

Crime, smuggling and illegal migration

A global problem

Cross-border crime and smuggling by criminal organisations are a threat to the state, the economy and society.

Illegal migration has many facets – this is the modus operandi of smugglers and traffickers internationally and even Switzerland can be a transit country or the destination.

Criminal organisations are globally interconnected and dangerous. They rob and steal, smuggle, cheat and take advantage of people in distress. They have no consideration for others and are not averse to using violence. Human life has little value and our coexistence laws and regulations are ignored.

The Border Guard – the uniformed and armed section of the Federal Customs Administration (FCA) – is one of the country's answers to this threat.

Our mission

For the economy, security and health

What we want to know is: who is entering Switzerland and what are they bringing in with them. However, our mission does not end at the Swiss border: it goes far beyond.

We work 24/7 – at the border, in the border region, on international trains, in transboundary waters, at airports and also abroad – carrying out various duties:

Customs duties

We fight against commercially organised smuggling. We take action against illegal imports of narcotics, arms, counterfeit branded goods and endangered species. Moreover we levy taxes: value added tax, customs duties and road taxes.

Security police duties

We are always on the lookout for wanted persons, stolen vehicles and missing goods. And sometimes we may be employed on an airplane to ensure the safety of the passengers.

Migration duties

“Welcome to Switzerland” – this is our motto for guests who are welcome. Passport controls at the international airports separate the wheat from the chaff. Human smugglers and traffickers are most definitely not welcome.

Our specialists

The answer to crime, smuggling and illegal migration

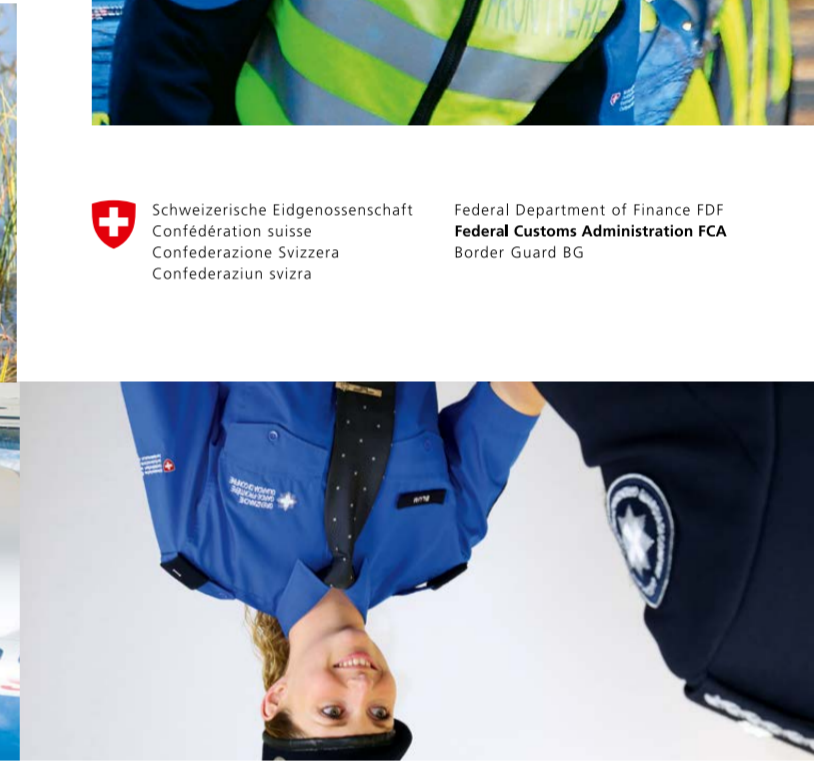
Appearances can be deceptive. Criminals, smugglers and traffickers are resourceful and ruthless. But with us, they meet their match.

We make full use of our employees' skills. Our specialists have many talents:

- Handling guard and sniffer dogs (narcotics, explosives, tobacco and species) as well as ava-lanche dogs
- Detecting forged documents
- Thoroughly checking vehicles in order to find smuggling hideaways
- Analysing narcotics
- X-raying luggage and objects
- Working in the observation unit of the Customs Administration to combat smuggling and support criminal investigations
- Working for the EU Border Guard agency FRONTEX or carrying out technical missions to foreign countries
- Carrying out security assignments in civil aviation (air or ground marshals)

The Border Guard BG

Bordering on the limit – and reaching beyond!



