

# WELCOME PROGRAMME 2023/2024

For Newcomers  
to International Geneva



**NEWCOMER  
NETWORK**  
FONDATION POUR GENÈVE



**CAGI**  
CENTRE D'ACCUEIL DE LA GENÈVE INTERNATIONALE  
INTERNATIONAL GENEVA WELCOME CENTRE

# Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

*If you are employed by an international governmental or non-governmental organisation (NGO), a diplomatic mission, a consulate general, a multinational company, have just arrived as a PhD student or a professor at the Geneva University Hospitals (HUG) or at the University of Geneva and are interested in meeting people and joining the local community, **the Welcome Service can help you and your family!***

*To receive our invitations, please register by filling out the enclosed registration form. Do not 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 services are free of charge.*

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

Yannick Roulin  
Director  
International Geneva Welcome Centre



Juliette van Berchem  
President of the Newcomer Network  
Member of the Board of the Fondation pour Genève





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# International Geneva Welcome Centre (CAGI)

CAGI was founded in 1996; its mission is to facilitate the settling-in and integration to Geneva and the Lake Geneva region of all international employees and their families:

- civil servants
- members of Permanent Missions,
- consulates,
- NGOs,
- employees of multinational companies,
- PhD students and professors at Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève and at the University of Geneva



Besides practical assistance, CAGI organises and supports cultural and social events, enabling exchange between the Geneva International and local communities.

## **Founding members**

Swiss Confederation, Canton of Geneva.

The International Geneva Welcome Centre is also supported by public and private associate and supporting members (see p. 16).

## Services offered by CAGI for International Geneva's newcomers

- **Welcome Service**: a programme of activities for international newcomers to facilitate their integration and help them to discover Geneva's multicultural aspects and traditions. This programme is coordinated by CAGI and run by the Newcomer 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. 
- **Housing support**: support in accommodation search, lease proofreading, administrative procedures, litigation, insurance, education, health and mobility.
- **Practical Geneva**:
  - information on topics such as housing, health, education and mobility, to make settling-in and living in Geneva easier.
  - online platforms for finding a job, accommodation or household staff.
- **Social events**: open to all, in collaboration with different entities from local and international Geneva.
- **Cultural Kiosks at UN Geneva and CERN**: information on the cultural and tourist offers of the region, ticket sales. 

A man with glasses and a beard is smiling while talking on a mobile phone. He is wearing a dark shirt. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be an office setting with windows.

## 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 CAGI, and specifically the Newcomer Network programme. 3 volunteers in charge of the programme will contact these newcomers by telephone.**

## 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 Geneva.**

These calls are greatly appreciated and allow a personalised welcome. They often bring immediate help, or a rapid response, to practical questions faced by all newcomers.

Invitations will be sent to all 2023-2024 newcomers who have registered for the Welcome Programme.

# INFORMATION



## Practical Geneva

**Thursdays**  
**31.08.23,**  
**18.01.24,**  
**25.04.24**

*The key to a successful stay! Tips to facilitate your first steps in Geneva by the CAGI Welcome Service.*



## Education systems in Geneva

**Thursday**  
**28.09.23**

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



## Healthcare networks in Geneva

**Thursday**  
**02.11.23**

*With the participation of The Association of Geneva's Private Clinics, the Geneva University Hospital (HUG) and the United Nations Staff Mutual Insurance Society (UNSMIS).*



## Leisure activities for children

**Thursday**  
**15.02.24**

*With the participation of the Geneva Tourism & Congress Foundation, Ville de Genève and CAGI's Cultural Kiosks.*



## Summer 2024 in Geneva

**Thursday**  
**06.06.24**

*With the participation of the Geneva Tourism & Congress Foundation.*



## Housing and information

**1st or 2nd Tuesday of the month**

*Housing search, lease review, insurance advice. Diplomatic clause on lease contracts, safety deposits, entry and exit inspections, interactions with real estate agencies ('régies'), insurances.*



# Discover Geneva & the Lake Geneva region

**A programme of excursions and visits:**

**Discover the region  
(Canton of Geneva and Canton of Vaud),  
the communes, specific neighbourhoods and companies.**

These excursions take place on a monthly basis and are organised on Saturdays, so you are able to participate with your spouse and child(ren). The participation of many Geneva volunteers from the Newcomer 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 small financial contribution.

Invitations will be sent to all 2023-2024 newcomers who have registered for the Welcome Programme.



