WELCOME
PROGRAMME 2021/2022
For Newcomers
to Geneva International

welcome

to Geneva
If you are employed by an international governmental or non-governmental organisation, a diplomatic mission, a consulate general, a multinational company, have just arrived as a PhD student or a professor at Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève or at the University and are interested in meeting people and joining the local community, the Newcomers Network Service can help you and your family!

To receive our invitations, register by filling out the enclosed registration form. Don’t hesitate to follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Vimeo (@CagiGeneva), to be fully informed of our latest news, activities and events. Thanks to the support of public and private entities, all CAGI’s services are free of charge.

We hope to have the pleasure of welcoming you and counting you among our participants.

Salman Bal
Director
International Geneva Welcome Centre

Juliette van Berchem
President of the Newcomers Network
Member of the Board of the Fondation pour Genève
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The CAGI monitors closely the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic and will conform to the rules imposed by the Federal and Cantonal Administrations.
Founded in 1996 by the Swiss Confederation and the Canton of Geneva, the International Geneva Welcome Centre (CAGI) is funded by national, local, public and private entities. Its mission is to facilitate the settling-in and integration to Geneva and the Lake Leman region, of all international civil servants, members of Permanent Missions, consulates, NGOs, multinational companies, PhD students and professors at Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève and at the University of Geneva, along with their families. Besides practical assistance, it organises and supports cultural and social events, enabling exchange between the Geneva International and local communities.

**Founding members**
Swiss Confederation, State of Geneva.

**Associate members**

The International Geneva Welcome Centre is also supported by 24 other public and private entities (see p. 16).
Services offered by the CAGI

- **Practical Geneva**: support in accommodation search, lease proof-reading, administrative procedures, litigation, insurance, education, health and mobility. Discover our web section and our 4 videos on these themes by scanning the QR code.

- **CAGI events**: thematic conferences and social events.

- **Cultural Kiosk at UNOG**: information on the cultural and tourist offerings of the region, ticket sales.

- **Assistance to NGOs**: already based in Geneva, as well as those interested in setting up an office in the region, and facilitation of the stays of delegations (governmental or NGOs) participating in conferences organised by the actors of the Geneva International.

- **A programme of activities**: for international newcomers to facilitate their integration and help them discover Geneva’s multicultural aspects and traditions. This programme is coordinated by CAGI and run by the Newcomers Network of the Fondation pour Genève, a group of Geneva-based volunteers who help the CAGI in its mission of welcoming and promoting relations between Geneva’s international community and the local population.
Welcome call

Based on the lists sent monthly by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), a welcome letter is addressed to those arriving during the month, informing them of the services offered by the CAGI, and specifically the programme of the Newcomers Network. These newcomers are then contacted by telephone by our 3 volunteers who are responsible for the programme and who can cover 8 languages in total.

Organisers Banovsha (Bella) Afandiyeva, Maria Teresa Dutli et Kasia Marzewski.

Lunchtime conferences

All International newcomers to Geneva are invited to lunchtime conferences held throughout the year. These conferences provide newcomers with the opportunity to learn about practical, social and cultural aspects of life in the city.

Invitations will be sent to all 2021-2022 newcomers who have registered for the Welcome Programme.

Organisers Brigitte Crompton, Danièle Lejoindre et Chantal Sulzer.
**Practical Geneva**
The key to a successful stay! Tips to facilitate your first steps in Geneva.

**The Health and Healthcare Network in Geneva**
With the participation of The Association of Geneva’s Private Clinics and Geneva University Hospital (HUG).

**Geneva’s Public and Private Education Systems**
With the participation of Department of Public Education of the Canton of Geneva (DIP) and the Association of Geneva’s Private Schools (AGEP).

**Leisure activities for children**
With the participation of the Groupe de Liaison genevois des Associations de Jeunesse (GLAJ-GE).

**Summer 2022: What to do in Geneva?**
With the participation of the Geneva Tourism Foundation & Congress.

**Housing and insurances**
- **2021:** 14 September, 12 October, 9 November and 7 December.
- **2022:** 8 February, 8 March, 5 April, 3 May, 7 June, 5 July, 13 September, 4 October, 8 November and 6 December.
Discover Geneva and the Lake Leman region

Discover Geneva and the Lake Leman region is a programme of excursions and visits for International newcomers:

1° Discover the region (Canton of Geneva and Canton of Vaud), the communes and specific neighbourhoods in the Geneva region

2° Discover local institutions and companies

These excursions usually take place on a monthly basis, on Saturdays, enabling you to participate with your spouse and children. The participation of many Geneva volunteers from the Newcomers Network will also help to create friendships with locals.

Registration to this programme is for one year (non-renewable) and free of charge; please note that some events may require a moderate financial contribution.

Organisers Laetitia Boulard, Regina Cirmon, Charles Jaquemart, Anastasia Outkina and Karin Soller.

N.B. In order to receive the invitations, you need to fill out the enclosed registration form which can also be requested via email at network.cagi@etat.ge.ch
Saturday 28.8.21
Walk in the Jura between Saint-Cergue and Bassins (11 km, estimated time about 3 hours).

Saturday 25.9.21
Grape Harvest with « la Cave de Genève »
Discover the secrets of the grape harvest and practise this ancient profession for a morning.

Saturday 16.10.21
Carouge
Discover Carouge, this old city of the Kingdom of Sardinia, the charm of its secret gardens, the creativity of its artists and craftsmen, the originality and the quality of its shops and the conviviality of its inhabitants.

