



THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS

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LIVING IN GENEVA

FEATURED / À LA UNE

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When we decided to focus on living in Geneva for the summer issue, we did it with our readers interests in mind. Geneva offers unique opportunities, but is one of the most expensive cities in the world and living here can be challenging. In this edition, we have provided selected information about the most pressing questions for any newcomer.

You will read an interview with Ambassador Salman Bal, Director of the International Geneva Welcome Centre (CAGI), who shared with us the main services provided to facilitate the installation of newcomers to Geneva. You will also read an interview with Ms. Anne Hornung-Soukup, Chair of the Board of TPG (Geneva Public Transport) who told us about their projects for the near future that will change Geneva. We also covered the housing aspect with different contributions: from a relocation company, from CAGI's Housing Service and from two interns' associations; "Fair Internship Initiative" and "Geneva Interns Association". Additionally, you will find articles on Continuing Education at the University of Geneva and public health services. For those of you who have decided to stay in beautiful Switzerland, we have compiled a selection of incredible summer activities to enjoy.

Furthermore, you will read an interview with the new Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to UNOG, Ambassador Chen Xu who discussed with us the Belt and Road Initiative among other topics.

Other articles include an important piece on how to fill the ICSC global staff survey that might affect your pay and allowances.

We wish you a happy summer. ■

The official magazine of the international civil servants of the United Nations at Geneva and of the World Health Organization

Lorsque nous avons décidé de consacrer le numéro d'été à la vie à Genève, nous l'avons fait dans l'intérêt de nos lecteurs. Genève offre des opportunités uniques mais c'est l'une des villes les plus chères du monde, et vivre ici peut vite devenir un défi. Nous avons voulu apporter des informations substantielles sur les questions les plus pressantes pour tout nouvel arrivant.

Vous lirez un entretien avec l'Ambassadeur Salman Bal, Directeur du Centre d'Accueil de la Genève Internationale (CAGI), qui nous a fait part des principaux services fournis pour faciliter l'installation des nouveaux arrivants. Vous lirez également une interview de M^{me} Anne Hornung-Soukup, Présidente du Conseil d'administration des TPG qui nous parle de leurs projets qui vont changer le Grand Genève.

Nous avons aussi couvert l'aspect logement avec différentes contributions: d'une société de relogement, du Service Logement du CAGI et de deux associations de stagiaires: "Fair Internship Initiative" et "Geneva Interns Association". Vous trouverez également des articles sur la formation continue à l'Université de Genève et les services des HUG. Pour ceux d'entre vous qui vont rester cet été en Suisse, nous avons sélectionné une série d'activités estivales pour bien en profiter.

En outre, vous lirez un entretien avec le nouveau Représentant permanent de la République populaire de Chine auprès de l'ONUG, l'Ambassadeur Chen Xu, qui a discuté avec nous de l'Initiative Ceinture et route.

D'autres articles comprennent un texte important sur la façon de remplir l'enquête de la CFPI auprès du personnel, qui pourrait avoir une incidence sur votre rémunération et vos indemnités.

Nous vous souhaitons un bel été! ■

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The world's smallest metropolis

Living in Geneva offers unique opportunities and teaches you how to cope with absurdly high prices and how to say goodbye.

SEBASTIAN HOFBAUER, UNITAR

Hundreds of new professionals and diplomats move to Geneva every year, to join the other 9,500 staff members of the United Nations and its agencies or to become part of the 179 Permanent Missions in this city. Everyone agrees that Geneva offers a high quality of life and many opportunities for personal and professional development, but everyone also knows this beautiful city is one of the most expensive of the world. How to manage the relocation and the best way to establish yourself here remain critical. Suffice to say that some of us have been living in Geneva for many years, and continue to learn how to make the most of it with the least possible

amount of money. If you add to this the fact that last year salaries were cut, and non-staff conditions of work are not fundamentally improving, finding accessible housing, education, transportation, health care and other services that you and your family need, is paramount.

According to a recent study by UBS, published on 29 May 2018, Geneva is the second most expensive city in the world, second only to Zurich. Although salaries are higher and taxes lower than the European average, a large portion of gross income goes towards obligatory health insurance, housing and to other unavoidable expenses. Most people rent accommodation because property prices are high, and large down payments are required. Meanwhile, depending on whom you ask, the cost of renting an apartment in Geneva can be higher than in New York or Paris and twice as much as in Amsterdam or Brussels. Living in Geneva entails paying for necessities, like food, at prices that make visitors faint. It is

difficult to find a decent lunch for less than 15 fr., and if you dare to think of leisure, you should be ready to pay more than 50 fr. for a basic dinner, or 20 fr. for a movie ticket.

Now, what exactly is “Geneva” and who is it for? As a reader of this magazine, you are likely most familiar with what we call “International Geneva”, which is an amalgamation of International Organizations, NGOs, and Member States Permanent Missions. However, others might have a very different impression, when they come to Geneva to make it their new home. Think about Geneva’s importance in the banking sector or its long heritage as a center for watch-making. Of course, I cannot forget to mention chocolate, a Geneva attraction enjoyed by tourists and inhabitants alike. Around all that, the city is also home to thousands of students and adventure seekers, who use it as a gateway to the nearby alps.

Indeed, no matter how long you stay in the city and why you



Clear blue sea under clear sky.

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came, chances are that you will appreciate Geneva for its wide range of outdoor activities. Surrounded by the Alps and the Jura, the city has plenty of skiing resorts within close reach, to accommodate any winter sports enthusiasts. The region has even more in store during the upcoming summer months. The mountains are perfect to explore on foot, and Lake Geneva provides great opportunities for other activities, such as swimming, sailing, or just enjoying the sunshine on one of its many beaches. If you want some concrete ideas on how to seize the upcoming sunny period, this edition has plenty of inspiration to offer you.

Geneva certainly is diverse, and so is its workforce. Half the city is coming, going, or just in between. If there's one thing Geneva teaches you, it's how to say goodbye. "I have 10 colleagues and they come from 8 different nations", is a remark you will hear frequently in Geneva. In such an international environment, farewell is common. Almost suddenly someone with whom you spend the whole day is just

gone. Dealing with that can be an emotional strain. You quickly recognize this fact after having spent some time in Geneva. Who do I let get close to me? How far do I want to go when in two weeks' time it can be the end? In Geneva, you usually only see each other once. The first questions are usually: Where do you come from? How long have you been here, how long will you stay? And above all: Which contract do you have?

The question of "where is Geneva?" is almost as difficult to answer. This is particularly apparent when looking at what is commonly called the "Grand Genève". For centuries, Geneva and French bordering areas have shared a common economic and settlement area. This Geneva metropolitan area is booming. The number of jobs rose considerably during the last decades, and the population has all but exploded over the same period. Around one million people now share this living space and around half of them are of non-Swiss origin. What is special about this development, however, is that

the majority of newcomers do not settle in the canton of Geneva, but in the French border region or in the canton of Vaud and commute to Geneva every day. However, it is only recently that these areas have started planning the future together.

"Grand Genève" has been the official name of the Geneva metropolitan area since 3 May 2012. It covers an area of 2000 square kilometres, consists of 215 communes (120 of which are on French soil) and extends from the Nyon district in the canton of Vaud via the canton and city of Geneva to the foot of the Jura mountains and the city of Thonon on the French shore of Lake Geneva. And it contains the promise to think beyond borders in the future.

The best example of what this means is the new CEVA train, which will link Geneva Central Station with the French city of Annemasse from December of this year. Everywhere in our city, you currently find construction sites as outwardly visible messengers of the largest construction site in its history.

Under our feet, construction is currently underway on the 16-kilometer railway line, which runs mainly underground; two tunnels, two new bridges and five new underground stations are being built. There is no one better to tell you how the CEVA will "change everything" than the TPG's Chair of the Board of Directors, Ms. Anne Hornung-Soukup. You will read her interview in this edition.

Going back to Grand Genève, its official creation is also the admission of a reality that is often suppressed: the engine for Geneva's economy is international. Without the inhabitants of non-swiss origin, this beautiful city would hardly be what it is today: the world's smallest metropolis. For those of you trying to make a living here, you are part of the unique environment that Geneva offers. In addition, if you work at the UN or at a diplomatic mission, you could even call yourself lucky, as normally your salary will be higher than the perceived minimum wage. However, as most of us can attest, you might still be hard pressed to make ends meet or at least could easily get frustrated if you want to save money.

Still, it's quite a privilege to live here. After all, you are at the center of Europe and in one of the world's most global cities. You can enjoy nature at its fullest and the cultural scenery and cosmopolitan environment are worth the price. In that light, I invite you to stop thinking about how pricy things are and focus on what you get in return. I guarantee you, your life will be easier the moment you relax and accept these prices as a fact of life. We need you motivated and happy to do your critical work at the United Nations. ■

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INTERVIEW

Ambassador Salman Bal

Director of the International Geneva Welcome Centre (CAGI)

The CAGI (Centre d'Accueil de la Genève Internationale) is a structure that plays a key role in the life of International Geneva. Ambassador Bal explains the main services provided to facilitate the installation and promote the integration of newcomers to Geneva



SARAH BENCHERIF, UNITAR

You were appointed Director of the CAGI in May 2019. Please tell us more about yourself.

First of all, thank you for this opportunity to talk about CAGI, because I think CAGI is really an important actor in International Geneva.

I am Kurdish from Turkey by origin. I came to Switzerland, to Basel, when I was nine years old and went to school there. I studied International Relations at the Graduate Institute in Geneva, concluding with a Master's in international Human Rights in England. I started my international career, as a Human Rights observer for the OSCE in Kosovo, then as a Human Rights officer at OHCHR in Geneva. In 2001, I joined the Foreign Affairs of Switzerland as a diplomat with postings at the Swiss Embassies in Mexico City (Mexico) and Oslo (Norway) and two postings in Bern. While in Bern, I first worked on economic and financial issues and later on the various peace processes in the Sudan.

When I came back to Geneva in 2011, I headed the Section for Global Affairs at the Swiss Permanent Mission to the UN. I had intensive encounters with the UN, specialised organizations and International Geneva as a whole. Finally, in May 2015 I joined the Office of the Director General at UNOG as the Head of the Political Affairs

and Partnerships Section and held this position until April 2019.

How can your experience at the head of Political Affairs at UNOG help you in your mission at this important welcome centre for International Geneva? And what are the main challenges?

When I was at the Swiss Permanent Mission and at the UN, I was in contact with many diplomats and international civil servants who spoke to me about their challenges when moving from one duty station to another and about life in Geneva at large. This of course gave me an idea about the needs and expectations of the employees of International Geneva and their family members. Besides that, I can count on a wide-ranging network I have built in the last eight years, which enabled me to be operational from day one at CAGI.

Personal contacts and networks are very useful for my work. For instance, I am soon going to meet the Head of Human Resources at UNOG to identify and discuss the areas where we can cooperate and help each other.

Knowing the international system in Geneva is fundamental: people tend to think that there is "one UN" in Geneva, but in fact, there are different entities. The CAGI, for example, runs the Cultural Kiosk at Door C6 in the Palais des Nations and regularly sends out information about its

offers, but we are not reaching the employees of all international organizations based in Geneva. Without my working experience at UNOG, I might not have realized this. This is why we are trying to find a way to enable us to reach out to all employees of International Geneva so that everyone can benefit from the services we offer at the Cultural Kiosk at the Palais des Nations.

For us it's very important that not only the big players are on board, but also the small ones. Everyone contributes in different manners to International Geneva and its functioning. This is why CAGI works a lot with many local actors and helps them to link up with International Geneva.

We are helping internationals to integrate and install themselves in Geneva. Our main goal is that, at the end of the day, they feel at home, welcomed and can interact with their neighbours and become ambassadors of International Geneva. Interaction among locals and internationals is a major concern for CAGI. That's why we organize events and different activities on both sides of the lake.

In your opinion, what are the challenges for newcomers to Geneva?

Every newcomer, whether in an international organization or as an employee of a multinational company, has the same challenges, the major ones being education and housing, I believe.

The housing issue will remain a challenge for a while I am afraid. Recently, I had an interesting meeting with the association of the *régies* (Real estate agencies) and put forward one or two ideas. They are going to look at them and hopefully come back with some good news. The local government has launched several new construction projects to increase housing facilities – you see constructions all over Geneva, but of course it will take time before we fix this issue.

There are also other challenges in the following areas: the health system, public transport, mobility, employment possibilities for partners/spouses, etc.

In Geneva, it can also be challenging to enter a network, and that's why we organize many activities to bring people together, like the excursions we organize once a month in order to help the internationals to discover new places and meet new people.

One of the favourite activities CAGI organizes is the “language exchange programme” (link at the end of the article). We currently have around 1,300 subscribers – many of them locals – for 65 languages. It is very simple, there is an online form where people indicate the language they speak and the language they'd like to improve, we make the match and we put them in contact. And twice a year, we organize a gathering for language exchange.

How do you see the future of International Geneva in a context where many jobs are being relocated (UNHCR, for example, is relocating around 200 jobs out of Geneva)?

If you look at the statistics of people working in International Geneva over the years, there is a steady increase. Yes, some organizations might relocate their activities out of Geneva, but there are others coming. As an example, in the last two to three years we had around 30 NGOs coming to Geneva every year and the number of staff working for them increased by around five percent every year. This is remarkable if you consider the context of budget cuts in a city considered expensive. The reason for this trend is linked to the eco-system of Geneva: in 10 km², you find all the actors of global governance, from international organizations to civil society, academia and the private sector. These actors want

to collaborate more and more together and join forces. This density of actors facilitates synergies, improves efficiency and, in the end, is a relevant factor of cost-effectiveness.

If you look at the challenges today, everything is interconnected: you cannot work on health without considering the environment, which is also linked to labour conditions, and so on. This is why Geneva houses and welcomes so many actors on different topics and issues. The importance of Geneva will increase. I am rather optimistic.

Would you like to add anything or make any comment?

CAGI provides great help. International civil servants can use our services more than they do now. I invite them to participate in and enjoy our events, discover Geneva and take advantage of local networks.

I would like to make sure that employees of International Geneva are aware of CAGI's services before their arrival. It's important that new arrivals are as well prepared as possible for their new duty station. ■

CAGI language exchange programme: <https://www.cagi.ch/en/newcomers-network/conversation-exchange-program.php>



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Station of the Léman Express in Genthod-Bellevue connected to TPG network.

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INTERVIEW

Public Transportation in Geneva Transport means Life

The TPG (Transports publics genevois / Geneva Public Transport) operates most of the public transportation system in Geneva Canton and is an essential aspect of life in Geneva. UN Special magazine met Ms. Anne Hornung-Soukup, Chair of the Board of TPG to share with us about their services and projects for the near future.



Ms. Anne Hornung-Soukup, Chair of the Board of TPG.

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ALEX MEJIA, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF,
SARAH BENCHERIF, UNITAR

You were appointed Chair of the Board of TPG (Transports publics genevois) by the Conseil d'État of the canton of Geneva in 2016. Please tell us more about the past and the current mission of this important company in the Genevan urban environment. What were the main challenges on your arrival?

