



Service supplier mobility

The Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons (AFMP) between Switzerland and the EU no longer applies to the relations between Switzerland and the UK since 1 January 2021. In order to ensure mutual, facilitated market access for service suppliers after the AFMP no longer applies, Switzerland and the UK have concluded a Services Mobility Agreement (SMA). The SMA is applied provisionally since 1 January 2021.

The SMA regulates mutual access and temporary stay of service suppliers in Switzerland and the UK. Switzerland will continue the existing notification procedure for service suppliers from the UK seeking to work in the country for up to 90 days per year, with which businesses are familiar. On the side of the UK, there are sectoral market access commitments for contractual service suppliers and independent professionals (see list of sectors below), and the UK grants further preferential conditions to Swiss service suppliers. For example, the SMA does not only cover Swiss nationals but also service suppliers with permanent residency in Switzerland. Furthermore, Swiss service suppliers are not subject to an economic needs test for access in the covered sectors and are not required to provide evidence of English language skills. Swiss service suppliers may be granted access to the UK for 12 months within two calendar years.

With the SMA, Swiss service suppliers continue to have extensive access to the UK for the supply of contract-based services by natural persons. It also allows Swiss businesses to have timely access to short-term services from UK companies.

Market access to the UK under the SMA is currently limited to persons with a university degree or equivalent qualifications. However, in an exchange of letters the UK has committed to reassess the recognition of Swiss qualifications.

The SMA applies initially until 31.12.2022; however, the contracting parties may decide jointly to extend it.

If you have any questions about this topic, please contact:

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Market access in the UK for contractual service suppliers from Switzerland and for self-employed service providers from Switzerland (*in italics: sectors not open to self-employed service providers*):

- legal advisory services in respect of public international law and foreign law;
- *accounting and auditing services and bookkeeping services;*
- *taxation advisory services;*
- architectural services and urban planning and landscape architectural services;
- engineering services and integrated engineering services;
- computer and related services;
- research and development services;
- *advertising services;*
- market research and opinion polling services;
- management consulting services;
- services related to management consulting;
- *technical testing and analysis services;*
- *related scientific and technical consulting services;*
- mining;
- *maintenance and repair of vessels;*
- *maintenance and repair of rail transport equipment;*
- *maintenance and repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles, snowmobiles and road transport equipment;*
- *maintenance and repair of aircrafts and parts thereof;*
- *maintenance and repair of metal products, of (non-office) machinery, of (non-transport and non-office) equipment and of personal and household goods;*
- translation and interpretation services;
- telecommunication services;
- postal and courier services;
- *site investigation work;*
- *environmental services;*
- *insurance and insurance related services advisory and consulting services;*
- *other financial services advisory and consulting services;*
- transport advisory and consulting services;
- *travel agencies and tour operators services;*
- *tourist guides services;* and
- manufacturing advisory and consulting services.