



Childhood and education

TRAINING AND INSERTION ACTIVITIES

You have just arrived in Geneva and receive assistance from the Hospice Général. Any questions about access to training, French lessons or measures for integration?

This document will give you information on:

- Compulsory education : Is school compulsory in Geneva?
- Are there transitions or welcome classes for new arrivals?
- What are the different training possibilities after secondary school?
- Can I study at a higher level?
- Where can I get more information?
- The Hospice Général's integration measures: Am I eligible for French lessons?
- Am I allowed to pursue gainful employment?
- Am I eligible for assistance in searching for a job?

Compulsory education : Is school compulsory in Geneva?

In Geneva, education is compulsory up to 18 years :

- From 4 to 8 years old: primary school
- From 8 to 12 years old : secondary school
- From 12 to 15 years old : orientation cycle
- From 15 to 18 years old : All young adults that live in the canton of Geneva must pre-qualify or qualify for training.

For more informations, you can find a document made by the Département de l'instruction publique on the website of Bonjour Genève.

Are there transition or welcome classes for new arrivals?

There are school structures specifically for young adults who have recently arrived in Geneva. ACCESS II prepares students for either a schooling track or a 12th degree vocational training.

For more informations about ACCESS II, you can find it on the website of Bonjour Genève.

What are the different options after secondary school ?

There are several options for continuing schooling or training after the secondary school level I or reception and transition classes.

- PAI (pre-apprenticeship integration) 1 year or,
- AFP (federal certificate of professional training) 2 years or,
- CFC (federal certificate of competence) 3 or 4 years or,
- Ecole de Culture Générale - General culture school 3 years or,
- Business school
- High school 4 years.

These training courses can lead to the "maturité" - a high school diploma - which open doors for higher education such as university, specialized schools, etc.

Can I go on to higher education ?

Admission to institutions of higher education (Universities, specialized universities, etc.) is not permitted.

Exemptions are possible in certain exceptional cases, and under certain criteria, applicant students are required to appear before the student admissions committee.

This question must be checked with your social assistant or the assistant social of the shelter.

Academic HORIZON program:

The University of Geneva offers a program of social and academic integration for refugees who have had to interrupt their university studies in their native country and/or who have already completed one or more courses of study.

Where can I get more information?

In Geneva, the Office for Orientation, Vocational and Continuing Education (OFPC) can provide more information at the following address:

*OFPC Office pour l'orientation,
la formation professionnelle et continue
Case postale 192
Rue Prévost-Martin 6
1211 Genève 4*



This office can also provide you with information on applying for scholarships or training aid and on procedures for obtaining diploma equivalencies.

Hospice Général integration measures : am I eligible for French lessons?

Learning French promotes integration. At the Hospice Général, there exists a basic training unit (unité formation de base) that supports French linguistic learning.

For registration, please contact your social worker. You will be directed to the "evaluation" unit to register for a course that is adapted to your language level.

External French lessons are also available :

Go check on the Bonjour Genève website.

Warning ! Contact your social worker before registering for a French course. The Hospice Général does not reimburse all classes.

Am I allowed to pursue gainful employment ?

When you live in a group accommodation center (chc) and wish to pursue gainful employment, there exists 3 types of socio-professional activities :

- **AUC : Useful community activity at the group accommodation center (chc)**
Useful community activities aim for greater socialisation in the new environmental context for residents of the group accommodation units, as well as social cohesion.
- **AUP : Public utility or non-profit activities outside the group accommodation centres (chc)**
Non-profit activities aim for greater socialisation outside the living quarters for residents of the group accommodation units. They are organized through collaboration with public entities.
- **ADR : Reintegration activities**
Reintegration activities allow you to create a social network in order to recognise the worth of your work and feel useful within the group context. Different activity domains exist (Support, animation, administration, manual activities, communication, technical activities, education).

Please contact your social worker for more information or to register.

Am I eligible for assistance in searching for a job ?

If you wish to begin a professional integration activity, you may be eligible for guidance from a professional integration coach from the Hospice Général, depending on your motivation, your professional experience and your level of French.

The coach can help you to define a professional project, advise you on training and employment as well as suggest suitable steps to be taken. Please contact your social worker for registration or for more information.