

Project Funding Grant

Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)

Submission deadline: 01/Oct/2018 ** Swiss local time: 17:00

With its project funding scheme, the Swiss National Science Foundation enables researchers to independently conduct research projects with topics and goals of their own choice.

Researchers can apply for funding to cover the costs of research work, staff salaries, scientific collaboration, networking and communication; but their own salaries are not covered.

The funding period ranges from one to four years, with grants **starting at CHF 50,000 (minimum amount)**. Researchers are encouraged to focus on one project and plan it for a four-year period.

Requirements

Applications for project funding can be submitted if the following personal and formal requirements are met. If **two or more applicants** jointly submit an application, each applicant must individually meet the requirements.

- **Natural persons** are eligible to submit applications if they meet the general eligibility requirements for the submission of applications of the Funding Regulations of the SNSF.
[Details](#)
- **Applicants** must have obtained a **doctorate four years before the submission date** of the application or they must have **completed three years of research work as their main source of income** since obtaining their higher education degree. Such research work will be regarded as equivalent to a doctorate.
[Details](#)
- Applicants must be in a position to carry out research projects under their **own responsibility**, must make a **substantial contribution** to the proposed research and lead project staff both scientifically and as personnel. Researchers who assume an independent research post less than four years after obtaining the doctorate may submit project funding applications as soon as they assume the said position.
[Details](#)
- Applicants must be able to show that they are **employed at least 50%** for the duration of the project at a **research institution eligible for research funding from the SNSF**. Special rules

apply to positions for clinically active researchers as well as staff at museums and archives and self-employed persons.

[Details](#)

Which research institutions does the SNSF recognize?

The SNSF policy in this regard is consistent with the Research and Innovation Promotion Act (RIPA): it recognizes, in particular, cantonal universities and federal institutes of technology (ETHs), universities of applied sciences and universities of teacher education; further accredited higher education institutions and other institutions of the higher education sector; the research institutions of national importance supported by the Confederation as well as, under certain conditions, the federal administration and non-commercial research institutions outside the higher education sector. The latter must not pursue any commercial goals and their research quality and standards must be comparable to those of higher education institutions. Institutions with international sponsors are eligible if the institution has its registered office in Switzerland and its basic financing is mainly Swiss, or if the applicant is employed at a legally independent Swiss branch of an institution that has its registered office abroad.

- Applicants must be able to show that the necessary **research infrastructure** is at their disposal.

[Details](#)

- Grantees of the SNSF cannot be **employees** in an SNSF project at the same time.

[Details](#)

- **Ambizione grant holders** are excluded from submitting grants to project funding; **SNSF professors** are excluded for the first two years of their professorship. .

[Details](#)

Application

Please consider the following important points when preparing and submitting an application. Please also take note of the requirements for the form and content of the research plan, the CV and the Data Management Plan (DMP) as well as the detailed information given in mySNF. Please also consider the principles of the SNSF relating to Open Access to Publications.

- [Research plan](#)

- CV
- Data Management Plan (DMP)
- Open Access (OA) rules of the SNSF – guidelines for researchers (PDF)
- Open Access to Publications

For more information, refer to
[Projects – submitting an application](#)

- Applications for project funding grants are generally submitted by **individuals** (applicants). **Two or more applicants** are eligible per application if needed to achieve the targets set for the proposed research.

[Details](#)

- **Collaborative proposals with at least two applicants** in the same research field, or with a main discipline supported by auxiliary disciplines, can be submitted as a project funding application. Collaborative projects typically involve groups that are complementary and create added value based on a common research approach. The applicants may therefore request financial resources that are proportional to the number of applicants contributing to the project.

[Details](#)

- Collaborative projects **across disciplinary boundaries** are funded under the **Sinergia** funding scheme. These interdisciplinary proposals are assessed by the Sinergia evaluation commission, which is made up of experts in interdisciplinary research.

[Sinergia funding scheme](#)

- Applicants may only submit **one application per submission date**.

[Details](#)

- Within the scope of project funding, researchers may in principle hold **only one grant** during the same funding period. However, the SNSF may award a second grant if the **overlapping research project** is thematically clearly different from the ongoing project and if the applicant can show that he/she will make a substantial contribution to this second project as well.

[Details](#)

- Grant applications must be submitted by the responsible applicant via the web platform of the SNSF (www.mySNF.ch). You need a user account to access mySNF. The SNSF activates the **user's account** up to 5 working days after receipt of the signed user agreement.

[Details](#)

- The **research plan** and **CVs** of the applicants must be written according to the **requirements** issued by the SNSF. They are uploaded to mySNF as PDFs together with other documents.

[Details](#)

- The proposal must include a Data Management Plan (DMP) set up according to the requirements issued by the SNSF. The content of the DMP is directly entered in the my SNF submission form. It is not possible to upload a DMP as a separate PDF file.

The DMP is an integral part of the grant proposal. The proposal can only be submitted once the DMP has been completed. Applicants must enter a DMP that is understandable, suits their project and meets the standards set by their research community. **At this stage, the DMP is**

considered a draft and excluded from the evaluation process. The definitive DMP must be provided by the end of the project at the latest.

Please keep in mind the time needed to complete the DMP during the submission procedure.

[Details](#)

- A funding proposal is regarded as submitted in due time if received by the SNSF on the **submission date** (April or October 1).

[Details](#)

- In mathematics, natural and engineering sciences, biology, **medicine**, psychology, economics and political sciences, applications have to be submitted **in English**. In all other research areas, applications can be submitted in one of the official Swiss languages. Special rules apply for political sciences.

