

WELCOME PROGRAMME 2022/2023

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 organization (NGO), 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 Welcome Service can help you and your family !***

To receive our invitations, register by filling out the enclosed form. Do not hesitate to follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Vimeo (@CagiGeneva), to be 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 Newcomer Network
Member of the Board of the Fondation pour Genève





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A vertical photograph on the left side of the page shows a street in Geneva. Numerous colorful umbrellas in shades of blue, yellow, orange, and red are strung across the street, creating a festive atmosphere. In the background, there are multi-story buildings with traditional European architecture. The sky is clear and blue.

International Geneva Welcome Centre

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 Lemman 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 exchanges between the Geneva International and local communities.

Founding members

Swiss Confederation, State of Geneva and Canton of Geneva.

Associate members

City of Geneva, Canton of Vaud, Association des Amis de la Fondation pour Genève, Fondation for Buildings for International Organisations (FIPOI), Geneva Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services (CCIG), Fédération des Entreprises Romandes Genève (FER), Fondation pour Genève, Genève Aéroport, Helvetia Assurances, Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève (HUG), m3 Groupe, Services Industriels de Genève (SIG), Université de Genève (UNIGE)..

The International Geneva Welcome Centre is also supported by 22 other public and private entities (see p. 16).

Services offered by the CAGI

- **Welcome Programme**: 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 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.



- **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 social events and Insider's Geneva**.
- **Cultural Kiosk at UN Geneva and CERN**: 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 International Geneva.



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 Newcomer Network. These newcomers are then contacted by telephone by our volunteers.

These welcome calls are greatly appreciated and give a personal touch which can in many cases bring immediate help or a rapid response to practical questions, faced by all newcomers.

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 2022-2023 newcomers who have registered for the Welcome Programme.

INFORMATION

**Thursday
15.9.22
and 16.2.23**

Practical Geneva

The key to a successful stay! Tips to facilitate your first steps in Geneva.

**Thursday
10.11.22**

The Health and Healthcare Network in Geneva

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).

**Thursday
26.1.23**

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)

**Thursday
16.3.23**

Leisure activities for children

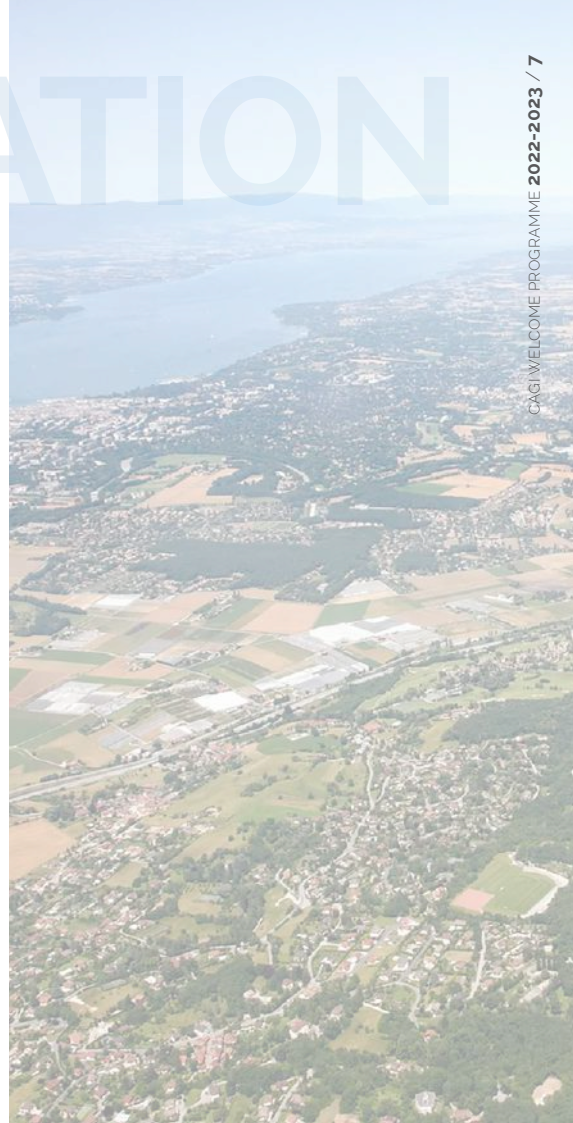
With the participation of the Groupe de Liaison genevois des Associations de Jeunesse (GLAJ-GE).

**Thursday
6.7.23**

Summer 2023: What to do in Geneva?

With the participation of the Geneva Tourism Foundation & Congress.

Housing and insurances: A specific conference on this theme is given every first or second Tuesday of the month.





Discover Geneva and the Lake Lemman region

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 Newcomer Network of the Fondation pour Genève 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.

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 welcome.cagi@etat.ge.ch

EXCURSIONS



Walk in the
Jura

**Saturday
27.8.22**

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).



La Vallée
de Joux

**Saturday
24.9.22**

«Fête du Vacherin» (a famous local cheese) at Charbonnières, a typical village in the Vallée de Joux, followed by an excursion to Romainmôtier and its Norman Abbey.



SIG:
les Berges
de Vessy

**Saturday
8.10.22**

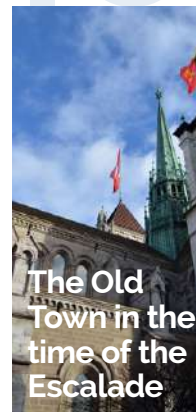
Visit of the former water-pumping plant of SIG, nestled at the entrance to the Arve Loop, the Berges de Vessy site is home to a remarkable industrial heritage.



