

WELCOME PROGRAMME 2024/2025

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 recently relocated to Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève or the University as a PhD student or professor, and you are interested in meeting people and integrating into the local community, **the Welcome Service can assist you and your family.***

To receive our invitations, please complete the enclosed registration form. We encourage you to follow us on X, LinkedIn, Facebook and Vimeo (@CagiGeneva) to receive news from the CAGI and to keep up to date with our events. Thanks to the support of numerous public and private institutions, the CAGI's services are free of charge.

We look forward to welcoming you as a participant at our events.

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)

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

- 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

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

Founding members

Swiss Confederation and State of Geneva.

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

Services offered by the CAGI for International Geneva's newcomers

- **The Welcome Programme:** offers a series of activities designed to facilitate the integration of international newcomers to Geneva. These activities are intended to provide insight into the city's multicultural aspects and traditions. The programme is coordinated by CAGI and run by the Newcomer Network of the Fondation pour Genève. The Newcomer Network is a group of Geneva-based volunteers who assist CAGI in its mission of welcoming and promoting relations between Geneva's international community and the local population.
- **Housing support:** accommodation search, lease proofreading, administrative procedures, litigation support, insurance.
- **The practical guide for newcomers:** essential information on settling and integrating internationals and their families in Geneva.
- **Cultural Kiosks at UN Geneva and CERN:** provide information on the cultural and tourist offerings of the region, as well as ticket sales.





WELCOME CALL

In accordance with the lists issued on a monthly basis by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), an invitation to the forthcoming «Welcome Coffee» is extended to the month's newcomers. Subsequently, newcomers are contacted by telephone by the volunteers responsible for the programme.

The welcome calls are highly valued and provide a personalised service, which can often facilitate prompt assistance or a rapid response to the practical queries commonly faced by newcomers.



WELCOME COFFEE

Information session over coffee and croissants for international newcomers and their families in Geneva and the surrounding area.

By invitation; organised every 2 months.



LUNCHTIME CONFERENCES

These conferences, open to all newcomers to International Geneva, provide an invaluable opportunity to gain insight into the practical, social and cultural aspects of Geneva throughout the year.

Please be advised that invitations will be automatically sent to all newcomers registered on the Welcome Programme.

INFORMATION



Practical Geneva

**29.8.24
20.3.25**

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



The Health and Healthcare Network in Geneva

10.10.24

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).



Geneva's Public and Private Education Systems

23.1.25

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

13.2.25

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



Summer 2025: What to do in Geneva?

12.6.25

With the participation of Ville de Genève and the Geneva Tourism Foundation & Congress.



Dual careers - jobs for spouses/partners

Twice a year, in spring and autumn

An informative event on the local job market. The aim of the conference is to help the spouses and partners of employees of International Geneva in their job search, by providing them with valuable information and resources.



Housing and insurance

Every first or second Tuesday of the month

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



DISCOVER GENEVA AND THE LAKE GENEVA REGION

**A programme of excursions and visits
for International newcomers:**

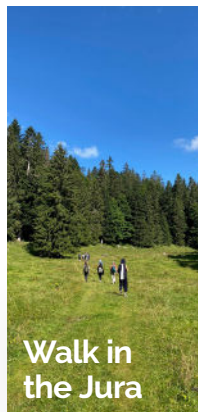
**Discover the region (Canton of Geneva and Canton of Vaud),
the communes, specific neighbourhoods in the Geneva
region and companies.**

These excursions usually take place on a monthly basis, on Saturdays, enabling you to participate with your spouse and children. You will be joined by Geneva based volunteers who will enjoy the excursions together with you and will help to create friendships with locals.

Registration to this programme is for one year (non-renewable) and free of charge.

Invitations will be sent to all 2024-2025 newcomers who have registered for the Welcome Programme.

