or grandparent, as well as marriages between an individual and a child of that individual's spouse (even if the marriage has been declared invalid or been dissolved).
- Further documents as per the instructions of the civil register office

Forced marriage is prohibited in Switzerland.



What do I need to do when a baby is born?

After the birth of a child, the civil register office must be notified of the birth. If the birth takes place in the home, the birth announcement, filled out by the midwife, should be taken to the office. In the case of births in Uri's cantonal hospital, the hospital takes care of the notification.

Religious ceremonies must be arranged with the parents' own religious community.



Civil office of Uri Zivilstandsamt Uri

Marktgasse 6, 6460 Altdorf
Telephone: 041 875 22 80
E-Mail: zivilstandsamt@ur.ch

Information on marriage:
www.ur.ch > «Zivilstandsamt»

Information about birth:
www.ur.ch > «Zivilstandsamt»

Marriage, births and death

««« What happens in the case of a death?

A medical practitioner has to issue a death certificate. Afterwards the death is immediately to be registered with the local council (in Altdorf with the civil registry office of Uri). If death occurred in a hospital, in a retirement home or hospice, then the hospital or the retirement home management is required to register the death.

Arrangements for transport to the cemetery chapel or the crematorium should be made with an undertaker. If desired, undertakers can also effect the transport of remains from or to other countries. Funeral costs are borne by the survivors.

When reporting deaths to the local council of the place of death, you must bring the following documents with you:

- the medical death certificate
- family record book (Familienbuch) if available
- passport, ID card and residency permit
- The Uri civil register office can provide information as to what other documents are necessary (birth certificate, marriage certificate, etc.).

A religious ceremony has to be organised with your own church community.

There are no special cemeteries in Uri for non-Christians.

Religion

The constitution of Uri guarantees freedom of religious belief and conscience. Every person can freely decide whether to have beliefs and which religion to practice. No one is to be forced into practising religion. Religious freedom therefore is an individual right which every person can carry out depending on their personal beliefs.

It is important to note however that in Switzerland the state comes before religion. Religious freedom is guaranteed as long as it does not break any federal or cantonal laws. A list of the religious groups of Uri is available from the contact office for integration.

Information about death:
www.ur.ch > «Zivilstandsamt»

Contact office for integration: Ansprechstelle für Integrationsfragen

Klausenstrasse 4, 6460 Altdorf
Telefon: 041 875 20 66
E-Mail: integration@ur.ch
www.ur.ch > «Integration»

Did you know that the Christian-occidental culture has deep roots in the customs and every day life of Uri?

Every day life and leisure time

? What are the options for leisure time?

You can find information on many events in the various regional newspapers and in the weekly «Uristier» brochure. Information on cultural, sports and other events and opportunities is also available online at www.uri.ch.

There are many clubs in Uri – information is available at www.urionline.ch or at your local council.

Sport

The alpine mountain scenery and Lake Lucerne offer countless possibilities for outdoor activities in Uri. There are also many private providers or sport clubs near you. Information is available through the council, through the tourism office or the sport department of the cantonal education and culture authority.



Information about clubs in Uri:
www.urionline.ch

Information about museums:
www.museen-uri.ch

Information on playgrounds:
www.spielplatz-uri.ch

Loan of games for children, families, teens and adults:
Ludothek Altdorf
Seedorferstrasse 1, 6460 Altdorf
Telephone: 041 871 00 05
www.ludothek-altdorf.ch
www.uri.info

Cantonal education and culture department:
Bildungs- und Kulturdirektion
Abteilung Sport
Klausenstrasse 4, 6460 Altdorf
Telephone: 041 875 20 64
E-Mail: sport@ur.ch
www.ur.ch/sport

Traditions/Customs

Uri boasts an attractive cultural scene with many events. Religious and traditional customs are kept up by the communities and canton. Amongst them are religious holidays and rituals of the various aspects of life (birth, first communion, weddings, also Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Advent, Christmas etc.

Also important are various social highlights (anniversaries, communal festivities or political events) as well as yearly traditional festivities like Carnival, the 1st of August celebration, the Kilbifest fair or recurring club events like plays, concerts, end of school year parties etc.

Uri Tourism
Uri Tourismus

Tellspielhaus
Schützengasse 11, 6460 Altdorf
Telefon: 041 874 80 00
E-Mail: info@uri.info
www.uri.info

Swiss wrestling is a traditional Swiss sport which is very popular amongst the Swiss population. There are regular cantonal and federal Swiss wrestling competitions.

Mobility

? How does public transport work?

Switzerland has one of the most well-developed public transport systems in the world.

In Uri, the Swiss Federal Railways is complemented by buses of Auto AG Uri.

With a half-price-card you can use trains, buses and boats in all of Switzerland at a reduced price.

? What do I need to bear in mind with regard to driving a car or a motorcycle?