In the distant past of the TPG, the tram 12 is the oldest tram still operating in Europe: it started in 1862. There were other trams that started before that date, but they all have disappeared, so this tram is a historic vestige of times past.

The TPG is so important for Geneva for many different reasons: for economic, social and environmental reasons. The city is absolutely choking on

car traffic daily, so the TPG has an important role in reducing traffic jams. And when I say the Geneva area, for us, it includes neighbouring France. It's now vital to get people out of cars.

Some people say the cities which are well arranged for public transportation and bicycles – I put those two together – are very well known: Copenhagen, Amsterdam, Stockholm, etc. mostly northern cities that are already transport friendly. Many say that it's a question of mentality; we can't do that in Geneva because people here like their cars. Well, in the 1970s, people liked their cars in Amsterdam and Copenhagen too. It's not a question of mentality, it's a question of politics: there has to be a political will to change the infrastructure that has in the past favoured cars over every other means of transportation.

TPG is faced with challenges every single day at two levels:

Firstly, the level of operating this very dense infrastructure. This density means a lot of traffic around the vehicles. Keeping vehicles moving, getting people on to them, keeping them on time, and avoiding accidents: this is all very challenging.

Secondly, at board level, the challenges were many. At the end of 2019, we have three huge projects, all of which implicate TPG and require a tremendous amount of work. Each one of these projects by itself would be major one for the TPG and we have three of them at the same time.

The first project is "Dépôt En Chardon", a new garage and maintenance centre which we desperately need, situated near the airport. It will open on December and will hold 130

buses and 40 trams for maintenance and overnight parking. Having buses near the airport instead of at the Junction is more practical for us and it will help all lines on the right bank, including the UN area. This has been under construction for five years and it has been the second largest construction project in the Canton of Geneva after Léman Express.

The second project is reinstating the tram to Annemasse, starting on December 15th. It was removed in 1958, which was a mistake, but now we are making up for that. Over 100,000 French residents come into Geneva every day to work and 85% come by car because they have no other choice.

The third huge project is the Léman Express, the new ring train; TPG will have to change 40% of our lines to link to

Léman Express stations. This new line is largely underground with no other traffic of any kind. The Léman Express train system will provide fast transport for Evian, Thonon, Annemasse and Annecy as well as the population of the Arve valley up to Saint-Gervais-les-Bains.

Thank you for this excellent overview on what is happening at the TPG. Now about the future, the TPG is implementing some innovative projects and is expanding its transport infrastructure to meet the increasing mobility needs in Geneva just as you mentioned. Could you please share with our readers some details on those initiatives and what the major expected changes are?

Autonomous vehicles are being introduced everywhere. Every public transport company and some private transportation companies are putting



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The TOSA electric bus is a Swiss and world first. It is the first 100% electric large-capacity bus system, developed by TPG.

autonomous vehicles into service. The goal is not to replace drivers; it is to provide service where needed and fill the gaps in existing lines.

The autonomous vehicle, which for the moment is small (capacity of 12 people), can serve an area like Hermance for example, and you could someday have a dedicated vehicle that goes every day from Hermance to a Léman Express station. We already have one autonomous vehicle on the road in Meyrin, which goes from the tram stop to the nearby CFF train station. It's a real line and it's also a test in the sense that we are still analysing the data and making improvements. Everybody thinks that autonomous vehicles require the intervention of an operator in order to prevent any accident, but in

fact the operator is there to get it going because it stops all the time: if a bird flies in front of it or if tall grass waves in the wind, the vehicle stops and the operator has to start it again. It's programmed to be cautious, even overly cautious, for security reasons. It is important to mention this here, because people tend to think the other way around. TPG has two more autonomous vehicle projects, and three new vehicles, financed by the European Union, are already in the garage waiting for federal authorization.

A second new project that we just introduced at the beginning of the year is "ZenGo", which is a form of Mobility as a Service. It is an app that allows users to combine different transport modes. With ZenGo, you no longer have to own separate

passes for different transport operators: one pass combines, for the moment, public transport, taxis, rental cars and car sharing.

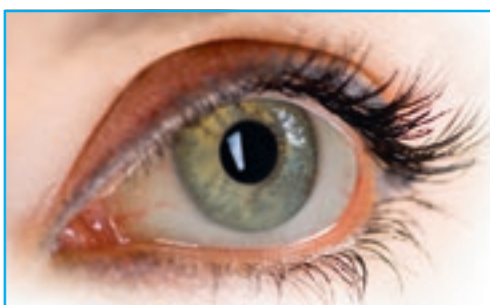
The third project is a virtual training centre: we are developing virtual reality training for our newly hired drivers. We hire 15 to 20 new drivers every month and we need to train them quickly and safely.

From the perspective of the United Nations, Sustainable Public Transportation is critical for the future of humanity and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. What does it mean to you?

Sustainable Public Transportation is the essence of life. It is about moving people, not vehicles. Future transportation needs to be clean, efficient and people oriented. We get fixated

on the economy; public transportation is necessary for people who work because we have traffic jams in the morning and at the end of the day, but transportation is also for family life, cultural life, social life, for getting out of the city and coming in. For me, public transportation is absolutely essential for life.

When I look at the SDGs, the ones that pertain directly to the TPG are goal 9 (Sustainable infrastructure and industry) and goal 11 (Sustainable cities and communities), but in reality, almost all of the other goals have something to do with TPG. Gender parity for example; we are working on getting more women into the company. Environment and health of course, education, job creation. When you give one Swiss franc to TPG, the



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multiplier is significant in the economy and in social life. If we can get car emissions out of the air, this means a reduction in health costs too. So, for me sustainable public transportation barely has to do with transportation, it is necessary for life. TPG moves people so they can live their lives.

Tell us a little about yourself and about this beautiful city.

What were you doing before taking the helm of the TPG? How has Geneva changed during recent decades from your perspective?

I was in finance my whole life, and I've always been interested in urban planning, how people move and get together, and about what the economic and social factors are. In fact, I never applied for this position; I was identified on a database for

women who have experience on boards. I cannot imagine a better gift than having this position right now, because 2019 is so important for the TPG and for Geneva.

The city of Geneva is a small city with a huge international reputation. Everyone in the world has heard of Geneva because of the United Nations and all the international conferences that it hosts. Many people think Geneva is the size of Paris or London, but in fact, it's the same population as Tucson, Arizona. For a city this small, the cultural life, the sports life and the nature life around Geneva is absolutely wonderful.

Personally, I think Geneva hasn't changed enough and the necessary change is just starting now. It could have been an "Amsterdam" or a "Copenhagen" and I mean city planning, not just transportation: we're

at the beginning of removing cars from the center, we're creating true bicycle paths like "la voie verte", and we're about to open a ring-train, the Léman Express. Big changes are coming and that's very exciting.

To conclude, you are a successful woman actively invested in gender equality. What would you say to young women starting a career in public service or governmental organizations?

I would say: Go for it! There is so much room today for women, for people of colour, for diversity. We've had homogenous voices in the past and we need more diversity of opinions. I was born and bred to be a feminist. My mother was a feminist and so was my grandmother, and I went to a women's college in the USA, so I had no choice than to be a feminist. And being a "feminist" just means being in favour of Human Rights. ■

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Relocating to Geneva? A Guide to a Stress-Free Move

Relocating to Geneva for a new job and need to get settled quickly? Partnering with a relocation company might be the best option.



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KIM WARK, STERLING LEXICON

Oftentimes, when being transferred for a job to a new city, people overlook the planning, research and costs involved in a relocation. When the need to get settled quickly in a destination and focused on a new role immediately is essential, relocation companies are experts at guiding individuals and families through the services and paperwork required to lighten the load and ease them into new environments.

This article is intended to provide insight into the relocation process and the benefits of partnering with relocation experts for your move to Geneva.

Benefits to Partnering with a Relocation Company

Relocation companies specialize in and manage all aspects of a relocation. The biggest benefit to working with an expert is the experience and resources they can provide when questions or assistance is needed. When

being required to relocate for a career there are numerous things on one's mind such as cost, moving companies, real estate, schools, temporary accommodation and family. Having someone at hand who is always available to guide you through the process eliminates unnecessary stress which ultimately allows you to focus on and enjoy your new destination and position.

Relocation providers will help source the services necessary for your move so you do not have to go through the vetting process. They will assist with hiring movers, finding a home or temporary accommodations, settling-in services, area tours and much more.

The Process

Generally, a relocation consultant is assigned to every individual or family moving. The consultant maintains frequent communication with the transferee throughout their transition, particularly during critical

touchpoints to ensure things are running smoothly. The relocation consultant also acts as an advocate to book services and appointments, provides status updates and ensures the partners are delivering high-quality and consistent service.

Planning

Successful arrival in Geneva starts with planning and preparing well before the departure and requires scheduling services providers well in advance of a move. Ensuring your family or partner is involved in the process is critical to success. While this is an exciting opportunity, relocating can be difficult for all of those involved in the transition. Just as you must acclimate to your new work environment, families also must learn to make a new city their home.

Service Offerings

The primary services that will have the greatest impact on a relocation experience include one, or a combination, of the following services:

- Household goods transportation via sea, air or truck and storage
- Home search, rental assistance and temporary living
- Cultural acclimation and settling in
- School finding

Tips for a Successful Relocation to Geneva

The first thing you are going to want to know is all requirements for living in Geneva. A pre-planning guide specific to the destination is a critical component to a successful relocation. While every relocation and family circumstance are different, there are some common areas to consider as relocation dates approach. Details such as selecting a mover that isn't appropriately certified or qualified can lead to costly mistakes if not adequately prepared. There are hundreds of online resources to guide expats, however, relying upon your single point of contact to provide accurate, up-to-date resources is often the best place to go for information.

Transportation of your belongings

Selecting the right mover, with the expertise with international door-to-door moves and the UN specific customs formalities is key to a successful and stress-free arrival in Geneva. It is also important to advise your moving partner of your place of residence (Switzerland or France) as customs formalities and import rules will differ from one country to the next. Planning your move as far in advance as possible will also ensure that you can choose the packing dates as per your requirements, particularly during the last week of a month or during the summer (mid-June to early September and the second half of December are typically considered as the peak season in the moving industry).

Housing

The first thing you are going to want to do is research the long-term housing options in Geneva. If you want to wait until you are there in person, make sure you have research for interim housing (Temporary accommodation).

Geneva is a small canton, boxed in by the lake, France and Canton Vaud. As a result, high demand for housing in Geneva has made the neighboring areas in Vaud and France an attractive alternative to living in Geneva. The longer commute can be worth the lower rents and cost of living in France, and

the agreeable countryside in Vaud can be attractive to those wishing to live out of the city, with rents slightly lower than Geneva. Before selecting which country you will be living in, you will need to assess the options offered to you by your organization (*Carte de Légitimation*, which is the Swiss residence permit for UN employees, or cross-border permits, if living in neighboring France), and the respective consequences it may have for yourself and your family, including tax implications should you choose to live in France.

It is hard to know where to look for housing, from suburban neighborhoods to bustling cities, each expat may have a different idea of a great place to live. Common regional challenges such as the property shortages in Geneva, drive a change in living such as a transition to renting. The Geneva housing market has improved slightly over the past year but the vacancy rate remains significantly low at 0.53% versus 1.62% as the average in Switzerland which is relatively low when compared with the 5% vacancy rate which is considered typical for a healthy housing market. This means the competition for properties is high and having a relocation company manage your applications could make a significant difference in finding the right home within a reasonable timeframe.

While some organizations do provide relocation support for their relocating employees; it is not unusual for some employees to have to arrange their home search on their own. For that reason, some relocation companies may be able to offer home search programmes specifically tailored to private demand. This could allow you to benefit from the relocation company's expertise of the local housing market, while remaining within reasonable reach.

Schooling

In Switzerland your children can attend state schools (*écoles publiques*) or private/international schools (*écoles privées*). As children begin compulsory schooling around the age of 4, they usually attend kindergarten two years before starting school. Childcare options for young children include *crèches*, playgroups and day nurseries.

While state school will take on children according to their area of residence, it is recommended to start enquiring about international schools as early as possible as availability is limited. It is recommended to apply between January-March for the next school year starting in September.

Cultural or language barriers

Fitting into a new culture can be intimidating. Switzerland has four official languages:

- German (63.7%)
- French (20.4 %)
- Italian (6.5%)
- Romansch (0.5%)

Each region has its own language and while English is often spoken or at least understood, this is only true of major cities like Geneva or Zürich. If you wish to learn French whilst in Geneva, there are many language courses that can be taken, for any ages and for any length of time.

Closing

As you can see there is a lot involved when moving to a new city and understanding the ins-and-outs of Geneva can take time and effort. Relocation companies will help you navigate these issues so that you can focus on a smooth transition. There are many things to consider and it is a process which favors a lot of patience, flexibility and having the expertise to properly navigate it on your side.

If you are interested in learning more about the benefits and services a relocation provider can offer or if you wish to order our Relocation Guide for Geneva, please contact Kim Wark, Relocation Manager at Sterling Lexicon (kim.wark@sterlinglexicon.com), or call 022 750 6062). ■

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CAGI's Housing Service

Searching for accommodation can be a challenge and almost like a full time occupation. Our small team at the CAGI aims to facilitate this task for those who are not yet familiar with the housing market in the Lemanic region.

FRANÇOIS SCHALLER¹

The International Geneva Welcome Centre (CAGI – *Centre d'Accueil de la Genève Internationale*) mission is to facilitate the settling in and integration, to Geneva and the Lemanic region, of the actors of International Geneva; international civil servants, members of permanent missions, consulates, NGOs, international sporting associations, as well as their families. To accomplish this mandate given by our founding members, the Swiss Confederation and the State of Geneva, the CAGI offers several services:

- **Newcomers Network Service:** lunchtime conferences, conversation exchange programme and “Discover Geneva and the Lemanic region” programme ► <https://www.cagi.ch/en/newcomers-network.php>
- **NGO Service:** advising and facilitating the setup of NGOs in Geneva and the region ► <https://www.cagi.ch/en/ngo.php>
- **Delegates Welcome Service:** facilitating the stay of delegates, mainly from developing countries, participating in conferences, work meetings and training in the framework of International Geneva

► <https://www.cagi.ch/en/delegates-welcome.php>

- **Delegates Information Desk:** Supporting delegates with practical and cultural activities information and during the main conferences held in Geneva at the UNOG as well as other International Organisations ► <https://www.cagi.ch/en/delegates-welcome/delegate-information-desk.php>
- **Events Service and the Cultural Kiosk at UNOG:** to exchange between the local community and Internationals; also discover cultural activities in Geneva and Switzerland ► <https://www.cagi.ch/en/events.php>

Last but not least, there is the **Housing and Information Service**. Its mission is of primordial importance, as one of the first priorities for newcomers is finding a place to live. ► <https://www.cagi.ch/en/housing.php>

The Housing Service is run by Mr. François Schaller, and his deputy, Mr. Gregory Bozzetti. Their main tasks are explaining to internationals newly arrived in Geneva where and how to search for accommodation, how to submit a tenancy application, the different types



Housing & Information Service, Mr. François Schaller, Head of Service (left) and Mr. Gregory Bozzetti, Deputy

of tenancy agreements, housing insurance requirements, the deposit and/or bank guarantee, entry/exit inspections, as well as the conditions needed to terminate a tenancy agreement.

