

Basel Arrival Checklist

Your first 30 days — step by step

WEEK 1 — YOUR FIRST PRIORITIES

- **Register at the Einwohnerdienste (Anmeldung)**
Required within 14 days. Bring: passport, rental contract, photos.
- **Get a Swiss SIM card**
Sunrise, Salt or Swisscom. You need a local number for almost everything.
- **Open a bank account**
Neon or Yuh are easy to open online. Traditional: UBS, Raiffeisen.
- **Find your nearest Apotheke**
For minor health needs without a doctor visit.
- **Locate the closest Gemeinde office**
Your local municipality for all official matters.

WEEK 2 — HEALTH & INSURANCE

- **Choose a health insurer (Krankenkasse)**
Mandatory within 3 months of arrival. Compare at priminfo.admin.ch.
- **Register with a Hausarzt (GP)**
Most require registration before you can book appointments.
- **Check if supplementary insurance is needed**
Dental is not covered — consider a Zusatzversicherung.
- **Get liability insurance (Haftpflichtversicherung)**
Cheap and essential — covers accidental damage.

WEEK 3 — CHILDREN & SCHOOLS

- **Contact the Schulverwaltung**
Basel-Stadt assigns public schools by address.
- **Research international schools**
BIS, SISS, Stiftung Schule — apply early, waitlists are long.
- **Find a Kita (daycare)**
Waitlists can be 6–12 months. Apply immediately.
- **Register children with the Einwohnerdienste**
Children must be registered separately.

WEEK 4 — DAILY LIFE

- **Get a Halbtax or GA (SBB travel pass)**
Halbtax halves ticket prices. GA covers all public transport.
- **Register your car or get a resident parking permit**
Contact Motorfahrzeugkontrolle (MFK) for car registration.

■ **Set up e-banking in German**

Most Swiss banks require this for bill payments (Einzahlungsschein).

■ **Find your nearest recycling station**

Waste sorting is strict in Basel — cardboard, glass, PET all separate.

■ **Get a Coop or Migros card**

Loyalty points add up quickly on everyday shopping.

ONGOING — WITHIN 3 MONTHS

■ **Confirm your Aufenthaltsbewilligung**

Your permit card should arrive by post. Check all details.

■ **File for family reunification if needed**

If spouse or children join later — process takes 2–4 months.

■ **Set up your tax domicile**

Contact your Gemeinde about Steuererklärung requirements.

■ **Connect with the expat community**

Internations Basel, expat Facebook groups, Centerpoint Basel.

Need help with any of these steps? I handle them for you.

hello@basellife.ch · basellife.ch