



BIENVENUE  
WILLKOMMEN  
BENVENUTI  
WELCOME  
BEM-VINDO  
BIENVENIDA  
MIRË SE VJEN  
DOBRODOŠLI  
HOŞGELDİNİZ  
KU SOO DHOWOW  
BUN VENIT  
SZERENCSESEN ERKESZTEK  
VÍTEJTE  
أهلا وسهلا

# NEUCHÂTEL

BEVAIX - BOUDRY - BROT-DESSOUS - BROT-PLAMBOZ - CORCELLES-CORMONDRËCHE - CORNAUX - CORTAILLOD - CRESSIER - ENGES  
FRESENS - GORGIER - HAUTERIVE - LA BRÉVINE - LA CHAUX-DE-FONDS - LA CHAUX-DU-MILIEU - LA CÔTE-AUX-FÉES - LA SAGNE - LA TÈNE  
LE CÉRNEUX-PEQUIGNOT - LE LANDERON - LE LOCLE - LES BRENETS - LES PLANCHETTES - LES PONTS-DE-MARTEL - LES VERRIÈRES  
LIGNIÈRES - MILVIGNES - MONTALCHEZ - NEUCHÂTEL - PESEUX - ROCHEFORT - SAINT-AUBIN-SAUGES - SAINT-BLAISE - VALANGIN  
VAL-DE-RUZ - VAL-DE-TRAVERS - VAUMARCUS

NEUCHÂTEL

ANGLAIS | 2015

*Welcome to the canton of Neuchâtel*

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to the canton of Neuchâtel*

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**NEUCHÂTEL**

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We are pleased to extend our welcome to you, whether you are arriving from another region of Switzerland, from a neighbouring country or from further afield.

The Neuchâtel region, with its lake and high valleys, its magnificent countryside and well-preserved nature, offers a high-quality living environment. Thanks to the advanced technology of its industries and the professional competencies of its labour force, it has earned an enviable reputation. A product made in Neuchâtel is always synonymous with quality anywhere throughout the world.

The canton of Neuchâtel generates a spirit of tolerance and open-mindedness. The diversity of nationalities, religions and cultures is an enriching source for the canton and its population.

With this brochure we would like to wish you a warm welcome and provide you with addresses and information that should be useful to you.

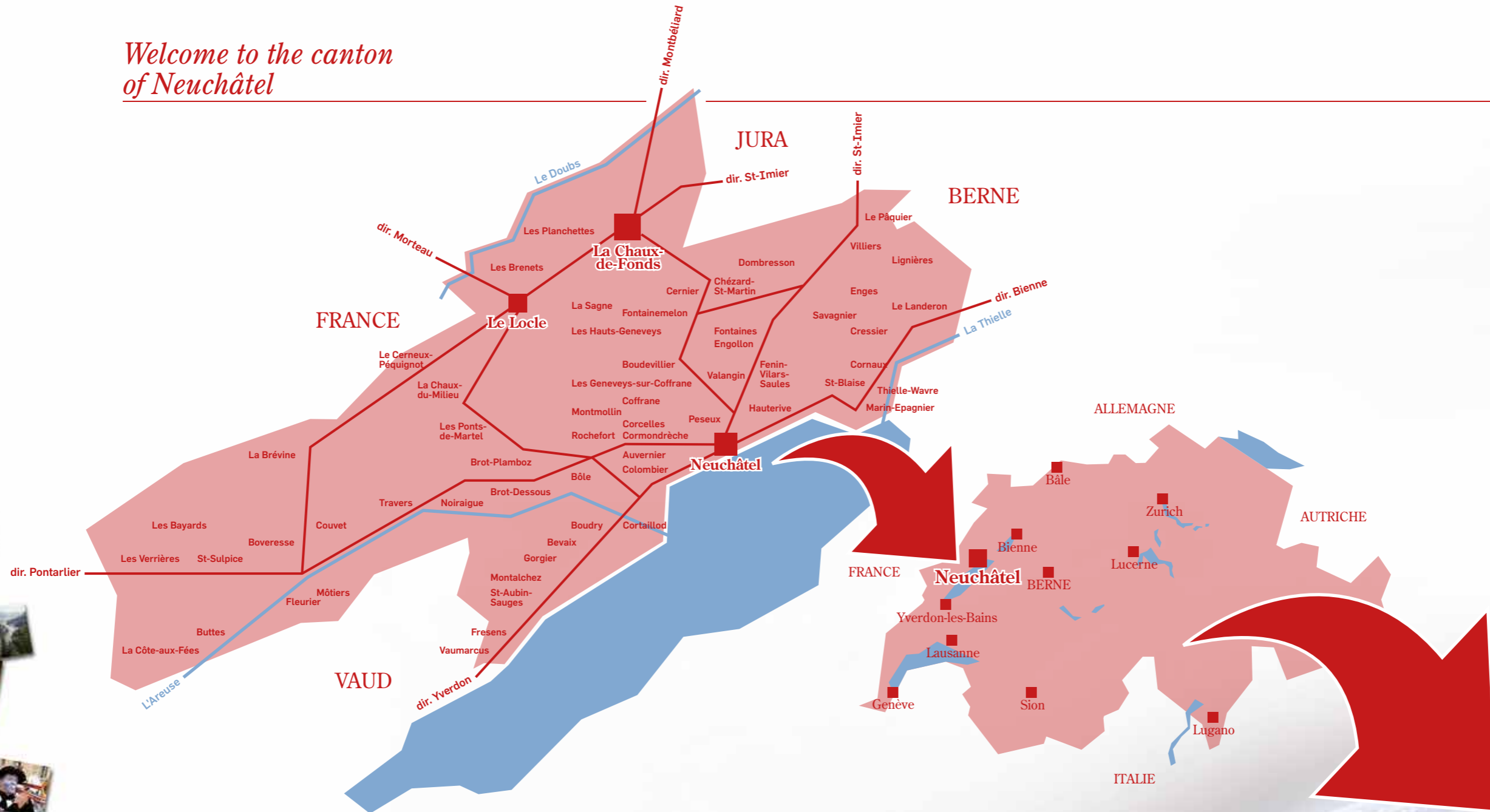
Today we are neighbours; tomorrow we will hopefully be friends.

