Scientific & Technological Cooperation Program Switzerland-Russia

The Federal Council approved the Message Education, Research and Innovation (ERI) 2008-2011 on January 24th, 2007. Bilateral science and technology cooperation program with priority countries has received for this time period a total budget of CHF 43 million dedicated to R&D. Of this amount, CHF 6.850 million were dedicated to bilateral scientific and technological cooperation with Russia. This budget was subsequently topped up with 450'000 CHF to support additional Joint Research Projects.

In February 2007, the State Secretariat for Education and Research (SER), designated the University of Geneva as the Leading House (LH) and the EPFL as the Associated Leading House (ALH) for the implementation of the bilateral science and technology cooperation program with Russia.

The State Secretariat, acting on behalf of the Federal Council, has finalised the negotiations with the Ministry of Education and Science of Russian Federation. As a result, the bilateral Agreement on cooperation in the fields of science and technology was signed in December 2012.

The structure of the bilateral program for the years 2013-2016 significantly changes. Further Joint Research Projects and ERA.Net-Rus Plus calls will be managed by the National Science Foundation (SNF). There will be no funding available for Exchange/Mobility projects.

For information on the UNIGE Leading Houses from October 2013, please see http://www.unige.ch/international/LH-1_en.html

Closed calls:

Exchange/Mobility projects:
- Call for Faculty Exchange projects (FE):
- Call for Students Exchange projects (SE):
- Call for Utilisation of Specific Infrastructure projects (USI):

Grants of the Russian Ministry for Education and Science (MES) for students and PhD students to study abroad (Russian):
- Call Announcement (Russian). Deadline for Russian students to submit their applications to the MES - 15th of April 2012.

FP7 Program - bilateral S&T cooperation
- FP7-Capacities-International Cooperation call
  - Closed on the 15th of November 2011. Submission to the FP7 office.
  - For information please contact your local Euresearch Office.

ERA.Net-RUS:
- Call for Collaborative S&T projects (call closed on the 31st of May 2011)
- Call for Innovation projects (call closed on the 15th of April 2011)
- General Information on ERA.Net-RUS

Research projects:
- Joint Research Projects (JRP)
  - JRP: No further call is planned until 2013.
Faculty Exchange (FE)

Submission deadline:

Description

The Faculty Exchange grants are intended to promote activities such as teaching. Teaching in the framework of doctoral schools will be given particular attention, as for example in the form of teaching modules. Other forms of scientific cooperation can be supported. The grant may be used to cover travel expenses of Swiss scientists visiting an institute or laboratory in Russia and to cover the accommodation and living costs of Russian scientists visiting an institute or laboratory in Switzerland. See Grant information for more details.

Goals

- To encourage 'brain circulation' between Switzerland and Russia.
- To promote scientific interactions and common activities at an advanced scientific level.
- To provide means to strengthen exchange processes at professorial level.

Priority research areas

All disciplines.

Project duration

From a few weeks to a few months. Exceptionally up to 9 months.

Eligibility

Applications will be accepted only from Swiss citizens or permanent residents of Switzerland based in a Swiss university or research institution. Eligible Swiss Institutions: Swiss federal institutes of technology, cantonal universities of higher education, federal and cantonal research institutions, Swiss universities of applied sciences, other research institutions eligible for receiving federal funding. Priority will be given to new projects.

Submission

Applications must be made jointly by the Swiss applicant and his/her Russian counterpart. Application forms can be downloaded from the website of the Programme. The original of the completed joint application form, along with an electronic version, should be sent to the Swiss Programme Office at the University of Geneva:

Mrs Irina Niggli
Rectorat, Uni-Douncill
Université de Genève
1211 Genève 4
Switzerland
irina.niggli@unige.ch

The printed original copy must be signed by the Swiss applicant (written signature) and the Russian applicant (electronic signature). Completed applications must be submitted no later than:

Application deadline

Completed applications will not be accepted.

Grant information

The exchange principle should follow the rules that the sending institute pays for international travel costs and the receiving institute pays for accommodation and living costs of the visiting scientist. This principle can be adapted to individual situations. A detailed budget will be required. Projected expenses must be justified and related to the proposed activities. Maximal allowable budget per project is CHF 15'000.

Allowable budget items for Swiss applicants going to Russia:

- Travel expenses connected with the visit to the hosting institute(s) in Russia.

Allowable budget items for Swiss applicants inviting faculty members from Russia:

- Living expenses of visiting faculty members from Russia.
- Costs for supplies required to do the proposed activities.

Grants may not be used for:

- Salaries and insurance
- Overhead costs

For more details, see Financial guidelines

Evaluation and selection

In Switzerland, applications will be considered by LH/ ALH (if budget < CHF 10,000) or by the Swiss Steering Committee (if budget >= CHF 10,000) on the basis of recommendations made by Advisory Board members and/or a panel of experts proposed by these Advisory Board members. For more detailed information, see the document Selection Process.