Foreign drivers of motor vehicles must have a Swiss driving licence if:

- they have lived in Switzerland for the past 12 months during which time they did not reside in a foreign country for an uninterrupted period of longer than three months;
- they professionally drive motor vehicles that are registered in Switzerland and require a driving licence of the categories C or D or subcategories C1 or D1, or require authorisation for the professional transport of passengers;
- their foreign driving licence is no longer valid.

The following materials must be submitted in order to obtain a Swiss driving licence

- completed and signed application form
- confirmation of domicile
- residency permit
- your original drivers licence
- current passport photo, in colour
- vision test certificate

Wearing a helmet for riding your motorbike is compulsory!

Road and transport authority:

Strassenverkehrsamt Uri

Gotthardstrasse 77a, 6460 Altdorf

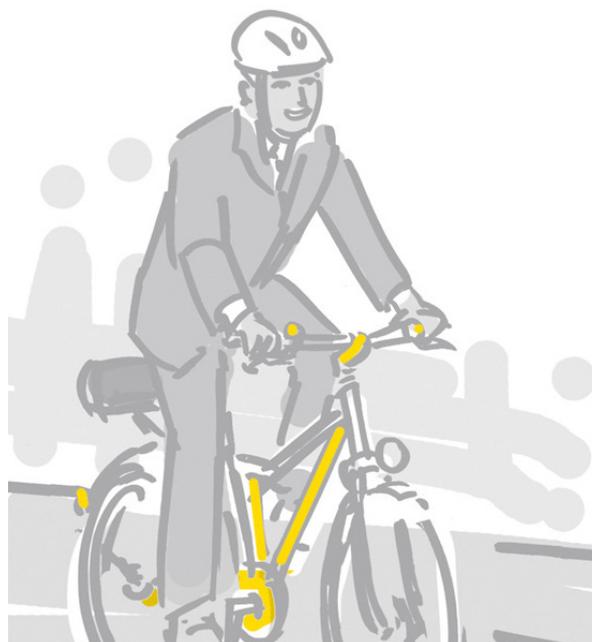
Telephone: 041 875 28 00

E-Mail: assv@ur.ch

www.ur.ch > Behörden

> Regierung und Verwaltung > Sicherheitsdirektion

> Amt für Strassen- und Schiffsverkehr



? What do I have to know when I am riding my bicycle?

Traffic rules also apply to cyclists. A test is normally not required. Pre-school children are not allowed to ride a bike on the road.

Private liability insurance now covers damages caused by a cyclist if the individual in question has such an insurance policy. Individuals without private liability insurance must pay for any damages they cause themselves. Since this can be quite expensive, acquiring private liability insurance is advisable.

Wearing a helmet when riding a bicycle is recommended.

Information on public transport:

www.sbb.ch (train, bus, boats, cable cars)

www.aagu.ch (buses)

www.seilbahnen-uri.ch (cable cars)

www.lakelucerne.ch (boats)

Did you know that there are 39 cable cars which can be used by the public? Discover our mountains!

Language and language acquisition offers

? Where can I learn German?

To be independent and self-reliant in Uri it is necessary to learn German. This makes it easier to deal with the neighbours, teachers of your children, officials and other people you come into contact with.

Information on the current German courses for beginners is available at:

Vocational training and further education centre:

Berufs- und Weiterbildungszentrum Uri

Attinghauserstrasse 12, 6460 Altdorf

Telephone: 041 875 20 70

E-Mail: bwz@bwzuri.ch

www.bwzuri.ch

Language and integration:

S&I Sprache und Integration

Regula Wyss, Bahnhofstrasse 38, 6460 Altdorf

Telephone: 041 871 34 93

E-Mail: info@sprache-integration.ch

www.sprache-integration.ch

? Is it important to learn Swiss German?

Speaking High German is enough to get by in your new surroundings. Swiss people are aware how difficult it is to learn Swiss German with its various dialects.

? How can I find an interpreter?

For difficult and important conversations use of a qualified interpreter is recommended. Information on interpreters is available from the interpreters service of central Switzerland.

Interpreter service:

Caritas Luzern

Dolmetschdienst

Brünigstrasse 25, 6002 Luzern

Telephone: 041 368 51 51

(with answer phone outside of office hours)

Fax: 041 368 52 88

E-Mail: info@dolmetschdienst.ch

www.dolmetschdienst.ch



? What is the best way to become integrated in my new community?

One of the key factors for successful integration is speaking German. If you can make yourself understood, you can communicate and gain your independence. This can improve your connection to community life in Uri. This could be enhanced by actively participating in the social life of the community and the canton. Possibilities are the many clubs, traditions and events.

See also section «Every day life and leisure time»

Loan of books in German and other languages:

Kantonsbibliothek

Bahnhofstrasse 13, 6460 Altdorf

Telefon: 041 875 22 21

E-Mail: kantonsbibliothek@ur.ch, www.kbu.ch

Did you know that language is a key competence for successful integration?

