



FAQ Foreigner's identity card in credit card format

- **How does the new EU/EFTA foreigner's identity card differ from the foreigner's identity card for persons from third countries?**

The foreigner's identity card for EU/EFTA nationals is a so-called non-biometric identity card. This means that the ID card does **not** contain a data chip and only the facial image and the signature are imaged on the ID card.

The foreigner's identity card for third-country nationals is equipped with a data chip on which the facial image, fingerprints and signature are also stored electronically.

- **Who will receive a new biometric foreigner's identity card?**

Only third-country nationals with L, G, B or C permits. Third-country nationals with an F or N permit do not receive a biometric foreigner's identity card.

- **Can I also apply for a biometric ID card even though my current ID card is still valid?**

No. The previous ID card remains valid until expiry.

- **How do I know if biometric data registration is required?**

If necessary, you will be given an appointment at the identity card office of the Canton St.Gallen to have your biometric data registered.

- **What does biometric data registration cost and how can it be paid for?**

Cost of biometric data registration: CHF 20.00 per person (cash, EC/Post-FinanceCard/credit cards, TWINT). The costs for issuing the foreigner's identity card are charged separately at the Residents' Registration Office.

- **Will my paper ID card still be valid after the changeover on 2nd March 2020?**

The existing paper format ID cards remain valid until their expiry date.

- **I would like to change my paper ID card to a credit card format ID card as soon as possible. Is there a general exchange?**

A new ID card in credit card format will only be issued in the event of changes relevant to the ID card, e.g. change of name, move from another canton or an extension. A duplicate can only be issued for a **fee** in the event of loss (notification of loss to the police is necessary) or total damage.

- **Where is my data registered?**

Your facial image and signature will be registered at the *ID office, Oberer Graben 32, 9001 St.Gallen*. In the case of third-country nationals who receive a biometric foreigner's identity card, in addition to the facial image and the signature, two fingerprints are recorded, which are subsequently stored on the data chip of the identity card.



- **Can I have my data registered without an appointment?**
No. No data registration can be carried out without an appointment invitation in advance.
- **Can the date for data registration be postponed?**
Data registration is fundamentally binding and necessary so that the foreigner's identity card can be produced. Postponing the appointment will usually delay the issuance of the foreigner's identity card. The capacities of the ID office are limited and subject to seasonal fluctuations. An appointment can be rescheduled online once using the QR code or access code on the appointment invitation letter. If a postponement is unavoidable for important reasons, another appointment can also be requested by calling the ID Office on 058 229 88 77.
- **What do I need to bring with me for data registration?**
The appointment invitation letter (AVIS) or the email with your appointment, your passport from your home country or identity card (for identification), if necessary, CHF 20 per person for biometric data registration and the old foreigner's identity card. Without a passport or identity card, data registration **cannot** take place and a new appointment is due!
- **Do I have to have my data re-entered every time I change my ID card?**
No. The facial image and signature are stored for five years and can be reused within this time.
- **Where will the new foreigner's identity card be sent?**
The new ID card is usually sent directly to your home by registered mail.
- **Where can I find more information?**
<http://www.migrationsamt.sg.ch> or <http://www.ausweisstelle.sg.ch>
- **Who can I contact if I have another question?**
By email to migrationsamt@sg.ch or by telephone on 058 229 31 11.