A key service, offered at no cost, as with all the CAGI's services, is the possibility of having a lease agreement proofread before signing it. This will avoid any unwelcome surprises at the end of the stay. The Housing Service possesses over ten years' experience of tenancy law and can act as a mediator between the tenant and the owner at the request of either party.

The Housing Service also manages a software programme called “Bourse du logement du CAGI” ► <https://www.cagi.ch/en/housing/bourse-du-logement-du-cagi-en.php>. This tool enables diplomats and international civil servants to register for accommodation offers tailored to their search criteria. By registering, applicants automatically receive accommodation offers posted directly from régies, owners or tenants seeking to find a replacement tenant.

The Housing Service also offers a VIP service for a personalised

search for the residencies of Permanent Representatives, UN Heads and their deputies, as well as finding offices for permanent missions, international and non-governmental organizations.

For the past three years, the CAGI's Housing Service has been organizing lunchtime conferences, on the first or second Thursdays of each month, providing information regarding various housing topics, including insurance. The aim of these sessions is to inform and instruct newcomers from the very start of their stay in Geneva. The next sessions will take place on the following dates: Thursdays 12th September, 3rd October and 7th November, from 12.30 p.m. to 1.30 p.m. The sessions will be followed by a brunch during which individual questions can be asked. ■

¹ Housing advice & tenancy law, VIP Service, Head of the Housing & Information Service

Conferences are free of charge; mandatory registration on: immo.cagi@etat.ge.ch

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© Viktar Palstisuk/flickr

From the diary of a UN consultant


Once again, I find myself preparing the dossier to apply for an apartment in Geneva. I have the last three pay slips, the deposit, the certificate of “no pursuits”, my letter of motivation, a letter of recommendation and the Régie’s form duly filled out. Done! Ready for the new appointment.

UN CONSULTANT

On my way, I wonder how many apartments I have visited so far. I have lost count already. Why is it so difficult for me to find a home? Well, I imagine that my consultant contract for the next few months is not a good way of proving that I hope it will be renewed for six more months... So here I am, after already four years of living in Geneva, always subletting from someone who is a friend of a friend with a good heart and financial needs. This has been convenient for me as I get the apartment furnished, I just bring my five, well six bags now, and get settled wondering for how long I will be able to keep the place.

When applying for an apartment, only very few times have I had a reply from the Régie telling me that they have given the apartment to someone else. Most of the time, I do not hear back from them and I have to call to find out that I was not lucky this time. I am flexible, you know... I am young, I am a strong and independent woman. I am passionate about my job and I feel I can make a difference working for the United Nations, that’s why I keep trying and have stayed in Geneva. When I knock at the door, I really hope that this time, I will get the apartment and will at last have something I can call “my own”. ■



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Living in Geneva: The Intern's Perspective

If all else fails, pitch your own tent!

“My parents spent all their savings to make this internship possible. Living in Geneva is much more expensive than in Cairo.”

— Unpaid UN intern



Camping for equality (and access to housing) at Place des Nations, 2016.

JOINTLY BY FAIR INTERNSHIP INITIATIVE & GENEVA INTERNS ASSOCIATION

Indeed, according to Numbeo, the biggest crowd-sourced global database of consumer prices, the rent prices in the *Peace Capital* are a thousand percent higher than in the *City of a Thousand Minarets*. Moreover, according to the Worldwide Cost of Living Survey 2019, Geneva is one of the dearest in the world for two categories – household and personal care, as well as recreation and entertainment.

The housing situation here is very tight, and vacancy rates are low. There are, however, many options for finding accommodation in Geneva. The main options are apartments or shared apartments (flats) or *foyers* (like dorms). The process for finding apartments or shared apartments can be difficult and time consuming.

There has been a recent spike in scams surrounding false accommodation offers. If the place looks too good to be true, it just might be. It is NOT normal or safe to give deposits before seeing a place. Remember to be careful! Do NOT make advance payments or provide guarantee sums in advance of your arrival, unless you are using a trusted website such as Airbnb.

Never wire money at the request of any prospective “landlord-lady” via Western Union, MoneyGram, or any other transfer service. Be wary of giving out your personal information, as they may be used for identity scams. Only do so if you have a good degree of confidence in the identity of your prospective landlord.

We recommend contacting your respective IB (intern board) for assistance in finding accommodation. Alternatively, prospective interns can capitalise on the wealth of intern knowledge through intern groups on social media by requesting existing interns to help in verifying the accommodation offer.

Foyers and Residences

This type of accommodation houses a lot of interns and students from the University of Geneva. They are relatively inexpensive and offer the chance to meet and interact with young people from all over the world. Some foyers provide different services, such as bedding, laundry and internet connections, sometimes even meals – be sure to check this out with each location. Some foyers also have rules, which you should also check out when researching where to live. For example, some foyers are for girls

only or have curfews. Also keep in mind the location of the foyers; some are close to town, while others are not close to the centre of Geneva.

The Foyers George Williams and La Cigué are your best bet for living if you are on a tight budget as they only charge between 300 fr. and 600 fr.

Shared Apartments

Living in shared apartments is one of the more popular ways to find accommodation for interns in Geneva. It is also one of the best ways to find housing at an affordable price. There are a couple of ways to search for shared apartments in Geneva. You can start your flat hunting by checking out the following options:

- Easy Roommate: www.easyroommate.com
- Webster University Geneva: They have a special summer housing offer if you need accommodation in Geneva between May 2019 and mid-August 2019. If you are interested, feel free to contact them at: housing@webster.ch.
- Geneva Home Information: This is a good resource for apartment hunting as all the real estate agents post their ads here. It is only available in French. When searching,

some key words are “VOIR LES PETITES ANNONCES” (look for advertisements), “IMMOBILIER À LOUER” (to rent), and “SOUS-LOUER” (sublet). You will also find the classified section where people are looking for someone to share an apartment with, or to sublet at *Tribune de Genève*, the *GHI* or *Le Temps*, among others. Check the website for more information: www.ghi.ch.

- Geneva University Housing Website (Student Advertisements): This is one of the best places to look for reasonably priced apartments, studios and rooms. You can also find ads for sublets at Uni Mail (the large university building in Plainpalais). To get there, take the tram 15 from Gare Cornavin and get off at Uni Mail. Visit the website to see housing advertisements: UNIGE Housing.
- CAGI (Please see article “CAGI’s Housing Service” on page 16)
- Glocals: Glocals is a social networking website intended for expatriates moving to Geneva. They have a great housing and classified section. Many interns and other newcomers to Geneva find apartments via Glocals, though the prices tend to be a little on the expensive side. Visit the Glocals website for more information.
- World Radio Geneva: This is an English language radio station in Geneva (101.7 FM) that has classifieds on its website. You need to register to view them. Check the link for more information: www.worldradio.ch.

Finding apartments/flats via agencies

Many apartments are controlled by real estate agencies called Régies. A studio usually means everything is in one room. Be sure to look at the number of *pièces*. A pièce is a room, and in Geneva, the kitchen counts as one. Therefore, a 3-pièces = kitchen + living room + bedroom (note: in Vaud, the kitchen is not counted as a pièce). Half pièces are rooms of combined functions, i.e. a living/dining room combo counts as a 1.5 pièces. If you find an apartment you like, you will normally need to go through the application process where you will need to apply to the Régie for that apartment, and the agency will decide to whom they want to rent it.

To apply, normally you will need a document stating your salary and your position. In addition, you normally must prove you are not heavily in debt and may be asked to pay three months’ rent in advance as a

deposit (*caution* in French). In exchange for 231 fr. (150 fr. if you are younger than 26) the website www.swisscaution.ch will provide you with a yearlong deposit. You will require a document stating you are not a criminal, which you can get from the Offices des poursuites, located at 46 rue du Stand, tel. 022 388 90 90.

Here are several websites to help you with your search:

- Tout l’Immobilier: www.toutimmo.ch
- Immostreet: www.immostreet.ch
- Geneva Immobilier: www.geneveimmobilier.ch
- Home Sweet Home: www.homesweethome.ch

If all else fails we can help you to pitch a tent at the Place des Nations, drop a line to gisa.fiigeneva@graduateinstitute.ch or join us every Tuesday from 6.30 to 8.00 p.m. at Maison de la Paix (room 1, petal 2). ■

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VILLE DE GENEVE

À Genève, le pari gagné de l'électricité renouvelable

Depuis 2017, les Services industriels de Genève distribuent de l'électricité 100% renouvelable. SIG va encore plus loin dans les mesures environnementales, en proposant à ses clients du courant certifié écologique, entièrement produit à Genève. Coup de projecteur sur la stratégie qui permet à SIG de s'afficher en leader suisse de la transition énergétique.



Le toit du Stade de Genève, sur lequel 5000 m² de panneaux photovoltaïques seront installés. Ils permettront de couvrir la consommation annuelle de 367 ménages genevois.

ELISE KERCHENBAUM, SIG

(SERVICES INDUSTRIELS DE GENÈVE)

Qui aurait parié, au début des années 80, que Genève serait un canton pionnier de la transition énergétique ? Après s'être affranchi du nucléaire en 1986, le canton du bout du lac continue à montrer l'exemple. L'entreprise de service public SIG, qui distribue de l'électricité à 250 000 clients, a tourné le dos aux énergies fossiles. Depuis 2017, la consommation des ménages genevois est entièrement couverte par du courant renouvelable. Ces efforts ont été récompensés à l'échelon national. En 2018, l'Office fédéral de l'énergie a classé pour la troisième fois SIG leader suisse de la transition énergétique.

L'électricité distribuée par SIG est en majorité d'origine hydraulique. La production des barrages couvre 93% de la consommation des Genevois. Les trois quarts de cette hydroélectricité proviennent des Alpes, essentiellement du Valais. Le dernier quart est

produit localement, par les barrages qu'exploite SIG le long du Rhône genevois: le Seujet, Verbois et Chancy-Pougny.

Ces dix dernières années, SIG a lancé de vastes programmes pour renforcer et moderniser ses installations hydroélectriques. Ces travaux ont notamment permis de doper la production du barrage de Chancy-Pougny, situé sur le Rhône franco-suisse. Sa production est passée à 250 GWh, soit l'équivalent de la consommation de 70 000 ménages genevois. Le barrage a reçu la certification *naturemade star* en 2015, un label qui garantit la provenance de l'énergie et la qualité de sa production selon les critères les plus stricts d'Europe. Des mesures en faveur de l'environnement ont été exigées pour obtenir cette certification. Une échelle à poissons a été construite afin de permettre leur migration, et des zones naturelles ont été aménagées. L'usine de Chancy-Pougny est la plus puissante de Suisse certifiée *naturemade star*. Au

centre-ville de Genève, le barrage du Seujet a également été labellisé *naturemade star*.

De l'électricité 100% écologique et 100% locale

L'électricité produite par ces deux barrages est non seulement renouvelable, mais aussi certifiée 100% écologique et 100% locale. Elle est distribuée sous l'appellation Vitale Vert. Aujourd'hui, plus de 61 000 clients de SIG ont choisi d'être approvisionnés en électricité Vitale Vert. Pour seulement 2 francs de plus par mois, les Genevois qui choisissent ce courant écologique font un geste pour l'environnement. «C'est un cercle vertueux», témoigne Christian Brunier, Directeur général de SIG. «Plus de clients achètent Vitale Vert, plus ils encouragent le développement des installations renouvelables à travers le canton. Un nombre croissant de ménages et d'entreprises demandent de l'énergie de qualité. C'est la même démarche que de choisir un produit bio, ou du terroir. Et c'est également une dynamique

favorable à l'économie locale: chaque kWh d'électricité Vitale Vert acheté reste à Genève. Il est réinvesti dans les énergies renouvelables locales, et génère des emplois dans le secteur.»

Afin de distribuer du courant renouvelable à une population genevoise en pleine croissance, SIG ne se contente pas d'exploiter ces barrages. L'entreprise publique met tout en œuvre pour développer l'énergie solaire à Genève. Près de 1700 centrales photovoltaïques ont été installées à travers le canton en une quinzaine d'années. Environ 40 GWh, soit l'équivalent de la consommation de 13 300 ménages, sont réinjectés dans le réseau électrique genevois. D'ici à 2025, SIG ambitionne de produire 150 GWh d'énergie photovoltaïque.

Pour relever ce défi, l'entreprise poursuit la réalisation de ses propres centrales solaires. Elle travaille aussi main dans la main avec tous les acteurs du canton: les collectivités publiques, les entreprises et les particuliers.



Le barrage de Chancy-Pougny, certifié *naturemade star*. Sa production atteint 240 GWh soit l'équivalent de la consommation de 70 000 ménages.

SIG soutient les auto-producteurs, en rachetant leur production excédentaire. Elle a également passé un contrat avec l'Etat de Genève, afin d'équiper ses bâtiments en installations photovoltaïques. L'objectif étatique est de parvenir, en 2020, à une consommation de 10% de photovoltaïque. Ceci correspond à une surface de 30 000 m² de panneaux posés sur les toits, notamment scolaires et administratifs. Au total, 50 000 m² de toitures sont susceptibles d'être aménagées en centrales solaires.

**«Mon m² solaire»,
success story genevoise**

En parallèle, SIG a lancé un projet novateur qui remporte un beau succès à Genève. Baptisé «Mon m² solaire», il permet de construire des centrales participatives à travers le canton. La commune du Petit-Lancy et SIG ont lancé cette démarche inédite en 2018, en proposant aux particuliers de participer à la construction d'une centrale solaire de 1600 m² sur le toit de la salle omnisports de l'école du Petit-Lancy. Le principe est

simple: en achetant une part de la centrale participative, soit un ou plusieurs m², les souscripteurs bénéficient d'électricité solaire. Cette démarche novatrice permet aux particuliers de produire et de consommer de l'électricité solaire, sans devoir être propriétaires de leur toit. Elle s'adresse à tous ceux qui souhaitent faire un geste simple et constructif en faveur de l'environnement. Toutes les parts disponibles de la centrale ont été vendues en un temps record, et la centrale a été mise en service à la fin de l'année 2018.

