Tour de Suisse 2019
Mobility fellowships & Doc.CH grants

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Please note that this presentation is only a summary. In case of doubt, please refer to the relevant regulations published on our website.
Mobility fellowships

Research stay abroad
Fellowships by Host Country

Mobility fellowships

For PhD students:

Doc.Mobility

For postdocs starting their career:

Early Postdoc.Mobility
Postdoc.Mobility
Doc.Mobility

Aim
• Research stay abroad for doctoral students (6 – 18 months)

Personal requirements
• Matriculation as a doctoral student for at least 12 months
• Link with Switzerland
• At least 1 year of activity at a Swiss research institution for applicants with foreign nationality

Submission deadlines
• 1 March and 1 September

Last submission deadline: 1 September 2020
Doc.Mobility will be discontinued and the universities will assume the responsibility of funding mobility for doctoral students who are not employed in SNSF projects.
Early Postdoc.Mobility

Aim
• Research stay abroad for postdocs starting their career (12 – 18 months)

Personal requirements
• Doctorate (PhD) already obtained or obtainment within 9 months, or medical training completed with a doctorate (MD)
• Doctorate obtained no more than 2 years ago; medical researchers must have passed the state examination no more than 6 years ago
• Link with Switzerland
• At least 3 years of activity at a Swiss research institution for applicants with foreign nationality

Submission deadlines
• 1 March and 1 September

Last submission deadline: 1 September 2020
The scheme will be merged with Postdoc.Mobility in 2021.
Postdoc.Mobility

Aim
• Research stay abroad for postdocs starting their career (24 months in principle, but at least 12 months) with a return option to Switzerland (3 – 12 months)

Personal requirements
• Doctorate (PhD, MD-PhD) or completed studies in human, dental, veterinary, social or preventive medicine
• Submission up to 3 years after the doctoral exam (PhD, MD-PhD)
• Medical researchers without MD-PhD: submission up to 8 years after the state examination and at least 3 years of clinical activity
• Link with Switzerland
• At least 2 years of activity at a Swiss research institution for applicants with foreign nationality

Submission deadlines
• 1 February and 1 August
Mobility fellowships at postdoc level
Towards only 1 postdoc mobility scheme

**Up to 2017**

APM: national evaluation (SNSF)

EPM: local evaluation (12 Research Commissions + 1 central Fellowship Commission)

**2018-2020 - new PM with new requirements**

PhD: **0-3 years after PhD**, i.e. reduction from **5 to 3 years** after PhD

Medical disciplines: **0-8 years** after state examination, i.e. reduction from **9 to 8 years** after state exam.

**As of 2021**

Only **one mobility scheme** at the postdoc level and with an **evaluation at the national level**

(EPM merged with PM)
Mobility fellowships

Annual contribution
- Basic amount: CHF 40’000 – 70’000 (host country, marital status, scheme)
- Child allowance: CHF 12’000 per child
- Travel allowance (outward and return journey incl. partner/children)
- Registration fees (if justified): 75% or max. CHF 15’000
- Conference costs: max. CHF 2’000
- Research costs: max. CHF 3’000 (only exceptionally)

Postdoc.Mobility return option grant
- Salary incl. social security contributions
Doc.CH

Aim
• Write a dissertation
• In the humanities and social sciences
• Topic of their own choice
• At a higher education institution in Switzerland

Requirements
• Master degree (or similar degree) with excellent marks
• Master degree from a higher education institution in Switzerland or similar foreign degree for applicants with Swiss nationality
• Submission to the Research Commission of the SNSF no more than 2 years after the master degree
• Generally at least one change of institution between bachelor and start of PhD or a planned stay abroad of at least one semester during doctoral studies
Duration
• From 2 to 4 years

Eligible costs
• Grantee’s own salary (according to the SNSF salary scales for doctoral students)
• Costs directly related to project implementation: material of enduring value, consumables, travel and conference expenses, etc.

Submission deadlines
• 10 March and 10 September

10 September 2020: last call in which the Research Commissions conduct the preselection. As of 2021, this preselection will be conducted directly at national level. The scheme will continue.
How to submit an application?

Doc.CH

Mobility fellowships
How to submit an application?

Important facts in a nutshell:

- Submission via [www.mySNF.ch](http://www.mySNF.ch)

- Evaluation:
  1. Formal verification
  2. Scientific assessment (quality-based criteria)
  3. Selection in a competitive procedure by the Research Commission (DM/EPM & Doc.CH 1st phase) and the National Research Council (Postdoc.Mobility & Doc.CH 2nd phase)

- Decision: about 4-5 months after submission (according to the scheme)
Writing a proposal

All relevant information can be found on the SNSF website and on mySNF

- Regulations on the schemes
- Guidelines for submitting a proposal
- Information set (insurances, taxes,...)
- Fellowship rates
- Website, FAQs
Some advice

• Start planning your submission **early**: deadlines are strict and non-negotiable
• Read and follow the **guidelines**
• Pay attention to the **SNSF website**: the legally valid **conditions** can always be found at www.snsf.ch > Funding > Careers
• Invest **enough time** for preparing all required documents (e.g. reference letters, confirmation host institute,...)
• You are **competing** with dozens of applicants, i.e. your proposal must stand out and make a difference
• Register on **mySNF** as early as possible (scheme open 3 months before deadline)
• Question “rumors/myths” from third parties: **If you have questions, contact the responsible Offices**
  SNSF: fellowships@snf.ch; Doc.CH@snf.ch or
  Research Commission (University of Geneva): corec@unige.ch
Research plan

• Every scheme has specific guidelines/instructions
• Prescribed number of pages, number of characters, font size and line spacing must be complied with
• Research plan should be well structured
• Research plan should be understandable for experts (within area of research) as well as for people in the wider discipline
• In general: come quickly to the point
Evaluation criteria

• **Project**
  - Scientific relevance, originality and topicality
  - Suitability of methods and feasibility

• **Applicant**
  - Track record of the applicant
  - Expertise with regard to the proposed project

• **Career funding (additional criteria)**
  - Mobility (past and future)
  - Research/Host institution
  - Aptitude for scientific or academic career

**SNSF signed DORA: San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment**
Possible reasons for a rejection

• Lack of details with regard to the **evaluation criteria**
• Not clearly demonstrated **experience** or **expertise** in the field of the project
• Unclear or missing **own contribution** to the project (↔ early independence)
• **Aims, research questions** or **hypotheses** unclear or not well defined
• Lack of **coherence**, lack of **focus**
• Missing **references** to sources, archives, literature or competitors
• **Theoretical framework** is not clear
• Not enough details about the **experimental approaches**
• Unclear, outdated or inappropriate **methods**
• Overambitious, too much to do, **feasibility** not clearly given
• No **backup plan**
• ...
If you are not successful ...

First...
• read carefully the decision letter
• if you have questions, ask the SNSF Administrative Office or the SNSF Research Commission for clarifications

If you are thinking of resubmitting,...
• check if you still fulfil all formal requirements for the same funding scheme
• take into account the points criticised by the commission
• list and explain your revisions made in the point-by-point response

If you strongly disagree with the decision,...
• you can ask for reconsideration or appeal against the decision
Further information

SNSF: fellowships@snf.ch; Doc.CH@snf.ch

SNSF Research Commission, University of Geneva: corec@unige.ch

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