

# Rules for mountain leaders from EU/foreign countries who want to provide services in Switzerland

According to the UIMLA standard, an **International Mountain Leader** is a person who is qualified to lead, teach, support and train clients, paying or otherwise, to all areas in all seasons, including snow covered terrain, except for activities reserved for mountain guides. When providing cross border services Mountain Leader must comply with national laws related to the provision of services.

Below you will find the applicable rules which were obtained in a form of questionnaire from respective national authorities and further processed by UIMLA. The information provided is confirmed by:

Contact details for the authority:

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## 1. Mountain leader profession

Does the profession of the mountain leader exist in Switzerland?

Yes

And does a profession of a mountain leader exist as a profession independent of the profession of a mountain guide?

Yes

## 2. Entry requirements for mountain leaders from EU member states - prior declaration or other?

Do you require qualified mountain leaders from EU member states to send a prior declaration before they start temporarily providing services of a mountain leader in your country?

Yes, but only for tours of the difficulty levels T4 and WT3. For tours with difficulty levels T1-T3 and WT1-WT2 no declaration needs to be submitted to SERI. See description of levels: <https://www.bergfreunde.eu/alpine-grades-calculator/> The whole procedure is in detail described in a fact sheet for "hiking guides" here: <https://www.sbfi.admin.ch/sbfi/en/home/education/recognition-of-foreign-qualifications/declaration-procedure-for-service-providers-from-eu-efta-states/regulated-occupations-and-professions.html>

In addition, all service providers from EU/EFTA states wishing to pursue either a regulated or non-regulated profession in Switzerland for a maximum of 90 working days per calendar year must submit a notification to the State Secretariat for Migration SEM (notification procedure for short-term work

[https://www.sem.admin.ch/content/bfm/en/home/themen/fza\\_schweiz-eu-efta/meldeverfahren.html](https://www.sem.admin.ch/content/bfm/en/home/themen/fza_schweiz-eu-efta/meldeverfahren.html)). This must be done using the official form available online before starting to provide the service. The same procedure for UK citizens is described here: [https://www.sem.admin.ch/sem/en/home/themen/fza\\_schweiz-eu-efta/meldeverfahren.html](https://www.sem.admin.ch/sem/en/home/themen/fza_schweiz-eu-efta/meldeverfahren.html)

### 3. Entry requirements for mountain leaders from EU member states - prior declaration or other

What are the requirements and documents which a **mountain leader from EU member states** has to submit for the purpose of a prior declaration?

Prescribed form

Certificate of nationality

Copy of the professional certificate

Qualification diploma

Proof of professional civil liability insurance

Current (not older than 3 months) attestation certifying that the holder is legally established in a member state for the purpose of pursuing the professional activity concerned. The certificate must also indicate that the person is not prohibited from practicing the professional activity, even temporarily, at the moment of issuance of the attestation.

Proof of payment of the CHF 90 – processing fee.

Do you recognize **the professional certificate** issued by UIMLA national association as a proof of necessary qualification?

Yes, the IML-Diplome is recognised

Is it necessary to have the documents **translated** into your language?

Yes

All documents must be translated by certified translators into one of the three official languages of Switzerland (German, French or Italian) or in English.

Is it necessary to have the documents notarised?

No

Swiss regulations do not require notarized documents but they verify the authenticity of the attestation (either directly with the authority that issued the document or they request the original by post).

Can the declaration be passed **online**? If so, please enter a link to it:

Yes. [www.sbf.admin.ch/edeclaration](http://www.sbf.admin.ch/edeclaration)

Are there any special rules for mountain leaders coming from EU member states where the profession is **not regulated** (the state of the origin of mountain leader does not require any qualification)? If so, please describe them

No

Is there a **fee** for processing the prior declaration? If so, please specify how much.

CHF 90 for the first declaration, no fee is charged for the renewals

How long does the procedure of prior declaration usually take?

After receipt of the complete declaration, the processing takes a maximum of one month.

Please specify what mountain leaders will receive at the end of the prior declaration procedure

With recognition, SERI certifies that the foreign qualification is equivalent to the corresponding Swiss qualification.

Do you apply the same regime for mountain leaders from non-EU states?

No.

If 'No': please describe the requirements which mountain-leaders from non-EU states have to meet

The procedur is very well described in English here, including youtube tutorial:  
<https://www.sbf.admin.ch/sbf/en/home/education/recognition-of-foreign-qualifications/recognition-procedure-on-establishment/procedure-at-seri/procedure-and-duration.html>