Forte de ce succès, SIG s'est associée à la Fondation du Stade de Genève pour construire une centrale participative. Cinq mille mètres carrés de panneaux photovoltaïques seront installés sur le toit du Stade de Genève. Sur 1,1 GWh d'électricité produits par cette installation, le stade en consommera 30%. Les

70% restants sont commercialisés sous forme participative. Chaque part de l'installation du Stade de Genève coûte 330 francs et permet d'acquérir 100 kWh d'électricité par an pendant 20 ans. 100 kWh permettent par exemple de charger son vélo électrique pendant une année. Sur les 5400 parts de la centrale du stade mises en vente en avril 2019, plus de 4000 parts ont déjà été vendues. Les Genevois contribuent ainsi à financer la construction de cette grande centrale photovoltaïque. Ils permettent aussi à Genève et à SIG de se positionner en pionniers de la transition énergétique. ■

www.sig-monm2solaire.ch

Mon m² solaire au Stade de Genève, mon action collective

Le solaire pour toutes et tous à Genève



Rendez-vous sur le site www.sig-monm2solaire.ch
pour souscrire une part solaire en toute simplicité



Continuing Education at the Heart of the Future of Work

*Interview with
Dr. Sophie Huber,
Director, Center
for Continuing
and Distance
Education at the
University of
Geneva*



© Formation continue UNIGE - Michel Reymond

JULIA GENTH, UNITAR

How do academic continuing education programs differ from other study programs such as bachelor's and master's degrees? Why is it a smart career move to embark on such a program?

University-level continuing education programs are designed and structured for working professionals or individuals who have already acquired a few years of professional experience. The specific learning objectives and pedagogical approaches of such programs push professionals to question and enrich their professional practices with theoretical approaches and scientific methods.

Whereas bachelor's or master's degrees equip students with foundational knowledge and methods and usually require individuals to study full time, continuing education programs aim at advanced knowledge and skills and offer a range of part-time formats. This enables professionals to incorporate learning and training within their busy schedules. In addition, most of our courses have fewer than 20 participants,

which allows for interesting peer exchanges, individual coaching and innovative pedagogical approaches.

Going back to University may seem tricky to people who have already gained several diplomas and are trying to focus on their career. But in times of deep and rapid transformation in the workplace, it has become crucial for professionals to update their knowledge and gain new skills regularly. **This is the meaning of "lifelong learning", which has been a strong focus of discussions at the recent ILO centenary session.**

There are plenty of free or cheap online courses on the market, sometimes provided by top universities, including yours. Why take a continuing education course at UNIGE?

MOOCs are a great addition to our training offer. However, we've learned from a wealth of studies how difficult it may be to complete such courses and transfer the knowledge and skills to your daily work. Besides, no platform, even the most innovative ones, can replace real human interaction. Many of our programs

offer distance and e-learning formats to allow more flexibility for those who need to travel or have a very tight schedule. Still, face-to-face moments when people can get to know each other and meet the faculty and the experts are precious.

We have a wealth of partners, be it from the private sector, non-profit organizations or international organizations. Partnerships and transdisciplinarity are key to understanding what is at stake in each of our specialties. Besides this, taking a course at UNIGE is a great opportunity to build or expand a network of field experts and peers from around the world. **Our existing network of alumni shows how much this peer dimension can lead to successful change and innovation, often years after graduation.**

You mentioned innovation: how do your programs keep up with new ideas, trends and practices?

We are fortunate to have about 15 academic departments and institutes with world-class faculty conducting cutting-edge research, engaged in offering continuing education programs. Our professors are at the forefront of understanding change and innovation. Innovation in key fields such as digital transformation and sustainable development cannot be achieved without capacity building at both the individual and organizational levels.

In collaboration with relevant faculties, our center also provides expertise in designing *tailor-made* or *customized* training

programs to help public and private institutions respond to their rapidly-changing environments and innovate. As such, we help organizations identify their training needs, facilitate contact with our faculties and partners, and accompany the implementation of the training to ensure that it achieves its learning outcomes.

Sustainable development and digital transformation are two fields that have gained increasing visibility and policy interest in recent years. What are some UNIGE continuing education programs that address these topics?

The International Organizations MBA, the MAS in European and International Governance, the CAS Management of Energy, the CAS in Sustainable Development: Horizon 2030 and the CAS in Geomatics for Sustainable Development are among the University of Geneva's flagship programs helping to build capacity to promote the SDGs agenda.

In the field of health, UNIGE's medical school and its various research centers have contributed considerably to turning Geneva into a vibrant hub of the "health valley". Many of our continuing education programs in health keep leading innovation in various health sectors, with programs like the MAS in Public Health, the short course in e-Precision Global Health and the CAS Drug Discovery, to name just a few.

The University of Geneva is also world-renowned for its Faculty of Translation and Interpretation (FTI), with the UN and

intergovernmental organizations often calling upon its expertise, including in communities affected by conflict and crisis, through InZone projects.

Language courses and history and literature programs enable participants to explore new worlds. For those just arriving in Geneva, the *Maison des Langues* at UNIGE will provide a wonderful opportunity to learn French this summer!



© Formation continue UNIGE – Michel Reymond

Continuing Education is also central to the activities of the Centre for Education and Research in Humanitarian Action (CERAH), the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights (ADH) and the MIDS, all joint centers between UNIGE and the Graduate Institute.

UNIGE's *Centre Universitaire d'Informatique* (CUI) has developed a range of innovative curricula in the past three years to embrace innovations like Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things and Information Governance, as well as one of the world's first continuing education degree-granting programs in blockchain and decentralized ledger technologies.

Ideally located in a major financial and business center, the Geneva School of Economics and Management (GSEM) and the Geneva Finance Research

Institute (GFRI) offer world-class courses in Business, Management and Finance (including Fintech!), providing leaders and managers with the tools and knowledge they need to lead their teams through digital transformation.

UNIGE delivers Swiss diplomas and therefore often has strict admission requirements. How can someone coming from a different continent or a different academic system be admitted to a continuing education program?

We are used to receiving international applications from very diverse backgrounds. Applications are carefully reviewed by each program's steering committee composed of the program director and field experts. Our goal is to ensure that admitted participants have sufficient background to understand the program's substance, be able to contribute to class discussions and complete

assignments, thus making the most out of their experience.

The minimum requirements to be admitted into degree-granting programs such as CAS (Certificate of Advanced Studies), DAS (Diploma of Advanced Studies) and MAS (Master of Advanced Studies) is a bachelor's degree and a few years of professional experience. Non-degree-granting programs have more flexible admission criteria.

Can taking part in a UNIGE continuing education program help a participant get a job in Switzerland?

Employers often appreciate continuing education's hands-on approach and their links to professional practices and networks. Participants can easily show how their learning has translated into concrete expertise and know-how, which they can bring to a team

or an organization. It is a great way to also **prove one has the much looked-for skills of the future: creativity, social and emotional skills and inter-sectoral communication skills.**

In addition, employers recognize that these courses represent a considerable amount of work and commitment, especially for working professionals. Completing a CAS, DAS or MAS means that academic experts have tested and evaluated the participant's work and assignments, as per UNIGE's quality standards. Upon successful completion of their coursework, participants obtain their degrees with the related ECTS credits (European Credit Transfer System). **Beyond the certification, employers will value the audacity and perseverance it takes to complete such programs. ■**

Catalogue of programs: www.unige.ch/formcont

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THE FUTURE OF TRANSPORTATION

YOUR LONG COMMUTE

15 DECEMBER 2019

1

Léman Express

Is the largest cross-border regional rail network in Europe.

Starting on 15 December 2019, Léman Express will operate on the new CEVA line (Cornavin-Eaux-Vives-Annemasse). It will connect 45 stations over 230 km of lines and will make it easier for more than a million people to commute.

A true Franco-Swiss connection, the Léman Express will welcome 50,000 passengers every day on the 240 trains that will circulate in the cantons of Vaud and Geneva as well as in the Auvergne Rhône-Alpes and Ain and Haute-Savoie regions.

If you live in the right bank of the city your access to the airport will be faster.

2030

2

The crossing of Geneva harbour (La Traversée du lac)

This is a project which dates back to 1896 and involves building a road to cross Lake Geneva. Since then, various bridge or tunnel concepts have been successively designed.

In 2013, the principle of a lake crossing was included in the 2030 cantonal urban development plan, and in 2016 it was approved by the people of Geneva through a voting initiative.

The Geneva State Council is currently in discussions with the Federal Roads Office to develop and determine the type of studies to be carried out to include the lake crossing in the national road network. This project has been worked on for decades and even if the funds come through from the federal government, it will not be built for ten years at least. It is still a dream.

Avenue de France



TRANSPORTATION IN GENEVA: WHAT IT COULD IMPROVE



Offre de soins du service public dans le canton de Genève

Les Hôpitaux universitaires de Genève (HUG) sont le 1^{er} hôpital universitaire de Suisse. Ils sont reconnus au plan national et international dans plusieurs disciplines de pointe, notamment pour les affections cardiovasculaires, l'oncologie, les affections complexes de l'enfant et de l'adolescent, ou hépato-pancréatiques, le diabète, la neurochirurgie.

Les Hôpitaux universitaires de Genève ont fortement développé la chirurgie robotisée et minimalement invasive et disposent du seul laboratoire diagnostique de haute sécurité en Suisse.

Ils procurent des soins stationnaires et disposent également de quarante consultations ambulatoires réparties sur l'ensemble du canton de Genève.

Les HUG collaborent avec l'Organisation mondiale de la santé en tant que référents dans six domaines (cybersanté et télémédecine, enseignement thérapeutique, recherche et formation en santé mentale, sécurité des patients et prévention des infections, vaccinologie,

médecine humanitaire et gestion des catastrophes).

Quelle est la mission des HUG?

Les Hôpitaux universitaires de Genève ont trois missions principales:

- Soigner
- Enseigner
- Chercher

Comment se passe l'accueil des patients?

Hospitalisation

Dès que vous connaissez la date de votre hospitalisation, vous pouvez vous présenter au bureau des admissions afin de remplir toutes les formalités administratives, ce qui vous déchargera le jour de votre hospitalisation.

Les documents à présenter lors de votre enregistrement sont:

- La lettre de convocation établie par votre médecin traitant ou un médecin des HUG
- Votre carte d'assurance ou une garantie de prise en charge par votre assurance
- Une pièce d'identité
- Un dépôt financier ou l'attestation dudit dépôt si votre séjour n'est pas garanti par votre assurance

EN CAS D'URGENCE, QUE FAIRE?

En cas d'urgence vitale, appelez le 144.

Plus d'informations sur <https://www.hug-ge.ch/en/direct-access-hug-emergency-room>

Les Hôpitaux universitaires de Genève sont partenaires du Réseau des urgences genevois (RUG) pour la prise en charge des urgences non vitales. L'application SmartHUG informe sur les temps d'attente au sein des services d'urgence du réseau (Clinique de Carouge, Clinique des Grangettes, Clinique et Permanence d'Onex, Hôpital de la Tour, Clinique La Colline, HUG).

L'application Infokids est destinée aux parents dont les enfants nécessitent une consultation médicale au Service d'accueil et d'urgences pédiatriques (avenue de la Roseraie 47, 1205 Genève, +41 (0)22 372 45 55) ou au cabinet de leur pédiatre.

Certaines interventions chirurgicales programmées ont lieu en une seule journée. Vous regagnez alors votre domicile le même jour sans nécessité de passer une nuit à l'hôpital.

Prise en charge ambulatoire

Depuis le 1^{er} janvier 2019, la Confédération suisse a soumis à une prise en charge en ambulatoire six groupes de prestations:

- opération des varices sur une jambe
- intervention pour des hémorroïdes
- opération pour une hernie inguinale
- examen ou intervention au

niveau du col utérin ou de l'utérus

- arthroscopie du genou seule ou avec intervention sur le ménisque
- ablation des amygdales ou des végétations adénoïdes

Plus d'informations: https://www.hug-ge.ch/sites/interhug/files/documents/chirurgie_ambulatoire.pdf

Hors prise en charge au sein du service des urgences des HUG, vous devez, en principe, être adressé par votre médecin traitant. Plus d'informations: <https://www.hug-ge.ch/en/outpatient>

BÂTIMENTS ET NUMÉROS UTILES EN CAS D'URGENCE

Les soins de proximité et les séjours de courte durée sont regroupés dans les bâtiments Lina Stern et Gustave Julliard.

Bâtiment Lina Stern: rue Gabrielle-Perret-Gentil 4, 1205 Genève

Bâtiment Gustave Julliard: rue Alcide-Jentzer 17, 1205 Genève
Tel. +41 (0)22 372 33 11

Urgences adultes

Rue Gabrielle-Perret-Gentil 2, Tel: +41 (0)22 372 81 20

Urgences gynéco-obstétricales

Bd. de la Cluse 30, Tél.: +41 (0)22 372 68 16

Urgences pédiatriques

Avenue de la Roseraie 47, Tél.: +41 (0)22 372 45 55

COMMENT TROUVER LES HUG?

Accès

Bâtiment Lina Stern: Bus n° 1, 5, 7, 35, arrêt Hôpital | Bus n° 3, arrêt Claparède

Bâtiment Gustave Julliard: Bus n° 35, arrêt Maternité-pédiatrie | Tram n° 12, 18, arrêt Augustins

Parking

Deux parkings couverts, accessibles pour les personnes à mobilité réduite, sont à votre disposition 7j/7 et 24h/24:

- H-Cluse, accès par le boulevard de la Cluse
- H-Lombard, accès par la rue Lombard

Plus d'informations sur <https://www.hug-ge.ch/en>



© Luca Fascini/HUG

Maternité: où et comment prendre rendez-vous?

Le service d'obstétrique reçoit les patientes sur rendez-vous du lundi au vendredi.

Service d'obstétrique, Maternité, Boulevard de la Cluse 30, 1205 Genève. Téléphone +41 (0)22 372 44 00

Des informations relatives à la grossesse, à la préparation à la naissance, à l'accouchement, aux contrôles et examens ainsi qu'à l'après grossesse sont disponibles à l'adresse suivante: <https://www.hug-ge.ch/en/obstetrics>

Aspects linguistiques

Aux HUG, les patients et les soignants sont liés par la «charte du patient», qui témoigne des valeurs éthiques et déontologiques des professionnels qui y travaillent. Cependant, pour les patients ayant une maîtrise limitée du français, l'application de cette charte se heurte à la barrière de langue. Afin de respecter la personne non francophone dans son intégrité,

l'informer de façon claire et complète, la traiter en partenaire, l'interprétariat est essentiel, et une partie intégrante des soins.

Différents services d'interprétariat formés pour la communication des informations médicales sont mis à disposition des équipes médico-soignantes. Ce service est gratuit pour le patient. <https://www.hug-ge.ch/en/patient-s-charter>

Assurances: paiement et remboursement

Comment est-on remboursé?

Les assurances des organisations internationales couvrent les frais d'hospitalisation aux HUG à des conditions variables, à vérifier avant toute hospitalisation planifiée. La plupart de ces assurances internationales remboursent la division commune ainsi que l'hospitalisation en division privée en chambre à deux lits, parfois un lit. Il existe également la possibilité de souscrire volontairement une assurance complémentaire privée couvrant

cette participation ainsi que la chambre un lit auprès d'un groupement des fonctionnaires internationaux.

Différences entre division commune et division privée

Dans le cadre de la législation suisse sur l'assurance maladie, toute personne domiciliée en Suisse doit être obligatoirement assurée pour une hospitalisation en division commune.