Our career opportunities

As specialists and managers

After completing the Border Guard training in the third year, there are interesting opportunities to take up specialist or managerial roles.

Specialists and managers work at the Border Guard posts, regional commands or at the BG Command in Bern.

Specialists
 Specialists lead service dogs on assignments, inspect vehicles, operate x-ray machines, analyse narcotics, keep smugglers under surveillance, undertake safety and foreign assignments, work in education, technology/logistics, biometrics or on situation and intelligence analysis.

Managers
 Managers lead assignments on the frontline (assignment leader), manage a team or an entire Border Guard post (team leader or post head), perform special tasks (unit head) or as officers, responsible for conditions and good employee benefits offered by the Swiss federal government as an employer.

A job that literally takes us to our limits – and beyond.

Our training

What we offer

Training to become a border guard is demanding. You must pursue clear goals in life and be ready to perform.

Border guard training (basic and advanced training) is modular and takes three years, during which trainees receive full pay. The theory modules are always followed by practical deployments at the border. The theoretical training takes place in the training centre of the Federal Customs Administration in Liestal, while the practical training takes place on the Border.

Basic training (1st year)
 Border guard service, customs service, law, criminology, investigation, document examination, shooting, security and intervention techniques, psychosocial skills, sport.

Advanced training (2nd and 3rd year)
 Search and rescue, document examination, criminology, security service, operational tactics. There are attractive advanced training opportunities available after completing the basic border guard training.

Our requirements

What we ask of you

To be a border guard you need to be a team player with good social skills, a good communicator, a quick learner, independent, assertive, reliable and perseverant.

Your profile:

- Swiss citizenship or dual nationality
- Dual citizens may not have served in any foreign armed services
- A Federal Vocational Education and Training Diploma issued after at least three years of basic vocational training or an equivalent certification (e.g. academic baccalaureate)
- Between 20 and 35 years of age
- Good intellectual and psychological capacity, and physical fitness
- Good swimmer
- Good reputation
- Category B driving licence

Our profession

Border guard with Federal PET Diploma

Our profession is not for the faint-hearted. It is always fascinating and sometimes not entirely without danger. Dealing with people from all walks of life is a daily challenge.

We offer comprehensive and varied training with many advanced training opportunities. A career as a border guard is a real challenge: it requires a lot of individual responsibility and is for goal-oriented people. It provides a great deal of interesting opportunities for professional development and advancement. Employees can specialise in a wide variety of areas, pursue a career as a specialist or decide to move into management. The Advanced PET Diploma Examination at tertiary level offers even more opportunities for advancement. Furthermore, the Border Guard enjoys the progressive working conditions and good employee benefits offered by the Swiss federal government as an employer.

The Swiss Border Guard SBG

How we are organised

- SBG Command (Bern)
- ◆ FCA training centre (Liestal)
- ▲ KOSIT training centre (Interlaken)

The Swiss Border Guard regions

- I SBG Region I – Basel**
Cantons AG, BE, BL, BS, LU, NW, OW, SO
- II SBG Region II – Schaffhausen**
Cantons SH, SZ, TG, UR, ZG, ZH
- III SBG Region III – Chur**
Cantons AI, AR, GL, GR, SG and Principality of Liechtenstein
- IV SBG Region IV – Lugano**
Canton TI
- V SBG Region V – Lausanne**
Cantons FR, VD, VS
- VI SBG Region VI – Geneva**
Canton GE
- VIII SBG Region VIII – Porrentruy**
Cantons JU, NE

* SBG Region VII eliminated in 2011 and integrated into SBG Regions I and II.

Our organisation

National, unified and flexible

Uniformity in diversity beyond the cantonal and linguistic borders: As a national corps, we are Switzerland's first security filter.

The **Border Guard Command**, headquartered in Bern, ensures the most efficient deployment of this security filter. This is where strategic decisions are made and our national operations are managed. Where will we strengthen our borders? Where will we deploy our specialists? How will we train our employees? What resources can we give them?

"Think national and act regional". The seven **Border Guard regions** implement the strategy "on the ground". They know the territory and can act quickly and appropriately.

The "front line" is made up of 40 **Border Guard posts** and four **operation centres**. This is where day-to-day operations are carried out, persons and goods checked, reports filed – and sometimes even handcuffs snapped on.

Contacts for applicants

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