# EXCURSIONS



Walk  
in the  
Jura

**Saturday  
26.8.23**

*Walk in the Jura between La Givrine – La Génolière – Cabane de Rochefort – Fruitières de Nyon – La Borsatte and St. Cergue (8 km, estimated time about 3 hours).*



Grape  
Harvest

**Saturday  
23.9.23**

*Discover the secrets of the grape harvest and learn about this ancient profession by becoming a winegrower for a morning.*



Bieri's  
farm

**Saturday  
14.10.23**

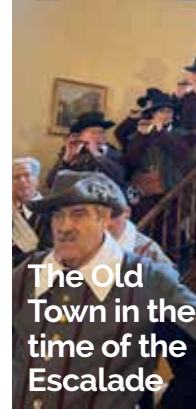
*A visit to a farm in the countryside on the left bank before tasting the «raclette genevoise» among the cows.*



TCS  
Safety  
driving test

**Saturday  
25.11.23**

*The aim of this training is to make driving safer! How to handle certain tricky driving situations in complete safety, especially on slippery surfaces, and how to behave in the best possible way in all circumstances with specialised instructors.*



The Old  
Town in the  
time of the  
Escalade

**Saturday  
9.12.23**

*Discover medieval Geneva and its secret passages, before celebrating the traditional Escalade in a private club in the Old Town*



Radio  
Télévision  
Suisse

**Saturday  
20.1.24**

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



Snow-  
shoeing

**Saturday  
10.2.24**

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



Carouge

**Saturday  
23.3.24**

*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.*



Nyon

**Saturday  
27.4.24**

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



CAGI Kids  
Party at La  
Pastorale

**Saturday  
25.5.24**

*An entire afternoon dedicated to children and families on the Domaine de La Pastorale.*



Mont  
Salève

**Saturday  
15.6.24**

*Rise the Salève in cable car or on foot for a friendly picnic facing a breathtaking panorama of the Geneva basin.*

# Escalade celebration

**Monday  
4 December 2023  
from 6 pm**

The International Geneva Welcome Centre, in collaboration with the Geneva authorities and the Newcomer Network of the Fondation pour Genève, invites international newcomers to enjoy a foretaste of the festivities surrounding the traditional Escalade celebrations. Music and entertainment will be provided by members of the Compagnie de 1602 and the Fife and Drum Corps of the Music, Dance and Theater Conservatory of Geneva, guarantors of the Escalade traditions.

*All international newcomers will receive an invitation.*



# Conversation Exchange Programme (BEL)

Thanks to Geneva's cultural diversity, interact with numerous nationalities to enhance your language skills through mutual language exchange.

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

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

**A minimum intermediate level of language proficiency is required.**



# EXCHANGES

## How to join

### 1 - REGISTRATION

#### Fill in the form online



Upon receipt, one of the coordinators will contact you to suggest a language partner.

### 2 - MEETING

#### Contact the selected person yourself

Reach out to the suggested partner to arrange a first meeting in a public place of your choice (or virtual) and agree on the frequency of your meetings and how you wish to alternate your languages.

### 3 - FEEDBACK

**Confirm the meeting has taken place to the secretariate** and whether you require an additional partner.

**The success of the programme depends on your commitment and collaboration!**

## Informal drinks

The Welcome Service invites the Conversation Exchange Programme participants to meet for an informal drink in autumn and in spring. This is a great opportunity to find new conversation exchange partners, meet old acquaintances and create a network.





# Social events & Cultural Kiosks

# ACTIVITIES



## Social events

Due to its international dimension, Geneva allows cross-cultural exchanges between the local population and the international community. CAGI contributes to bringing together different communities by actively collaborating with its partners. Invitations will be sent to all 2023-2024 newcomers who have registered for the Welcome Programme.

## CAGI's Cultural Kiosks at the UN Geneva and CERN

These two ticket sales points allow internationals with access to these organisations to take advantage of preferential offers and find advice on entertainment, cultural and tourist activities. Employees of other international organizations can buy their tickets directly online on the CAGI Cultural Agenda.



*The Kiosk's Cultural Agenda lists a whole range of offers and recommendations, which are communicated in a weekly newsletter.*



## The Newcomer Network Committee

Banovsha Afandiyeva, Laetitia Boulard, Claudia Carvajal, Sylvie Chassagnade, Regina Cirmon, Steven Damal Pathangi, Sabine Didisheim Maria Teresa Dutli, Veronica Eggly (Welcome Programme Specialist), Dinara Gozalova, Corinne Hudson, Fiona Jackson, Charles Jacquemart, Barbara Lévy, Kasia Marzewski, Eric Mitchell, Jacques Moret, Mounia Ouldaissa (Administrative assistant of Welcome Service), Anastasia Outkina, Carole de Poix, Sophie Pollini, Yannick Roulin (Director), Karin Soller, Béatriz Sperandio, Louise Turrettini, Juliette van Berchem (President of the Newcomer Network), Diane Zoelly (President « ad honorem » of the Newcomer Network).



some of our members



# THANK YOU

## Founding members



## Associate members



## Supporting members