Si le patient désire bénéficier d'une hospitalisation en division privée, cela engendrera des surcoûts qui devront être pris en charge par une assurance complémentaire privée ou par le patient lui-même s'il n'est pas détenteur d'une telle assurance.

Les prestations supplémentaires résident principalement dans le choix de son médecin et le confort hôtelier en chambre à un ou à deux lits.

De nombreuses informations quant aux services proposés par la division privée des HUG sont disponibles sous <http://www.divisionprivee-hug.ch/en>

Facturation

En cas d'hospitalisation et sur envoi d'une demande de garantie des HUG à l'assurance, une confirmation de couverture est envoyée ainsi qu'un accord de paiement direct (principe du tiers payant) de l'intégralité de la facture, si l'assurance a

conclu une convention avec les HUG. La convention entre les HUG et les assurances des organisations internationales règle les modalités de prise en charge ainsi que des tarifs négociés.

L'assurance paie directement la facture d'hospitalisation aux HUG et gère ensuite le paiement de la participation éventuelle directement avec son assuré, qui la soumet à son assurance complémentaire privée le cas échéant.

En cas de traitement ambulatoire, la facture est envoyée au patient qui la règle lui-même aux HUG et la soumet pour remboursement à son assurance (principe du tiers garant).

Dans tous les cas avant d'entreprendre un traitement, il est judicieux de s'adresser à son assureur afin de connaître sa couverture d'assurance.

Information complémentaire

Chez Gustave: Au rez-de-Chaussée du bâtiment Gustave Julliard, les HUG exploitent une brasserie ouverte aux patients et au public, du lundi au vendredi de 7 h à 15 h.

HUG, Chez Gustave, Bâtiment Gustave Julliard, entrée, rue Alcide Jentzer 17, 1205 Genève
Réservation: +41 (0)79 553 09 00.
<https://www.hug-ge.ch/chez-gustave> ■

Musiques en été 5.7-22.8 2019

Genève

Genève ville de culture www.ville-geneve.ch

Alhambra Scène Ella Fitzgerald

www.musiquesenete.ch

VILLE DE GENÈVE

What to do in Geneva in summer 2019

Festivals, concerts, theatres, activities and so much more!

SARAH BENCHERIF, UNITAR

Are you ready to enjoy a beautiful summer in Geneva? Amazing water activities, stunning landscapes at the heart of nature, Geneva has some incredible summer activities to offer. You will find special offers and updates on www.cagi.ch/blog/ and our suggestions here below.



FESTIVALS

► Montreux Jazz Festival

28 June – 13 July

Montreux Jazz Festival has become an unmissable event for music fans in Switzerland and around the world. Boasting the beautiful setting of the Swiss Riviera, jazz constitutes the Festival's historic core. Over the years, other styles of music have been introduced, bound by a common thread of mutual curiosity and enthusiasm. Some free concerts at the Off Festival.

<https://www.montreuxjazzfestival.com/>

► Musiques en été

5 July – 22 August

More than thirty different outdoor and indoor concerts in two stunning settings: Parc la Grange and Alhambra theatre. The goal is to offer outstanding concerts to the Geneva population at very reasonable prices (from 0 to 30 CHF). Concerts in the park are free!

<http://www.ville-ge.ch/culture/musiques>

► Paléo Festival

23 – 28 July

Paléo Festival is today one of Europe's most important musical events and Switzerland's biggest open-air festival with more than 230,000 spectators each year. Each year, more than 200 concerts and shows are on offer. Located above the town of Nyon (onsite parking or by train).

<https://yeah.paleo.ch/>

► Fête des Vignerons

18 July – 11 August

The Fête des Vignerons pays homage to viticultural traditions many centuries old and celebrates an entire region with a spectacular show. Organized by the Confrérie des Vignerons, this celebration, unique in the world, takes place once a generation in Vevey, the town situated at the heart of the viticultural region of Lavaux, in the canton of Vaud, in Switzerland. It is the first living Swiss tradition to have been recognised by UNESCO.

<https://www.fetedesvignerons.ch/>

► Les Aubes

22 July – 1 September

Concerts and shows in the morning at sunrise (from 6 a.m. to 7 a.m.). A unique opportunity to discover original artists in the exceptional setting of the Geneva harbour.

<https://www.bains-des-paquis.ch/>

► Plein-les-Watts

15 – 17 August

Free reggae festival in Plan-les-ouates

<https://www.pleinleswatts.ch/>

► Pregny Alp Festival

3 August

A journey to the heart of Swiss Culture. Pregny Alp Festival is a festival of traditional Swiss music (Swiss folklore)

<http://pregny-alp.ch/>

► Bike & Beer Festival

22 – 24 August

Come to Bahama Yellow (Address: Rue Prevost Martin 47) for many cool events: bicycle market, vintage exhibition, Swiss Craft Beer, live music and DJ sets, burlesque shows, workshops, vintage ride, food trucks and other surprises.

<https://fr-fr.facebook.com/SuisseBinouzeFestival/>

► Geneva Beer Festival

30 – 31 August

<https://fr-fr.facebook.com/genevabeerfestival/>

► La Bâtie-Festival de Genève

30 August – 14 September

The Bâtie-Festival de Genève is a multi-disciplinary festival (music, dance, theatre and performance) made of discoveries and creations. It combines live performances, choreography, concerts and DJs with a wide range of national and international artists. Not to be missed!

<https://www.batie.ch/>

► Geneva Street Food Festival

29 August – 1 September

<http://www.gvastreetfoodfest.ch/>

LOCAL EVENTS

► Swiss Village

Jardin Anglais

24 May – 8 September

This summer, experience Switzerland in the heart of Geneva, by the lake! Located in the idyllic setting of the English Garden, discover the Swiss Village and its various activities.

<https://www.geneve.com/en/events/swiss-village-728694/>

► Grand Fireworks

Geneva Lake harbours

10 August 10 p.m.

The not-to-be-missed Grand Pyromelodic Firework Display on Saturday 10 August.

<http://www.geneve.com>

► National Day

Parc La Grange

1 August

A good opportunity to visit the charming villages in the countryside, meet locals and have a sing-along. For the national day, brunches are organized all over Switzerland on farms. The farmers welcome the public for a brunch between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. The price varies from 25 CHF to 40 CHF. Fills up quickly so need to register online early on. Popular celebrations are organized in each commune of Geneva with “feu de camp”, grilled sausages and raclette.

<https://www.brunch.ch/fr/recherche-brunch/infos-visiteurs>

► Jeûne Genevois (Genevan fast)

4 September

Why not combine the pleasure of a day in Annecy with a good deed? For the Genevan Fast, the Rotary Club of Annecy, supported by the International Geneva Club, offers, for 10 euros, the purchase of a Pass. This allows you to benefit from various advantages in the city of Annecy: free or discounted visits to tourist sites, privileges in certain shops or restaurants. The entire sale of the Pass will be donated to the “Association de sauvegarde du Léman” and the association “Grandir et créer”, both committed to the protection of nature.

<https://www.jourdessuisses.com/>

OPEN AIR CINEMAS, THEATRES & CIRCUS

► CineTransat

11 July – 18 August

Located in the Perle du Lac parc, this free outdoor cinema is a must see. With a different movie from Thursday to Sunday. Old movies, free movies, in VO with subtitles in French. Get there early for the *apéro* and a picnic! Great atmosphere.

<http://www.cinetransat.ch>

► Allianz Cinema

15 July – 25 August

Located in Port Noir, this cinema is not free and offers an outstanding view on the lake. Recent movies.

<https://allianzcinema.ch>

► Théâtre Orangerie

25 June – 28 September

French theatre in Parc de la Grange. Has a nice summery café with the possibility to eat something in a trendy unique setting. Some musical evenings with DJ and bands. Ticketing at Migros or on the spot.

<http://www.theatreorangerie.ch/>

► Cirque Knie

23 August – 12 September

The famous Knie family circus proposes dazzling acrobats and hilarious clowns from all over the world at the end of August. A yearly event loved by everyone in Geneva.

<http://www.knie.ch/cirque/accueil/>



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www.mdl-literie-geneve.ch

PARKS

With some 310 hectares of green spaces representing 20% of the city's territory, Geneva certainly deserves its name "City of Parks". Most of the parks have paddling pools, free deckchairs and snack bars. We listed here only some of them.

► **The Grange Park** has the most beautiful rose garden in Geneva with more than 200 varieties and a splendid view of the lake. In summer, the Théâtre de la Verdure organizes free concerts (See "musiques en été"). New: three goats are now living

in an enclosed plot of land. Just next to the Parc de la Grange stands the Parc des Eaux Vives which has a private clay tennis club.

► **Botanical Garden:** A living museum in the international district. The gardens offer a collection of more than 12,000 plant and tree species. In these surroundings, you can discover the world's botanical heritage and enjoy a magnificent view of the Alps.

<http://www.ville-ge.ch/cjb/>

► **Bâtie:** A forest in the middle of the city. The woods stand high above the river Arve, very close to the city centre. Children take great delight in the animal park and the enormous playground. The playground is the largest of all such installations in the city.

<http://www.ville-geneve.ch/plan-ville/parcs-jardins-plages-bains-publics/bois-batie/>

► **Parc Aventure Evaux:** Located in Onex and accessible to all, from 3 years of age and upwards, 10 different paths in the forest.

LAKE ATTRACTIONS

► **Geneva Tour:** A stunning view of Mont-Blanc, famous villas, the UN and parks along the shores of the lake. One hour cruise with detailed commentary in French, German, English, Spanish and Italian on board.

<http://www.cgn.ch/>

► **Rhone Cruise:** CHECK TIMES: Along the quiet river. The Rhône (812 km) is one of the longest rivers in Europe. During this near 3-hour cruise, you'll get to see one of the most beautiful parts of the Rhône, the nature of its riverbanks where birds and other animals come to rest and nest.

1 June to 17 September

<http://www.swissboat.com/>

► **Port miniature:** next to Baby Plage, open every day if nice weather. Kids rental boats.

<http://www.port-miniature.ch/>

► **Mouettes:** small yellow boats that you can take with your normal public transport pass.

<http://www.mouettesgenevoises.ch/>

► **Boat fishing trip:** Private boat fishing trip on Lake Geneva, to go out and catch Fera, Perch and Lake Trout, from mid-January to end of November. 1-6 passengers – minimum rental 2 hours – price per hour 250 CHF. The price is for the boat, whatever the number of passengers. Unique experience.

<http://www.genevaboats.com/>

► **Les Corsaires** have around forty different boats at your disposal. The classic pedalboat, motorboat, or electrically powered boats. Pedal boat: 22 CHF / hour to 78 CHF for a motorboat or a surprise sailing boat.

<http://www.lescorsaires.ch/>

► **Marti Marine:** if you have a boat license there is a rental company next to Paquis, quai du Mont Blanc.

FAMILY MOMENTS

► **Museums and free workshops for kids**

<https://museesdegeneve.ch/en/>

► **Paddling pools (can be found in most parks)**

<http://www.ville-geneve.ch/themes/structures-accueil-enfance-activites-extrascolaires/lieux-loisirs>

► **Pedal boats**

<http://www.bateau-location.ch/fr/les-bateaux-pedalos>

► **Port miniature**

<http://www.port-miniature.ch/>

► **Geneva Mystery**

<https://www.geneve.com/fr/efficacy-object-detail-fr/geneva-mystery-369-product/>

► **Ferme de la Gavotte: horse riding, animals to discover**

<http://www.gavotte.ch/>

► **Pick your own fruit and flowers**

<https://www.familles-nombreuses.ch/bons-plans/autocueillette-en-suisse-romande/>

► **Pro Natura nature centre**

<https://www.pronatura-ge.ch/>

► **Jardin Alpin et Vivarium**

<http://vivariumdemeyrin.ch/>

► **Parc aventure des Evaux**

<http://parcaventuregeneve.com/>

► **Bubbles kids club**

<https://www.bubblesclub.ch/site/fr/activites-sportives/>

SWIMMING POOLS & HOT BATHS

► **Piscine des Vernets**

<http://www.ville-geneve.ch/plan-ville/sports/piscine-vernets/>

► **Piscine de Varembe**

<http://www.ville-geneve.ch/plan-ville/sports/piscine-varembe/>

► **Piscine de la Fontenette**

<https://www.carouge.ch/piscine-de-la-fontenette>

► **Piscine du Lignon**

<http://www.vernier.ch/fr/culturesportetloisirs/sports/>

► **Bain Bleu: Baths & Spa**

<http://www.bain-bleu.ch/>

► **Genève-Plage**

<https://www.geneve-plage.ch/>

► **Bains de Cressy**

<https://bainsdecressy.hug-ge.ch/>

► **Vitam Parc**

(In France) Indoor sports centre with an outdoor area. Swimming pools for babies and adults, slides, spa, climbing wall, squash, badminton. Located in a shopping mall. In France, 10 mins from Geneva. By bus or car.

BEACHES

► UN Port and Beach club

UN Port, comprising a beach, port, rooftop lounge, bar and restaurant, is a staff-run facility open to all members of the broad UN family. The beach offers its visitors the possibility to enjoy a wonderful day at the lake in a private and safe environment. Whether it's swimming in the lake, sunbathing or reading a book under a tree, UN Port offers the ideal setting.

To access you will need to purchase a subscription or pay a daily access fee of 5 CHF (reduced to 2 CHF for visitors to the restaurant on non-holiday weekdays). There are stand-up paddles and pedalos available to members, and plenty of parties, brunches and other activities throughout the summer.

<https://unport.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/unport/>

► Bains des Pâquis

All year round, it's open to those who know how to relax. Visitors can enjoy a splendid view of the Jet d'Eau. Every season has its own activities. In summer, you can swim and sunbathe and sample delightful "plats du jour" from the refreshment stall. Hammam and Turkish baths complete the offer in all seasons. Entrance in the

summer 2 CHF. Also, some musical evenings, poetry reading and events, free tai chi classes. Check their calendar on site.

► Geneva Beach

An oasis of greenery at the entrance to the city with a swimming pool, a slide and a direct access to the lake. Genève-Plage offers space for sports (football, beach volleyball, ping pong, aquabike, classes), leisure, and relaxation in an exceptional setting situated 10 minutes from the city centre. Adults CHF 7 (4.50 CHF from 5 p.m.) / Enfants 3.50 CHF. Open every day until September 10 from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. Here is a list of other public beaches situated around the lake:

- Versoix Plage
- Creux-de-Genthod
- Port Gitana
- Plage du Vengeron
- Plage du Reposoir
- Bains des Pâquis – Center: sauna & hammam
- Baby Plage
- Plage des Eaux-Vives
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► Geneva Watch Tour

<http://www.genevawatchtour.com/>

► Cultural trails

<http://www.ville-geneve.ch/faire-geneve/promenades/sentiers-culturels/>

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INTERVIEW

His Excellency Mr. Chen Xu Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China

Ambassador Chen Xu is since May 2019 the new Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva.



© Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations

ALEX MEJIA, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, SARAH BENCHERIF, UNITAR

You were recently appointed Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations. Can you please tell us a little about your career and previous position?