**Government of the Republic and Canton of Neuchâtel**  
(Gouvernement de la République et canton de Neuchâtel)  
**Community for the integration and multicultural cohesion**  
(Communauté pour l'intégration et la cohésion multiculturelle)



# Welcome to the canton of Neuchâtel

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## General information

### THE CANTON OF NEUCHÂTEL FEATURES

- A surface area of 803 km<sup>2</sup>.
- A total population of nearly 175,000, including about 45,000 foreigners (~25%) from more than 153 different countries.
- 37 communes divided into six districts.
- Is one of the 26 cantons and semi-cantons that together make up Switzerland. It is French-speaking.
- Above all, a canton with a guest-receiving tradition and whose economic, social and cultural history was often influenced by frequent immigrations.

### IF YOU REQUIRE ASSISTANCE OR INFORMATION

- First contact the commune where you are living.  
To obtain information, it is advisable to visit the commune's offices in person.
- It is also possible to contact the permanent telephone line for social assistance, advice and guidance:  
Social information from Monday to Friday, from 14.00 to 17.00 hrs,  
tel. 0800 123 456 (toll free).

## Information contacts

### OFFICE OF MULTICULTURAL COHESION

The service of the **Multicultural Cohesion office** is a cantonal service. Its main assignment is to enhance contact and mutual understanding between the native population and immigrants. It is actively involved in the prevention of racial discrimination. Its purpose is also to advise and give support to projects set up by associations whose aim is the integration of foreigners. It provides the following services:

- A point of contact and information in different languages, open to all, where competent staff provide sound advice regarding the main issues of life here, while guaranteeing professional discretion;
- A list of possibilities for learning French;
- A list of language and cultural courses concerning different countries;
- An address list of the foreign communities in the canton;
- A list of translators and socio-cultural mediators;

For all questions and information, contact:

**Office of Multicultural cohesion**  
**(Service de la cohésion multiculturelle)**  
Avenue Léopold-Robert 90  
2300 La Chaux-de-Fonds  
Rue des Beaux-Arts 13  
2000 Neuchâtel

[www.ne.ch/cosm](http://www.ne.ch/cosm)

032 889 74 42

032 889 48 50

### USEFUL INTERNET SITES

- The canton of Neuchâtel's site offers useful information as well as links to towns, communes and Federal agencies: [www.ne.ch](http://www.ne.ch)
- The following pages [www.ne.ch/migrationsetintegration](http://www.ne.ch/migrationsetintegration) will provide you with detailed information concerning questions regarding immigration, integration and naturalisation.
- The website of the State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) [www.sem.admin.ch](http://www.sem.admin.ch) provides you with information on the issues of migration, integration and naturalisation at federal level.



