

Educational opportunities in Switzerland

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Meet the fastest waiter in the world



MARATHON running continues to attract large numbers of people. A recent marathon in Stockport, Cheshire, drew 3,400 entrants, including Swiss-American Roger Bourban who travelled from the United States to take part.

Roger, born in Sion, is now a notable competitor in many marathons and can be easily identified among the singlet-and-shorts clad runners by his unorthodox attire. Roger runs the full 26 miles in his waiter's uniform, carrying a tray and an open bottle of mineral water.

He is listed in the Guinness

Book of World Records as "the world's fastest running waiter".

Running, however, is not his only passion. Growing up in Switzerland, where his parents owned a restaurant, Roger literally grew up in the business. By his late teens he was an accomplished chef, and to round out his education he attended the Ecole Hôtelière in Lausanne, one of the most prestigious hotel/restaurant schools in the world.

His father represented the third generation of restaurateurs in the family, and Roger is the only one among his two brothers and two sisters who has con-

tinued in the trade.

He worked at some of the better French restaurants in California, including La Chaumière, L'Ermitage, Le Restaurant and Ma Maison, before opening his own restaurant there, Café Monet Bistrot in 1980.

Roger's list of records, successes and television appearances runs on and on, but now he has put his love of running above all his other interests

He has sold his restaurant in Beverley Hills so that he can concentrate on marathon running and try for a place in the Swiss Olympic team in 1984.

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There are five establishments in German-speaking Switzerland and five in the French-speaking part of the country, though Fribourg University is bi-lingual. There are, however, no university level institutions in the Italian-speaking areas.

Although the universities all have a similar structure, each establishment has its own character and its own reputation. Like universities in other European countries, Swiss universities provide a specialised education which builds on the more general secondary education.

Unlike the English three term system, Swiss universities divide the academic year into two semesters; the winter semester lasts from mid-October to early March and the summer one from mid-April to mid-July.

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