I started my diplomatic career in the early 1980s at the Department of International Organizations and Conferences of the Foreign Ministry. Then I had two terms in New York, working on the affairs of the Security Council. I also served as the Director-General of the Department of International Organizations and Conferences, Ambassador to the Netherlands, and Director-General of the Department of European Affairs. In the past decades, I worked with the UN system and a number of other multilateral institutions, such as the G20, APEC, BRICS, and ASEM. Two weeks ago, I arrived in Geneva. China sees this city as an important stage of multilateral diplomacy and is committed to supporting the work of UNOG.

What brings China to the idea of building the Belt and Road with a global scale, and what has the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) achieved in the past six years?

Chinese President Xi Jinping introduced this initiative in the context of the current international situation. It is a way to renew the development of China and international cooperation. It runs on connectivity programs and encourages a joint response to the various challenges and risks confronting mankind, delivering win-win outcomes and common development. A total of 124 countries and 29 international organizations have signed agreements with China to be part of the initiative. Thanks to the concerted efforts of all of us involved, a general connectivity framework consisting of six corridors, six connectivity routes and multiple countries and ports has been put in place. A large number of cooperation projects have been launched. The complementarity between the BRI and the development plans or cooperation initiatives

of international and regional organizations such as the United Nations, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the African Union, the European Union, the Eurasian Economic Union and between the BRI and the development strategies of the participating countries has been enhanced. From the Eurasian continent to Africa, the Americas and Oceania, Belt and Road cooperation has opened up new space for global economic growth, produced new platforms for international trade and investment and offered new ways for improving global economic governance. Indeed, this initiative has helped improve people's lives in countries involved and created more opportunities for common prosperity.

The response of the UN and other international organizations has been particularly positive. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and heads of the World Intellectual Property Organization, the International Telecommunication Union, the

World Economic Forum, the International Labour Organization, and the International Organization for Standardization honored us with their presence at the two editions of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation and shared their important insight. Nearly 30 international organizations are working with China on BRI programs that have delivered good results. We are also partnering with the United Nations Environment Program to build the International Coalition for Green Development on the Belt and Road.

Now about the future, what are the key takeaways from the second BRI Forum and what are the priorities of the BRI for the upcoming years?

The second Belt and Road Forum was held in Beijing in April this year, attended by over 6,000 delegates from 150 countries and 92 international organizations. It called for high-quality Belt and Road cooperation and a global partnership of connectivity, outlined

283 deliverables, and created opportunities for partnerships between different business communities and subnational governments with a total of 64 billion USD of contracts signed. It consolidated the structure of BRI cooperation with over 20 platforms newly created for dialogue and cooperation in the fields of China Railway Express, ports, finance, customs, accounting, taxation, energy, environmental protection, culture, and think tanks. The forum was also an excellent opportunity for heads of state to deepen bilateral relations.

Now, the BRI comes to a new starting point. Following the blueprint envisioned by President Xi and world leaders, China will work closely with its partners to promote high-quality cooperation. Going forward, the BRI will continue to serve common development and the interests of the people. It will build global partnerships of connectivity for more countries to be integrated into the global value chain, industrial chain, and supply chain and reap benefits. In this process, universally recognized international standards and best practices will be respected. There will also be a more refined framework for the initiative and practical cooperation that deliver real benefits.

On May 15, the Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations took place in Beijing. Can you tell us the priorities of President Xi Jinping to strengthen its regional cooperation in Asia?

As President Xi noted in his keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the conference, to meet common challenges and create a better future for all, we look to culture and civilization to play their role, which is as important as the role played by economy, science and technology. The Conference is a new platform for civilizations in Asia and beyond to engage in dialogue and exchanges on an equal footing to facilitate mutual learning and produce new impetus for world peace and development.

To further promote regional cooperation in Asia, China will keep up the dynamic momentum of bilateral relations at the leadership level, strive for new progress, and pursue high-quality BRI cooperation. We will continue to implement the new Asia security concept, which is defined by common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security. In this context, we will advance bilateral and multilateral defense, law enforcement, and security cooperation, properly address difference through dialogue and consultation, and play a

constructive role in settling the hot issues to support regional peace and stability. We will also build closer ties among our peoples by holding more diverse cultural events, especially at the community level and for young people. Asia is a community with a shared future and China will be a constructive part of it.

Geneva is a hub of global governance. This year, it is celebrating 100 years of modern multilateralism. How does China contribute to this agenda?

Today, peace and development remain the dominant trends and shared aspirations of us all. Yet profound changes are also taking place. Instabilities and uncertainties are growing. Unconventional threats such as climate change, refugee crisis, and terrorism are adding to conventional ones, making a joint international response all the more compelling.

In the last few years, unilateralism and protectionism has reared its head. The good news is that more and more countries are stepping forward to resist and oppose this disturbing trend. There's a growing realization that in the age of globalization, all countries share the same destiny -we rise and fall together. Therefore, instead of each going their own

way, we should act as a team; instead of each minding their own business, we should help each other as passengers in the same boat. Championing multilateralism is the overwhelming consensus of the international community. China sees multilateralism as a cornerstone of the existing international order. China will stay committed to building a community with a shared future for mankind, continue to stand on the right side of history, and support the common interests of the majority of countries. China will work with all nations under the principle of multilateralism to resolutely uphold the international system centered on the UN and the international order underpinned by international law.

What advice do you have for young diplomats and international civil servants?

I hope the younger generation will spend more time studying history, the history of their own country and that of the world, because history is a mirror in which we can see the future. It is also important to follow what is happening in the world and think carefully about how individuals can contribute to the strength of their country and to global cooperation. ■

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Coaching

How to create cultures that value connection, meaningful dialogue and staff engagement

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SARA CANNA, HR SPECIALIST WHO

Diversity, multicultural environments, working in different countries and within virtual teams add to the complex and often uncertain workplaces of the global UN System organizations making it more challenging for managers and staff. There is however a well validated approach that can help: coaching!

Coaching is an evidence-based discipline, backed by science; it is a solution-focused, systematic and thought-provoking process that helps individuals improve their performance while at the same time maximizing their personal and professional potential. It is an individual approach that allows objectives to be clarified by progressively making the individual more self-aware of their resources, in order to go from point A to point B.

Coaching gives managers a new leadership style and tools to interact with their team in a more participatory way, to better channel their power and authority in a positive way, making staff feel valued, more engaged and empowered. It is in fact very

well known that one of the main reasons for dissatisfaction at work are relations. Good relations or bad relations have a huge impact at work!

Coaching, however, is not only a way of improving relations between managers and staff, it is also a way of increasing staff productivity, engagement and performance at work. Timothy Gallwey from Harvard University, author of a series of books on the development of personal and professional excellence, and one of the founders of coaching, came up with the formula that performance (or doing something well) in a fulfilled way equates to one's potential minus the interferences (our personal doubts, lack of self-confidence, limited motivation or knowledge etc.). This means that, by taking away all interferences through coaching, one can perform successfully in life and at work. Hence coaching is about excelling, not "fixing problems".

What would it be like to work in an organization in which staff feel empowered, recognised for their contributions

and interconnected with colleagues in a socially fulfilling way? This is the dream and passion that motivated five HR staff and ICF¹ certified coaches to introduce coaching in their respective organizations: WHO, WIPO, OCHA and the UN Office at Geneva (UNOG). They took the initiative to join forces by sharing knowledge, tools and resources to co-create four half-day coaching sessions for managers and staff. The sessions were aimed at introducing coaching skills through a highly interactive and experiential learning setting where trust, openness and confidentiality are ensured as ground rules. Mixing together staff from four UN organizations is also a way to expose participants to different organizational challenges and cultures, in a mutually enriching context: a concrete example of inter-agency collaboration and cross-fertilization.

“When I started this initiative in 2018 by reaching out to colleagues in the UN, I wanted to capitalize on the values we have in common, building on the richness of our internal talent and resources”, says Sara Canna, HR Specialist from WHO “and it is now so rewarding to see that we have

a well-consolidated programme on which to build for the future. I am conscious that we are planting the seeds of a new culture and mindset and that the fruits will be seen in the long term, but I am confident that we can make positive change starting by doing small steps.”

Beate Giffo-Schmitt, HR Officer and Internal Coach & Trainer at WIPO says: *“During the International Coaching Week, WIPO organized for the first time a “Coaching Day” on April 30, 2019 with a variety of short coaching sessions and presentations on coaching for WIPO staff and managers. Some forty participants benefited from the occasion to learn more about the coaching approach. Currently there are six WIPO staff members who are certified coaches (“internal coaches”) and who assist with coaching activities offered by WIPO to staff.”*

But what are the key ingredients for a successful coaching relationship? And what are the factors that facilitate a coaching culture in an organization? In both situations, it all comes down to *change in mindsets and trust*: we need a mindset that believes in the potential of individuals and renewed relationships based on trust. And because this is a difficult change process, which can sometimes provoke fear or resistance, peer-to-peer coaching can help in overcoming the fear of change.

Not all staff or managers need in fact to be professional coaches in order to be able to have coaching conversations at work, or what we also call “corridor coaching”. By empathically listening to our colleagues and asking open questions that trigger reflection, we can often gain useful insights on

our own problems. So the benefits are multiple! Jesus Guerrero, Chief, Management and Communication Unit at the Centre for Learning and Multilingualism at ONUG says: *“It was very encouraging to observe how participants evolved during the programme and how they left feeling empowered by the coaching techniques they learned.”*

“OCHA Geneva-based staff who participated in the workshops found the managerial issues they were confronted with not very different from those that managers in the other organizations were experiencing. Practising coaching skills with colleagues from different offices created a safe and enabling environment for their conversations” reported OCHA Talent Manager and Coach, Claudia Purpura.

The collaboration among the four UN organizations on coaching initiatives will continue throughout 2019 with a new set of coaching sessions for staff and managers starting in September through December, where new tools and approaches will be introduced to answer participants’ needs and expectations. And who knows what other UN organizations will be joining us in this challenging and rewarding journey.... one which aims at changing mindsets and building healthier work environments. ■

The coaches team: Jesus Guerrero, Claudia Purpura, Sara Canna and Beate Giffo-Schmitt. Virginie Ferré, Chief, Language Training Programme, Centre for Learning and Multilingualism at UNOG is absent from the picture because currently on maternity leave.

1. ICF stands for International Coach Federation and is the leading global organization dedicated to advancing the coaching profession by setting high standards, providing independent certification and building a worldwide network of trained coaching professionals.

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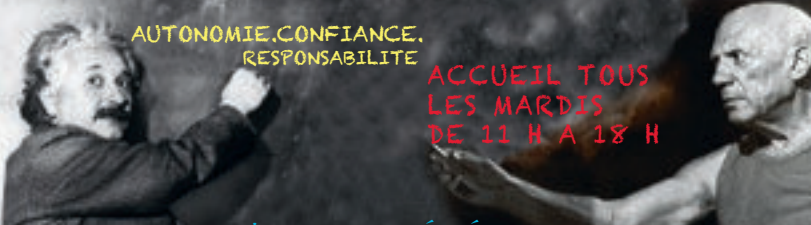
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Please read this before you answer the ICSC global staff survey designed to affect your pay, benefits and allowances!

The staff federations have received numerous requests from staff seeking guidance relative to the ICSC global staff survey on the UN compensation package. If you have not already received the survey you will via an email from your respective organization inviting you to participate therein.

BRETT FITZGERALD, PRESIDENT OF FICSA, IAN RICHARDS, PRESIDENT OF CCISUA

In respect of implementation of the new compensation package, the UN General Assembly in its Resolution A/RES/70/244 invited the Commission to report back to the GA's 71st session with a progress report on the implementation as well as related findings of a global staff survey on conditions of service. As with a similar survey in 2013, it would be the intention to use the survey results to guide the ICSC and GA in making adjustments to your salary and benefits.

Your answers will therefore impact your overall pay.

The staff federations had requested the ICSC Secretariat representatives responsible for this survey to provide the questions prior to the survey's publication, for consultation purposes. Regrettably, the ICSC Secretariat did not accept the federations' request, and the organizations are proceeding with the publication of the survey.

Having received concerns from staff about some of the questions, their phrasing and

how the answers may be used given experience with the survey in 2013, the staff federations have jointly prepared **the below guidance**. Based on these staff concerns as well as experiences with how the ICSC has functioned in the past, you may find the below analysis of certain sensitive questions in the survey to be useful as you fill it in. The federations have informed the ICSC that they will be broadcasting this analysis.

Since its implementation in 2016 many of you have conveyed to us your concerns with the new compensation package. Now is your opportunity to submit those concerns directly to the ICSC on an anonymous basis.

GUIDANCE ON THE 2019 ICSC GLOBAL STAFF SURVEY

Overall views about current compensation

- I feel my overall compensation package is fair for the contribution I make in my particular job
- I feel my overall compensation package is fair in comparison with others in my organization
- I feel my overall compensation package is competitive compared with other similar organizations outside the UN System
- I feel my salary (base pay + post adjustment where applicable) is competitive compared with other similar organizations
- I feel my allowances and benefits are competitive compared with other similar organizations
- This organization offers a good benefits package

These statements link essentially to the same point. The stronger your agreement with these statements, the more likely that your compensation

might be perceived as being overly generous, and the greater the likelihood that it could be cut again.

- I understand how my salary (base pay + post adjustment where applicable) is determined
- I understand how my allowances and benefits are determined
- I have a good understanding of the UN compensation system/the system is easily understood

These statements link essentially to the same point. The stronger your disagreement with these statements, the more likely that your compensation might be perceived as too complicated, and the more likely that efforts could be made to simplify it and, in the process, cut it.

Joining your first UN Common System Organization

- Please indicate the most important factors in your decision to accept your first offer of employment in a UN Common System organization

If you do not include “salaries” and “allowances” among your selection, it is more likely that these might not be seen as important, and the more likely the chance they could be cut.

Retention

- What are the main reasons that you intend to be working in your organization in 12 months’ time?

If you do not include “salaries” and “allowances” among your selection, it is more likely that these might not be seen as important as retention tools, and the more likely that they could be cut.

Allowances / benefits

- All questions

Non-awareness by staff of a particular benefit has been used in the past as a reason to eliminate it. Even if you don’t receive a particular benefit at present, you may do in the future. It therefore helps to be aware of each benefit.

Career progression and performance / the future

- In my organization pay is sufficiently linked to individual performance
- Stronger links should be made between pay and individual performance in my organization
- I feel that my individual performance is fairly assessed
- In my organization performance of teams is rewarded and recognised

The stronger your agreement with these statements, the more likely that additional within-grade steps could be removed and a bonus system introduced. It remains unclear how performance would be objectively measured and how much would even be paid into a bonus pool by fiscally conservative member states. Experiences elsewhere in the public sector have not been positive. It should be recalled that agreement with these statements in the 2013 survey led the ICSC to reduce the number of within-grade steps and their frequency, with the money returned to member states.

Open Questions

- If you could change just one thing about the compensation system as a whole what would it be?