## Information contacts

### EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Police	117
Fire (Feu)	118
Traffic emergencies (Secours routier)	140
Samaritans (La main tendue)	143
Ambulance	144
Poisoning (Intoxications)	145

### LEGAL ADVICE

Rue des Beaux-Arts 11, 1st floor (Wednesdays from 16.00 to 19.00 hrs.)  
2000 **Neuchâtel**

[www.oan.ch](http://www.oan.ch)

Rue du Parc 65, 1st floor (Thursdays from 16.00 to 19.00 hrs.)  
2300 **La Chaux-de-Fonds**

[www.oan.ch](http://www.oan.ch)

Advice given by a lawyer is free of charge. However an amount of CHF 30.- will be asked to cover administrative fees. An appointment is made directly for the same day.

### INFORMATION DESK: "EUROPE" INFORMATION

This information desk provides you with information on all questions relating to the free movement of persons, goods and services in Europe:

Douane du Col-des-Roches  
25130 **Villers-le-Lac (France)**

Tél: 0033 3 81 68 12 13 / Fax: 0033 3 81 68 16 64

[www.douane.gouv.fr](http://www.douane.gouv.fr)

## Useful information

### FOREIGNER'S VOTING RIGHTS

To take up residence in the canton of Neuchâtel means involving oneself actively in public life and the political environment or show one's feeling of allegiance by acquiring Swiss citizenship. Presently, all foreigners with a residence permit (C permit) and aged over 18, may:

- Vote and be elected on communal level after being resident in the canton for at least one year;
- Vote on cantonal matters after being resident in the canton for at least five years.

Contact the commune in which you live for any further information.

### NATURALISATION

Swiss nationality is acquired by parentage, adoption or naturalisation. It is an important step towards full integration within the life of the country. The law sets out two procedures:

- Simplified naturalisation applies to those who have direct family relationship with a Swiss citizen. The deadline for applying varies from case to case.
- Ordinary naturalisation is the process that must be followed by all those who do not have a direct relationship with a Swiss citizen as well as by those who are part of a registered partnership with a Swiss citizen. An application may be presented (except special cases) after twelve years of residence in Switzerland, of which three have been in the canton. Years spent in Switzerland between the ages of 10 and 20 count double.

The law also stipulates other criteria and provides for several specific cases. The administrative process for obtaining naturalisation may take up to two years.

#### For details:

- From the commune in which you live
- From the Cantonal Justice Service (Service de la justice) – Citizenship Sector 032 889 41 14  
Rue de Tivoli 22, 2000 **Neuchâtel** [www.ne.ch/servicejustice](http://www.ne.ch/servicejustice)
- From the Service of multicultural cohesion (Service de la cohésion multiculturelle) 032 889 48 50  
Rue des Beaux-Arts 13, 2000 **Neuchâtel** [www.ne.ch/cosm](http://www.ne.ch/cosm)



## Useful information

### RESIDENCE PERMITS

You can obtain information concerning residence permits from the commune in which you live or from:

#### Immigration Department (Service des migrations)

Rue de Tivoli 28  
2003 Neuchâtel

032 889 63 10

[www.ne.ch/smig](http://www.ne.ch/smig)

The Office of Multicultural Cohesion (Service de la cohésion multiculturelle) will be pleased to inform you on the different types of permits for resident foreign nationals and for settled foreign nationals.

### SCHOOLS

#### All children are eligible for compulsory schooling in the canton of Neuchâtel.

You can obtain further information from your commune's administration.

Compulsory education starts at the age of 4 and lasts eleven years.

Your child can also follow language and cultural courses from your country of origin, organized by consulates and foreign communities. At the end of compulsory schooling, your child may continue studies or enter into an apprenticeship.

