



## Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships

# PhD Scholarships

**Academic year:** 2016-2017

**Country:** Spain

**Opening of the Call:** 09.08.2015

**Submission Deadline:** 20.11.2015

<b>Scholarship</b>	⇒	Swiss Government Excellence PhD Scholarships for foreign students
<b>Offered by</b>	⇒	The Swiss Government through the Federal Commission for Scholarships for Foreign Students FCS
<b>Objectives</b>	⇒	To enable selected applicants to undertake a PhD in one of the 10 Swiss Public Universities, the two Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology and public teaching and research institutes.
<b>Universities</b>	⇒	<a href="#">University of Basel</a> / <a href="#">University of Bern</a> / <a href="#">University of Fribourg</a> / <a href="#">University of Geneva</a> / <a href="#">University of Lausanne</a> / <a href="#">University of Lucerne</a> / <a href="#">University of Neuchâtel</a> / <a href="#">University of St. Gallen</a> / <a href="#">University of Zurich</a> / <a href="#">University of Lugano</a>
<b>Federal Institutes of Technology</b>	⇒	<a href="#">Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL)</a> <a href="#">Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETHZ)</a>
<b>Teaching and Research Institutes</b>	⇒	<a href="#">Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID)</a>
<b>Validity</b>	⇒	The scholarship is only valid for full time PhD studies in Switzerland. It is not valid for mixed PhD programs (part time in Switzerland and part time in a third country).
<b>Target Group</b>	⇒	Highly qualified postgraduate students (in possession of the required degrees) from all academic fields.
<b>Duration</b>	⇒	3 years maximum (starting in September)
<b>Amount and additional allowances</b>	⇒	The scholarship amounts to a monthly payment of 1'920 Swiss Francs. ⇒ Exemption of the tuition fees (except for EPFL). ⇒ For non-EU and non-EFTA grantees only: Mandatory Swiss Health insurance paid by the FCS. ⇒ A lump sum for air fare for non-European grantees only (provided at the end of the scholarship).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Special 300 Swiss Francs housing allowance (paid once at the beginning of the scholarship).</li> <li>⇒ 1 year half-fare public transportation card.</li> <li>⇒ Counseling and various trips, dinners and sightseeing tours organized for Swiss Government Excellence Scholarship holders.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Eligibility Criteria and specific conditions</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Master degree or equivalent University degree recognized by the Swiss University.</li> <li>⇒ The applicant must not be more than 35 years old at the moment of the application.</li> <li>⇒ Applicants who are in Switzerland for more than 1 year at the beginning of the scholarship in September are not eligible.</li> <li>⇒ Applicants must provide a letter (or e-mail) from a Professor from the Swiss host institution stating that they are willing to supervise the PhD. In the case where the PhD is run within a structured doctoral school applicants must provide included in their application an admission letter or the proof that they are being considered for admission. Without such a document the application will be rejected.</li> <li>⇒ Applicants must have a research proposal including a timeframe (this is the central piece of the application. The applicant must devote all required attention to it).</li> <li>⇒ Applicants must be in command of the necessary language skills required for the PhD studies/ research.</li> <li>⇒ Applicants who have already benefited from a Swiss Government Excellence Scholarship are not eligible to apply for a second scholarship.</li> <li>⇒ <b>PLEASE NOTE:</b> The FCS application for a PhD scholarship and the application for admission by a Swiss University for a PhD study are two separate procedures. The admission to a PhD study at your chosen Swiss University is a <i>conditio sine qua non</i> for a potential attribution of a FCS scholarship - but no guarantee though for a positive decision by the Federal Commission for Scholarships for Foreign Students FCS. It is the applicant's responsibility to manage both procedures in parallel.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Selection Criteria</b></p>	<p>The following dimensions and selection criteria are considered mainly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ The candidate: Her/his academic profile and research capacity.</li> <li>⇒ The research project: It's originality and methodological soundness.</li> <li>⇒ The academic context: The quality of supervision and the potential for future academic cooperation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Application Procedure</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ The application package can be obtained by e-mail from the Swiss Embassy in Madrid.</li> <li>⇒ The deadline for the submission of applications is 20.11.2015</li> <li>⇒ Applications have to be submitted in 3 sets with the indicated number of copies (hard copies only). The 1<sup>st</sup> set contains the original, signed documents and the attested translations. The other 2 sets are the copies of the 1<sup>st</sup> set. For details see the Application Guidelines available at your contact institution (see below).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Application Time Framework</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Opening of the call: 09.08.2015</li> <li>⇒ Application Deadline: 20.11.2015</li> <li>⇒ Selection Interview, ask: Swiss Embassy</li> <li>⇒ Beginning of the scholarship: 01.09.2016</li> </ul>

## Application documents

(Please provide 3 sets of copies on A4 paper. Please do not staple the documents and/or put them into plastic sheets or binders).

- ⇒ The FCS 2016-2017 official application form (typed and printed). No handwritten forms will be accepted.
  - ⇒ Copies of all university certificates and grade-sheets (all copies must be attested, and translated if originals are not in English, German, French or Italian. Attestations can be done by the University or a Government Officer.
  - ⇒ 2 letters of recommendation from Professors in the applicants field (use exclusively the official reference form provided with the application package).
  - ⇒ A complete research proposal (max. 5 pages), use exclusively the official research proposal form provided with the application package.
  - ⇒ A motivation letter (max. 2 pages).
  - ⇒ A full curriculum vitae with list of academic publications.
  - ⇒ A copy of the confirmation from a Professor at the intended Swiss University that they are willing to supervise the PhD studies.
  - ⇒ Include a short CV of your academic supervisor.
  - ⇒ In the case where the PhD is run within a structured doctoral school, a copy of the PhD admission letter or a least a proof that the candidate is being considered for admission. Without such a document the application will be rejected.
  - ⇒ A health certificate (use exclusively the official health certificate provided with the application package).
- Each application set with two copies of the passport (main page with personal data).

## Contact institution for the application

- ⇒ Questions and application documents, have to be submitted at the following address:
  - ⇒ Swiss Embassy in Madrid  
Calle de Núñez de Balboa, 35 A-7, 28001 Madrid
- E-mail: [mad.vertretung@eda.admin.ch](mailto:mad.vertretung@eda.admin.ch)  
Tel: 0034 91 436 39 60  
Web: [www.eda.admin.ch/Madrid](http://www.eda.admin.ch/Madrid)

## Summing up

- ⇒ The FCS 2016-2017 official application form with photo
- ⇒ CV with list of publications
- ⇒ Motivation letter (max. 2 pages)
- ⇒ A copy of the confirmation from a professor at the intended Swiss university stating that they are willing to supervise the research (incl. a short CV)
- ⇒ 2 letters of recommendation from professors (use the FCS form only)
- ⇒ A complete and signed research proposal (max. 5 pages) using exclusively the official FCS research proposal form provided with the application package
- ⇒ Photocopies of certificates from previously attended university/colleges and diplomas with grades
- ⇒ Medical certificate (use solely the official FCS form)
- ⇒ Two copies of passport