As an example, those of you who have expressed dissatisfaction with the new education grant scheme could use your response to this open question to highlight your dissatisfaction with that element of the new compensation package.

- What one thing would you NOT change about the compensation system as a whole?

This is a good chance to think about benefits that are important to you and to give them visibility.

The staff federations trust that the above analysis and guidance address the queries and concerns received from staff, and would like to take this opportunity to assure everyone that the federations will continue to convey your requests and issues to the ICSC Secretariat and the Commission in a constructive spirit while continuing to pursue improvements in the consultative process and working methods of the ICSC. ■

The case for learning etiquette

Georgette Davey, Managing Director of Glion Institute of Higher Education, explains why etiquette is an essential modern-day skill.



GEORGETTE DAVEY¹

Since Meghan Markle and Prince Harry married in 2018, a number of news pieces have emerged on how the American is expected to behave now that she is a member of the British royal family. Commentators have drawn attention to royal traditions that guide what to eat (no garlic), how a female member of the royal family should dress while in public with the Queen (favouring pastels and neutral colours) and how she should sit (preferably by crossing legs at the ankles or practising the “duchess slant”).

When US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un met last year, a simple greeting quickly became the subject of controversy. Following an initial handshake with Mr Kim, Mr Trump offered his hand to General No Kwang-chol, who saluted instead. The president returned the salute, leading some observers to question whether the gesture went against military and diplomatic protocol.

Etiquette as a shared language

As the above examples show, etiquette matters. What’s more, etiquette spans a broad range of behaviours, choices and actions. It includes body language, manners, appearance, interpersonal skills and official protocol.

In the public eye, following etiquette and protocol is key to both demonstrating and earning respect. But etiquette is needed not only by royals, politicians and diplomats. It is a universal language that facilitates daily interactions in business and in society. After all, it’s harder to negotiate over a meal if you’re worried about which fork to use.

Meanwhile, in today’s globalised world, knowledge of international etiquette is crucial to avoid miscommunication or committing a cultural faux pas. Greetings, punctuality and table manners are all examples of customs that vary across cultures. But how does one learn etiquette?



Understanding the value of etiquette

In the Western world, many examples of modern-day etiquette can be traced back to the French royal court of the 17th century. More recently, in the 19th and 20th centuries, Switzerland gained worldwide recognition as a leader in etiquette education, with many high-profile international students, such as Diana, Princess of Wales, attending Swiss finishing schools.

Today, even though finishing schools are no longer as common as they once were, etiquette is no less important. In fact, good etiquette is essential for business success. According to research conducted by the Carnegie Foundation, just 15% of professional success depends on technical skills and job knowledge, while 85% depends on interpersonal skills. Meanwhile, in a survey conducted by Accountemps, 65% of managers and 46% of workers believed that being courteous can accelerate career advancement.

Etiquette – that combination of manners, emotional intelligence and soft skills, or *savoir-vivre* and *savoir-être*, as the French say – is not learned through books, but by practice. At Glion Institute of Higher Education, our hospitality management students internalise etiquette through practical experience, including service roles on campus and professional internships completed abroad. Certain guidelines also help: Anthony Durand, Senior Lecturer and Manager Banqueting, Events and Boutiques, identifies the following six habits as prerequisites to business protocol:

- Be on time
- Be discreet
- Be courteous, pleasant and positive
- Be concerned with others
- Dress appropriately
- Use proper written and spoken language

Practice makes perfect

“I strongly believe in learning by doing,” Mr Durand says. “At Glion, students develop their sense of etiquette naturally as

they take on responsibilities such as welcoming visitors in our lobby or serving guests in our gastronomic restaurant. They learn to look their best as they follow our business dress code daily. They are mentored by our faculty, but ultimately, it is through experience that they come to understand *l’art de recevoir*, the art of welcoming, and how to act appropriately in a variety of contexts.”

In the business world, first impressions are particularly important. For this reason, Glion’s dedicated careers department arranges mock interviews and advises students on business etiquette ranging from appearance to body language and communication. With around 70 companies visiting campus each semester to recruit talent, students also have many opportunities to practise and polish their interview and presentation skills. Through these experiences, students develop their sense of business etiquette and gain the skills to approach interviews and meetings with confidence.

A process of continuous learning

Of course, etiquette is also constantly evolving, influenced by shifts in technology and culture. “The paper invitations sent to announce social events in the past are today often replaced by social media invites or mobile messages, and ‘netiquette’ now has its own set of rules,” Mr Durand observes. “Meanwhile, globalisation has led to a wider appreciation of etiquette across cultures – for example, nowadays many business professionals in Europe know that in East Asian culture, they should use both hands when presenting business cards, but that awareness was less common just a decade ago.”

International exposure is key to understanding cultural differences in business and social

etiquette. At Glion, students learn alongside classmates who represent around 90 different nationalities, enabling them to exchange experiences of protocol and etiquette around the world and constantly learn from each other. Experiences studying and working abroad also provide valuable learning opportunities, which is why Glion connects students with professional internships across the globe, and students at Glion’s flagship campus in Switzerland are encouraged to spend an exchange semester at partner campuses in London, Marbella or Shanghai.

The importance of etiquette is particularly evident in multilingual, multicultural Switzerland, which is home to many of the world’s international organizations. At global forums such as the United Nations, etiquette plays a vital role in preventing misunderstandings and ensuring that all feel welcome. From meetings to the dining table, protocol and manners pave the way for conversations to be had and decisions to be made. Far from old-fashioned, etiquette is a shared code of respect, an attitude and a life-long skill – one from which we can all benefit. ■

1 Georgette Davey serves as Managing Director of Glion Institute of Higher Education, a leading hospitality management institution with campuses in Switzerland and the UK. She has more than two decades of experience in academic leadership and hospitality management.

Designing the Education of the Future

Perceptions and predictions of an experienced educator on the future of education.

ENVER YÜCEL¹

Predictions concerning technology and the future are rapidly turning into reality as individualized and interactive technologies like artificial intelligence, cloud, internet of things and virtual / augmented reality are becoming integral parts of our personal and professional lives. The way we work and communicate is thus transforming in business, education, economy, health and security. This accelerating digital transformation is replacing obsolete professions with new ones like AI teachers and analysts, data architects, block chain legal counsels, 3D designers and manufacturing engineers. We can safely say that the world is changing faster than it ever did. It is inevitable that this change will affect education, since education is the source for developing human capacities for finding sustainable solutions to current and future problems.

The history of the world involves many changes, of which only the ideas of pioneers are carried to today. We should thus do more than just wonder about coming changes and take proactive steps. We should become pioneers of change by creating accessible and innovative ideas with added value and applicability in real life. When economies of past decade are analyzed, it is clear that neither machinery nor currency gained as much value as innovative and authentic ideas. Therefore, it is our job

as teachers and educators to do the best we can to raise young generations as technologically adept, self-confident, entrepreneurial, visionary, social and creative thinkers.

Teaching students to memorize information is not the way to educate them; contrarily, we should reevaluate real life problems in their learning environments, allow them to form collaborative solutions and experience learning, knowledge creation and information gathering hands on. We can use the STEM+A approach to teach students science, technology, mathematics, engineering and arts in an interdisciplinary manner so as to enable them to integrate this approach into their thinking styles and come up with sustainable solutions to real life problems. By combining principles of learning by experience with innovative teaching programs and flexible learning designs, we can ensure that life and education do not fall apart but become intertwined. Here, we should consider not only in-class learning environments but also technological habits, abilities and interest areas of students while providing services in education, such as incorporating e-sports or drones into cultural activities to reach desired learning outcomes. That is why teachers and educators must closely follow recent developments in the world.

Another impact of technology, especially digitalization and



Mr. Enver Yücel (middle) BAU and CIFAL Istanbul Chairman and Bahçeşehir College robotics team.

social media, is the elimination of distances between countries and cultures. In order to adapt to today's needs, human beings need soft skills like self-learning, resilience, respect, collaboration, self-regulation and creativity, which are essentially encoded in our human foundation. Educational systems should mentor individuals to redefine their self-values and culture as well as raise them as human beings who internalize universal values, are able to perceive differences between cultures and habitats as enriching, and work efficiently with each other.

In addition to technological developments, we must also be aware of changes in our world. In line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, it is the duty of all countries to work towards ending poverty, hunger and inequality, and promoting good health, well-being, quality education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, decent work, economic and industrial growth, innovation and infrastructure, sustainable cities and communities, responsible production and consumption, climate action, life on earth, peace, justice and strong institutions. In order to be realized, these goals should become life styles for new generations and mandatory parts of their curricula.

Education systems should be revised in terms of curriculum,

methodology, assessment and evaluation as a whole in accordance with the changing needs of society, the impact of technology on human life and the characteristics of new generations. Students in the education system today should be able to adapt to continuous and rapid changes, and use current innovations to become problem solvers, designing and applying their ideas as creative minds who pioneer upcoming innovations. Digitalization and transformation in education should not be limited to keeping up with developments in the world; education must be the first sector to adapt to developments and predict future steps. In order to reach these goals, K12 education should focus on developing soft skills and raising students to become critical thinkers who are self-learners and able to reach information, while the curricula of secondary and undergraduate education should lean towards innovation nourished by research and supported by further soft skills development. I, having spent 40 years on continuous improvement in education, am aware that the task is difficult. However, we owe it to future generations to try to make the world a better place. That is why we must continue to work hard, united together. ■

1 Bahçeşehir University (BAU) / CIFAL Istanbul

Yücel, Enver (2019). *A life dedicated to education*. Washington DC: Mentora Publishing.

Lectures Estivales / Summer Reading

MARIE-JOSÉ ASTRE-DÉMOULIN, EX ONUG

En hommage à la «Grève des femmes» du 14 juin dernier, deux propositions de livres inspirants:

Le sang des mirabelles, Camille de Peretti, éditions Calmann Levy.

Un retour vers le Moyen-Âge, à travers les yeux de deux jeunes femmes. L'une qui se veut libre d'aimer et qui, dès lors, s'expose à de grands risques. L'autre qui se passionne pour l'herboristerie et la médecine, ce qui lui vaudra d'être accusée de sorcellerie. Insolite et éclairant.

Une femme en contre-jour, Gaëlle Josse, éditions Notabilia.

Sous la plume de Gaëlle Josse, le destin tragique de Vivian Maier. Une femme habitée par un véritable amour pour la photographie mais qui a vécu une vie terne – et qui est morte dans la misère. Ses clichés seront retrouvés par hasard et elle est aujourd'hui exposée dans les plus prestigieuses galeries d'art du monde. Emouvant, sobre, dur et beau comme la vie! À ne pas manquer. ■

GARRY ASLANYAN, WHO, DEPUTY EDITOR

Here Comes the Sun by Nicole Dennis-Benn uncovers another side to life in Jamaica and the Caribbean.

This is not typical summer reading you would read on the beach. In a way, it is everything but a beach novel, but happens in the place where many take vacations. But don't hesitate to give it a try. Montego Bay, Jamaica. You may think of palm trees and umbrella drinks. But no, it is not that. *Here Comes the Sun* by Nicole Dennis-Benn is about those to whom tourists can barely be bothered to talk to because they are only workers in the background.

Through the stories and lives of the characters in the book you experience raw oppression that still exists – race, sexuality and class in post-colonial Jamaica. Beware, the book is full of patois. I had hard time at the beginning understanding certain parts. But it gets easier. For those of us working in development, it is a perfect play of how the cycle of exploitation repeats itself. One of the main characters



profits from the girls in her prostitution ring the way her mother profited from selling her. Women in Jamaica take what they can get. The government that needs real estate developers to invest leaves working-class locals, women especially, with few options. The rum-and-reggae island of vacationers presented from a totally different angle. ■

SARAH JORDAN, DEPUTY EDITOR, UNOG

My two favourite reads since last summer.

Both these books have a central theme that is extremely topical, and topical themes in contemporary literature are anything but light. However, not only did they succeed in making me reflect, they also entertained me in a bitter-sweet kind of way. They made me laugh and they made me cry, but ultimately, both offer optimistic conclusions and can thus be classified as tales of redemption.

The Salt Path, an autobiography by Raynor Winn deals with the theme of homelessness. Imagine losing everything you possess in your 50s through no fault of your own and then, into the bargain, discovering your husband has an incurable disease and only a short time to live... The way Raynor and her husband, Moss, deal with their predicament is not what

you would expect. They set off walking on a path around the south-west coast of England with two rucksacks and a tent and keep going... for 1,000 km! The descriptions of the sea and nature are wondrous and Raynor's reflections on society, life, and love are profoundly moving. The book was shortlisted for the 2018 Costa biography award.

Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine

by Gail Honeyman won the 2017 Costa Debut Novel Award. Its theme is loneliness – not the solitude of older people – but that of a 29-year old social misfit, the eponymous Eleanor. This quotation from Eleanor, who tells her story in the first person, is illustrative of what you will find in the book: “If someone asks you how you are, you are meant to say FINE. You are not meant to say that you cried yourself to sleep last night because you hadn't spoken to another person for two consecutive days. FINE is what you say.” At the end of the story, you really feel as if you know Eleanor and empathise with her. The actress Reese Witherspoon has bought the film rights, although just who will interpret Eleanor has not yet been announced. I'd place my bets on her becoming a big star... Bridget Jones was our close-to-real-life heroine of the year 2000. Eleanor Oliphant will certainly be her successor in 2020. ■



© Carla Edelembos

La Suisse inconnue, à la découverte des 26 cantons

Vaud: Perroy

*Une série de 26 impressions des lieux
plutôt inconnus – loin du tourisme.*

CARLA EDELEMBOS, EX HCDH

Il y a des villages qui ont tout pour plaire.

Vous avez peut-être vu le panneau sur la Route Suisse après le Château de Rolle indiquant la direction pour Perroy. Mais normalement, vous continuez, vers Lausanne, suivant la route du lac, et vous ne vous arrêtez point. Peut-être vous venez de faire une pause à Rolle, et vous avez hâte de continuer. Erreur! Perroy est une perle cachée qui vaut bien la peine de découvrir.

À Perroy vous trouverez un très beau bourg, des vignobles à vue perdue, un château, même des vaches (on est en Suisse quand-même) et des chevaux. Les habitants sont chaleureux, ils vous disent bonjour quand vous passez, ils vous sourient.

L'église de Perroy date du XV^e siècle mais a subi un nouvel aménagement en style néo-classique au XIX^e siècle. Lors de la Réforme, le prieuré, (datant du XII^e siècle) a été sécularisé et il est actuellement utilisé comme mairie. L'église et le prieuré forment le cœur du village.

De belles maisons et des domaines viticoles les entourent. Le château, un peu plus loin, date de la fin de la XV^e siècle – malheureusement on ne peut l'admirer que de l'extérieur.

