

Association STEP Geneva

Programme - Introduction to Trusts

Day one: Monday, 30th November 2026

08:30 Registration and Coffee

09:00 TRUSTS UNDERSTANDING THE BASICS OF TRUSTS / Session 1

- How did trusts originate?
- Legal ownership vs beneficial ownership of trust assets
- Settlor, beneficiaries, protector, trustee, investment adviser
- Types of trusts: revocable and irrevocable, discretionary and fixed interests
- The three certainties of a valid trust
- Who can be a trustee: types of trustees
- Acting as trustee or protector: the essence of fiduciary obligations and holding a trustee accountable
- Trust documents: trust deed and other documents; role of letters of direction, letters of request, letters of wishes
- Governance – checks and balances, wishes and guidance
- Role of trusts and other tools in estate planning
- Private Trust Companies (PTCs) and similar structures
- Basics of taxation affecting structuring

Case studies will be used throughout the session to consolidate the learning.

Morning Trainer: Stephanie Jarrett, Offices of Stephanie A. Jarrett, Vaud

There will be a refreshment break at approx. 10h30.

13:00 Lunch

14:00 INVESTMENTS, ACCOUNTING AND RECORDS / Session 2

- Accepting assets into trust, valuations and recording the event
- Investments - understanding conflicts, delegation and risks
- Investment-directed trusts and trusts with reserved investment powers
- The importance of good bookkeeping as trustee and as a licensed trust company under the FINMA regime
- The role of minutes and resolutions
- Accounts for trusts and other elements of the structure

Case studies will be used throughout the session to consolidate the learning.

Afternoon Trainer: Andrew McCallum, Rawlinson & Hunter, Geneva

There will be a refreshment break at approx. 15h30.

17:00 Close for the day

Association STEP Geneva

Day two: Tuesday, 1st December 2026

08:30 Registration and Coffee

09:00 CROSS-BORDER MATTERS: REGULATORY MATTERS, SWISS V. FOREIGN COURTS FOR LITIGATION, CRS/FATCA REPORTING, TRANSPARENCY/UBO REGISTERS, DUE DILIGENCE AND DATA PROTECTION / Session 3

- (Swiss) regulation of trustees
- Recognition of trusts in Switzerland
- Managing trusts in Switzerland - some key pointers in the case of litigation in Switzerland or elsewhere, in particular in the jurisdiction of a trust's proper/governing law
- Differences between contentious and non-contentious litigation – Swiss v foreign courts
- Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes (CRS, FATCA)
- Transparency and UBO registers
- Cross border reporting (CRS, FATCA)
- UBO and similar registers including the US CTA (UBO, company registers and information divulged)
- Key differences between jurisdictions – understanding the basics and their importance for structures and families

Case studies will be used throughout the session to consolidate the learning.

Morning Trainer: Marc Blumenfeld, Alithis AG, Zurich

There will be a refreshment break at approx. 10h30.

13:00 Lunch

14:00 DEALING WITH BANKS, ASSET MANAGERS, CUSTODIANS, INVESTMENT FUNDS ET AL AND THEIR FORMS / Session 4

- Who is the client?
- Interplay between the trust with its trustee and underlying asset holding entities, such as offshore companies and limited partnerships
- Dealing with the banks (account opening, kyc etc) as investment managers and custodians: understanding the role of the CDB Forms T, S, I, A etc and when to push back
- Dealing with borrowing and lending matters, including asset pledges and other credit considerations
- Dealing with non-bank investment managers, family office/investment advisors: understanding their role and the additional communication and handling of risks and KYC requests

Case studies will be used throughout the session to consolidate the learning.

Afternoon Trainer: Klemens Zeller, J.P. Morgan Private Bank, Geneva

There will be a refreshment break at approx. 15h30.

17:00 Closing Remarks