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Can I make retroactive OASI payments after returning to Switzerland?

Question: "I have been living in Japan over the last few years and have not made any payments into the old-age and survivors' insurance scheme (OASI) during this time. Is it possible to make retroactive payments for these missing years once I return to Switzerland?"

Answer: Unfortunately, you cannot make retroactive payments for the years you missed while you were abroad. You have the option of making retroactive payments dating back up to five years, but only if you were subject to OASI contributions (i.e. essentially domiciled in Switzerland) during that period.

Barring certain exceptions, people living abroad are not subject to OASI contributions and therefore cannot make retroactive payments for the years that they miss. We therefore recommend that you contact your cantonal compensation office for further details before leaving Switzerland. It is also worth making prior arrangements to accrue pension assets – either by taking out voluntary OASI with the Swiss Compensation Office in Geneva (see www.zas.admin.ch > Swiss Compensation Office SCO) or by taking out private insurance.

This information does not apply to people who return to Switzerland after being domiciled in an EU/EFTA country. Anyone living in the EU/EFTA will have been covered by social security in their host country and therefore cannot make any retroactive OASI payments.

OSA LEGAL DEPARTMENT

The OSA's Legal Service provides general legal information on Swiss law, particularly in areas which concern the Swiss Abroad. It does not provide information on foreign law or intervene in disputes between private parties.

Gerda Brunner and a group of other children from the "Fifth Switzerland" on holiday in Switzerland in July 1937
Photo: FYSA archive



Memories of the 1942 camp – young Swiss Abroad trying their hand at winter sports in Engelberg
Photo: newspaper cutting

Lasting memories

Have you ever been at a camp for young Swiss Abroad? If so, we invite you to share your fondest memories with us.

Unfortunately, all the camps for young Swiss Abroad have had to be postponed this year. We have therefore decided to take a trip down memory lane before welcoming young people from the "Fifth Switzerland" to their native country for more unforgettable experiences in 2021. We are currently sifting through the archive and choosing the best images from our photo collection – as we look forward to many more great camps in future.

Pictures and memories have enduring value. If you or a member of your family have already been on a camp run by the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) or the Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad (FYSA), then you will probably have your own photos and reminiscences. We invite you to share with us your memories of the

best, funniest and most moving moments. Maybe there are anecdotes and experiences that you particularly remember from your time at one of our camps. And if you have any good photos, please share them with us too. We hope to post a selection of photos from past camps on social media (our camps date back as far as the 1930s). In addition, we intend to publish the best camp-related stories in anonymised form as part of a dedicated series in the OSA newsletter and on the www.aso.ch and www.sjas.ch websites.

Please send your photos and anecdotes to memories@aso.ch or memories@sjas.ch. If you would also kindly indicate the year and location to which they refer, it will help us to place them in context. (MB/LR)

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