[Details](#)

- The rules of **scientific integrity** must be respected, **conflicts of interest** must be declared.

[Details](#)

- Applicants are obliged to inform the SNSF about all **submitted, pending or approved proposals** at the SNSF or at other organizations.

[Details](#)

- For applications in **use-inspired research**, the **project's broader impact** must be defined.

[Details](#)

- **Project partners** are researchers who contribute to a research project through cooperation without being responsible for the project. They benefit from the SNSF grant.

[Details](#)

What is a project partner?

A project partner makes only a small contribution to a research project. He or she is not the driving force behind the project and is not responsible for its progress. Project partners may be academic researchers or individuals working in the public or non-profit sector. They may receive funding through the project, but will not be employed as project staff

What is the difference between an applicant and a project partner?

Applicants are responsible for the proposed project and the grant (if awarded) in scientific and administrative terms and they make a substantial contribution to the project. It was they who came up with the research idea and the research plan was developed by them; they are also entitled to include the grant in their CV as one of their scientific achievements. They are also responsible for organizing and staffing the project, personnel management, outcomes and output.

Project partners make an important scientific or methodological contribution to the project. However, they are not responsible for the research proposal in scientific or administrative terms and may not refer to the grant as their own accomplishment.

Evaluation procedure

This section gives you an overview of the most important aspects of the evaluation procedure in project funding.

You can find further information under the following links:

[Explainer video – the evaluation procedure of the SNSF](#)

[Evaluation procedure in project funding.](#)

Formal check and refusal to consider proposals

- The Administrative Offices check whether the submitted applications meet the application requirements and inform the applicants about the results of this **formal check**. The SNSF does not consider applications that do not meet the requirements or are manifestly inadequate.

[Details](#)

- The SNSF only considers a **re-submitted application** if it is a significantly modified version of the rejected application.

[Details](#)

- Proposals that **contravene the rules of research integrity or good scientific practice** will not be considered by the SNSF.

[Details](#)

Evaluation by internal and external experts

- The relevant criteria for the award of project funding grants are the **scientific quality of the research projects** (scientific relevance, topicality and originality, suitable methods, and

feasibility) and the **scientific qualifications of the applicant** (scientific track record and ability to carry out the research project).

[Details](#)

- For applications in **use-inspired research**, the project's broader impact is considered in the evaluation.

[Details](#)

- The SNSF generally asks at least two **external experts** to provide a written scientific assessment of the proposal.

[Details](#)

- Neither during the evaluation procedure nor after its conclusion will the SNSF disclose the identities of the referees and external experts who assessed the proposal.

[Details](#)

- The DMP is not part of the scientific evaluation process and is not shared with external reviewers.

- The Research Council may appoint **panels** to assess the proposals.

[Details](#)

- Applicants are entitled to submit lists with the names and addresses of persons who are not to be asked for an external review (**negative lists**) together with their applications. The SNSF may abide by these lists if the applicants provide a valid reason for the requested exclusion and if a sufficient number of other experts are available.

[Details](#)

- The SNSF will duly consider reviews by external experts **at its discretion**.

[Details](#)

- The evaluation procedures usually take **six months**.

Decision

- The Research Council compares all applications from a specific period with each other and assigns them a grade from a **scale of six**.

- The SNSF awards a **total amount** for the approved research project (**total budget**). The grant is paid out in **annual instalments**.

[Details](#)

- The SNSF issues decisions on applications in the form of a **ruling** sent to the applicants. If there are two or more applicants, the SNSF will send the ruling to the corresponding applicant.

[Details](#)

- The corresponding applicant may **appeal** against rulings issued by the SNSF before the Swiss Federal Administrative Court. Pursuant to Article 58 APA, it may at its own discretion or upon request reconsider rulings at any time prior to the consultation period for an appeal and issue a new ruling.

[Details](#)

- **Excellence grants** may be awarded to grantees whose applications were awarded the two highest grades and approved for a period of at least three years. When communicating positive decisions to applicants, the SNSF informs them of the conditions under which an excellence grant may be awarded as a follow-up to the grant already approved. Excellence grants cannot be applied for and no one is entitled to an excellence grant.

[Details](#)

Grant management

Detailed information on grant management can be found under the following links:

- [General implementation regulations for the Funding Regulations\[sections 4-7\]](#)
- [Project funding: lifetime management of projects \(grants\)](#)
Grantees assume the following **obligations**, in particular:
- On the full or partial approval of a grant application (award), the applicants become grantees of the SNSF. Grantees are obliged to use the grant in accordance with the conditions set out in the ruling, to comply with legal requirements and the provisions stipulated in the SNF regulations, and to carry out the research work with due care, while respecting the rules of good scientific practice.
[Details](#)
- Payment of the awarded grant must generally be initiated **within a year** of the date of the ruling.
[Details](#)
- Holders of project funding grants are obliged to submit **reports** in accordance with the requirements issued by the SNSF.
[Details](#)
- During and after completion of the research work, grantees are obliged to make **publicly accessible** the research results obtained with the aid of SNSF funds. The data collected with the aid of an SNSF grant must also be made available to other researchers for further research work and entered in recognized **scientific data pools**.
[Details](#)

For more information:

SNSF website:

<http://www.snf.ch/en/funding/projects/projects-in-all-disciplines/Pages/default.aspx>

Project Funding Contact in the field of Biology & Medicine

E-mail: div3@snf.ch

After reviewing the information in this file and the SNSF website you can contact the
“Leading House of IRAN and SWITZERLAND Academic Partnerships”:

irsw-leadinghouse@sina.tums.ac.ir