Evaluation criteria:

(1) Scientific and technological merit
(2) Specific qualification of applicants for the proposed activities
(3) Expertise of the host institution
(4) Feasibility of the proposal
(5) Benefits of the proposed activities for strengthening short and long term institutional links between Switzerland and Russia.

Evaluation and selection process may take up to three months. Applicants will be notified by the LH.
Students Exchange (SE)

Submission deadline:

The Students Exchange grants are intended to support Master's, PhD and post doc students of Switzerland for short stays in Russia and to host Russian students for short stays in Switzerland.

Applicants are expected to submit either high quality research projects that demonstrate the opportunity to advance knowledge in a given research area either projects that provide the student a unique training opportunity.

The grant may be used to cover travel expenses of Swiss students visiting an institute or laboratory in Russia and to cover the accommodation and living costs of Russian students visiting an institution or laboratory in Switzerland. See Grant information for more details.

Goals

- To encourage "brain circulation" between Switzerland and Russia.
- To enhance technical and personal development and future career prospects of students.
- To provide students with new learning experiences and networking opportunities in another country.

Eligibility

Applications will be accepted only from Swiss citizens or permanent residents of Switzerland based in a Swiss university or research institution.

Eligible Swiss Institutions:

Swiss federal institutes of technology, cantonal universities of higher education, federal and cantonal research institutions, Swiss universities of applied sciences, other research institutions eligible for receiving federal funding.

Priority will be given to new projects.

Submission

Applications must be made by the Faculty member who will be sending or hosting a student. It must be made jointly by the Swiss applicant and its Russian counterpart.

Application forms can be downloaded from this site. The original of the completed joint application form, along with an electronic version, should be sent to the Swiss Programme Office at the University of Geneva:

Mrs Irina Niggli
Rectorat, Uni-Dufour
Université de Genève
1211 Genève 4
Switzerland

irina.niggli@unige.ch

The printed original copy must be signed by the responsible Faculty member (written signature), its Russian counterpart (electronic signature) and the student (written signature for Swiss students and electronic signature for Russian Students).

Application deadline

Completed applications must be submitted no later than:

- Late and incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Grant information

The exchange principle should follow the rules that the sending institute pays for international travel costs and the receiving institute pays for accommodation and living costs of the visiting scientist. This principle can be adapted to individual situations. A detailed budget will be required. Projected expenses must be justified and related to the proposed activities.

Maximal allowable budget per project is CHF 15'000.

Allowable budget items for Swiss applicants going to Russia:

- Travel expenses connected with the visit to the hosting institute(s) in Russia.

Allowable budget items for Swiss applicants inviting students from Russia:

- Living expenses of visiting students from Russia.
- Costs for supplies required to do the proposed activities.

Grants may not be used for:

- Salaries and insurance
- Overhead costs

For more details, please see Financial guidelines.

Evaluation and selection

In Switzerland, applications will be considered by LH/ ALH (if budget < CHF 10'000) or by the Swiss Steering Committee (if budget > CHF 10'000) on the basis of recommendations made by Advisory Board members and/or a panel of experts proposed by these Advisory Board members.

For more detailed information, see the document Selection process.

Evaluation criteria:

(1) Scientific, technological and educational merit
(2) Specific qualification of applicants for the proposed activities
(3) Expertise of the host institution
(4) Feasibility of the proposal

For more details, please see Application Form - Students Exchange (157 Ko).

Financial guidelines (27 Ko).

Selection process (33 Ko).

Project report template (90 Ko).
Utilisation of specific infrastructure (USI)

Submissions deadline:
The Utilisation of specific infrastructure grants are intended to support Swiss and Russian scientists (faculty and junior staff) wishing to spend a certain time period in a laboratory, department or at an institution of the counterpart country in order to utilise specialised equipment, facilities, resources, libraries and/or databases that are not available at their home institution.

Goals:
- To encourage 'brain circulation' between Switzerland and Russia.
- To make the most optimal utilisation of already existing research facilities, equipment and resources.
- To promote scientific interactions and exchange of know-how at international level.

Priority research areas:
All disciplines.

Project duration:
From a few weeks to a few months. Exceptionally up to 9 months.

Eligibility:
Applications will be accepted only from Swiss citizens or permanent residents of Switzerland based in a Swiss university or research institution.

Eligible Swiss Institutions:
Swiss federal institutes of technology, cantonal universities of higher education, federal and cantonal research institutions, Swiss universities of applied sciences, other research institutions eligible for receiving federal funding.

Priority will be given to new projects.

Eligible Russian Institutions:
Russian applicants must be from institutions that are eligible for receiving federal funding.

Grant information:
The exchange principle should follow the rules that the sending institute pays for international travel costs and the receiving institute pays for accommodation and living costs of the visiting scientist. This principle can be adapted to individual situations. A detailed budget will be required. Projected expenses must be justified and related to the proposed activities.

Maximal allowable budget per project is CHF 15'000.