Lausanne

**Saturday
19.11.22**

Guided tour of the Old Town, welcome and reception by the authorities at the Town Hall with presentation of the municipality.



The Old
Town in the
time of the
Escalade

**Saturday
10.12.22**

Discover the medieval Geneva and its secret passages, before celebrating, in a private circle in the Old Town, the traditional «Fête de l'Escalade».



Radio
Télévision
Suisse

**Saturday
21.1.23**

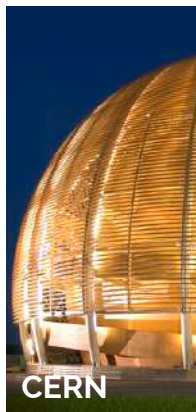
A Visit to the Geneva studios, film sets and workshops of Swiss television.



Snow-
shoeing

Saturday
11.2.23

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



CERN

Saturday
18.3.23

Guided visit of the 4 main sites of the CERN (European Organization for Nuclear Research) to discover the mystery of particles.



Nyon

Saturday
29.4.23

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



Meinier
and Jussy
by bike

Saturday
13.5.23

Discover the Geneva countryside by bike. Meinier and Jussy are perfect destinations for nature lovers and outdoor activities. Welcome by the town hall authorities and ride by bike in a group.



Cartigny

Saturday
10.6.23

Cruise on the Rhône from the city centre and walk to discover the «Moulin de Vert» natural reserve upto the village of Cartigny.

Escalade celebration

**Monday
5 December 2022
from 6pm**

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 by the 1602 Company and Fifes and Drums of the conservatory of music, dance and theatre.

International newcomers will receive an invitation.





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 for, language courses.

A minimum intermediate level of language proficiency is required.

EXCHANGE

How to join

1 - REGISTRATION

Fill out the online form



2 - MEETING

Contact the selected person yourself

to arrange a first meeting in a public place of your choice (or virtual) to 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.

The success of our programme depends on your commitment and collaboration!

Apéritifs

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



Insider's Geneva

EVENTS

Discover local events happening in Geneva throughout the year with the latest Newcomer Network initiative. Our volunteers have selected activities in Geneva not to be missed! These are the places to be!

- Nuit des Bains – Thursday 15.9.2022
- Fête de la Saint Martin (Satigny/Peissy) – Saturday 5.11.2022
- International Human Rights Film Festival and Forum (FIFDH) – From 10 to 19.3.2023
- Nuit des musées – May 2023

Social events of CAGI

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. Several events are proposed to newcomers wishing to discover the socio-cultural environment of Geneva : Pechakucha, Ciné-ONU and more.



The events are open to everyone and announced on the CAGI website www.cagi.ch/en/services/social-events/. To stay informed about CAGI activities and events, follow us on Twitter and Facebook (@CagiGeneva).

CAGI Cultural Kiosks at UN Geneva and CERN

These two ticket sales points allow internationals with access to these organizations to take advantage of preferential offers and find advice on entertainment, cultural and tourist activities. Ticket purchases can also be made remotely.



The Kiosks' Cultural Agenda lists a whole range of offers and recommendations, which are published in a weekly newsletter.

To receive the newsletter: communication.cagi@etat.ge.ch



REMERCIEMENTS

Membres fondateurs / Founding members



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra



REPUBLIQUE
ET CANTON
DE GENÈVE

1800 - 2018

Membres associés / Associate members



Chambre de commerce, d'industrie
et des services de Genève



Fondation pour Genève



Fédération des
Entreprises
Romandes
Genève

helvetia



Association des Amis
Fondation pour Genève



UNIVERSITÉ
DE GENÈVE

GENÈVE
AÉROPORT



Hôpitaux
Universitaires
Genève

m3 GROUPE

Membres sympathisants / Supporting members



GEM
Groupement des
Entreprises
Multinationales

GENÈVE
territoire

!fage
FONDATION
POUR LA FORMATION DES ADULTES

la francophonie

GENEVA
TOURISME

FONDATION
GENÈVE
PLACEMENT
FINANCIÈRE

GENÈVE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Ville de Lausanne



AGEP
Association Genevoise
des Ecoles Privées

VAUD
Région du Léman

HotellerieSuisse
Genève

unireso



palexpo

UNITED NATIONS
GENEVA

NIYON



adla
FOR DIPLOMATS



Le Comité du Réseau d'Accueil / The Newcomer Network Committee

Banovsha Afandiyeva, Salman Bal (Director of CAGI), Laetitia Boulard, Claudia Carvajal, Sylvie Chassagnade, Regina Cirmon, Charlotte Conigliano, Steven Damal Pathangi, Sabine Didisheim, Maria Teresa Dutli, Veronica Eggly (Welcome Programme Specialist), Dinara Gozalova, Corinne Hudson, Charles Jacquemart, Alix Kern, Barbara Lévy, Kasia Marzewski, Jacques Moret, Mounia Ouldaïssa (Administrative assistant of Welcome Service), Anastasia Outkina, Patrice Plojoux, Carole de Poix, Sophie Pollini, Karin Solter, Béatriz Sperandio, Louise Turrettini, Juliette van Berchem (President of the Newcomer Network), Diane Zoelly (President «ad honorem»).



Quelques membres / Some of our members