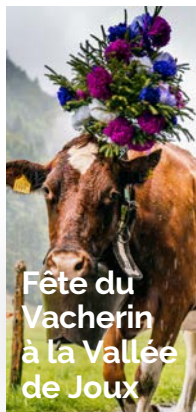
EXCURSIONS



Walk in
the Jura

**SATURDAY
24.8.24**

*Walk in the Jura
between Les Pralies
and La Givrine
(7.5 km,
estimated time:
approx. 3 hours).*



Fête du
Vacherin
à la Vallée
de Joux

**SATURDAY
21.9.24**

*«Fête du Vacherin»
(a famous
local cheese) in
Charbonnières;
cow herd descent,
alphorns and
regional products
market.*



Lausanne

**SATURDAY
19.10.24**

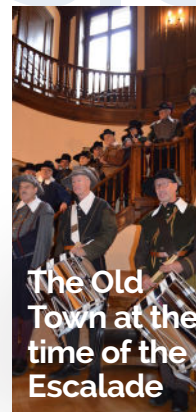
*Guided tour of the
Old Town, welcome
and reception by
the authorities at
the Town Hall with a
presentation of the
municipality.*



Grand
Théâtre
de Genève

**SATURDAY
16.11.24**

*Exclusive private
tour of the Grand
Théâtre de Genève.*



The Old
Town at the
time of the
Escalade

**SATURDAY
14.12.24**

*Discover medieval
Geneva and its
secret passages,
before celebrating
the traditional "Fête
de l'Escalade" in a
private club in the
Old Town.*



Geneva
Airport

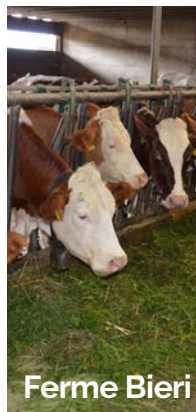
**SATURDAY
18.1.25**

*The runway, the
control tower and
the baggage sorting
area... this and
much more will give
you a behind-the-
scenes look at a key
Geneva location that
everyone has visited
at least once in their
lives.*



SATURDAY 15.2.25

On the Col de la Givrine in the Jura, a snowshoe tour followed by a hearty cheese «fondue» in the late afternoon.



SATURDAY 22.3.25

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



SATURDAY 26.4.25

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



SATURDAY 24.5.25

Guided tour of the park and greenhouses for a unique exploration of the botanical world.



SATURDAY 14.6.25

Visit Lavaux, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2007. See the terraced vineyards with views over Lake Geneva. Afternoon visit to Chillon Castle, a 12th-century fortress.

ESCALADE CELEBRATION

**TUESDAY
3 DECEMBER 2024
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 provided by Compagnie de 1602 and Fifres et Tambours du Conservatoire populaire de musique, danse et théâtre.

All international newcomers will receive an invitation.





CONVERSATION EXCHANGE PROGRAMME (BEL)

Geneva's cultural diversity provides an excellent opportunity to interact with numerous nationalities and enhance your language skills through mutual language exchange.

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

The programme is free of charge and based on an exchange of languages. It is designed to be an enjoyable addition to, rather than an alternative for, language courses.

Please note that a minimum intermediate level of language proficiency is required.

more than **1'400**
participants

over **65**
languages

FREE
programme

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 then decide together on the frequency of meetings and the alternation of languages.

3 - FEEDBACK

Confirm the meeting with the secretariat

and let them know if you would like an additional partner.

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

Informal get-togethers

The Welcome Service invites all participants in the Language Exchange Programme to an informal and convivial aperitif in autumn and spring. This is an opportunity to find new language partners, meet old acquaintances and build a network.



CULTURAL KIOSKS AT UN GENEVA AND CERN

Discovering the local culture often makes it easier to integrate into a new city, the CAGI's cultural kiosks offer a wide range of tickets at preferential rates.

These spaces provide the large international community with expertise in culture and leisure, thanks to the CAGI's collaboration with over 50 local partners in the performing arts, museums, music, sports and outdoor activities.



In order to make the most of the benefits and to find out about events that are «not to be missed», the CAGI Newsletter lists every Wednesday a number of offers and recommendations.

CULTURE



THE NEWCOMER NETWORK COMMITTEE

Banovsha Afandiyeva, Laetitia Boulard, Claudia Carvajal, Sylvie Chassagnade, Regina Cirmon, Steven Damal Pathangi, François Delaite, Maria Teresa Dutli, Veronica Eggly (Welcome Programme Specialist) Dinara Gozalova, Stéphane Hankins, Corinne Hudson, Fiona Jackson, Charles Jacquemart, Barbara Lévy, Kasia Marzewski, Eric Mitchell, Jacques Moret, Mounia Ouldaïssa (Administrative assistant), Anastasia Outkina, Sophie Pollini, Yannick Roulin (Director), Karin Soller, Béatriz Sperandio, Louise Turretini, 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



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra



REPUBLIQUE
ET CANTON
DE GENÈVE

PROF. THOMAS LÖB

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS



SUPPORTING MEMBERS