You can obtain all the details you need from the following address:

#### Department of Compulsory Education (Service de l'enseignement obligatoire)

Rue de l'Écluse 67  
2001 Neuchâtel

032 889 69 20

[www.ne.ch/seo](http://www.ne.ch/seo)

## Useful information

### CAREER OPTIONS

#### Professional, educational and career orientation

##### (Centre d'orientation professionnelle, universitaire et de carrière) (OCOSP):

students, young people and adults who wish to start or reorganise their professional future

032 889 20 20

[www.ne.ch/ocosp](http://www.ne.ch/ocosp)

#### OCOSP-INFO

#### Regional Employment Office Neuchâtel

##### (Offices régionaux de placement neuchâtelois) (ORPN):

Persons who are in search of employment

032 889 68 13

[www.ne.ch/orp](http://www.ne.ch/orp)

#### ORPN

### STUDIES AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

#### Service of post compulsory training and guidance

##### (Service des formations post-obligatoires et de l'orientation)

Espace 1, 2300 La Chaux-de-Fonds

032 889 69 40

[www.ne.ch/sfpo](http://www.ne.ch/sfpo)

#### Interregional Training center – Neuchâtel Mountains

##### (Centre interrégional de formation des Montagnes neuchâteloises (CIFOM))

Rue de la Serre 62, 2300 La Chaux-de-Fonds

032 886 30 00

[www.cifom.ch](http://www.cifom.ch)

#### Professional Training center – Neuchâtel Littoral

##### (Centre professionnel du Littoral neuchâtelois) (CPLN)

Rue de la Maladière 84, 2000 Neuchâtel

032 717 40 00

[www.cpln.ch](http://www.cpln.ch)

#### Professional Centre for the construction trade

##### (Centre professionnel des métiers du bâtiment) (CPMB)

Les Longues-Raies 11, 2013 Colombier

032 843 48 00

[www.cpmb.ch](http://www.cpmb.ch)

#### University

Av. du 1<sup>er</sup> Mars 26, 2000 Neuchâtel

032 718 10 00

[www.unine.ch](http://www.unine.ch)

#### Scholarships and Grants Office (Office des bourses)

Espace de l'Europe 2, 2002 Neuchâtel

032 889 69 02

[www.ne.ch/bourses](http://www.ne.ch/bourses)



## *Useful information*

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### **ADULT EDUCATION / TRAINING**

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#### **Alliance of Adult Training Centers**

(Alliance des Centres de formation professionnelle du canton de Neuchâtel) (CEFNA)  
Rue de la Serre 62 032 886 31 00  
2300 La Chaux-de-Fonds [www.cefna.ch](http://www.cefna.ch)

#### **Office (Service de l'emploi)**

Rue du Parc 119 032 889 68 12  
2301 La Chaux-de-Fonds [www.ne.ch/semip](http://www.ne.ch/semip)

#### **Center for professional integration – Neuchâtel (Centre neuchâtelois d'intégration professionnelle) (CNIP)**

Site Dubied 12 032 889 69 25  
2108 Couvet [www.cnip.ch](http://www.cnip.ch)

#### **Neuchâtel Open University (Université populaire neuchâteloise)**

Rue de la Maladière 84 [www.cpln.ch/upn](http://www.cpln.ch/upn)  
2000 Neuchâtel 032 725 50 40  
Rue de la Serre 62  
2300 La Chaux-de-Fonds 032 886 31 10

#### **Reading and Writing Association (Association Lire et Ecrire)**

Rue du Doubs 103, 2300 La Chaux-de-Fonds 032 914 10 81  
Rue Louis-Favre 1, 2000 Neuchâtel [www.lire-et-ecrire.ch](http://www.lire-et-ecrire.ch)

### **FRENCH COURSES**

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A list of French courses available in the canton of Neuchâtel is obtainable from the **Office of Multicultural Cohesion** at 032 889 74 42.







ne.ch

RÉPUBLIQUE ET CANTON DE NEUCHÂTEL

**SERVICE DE LA COHÉSION  
MULTICULTURELLE**  
AVENUE LÉOPOLD-ROBERT 90  
2300 LA CHAUX-DE-FONDS  
T +41 (0)32 889 74 42  
F +41 (0)32 889 62 49

RUE DES BEAUX-ARTS 13  
2000 NEUCHÂTEL  
T +41 (0)32 889 48 50  
F +41 (0)32 889 60 38

[www.ne.ch/migrationsetintegration](http://www.ne.ch/migrationsetintegration)