Saturday 20.11.21
Guided tour of the nerve center of the Public Transportation system of Geneva followed by a ride on an old historic tram through Geneva.

Saturday 11.12.21
Discover medieval Geneva and its secret passages before celebrating, in a traditional manner, the triumph of the Genevans over the Savoyards at a private club in the Old Town.
Saturday 29.1.22

A snowshoe tour at the Col de la Givrine in the Jura, followed by a hearty cheese fondue meal in the late afternoon.

Snowshoeing

Saturday 26.2.22

A Visit to the Geneva studios, film sets and workshops of Swiss television.

Télévision suisse romande

Saturday 26.3.22

A visit to a farm in the countryside on the left bank before tasting the «raclette genevoise» among the cows.

Bieri’s farm

Saturday 30.4.22

Welcome reception at Nyon Castle before exploring the town with a guided tour.

Nyon

Saturday 21.5.22

Discovery of Lavaux, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2007 for its terraced vineyards overlooking Lake Leman. Afternoon visit to the Chillon Castle, a 12th century fortress.

Lavaux & Château de Chillon

Saturday 11.6.22

Invitation to a private property on the lakeshore to witness the start of the world’s most important inland sailing race. Around 500 sailing boats participate each year in this spectacular regatta.

Bol d’Or
Discover the diverse local events happening in Geneva throughout the year with the latest Newcomers Network initiative. 4 of our volunteers will take you to Geneva’s under-the-radar cultural event spots: authentic, chic and alternative. These are the places to be!

**Organisers** Steven Damal Pathangi, Dinara Gozalova, Louise Turrettini et Juliette van Berchem.

**Social events of CAGI**

Due to its international dimension, Geneva is a real crossroads of cultures allowing cross-cultural exchanges between the local population and the international community. CAGI contributes to bringing together different communities by organising events throughout the year and by actively collaborating with its partners.

The events are open to everyone and announced on the CAGI website [www.cagi.ch/evenements.php](http://www.cagi.ch/evenements.php)

An online registration form is also available to receive invitations to events by email.

To stay informed about CAGI activities and events, follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Vimeo (@CagiGeneva)
Conversation Exchange Programme (BEL)

Make the most of Geneva’s exceptional cultural diversity to improve and practise speaking any language of your choice in exchange for your own.

The Conversation Exchange Programme is open to all international and local Geneva residents.

Based on an exchange of languages, this programme is free of charge and aims to be an enjoyable addition to, but not a replacement of, language courses.

A minimum intermediate level of language proficiency is required.

Organisers Sabine Didisheim, Corinne Hudson, Sophie Pollini and Béatriz Sperandio.
How to join

1 - REGISTRATION
Fill out the online form
Upon reception, one of the coordinators will contact you to suggest a language partner.

2 - CONTACT
Contact the selected person yourself
to arrange a first meeting in a public place of your choice (or virtual) for agree on the frequency of meetings and how you wish to alternate your languages.

3 - FEEDBACK
Confirm to the secretariat
whether the exchange is a success or not and let us know if you require an additional partner.

Apéritifs

The Newcomers Network Service invites the Conversation Exchange Programme participants to meet for an informal drink (in autumn and in spring). Don’t miss this opportunity to find new conversation exchange partners, renew old acquaintances and make friends.

The success of our programme depends on your commitment and collaboration!
Wednesday 1st December 2021 from 6pm

The International Geneva Welcome Centre, in collaboration with the Geneva authorities and the Newcomers Network of the Fondation pour Genève, invites international newcomers to enjoy a foretaste of the festivities surrounding the traditional Escalade celebrations.

Music and entertainment provided by Compagnie de 1602 and Fifres et Tambours du Conservatoire populaire de musique, danse et théâtre.

*International newcomers will receive an invitation.*
The CAGI’s Cultural Kiosk at UNOG

The CAGI’s Cultural Kiosk at UNOG is a must for those with access to the Palais des Nations. The kiosk sells all kinds of tickets for cultural activities in the region and provides practical and tourist information. Special offers at preferential rates are proposed every week with suggestions of cultural events not to be missed! Sales are also made remotely.

Check out our offers and recommendations from the Cultural Kiosk on Twitter and Facebook (@CagiGeneva) and find our online agenda.
REMERCIEMENTS

Membres fondateurs / Founding members

Membres associés / Associate members

Membres sympathisants / Sympathising members
Le Comité du Réseau d’Accueil / The Newcomers Network Committee

Banovsha Afandiyeva, Salman Bal (Director of CAGI), Laetitia Boulard, Claudia Carvajal, Sylvie Chassagnade, Regina Cirmon, Charlotte Conigliano, Brigitte Crompton, Steven Damal Pathangi, Sabine Didisheim, Sophie Durouchoux, Maria Teresa Dutli, Veronica Eggly (Head of the Newcomer Network Service), Mouna Gautier, Dinara Gozalova, Corinne Hudson, Charles Jacquemart, Alix Kern, Priscilla Krommenacker, Danièle Lejoindre, Barbara Lévy, Kasia Marzewski, Jacques Moret, Mounia Ouldaïssa (Collaborator of the Newcomer Network Service), Anastasia Outkina, Patrice Plojoux, Carole de Poix, Sophie Pollini, Karin Soller, Béatriz Sperandio, Chantal Sulzer, Louise Turrettini, Olivier Turrettini, Juliette van Berchem (President of the Newcomer Network), Diane Zoelly (President «ad honorem»).