Selon le site de la commune, la première mention de Perroy date de l'année 910! A l'époque on écrivait Pirrhois et le territoire appartenait au roi de Bourgogne. Pourtant, malgré son histoire bien attestée, Perroy n'est pas du

tout une bourgade endormie mais reste un village vivant. L'école occupe une des grandes demeures classiques pas loin du prieuré avec une vue imprenable sur le lac. De nouvelles maisons se construisent – avec raison, puisque les gens aiment habiter à Perroy. Le peu de logements vides se vendent comme des petits pains chauds, me dit la patronne de la boulangerie. Le futur de l'école est donc assuré pour l'instant. Ainsi ça va pour la boulangerie avec son salon de thé, l'épicerie et l'auberge. Et en face de la boulangerie, une artiste locale vend des tables de jardin peintes avec des paysages lacustres, qui donnent envie de l'été qui ne va plus tarder pour longtemps.

Ce mercredi, l'auberge La Passade est bondée. La

patronne n'a pas de temps de manger, elle court avec un sourire aimable. Je ne commande qu'une bonne soupe de légumes mais les gens autour de moi mangent de vrais repas, ou se mettent au bar pour un verre de vin local et une assiette de charcuterie. La Passade est une auberge traditionnelle – pas de chic, mais de vrai. L'endroit a une longue histoire et est le lieu central d'un thriller («L'inconnu de la Passade») publié par un écrivain local, Jean-Robert Probst.

Presque la moitié du territoire de Perroy est couverte de vignobles. Hélas, j'avais choisi le mauvais jour pour une dégustation car les caves ne sont ouvertes que le vendredi après-midi et le samedi matin, pas le mercredi! Heureusement que l'épicerie

vend des produits locaux (y inclus de la féra fumée du lac!), et j'ai quand-même pu partir avec une bonne bouteille de pinot noir. Perroy est fier de sa viticulture: même la boulangerie vend des petits pains sucrés en forme de grappe de raisins.

Une petite balade par les vignobles direction du lac s'impose donc. En cette journée de mars, il fait beau, grand soleil, mais la bise souffle. Le lac brille avec des milliers de petites vagues. Une volée de cormorans passe au-dessus de l'eau, et disparaissent de vue. Ce n'est pas aujourd'hui qu'ils voleront les poissons des pêcheurs perrolans.

Au port, le Venoge attend. Ce bateau (nommé après la rivière vaudoise bien connue) a été construit en 1905 pour le transport des marchandises sur le Léman. C'était le

tout premier bateau avec un moteur diesel! En 2006 il a été sauvé de la casse par une association des amateurs qui l'ont transformé et équipé d'une cuisine et d'une salle de réception. Grâce à eux, si vous avez une occasion pour faire la fête, vous pouvez maintenant louer ce bateau unique pour une excursion au lac depuis le port de Perroy.

De retour au village, je prends un café au tea-room et dis au revoir à ce village charmant, si proche de Genève. J'y retournerai avec plaisir!

Depuis Genève, prenez le train pour Rolle. Depuis Rolle, le bus 846 ou 721 (direction Allaman) vous amène à Perroy dans 10 minutes. Durée totale du trajet: 45 minutes. ■



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Parrains et Marraines pour le Népal

Le Népalais Dawa Sherpa s'est construit une destinée hors norme de sportif de haut niveau qui l'a emmené jusqu'en Europe.

CLAUDE MAILLARD

Au fil des années et des expériences qui l'ont conduit de son village natal de Taksindu, dans la vallée du Khumbu, aux pentes de l'Himalaya comme aide-cuisinier dans les expéditions, le Népalais Dawa Sherpa s'est construit une destinée hors norme de sportif de haut niveau qui l'a emmené jusqu'en Europe.

Icône du trail-running dans les années 1990 et 2000 (voir le *UN Special* de septembre 2013), Dawa Sherpa a connu une carrière sportive phénoménale. Vainqueur des plus prestigieuses épreuves de la planète, dont l'Ultra Trail du Mont-Blanc, la 6000 D, le Grand Raid des Pyrénées, l'Ultra Trail Atlas Toubkal, le Trail Restonica... il a

également représenté son pays à l'occasion des Jeux Olympiques d'hiver de Turin, de Vancouver et de Sotchi en ski de fond.

Privé de nouveaux succès suite à une blessure à un genou, Dawa continue néanmoins d'illuminer les trails auxquels il participe toujours, et sa «bonne parole», toute en sagesse et bienveillance, ne cesse d'irradier le cœur des pelotons.

Depuis le séisme qui a dévasté le Népal en 2015, une nouvelle «mission» l'anime: reconstruire les pans de son village natal, sortir ses habitants de la misère sociale, tout en guidant ses compatriotes vers un avenir moins incertain. Mais déjà bien avant cette catastrophe qui a traumatisé son pays, causé la

mort de milliers de ses habitants et fait de nombreux blessés et sinistrés, Dawa Sherpa et son épouse Annie s'étaient investis pour venir en aide au peuple népalais.

L'association «Parrains et Marraines pour le Népal»

concentre ses actions sur les villages de Taksindu et de Chhulemu, isolés au pied de l'Everest, à 280 km de Katmandou.

Ces projets sont notamment réalisables grâce à l'engagement des coureurs qui disputent les manifestations sportives et trails organisés par Dawa Sherpa. L'ensemble des bénéficiaires dégagés par les courses sont investis dans la réalisation de ces projets humanitaires. Depuis 2008, Dawa organise une course à pied au Népal. Et pour l'instant, avec les participants du «Solukhumbu Trail», 20 enfants du village de Chulemu ont pu être parrainés. Quatre autres épreuves («Trail du toit du monde» disputé au Tibet, «Trail des 3 vallées» au Népal, «Zanskar & Ladakh

adventure Trail» couru en Inde et «Les volcans de l'extrême» en Indonésie) permettent également aux passionnés de course à pied de s'en donner à cœur joie et de contribuer à l'avenir de l'association fondée par Annie et Dawa Sherpa.

Mais chacun peut également participer aux actions de l'association en adhérant à «Parrains et Marraines pour le Népal» en parrainant un enfant ou en faisant un don. Le but est de leur donner un minimum d'éducation afin que ces enfants, qui font partie des plus démunis, puissent suivre une scolarité. L'école n'étant pas obligatoire au Népal, les enfants s'occupent du bétail ou travaillent dans les champs et beaucoup encore ne savent ni lire, ni écrire. Il n'est pas rare de voir des porteurs marquer de leur empreinte la réception de leur paie, ne sachant pas écrire leur nom.

Le parrainage est de 450 euros par an. Il permet de payer les frais et le matériel scolaire de l'enfant parrainé. Il propose également une aide financière



© Dawa Sherpa



© Dawa Sherpa

à la famille pour pallier le manque de l'enfant à l'exploitation. Quant aux dons libres, chacun peut verser le montant de son choix. Les sommes récoltées entrent dans la caisse commune qui permet d'aider les enfants qui ne sont pas parrainés.

Arriver à quelque chose même en partant de rien, telle peut être la devise de Dawa Sherpa. Toute une infrastructure est à mettre en place pour améliorer le quotidien de ce peuple isolé dans l'Himalaya et Dawa s'y est également attelé, toujours épaulé par la société genevoise INDUNI spécialisée dans la construction de bâtiments.

En 2008, lorsque le Dr Zellner de l'IFREMMONT (Institut de formation et de recherche en médecine de montagne) arrive à Taksindu, il remarque qu'un bâtiment est laissé à l'abandon. Un des cuisiniers du staff lui apprend qu'il s'agissait d'un dispensaire fondé par une association allemande mais qui n'avait fonctionné qu'une année faute de fonds. Naît alors le projet, après en avoir discuté avec Dawa Sherpa, de rouvrir une structure. Après de longues démarches administratives réalisées par le village de Taksindu, avec l'aide de l'association Cap Chulemo, le dispensaire a été réouvert en avril 2012. Le but est de faire

fonctionner ce dispensaire avec des moyens locaux, seule certitude de durer dans le temps. Pour le moment, un infirmier est présent en permanence et délivre les premiers soins. La mise en réseau est en cours avec les structures de Lukla (Fondation Nicole Niquille) et de Phablu (Dr Mingma Sherpa) et le projet est de mettre en place des moyens de télémédecine.

Dans le village de Gumney Mera, l'association «Parrains et Marraines pour le Népal» a permis la construction d'une école monastique. Quatre bâtiments peuvent accueillir plus de cinquante enfants de la région. Des réservoirs d'eau de 20 000 litres nécessaires pour alimenter le village et l'école à certaines périodes de l'année ont été installés. Depuis peu, l'électricité alimente les maisons mais beaucoup de réalisations restent à faire pour venir en aide à ce village très isolé.

Autre projet en cours dans le village de Taksindu pour Dawa Sherpa, la réalisation d'un centre d'accueil pour personnes âgées pouvant accueillir vingt résidents. Passé un certain âge, il est vraiment difficile de vivre dans les maisons familiales. La cuisine est faite au feu de bois et les plus âgés souffrent de cette fumée qui emplit leurs poumons et brûle leurs yeux. Le but est de leur offrir un

habitat où ils pourraient vivre en autonomie mais avec une assistance. Le regroupement des aînés permettra aussi à un nombre réduit de personnel médical d'exercer. Le budget total pour cette réalisation est estimé à 180 000 euros. A ce jour, l'association a pu investir 20 000 euros pour l'achat des matériaux et le début de la construction.

Suite aux séismes d'avril 2015 qui ont secoué le Népal, un considérable chantier de reconstruction s'est aussitôt engagé grâce aux différents dons. Il a permis en tout premier lieu d'acheter des tôles et des toiles afin d'abriter les habitants des villages sinistrés. Depuis, une dizaine de maisons ont été rebâties quasiment à neuf et 33 ont été réhabilitées avec quelques réparations. Mais, si aujourd'hui la plupart des familles sont correctement logées, il reste encore un travail colossal à fournir pour que l'ensemble du village isolé soit reconstruit. En effet, tous les matériaux doivent être transportés à dos d'homme sur plusieurs dizaines de kilomètres sur des sentiers extrêmement escarpés tracés au milieu des forêts, ne rendant pas la tâche facile.

Alors, que vous soyez sportif ou non, si vous voulez soutenir d'une façon ou d'une

autre Annie et Dawa Sherpa dans leur but de venir en aide au peuple népalais, vous pouvez contacter leur association domiciliée en Haute Savoie, au pied du Môle, emblématique montagne située dans la vallée de Chamonix, à deux pas de la frontière avec la Suisse. ■

«Parrains et Marraines pour le Népal»

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© Fabrice Nessisi

Ten years of musical talent in Tannay

Ranked as one of the top summer classical music festivals in the region, the Variations Musicales de Tannay celebrates this year its 10th anniversary, with another outstanding and varied programme of music for all ages.

VERONICA RIEMER, WHO

The Festival is known for its support for young talent and this year is no exception. Among the top names such as Khatia and Gvantsa Buniatishvili (piano), Edgar and Jérémie Moreau (cello and piano), Kit Armstrong (piano) and Adelaide Ferrière (marimba), the festival also sees the return of Renaud Capuçon who has enchanted audiences in Tannay over the past years. For the first time, his brother Gautier Capuçon will be performing with six cellists from the Classe d'excellence at the Louis Vuitton Foundation.

This year the Festival welcomes five orchestras from Basel, Lausanne and Milan and for the first time in Tannay, for a night

of Cuban music and dancing, Siga Volando will be performing with the Chamber Orchestra of Geneva, bringing a colourful, tropical and exotic atmosphere to the grounds of the chateau.

Young students from the Conservatoire de l'Ouest Vaudois (COV) will be giving one of three free concerts offered by the organizers. From the same conservatoire, the festival welcomes a young talented pianist from Genolier, Laetitia Exertier, winner of the Rondo Vanguard International Competition in New York, first prize in the Swiss Youth Music Competition in Lugano in 2015 and the winner of the Prix Steinway in 2017.

The traditional afternoon tea and concert for children featuring musicians from the Orchestre Intermezzo (comprising musicians from the Orchestre Conservatoire de Genève) performing Peer Gynt and animated by actress Anne Durand, will take place on Saturday 24 August. This is a wonderful introduction of classical music to younger audiences, and always appreciated by their parents as well.

President of the Variations Musicales, Serge Schmidt is the driving force behind his dedicated committee and team of local volunteers. His enthusiasm and passion for classical music is evident as well as his wish to share this joy. "I want to encourage the younger generation to come and taste different flavours of music. It does require some effort, but this is a gentle initiation to some classical pieces that make up our repertoire." To this end, free entrance is offered for the morning concerts, and under 16s accompanied by their parents benefit throughout the Festival. Half-price entrance is offered for 17 to 25 year-olds.

Audiences can enjoy a full range of summer refreshments before and during the performances which are served in the park overlooking the lake. The Festival runs from 16 to 29 August and further details about the concerts as well as ticket bookings can be found at <https://www.musicales-tannay.ch> ■

Message du rédacteur en chef

Vous aimeriez partager votre opinion sur le magazine et son contenu?

N'hésitez plus et écrivez-nous !

Nous serions heureux de recevoir votre avis. Les plus pertinents, les plus intéressants, les plus originaux seront publiés dans le magazine.

Si vous souhaitez proposer un article, n'hésitez pas à me contacter à tout moment.

Et maintenant, à vos plumes !

Adressez vos commentaires à:

Alex Mejia, rédacteur en chef – UN Special
Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Genève 10, Suisse
Par courrier électronique: alex.mejia@unitar.org

Message from the editor-in-chief

Would you like to share your opinion about *UN Special* and its contents ?

Write to us!

We will be glad to hear from you.

The most interesting, relevant, or even ingenious responses will be published in the magazine.

Should you wish to submit an article, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Now, put pen to paper!

Send your thoughts to:

Alex Mejia, Editor-in-chief – UN Special
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Erratum

In the June edition of *UN Special*, the valid date of the Migros 20% discount voucher was misquoted. This was due to a production error, for which the publisher sincerely apologises. In no way was this a fault of Migros.

UN Special

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Quai Gustave-Ador 42, 1207 Genève
T. +41 22 700 98 00 – F. +41 22 700 90 55
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Imprimé sur du papier certifié FSC.

Tirage: 10 500 exemplaires

La revue officielle des fonctionnaires internationaux des Nations Unies à Genève et de l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé.
The official magazine of the international civil servants of the United Nations at Geneva and of the World Health Organization

Les opinions exprimées dans UNS sont celles des auteurs, et non forcément celles de l'ONU, de l'OMS ou de ses agences spécialisées. La parution de ce magazine dépend uniquement du support financier de la publicité prise en charge par une régie.

The opinions in UNS are those of the authors, not necessarily those of the United Nations, the WHO or its specialized agencies. The publication of this magazine relies solely on the financial support of its advertisers.

Impression / Printer

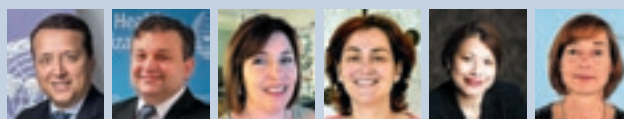
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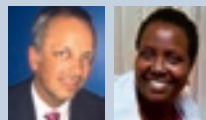
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