Public holidays

New year	Neujahrstag	1st January
Three Kings Day	Heilige Drei Könige	6th January
St. Josephs Day	St. Josefstag (Seppitag)	19th March
Good Friday	Karfreitag	on the Friday before Easter
Easter	Ostern	on the first Sunday after the first spring full moon
Easter Monday	Ostermontag	on the Monday after Easter
Ascension Day	Auffahrt	on the Thursday 10 days before Pentecost
Pentecost	Pfingsten	on the Sunday 49 days after Easter
Pentecost Monday	Pfingstmontag	on the Monday after Pentecost Sunday
Corpus Christi	Fronleichnam	on the Thursday 11 days after Pentecost
Swiss National Day	Bundesfeiertag	1st August
Assumption Day	Maria Himmelfahrt	15th August
All Saints Day	Allerheiligen	1st November
Immaculate Conception	Maria Empfängnis	8th December
Christmas Day	Weihnachten	25th December
St. Stephen's Day	Stephanstag	26th December

Public holiday entitlement is determined by Cantonal rules, the type of industry and the individual employment contracts.

Did you know that most cantonal public holidays have a Christian background?

Helpful addresses

Further addresses

Advisory departments

An extended overview of all support and advisory departments for the canton of Uri is available under the following link:
www.ur.ch > «soziale Institutionen»

Advice and help for families

Specialist department for family advice

Fachstelle Familienfragen

Stiftung Papilio, Gotthardstrasse 14, 6460 Altdorf
 Telephone: 041 874 13 15
 E-Mail: info@stiftung-papilio.ch

Marriage, family and life counselling

Ehe-, Familien- und Lebensberatung

Psychotherapy practice for individuals, couples and families
 Gotthardstrasse 14a, 6460 Altdorf, Telephone: 041 870 00 65
 E-Mail: info@psychotherapie-uri.ch, www.psychotherapie-uri.ch

Social pedagogy family support:

Sozialpädagogische Familienbegleitung

Stiftung Papilio, Gotthardstrasse 14, 6460 Altdorf
 Telephone: 041 874 13 15, E-Mail: info@stiftung-papilio.ch
www.stiftung-papilio.ch

Help and advice with questions about raising children

Beratung in Erziehungsfragen

Schulpsychologischer Dienst
 Klausenstrasse 4, 6460 Altdorf
 Telephone: 041 875 20 90
 E-Mail: schulpsychologie@ur.ch
www.ur.ch/spd

Advice for youths and young adults

Advice and support for people with addiction problems and youths advice

Beratung und Begleitung für Menschen mit Suchtproblemen und Jugendberatung

kontakt uri, Gemeindehausplatz 2, 6460 Altdorf
 Telephone: 041 874 11 80
 E-Mail: mail@kontakt-uri.ch
www.kontakturi.ch

Helpline for children and teenagers

Beratung für Kinder und Jugendliche

Fachstelle Kinderschutz, Klausenstrasse 4, 6460 Altdorf
 Telephone: 041 875 20 40
 E-Mail: kinderschutz@ur.ch
www.ur.ch > «Kinderschutz»

JUSESO Youth Counselling Uri

JUSESO Jugendseelsorge Uri

Kirchplatz 3, 6460 Altdorf
 Telephone: 041 871 20 56, E-Mail: juseso@kath-uri.ch
www.kath-uri.ch/Jugendseelsorge

Information about living in Switzerland in different languages:

Migraweb – www.migraweb.ch

Social psychiatry and psychotherapy

Sozialpsychiatrischer Dienst

Seedorferstrasse 6, 6460 Altdorf
 Telephone: 041 874 00 20
 E-Mail: info@spduri.ch, www.spduri.ch

Support for the needy in every day life

Swiss Red Cross:

Schweizerisches Rotes Kreuz

Kantonalverband Uri
 Rynächtstrasse 13, 6460 Altdorf
 Telephone: 041 874 30 75
 E-Mail: info@srk-uri.ch

Contact point for people in a difficult situation

Hilfswerk der Kirchen Uri

Seedorferstrasse 6a
 6460 Altdorf
 Telephone: 041 870 23 88
 E-Mail: info@hilfswerkuri.ch

Nursing care, home care, family assistance, advice for mothers and fathers

Spitex Uri

Rüttistrasse 71, 6467 Schattdorf
 Telephone: 041 871 04 04
 E-Mail: info@spitexuri.ch
www.spitexuri.ch

Emergency addresses

Police: 117

Fire emergency: 118

Ambulance: 144

Dental emergency: 1811

Medical emergency service: 041 870 03 03

Please make sure to have the following information ready when calling an emergency number:

- **Name and first name**
- **Place of emergency?**
- **What has happened?**
- **What is the number where you can be called back?**