Allowable budget items for Swiss applicants going to Russia:
- Travel expenses connected with the visit to the hosting institute(s) in Russia.
- Allowable budget items for Swiss applicants inviting scientists from Russia:
  - Travel expenses connected with the visit from Russia.
  - Costs for supplies required to do the proposed activities

Grants may not be used for:
- Salaries and insurance
- Overhead costs

For more details, please see Financial guidelines

Evaluation and selection:
In Switzerland, applications will be considered by LH/ ALH (if budget < CHF 10,000) or by the Swiss Steering Committee (if budget > CHF 10,000) on the basis of recommendations made by Advisory Board members and/or a panel of experts proposed by these Advisory Board members.

For more detailed information, see the document Selection Process.

Evaluation criteria:
(1) Scientific and technological merit
(2) Specific qualification of applicants for the proposed activities
(3) Expertise of the host institution
(4) Feasibility of the proposal
(5) Benefits of the proposed activities for strengthening short and long term institutional links between Switzerland and Russia.

Evaluation and selection process may take up to three months.

Applicants will be notified by the LH.
Joint Research Projects (JRP)

**Opening date:** February 9th 2009

**Closing date:** April 30th 2009

This will only be one call during the years 2008-2011.

**Description**

Grants for Joint Research Projects are meant to promote collaborative projects with clearly defined goals involving at least one Swiss and one Russian partner. Applications should describe ambitious research and propose innovative approaches.

Curiosity-driven and application-oriented research will be evenly supported. In case of application-oriented proposals, applications should include a detailed dissemination plan specifying how project findings will be used for the benefit of the community, e.g., through incorporation into products and services.

Depending on the complexity of the projects, the designation of a project coordinator ensuring coherence, consistency in the consortium, management of the project budget and responsibility for the timely delivery of reports may be required. The Swiss main applicant will be considered as the project coordinator by default.

The forming of inter- and multidisciplinary research teams is highly encouraged.

**Goals**

- To foster research advances and knowledge production within the program's priority research areas
- To create synergies across borders and institutes and between private and public sectors
- To benefit from pooled research efforts and expertise
- To develop and implement new technologies

**Priority research areas**

- Engineering sciences, including information and communication technologies.
- Nanosystems and materials.
- Life sciences, in particular systems biology.
- Natural resources, energy and energy management.
- Transportation systems.
- Economical sciences.

**Project duration**

12, 18, 24 or 30 months.

Earliest possible project starting date: 01.01.2010.

Latest possible project ending date: 30.06.2012.

**Public-private partnerships**

The Programme highly welcomes the inclusion of private sector partners as participants in proposals. These may be industrial partners, foundations, associations or others. Allocation of funds for this group can reach up to 30% of the grants reserved for Joint Research Projects. These projects will be additionally evaluated by the KTI/CTI (Swiss Innovation Promotion Agency). For identical scientific quality, public-private partnership projects will be given priority.

**Eligibility**

Applications will be accepted from Swiss citizens or permanent residents of Switzerland based in a Swiss university or research institution. The applications must be prepared jointly with Russian partners that must be Russian citizens based in a research institution in Russia. Applicants must hold a PhD degree or have a proven research track.

**Eligible Swiss Institutions:** Universities of Higher education, Swiss federal institutes of technology, Swiss universities of applied sciences, federal and cantonal research institutions, international research institutions located in Switzerland and for-profit organizations with strong capabilities in scientific research (as co-applicants).

**Eligible Russian Institutions:** open to groups from Russian universities who can guarantee their own funding. Additional information 26.02.09: open to groups from Russian universities and other research institutions who can guarantee their own funding.

**Submission**

Proposals must be prepared jointly by the Swiss and Russian applicants and must be submitted in Switzerland only.

The Russian applicants must provide their own funds. The contribution of the Russian partner institution should be stated in a letter of commitment to be annexed to the project. A template for such a letter of commitment can be downloaded from the web platform www.mysnf.ch (see below for more details). Projects submitted without a guaranteed contribution from the Russian partner institution will not be evaluated.

**Submission:**

Swiss applicants are required to submit the proposals electronically through the SNSF (Swiss National Science Foundation) web platform www.mysnf.ch. This service will be available February 9th, 2009 onwards.

Please note that you need a user account before you can submit your proposal to mySNF. If you do not already have an account, you must register with SNSF as a new user. Once registered, you will receive your username and password by regular mail. In most cases, you will receive your username and password within five working days.

Once you have an account and have selected the correct funding instrument (International > Bi-lateral Co-operation > Switzerland-Russia S&T Cooperation Programme), the corresponding templates (e.g., for the research plan and the letter of commitment) can be downloaded. Apart from having to complete different administrative data containers online (e.g., contact details of the applicants, documents (e.g., research plan based on the research template) can be downloaded from the templates (e.g., for the research plan and the letter of commitment) can be downloaded. Apart from having to complete different administrative data containers online (e.g., contact details of the applicants, documents (e.g., research plan based on the research template) can be downloaded from the online platform www.mysnf.ch. This service will be available February 9th, 2009 onwards.

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