



Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships

Postdoctoral Scholarships

Academic year: 2016-2017

Country: Spain

Opening of the Call: 09.08.2015

Submission Deadline: 20.11.2015

Scholarship	⇒	Swiss Government Excellence Postdoctoral Scholarships for foreign researchers
Offered by	⇒	The Swiss Government through the Federal Commission for Scholarships for Foreign Students FCS
Objectives	⇒	To enable selected applicants to undertake a postdoctoral research in one of the 10 Swiss Public Universities, the two Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology, the public teaching and research institutes and the Universities of Applied Sciences.
Universities	⇒	University of Basel / University of Bern / University of Fribourg / University of Geneva / University of Lausanne / University of Lucerne / University of Neuchâtel / University of St. Gallen / University of Zurich / University of Lugano
Federal Institutes of Technology	⇒	Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL) Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETHZ) Research Institutes of the ETH Domain (PSI; WSL; EMPA; EAWAG)
Teaching and Research Institutes	⇒	Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID)
Universities of applied Sciences	⇒	University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland / Bern University of Applied Sciences / University of Applied Sciences Northwest Switzerland / University of applied Sciences Eastern Switzerland / Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts / University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland / The Zürcher Fachhochschule
Validity	⇒	The Scholarship is only valid for a full time postdoctoral research in Switzerland. It is not valid for mixed postdoctoral research (part time in Switzerland and part time in a third country).
Target Group	⇒	Highly qualified postdoctoral researchers from all academic fields.

Duration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ 12 months (starting in September) no extension possible Grant applications for stays lasting less than 9 months will not be treated as a priority. Grant applications for stays lasting less than 6 months will be rejected.
Amount and additional allowances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ The scholarship amounts to a monthly payment of 3'500 Swiss Francs. ⇒ Exemption of the tuition fees (except for EPFL). ⇒ For non-EU and 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). ⇒ Special 300 Swiss Francs housing allowance (paid once at the beginning of the scholarship). ⇒ 1 year half-fare public transportation card. ⇒ Counseling and various trips, dinners and sight-seeing tours organized for Swiss Government Excellence Scholarship holders.
Eligibility Criteria and specific conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ PhD degree ⇒ There cannot be a gap of more than 5 years between the award of the PhD and the application deadline. ⇒ Applicants who are in Switzerland for more than 1 year at the beginning of the scholarship in September are not eligible. ⇒ Applicants must provide a letter (or e-mail) from a Professor from the Swiss host institution stating that they are willing to supervise the postdoctoral research. Without such a confirmation the application will be rejected. ⇒ 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). ⇒ Applicants must be in command of the necessary language skills required for the postdoctoral research. ⇒ Applicants who have already benefited from a Swiss Government Excellence Scholarship are not eligible to apply for a second scholarship.
Selection Criteria	<p>The following dimensions and selection criteria are considered mainly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ The candidate: Her/his academic profile and research capacity. ⇒ The research project: It's originality and methodological soundness. ⇒ The academic context: The quality of supervision and the potential for future academic cooperation.
Application Procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ The application package can be obtained by e-mail from the Swiss Embassy in Madrid. ⇒ The deadline for the submission of applications is 20.11.2015 ⇒ Applications have to be submitted in 3 sets with the indicated number copies (hard copies only). The 1st set contains the original, signed documents and the attested translations. The other 2 sets are the copies of the 1st set. For details see the Application Guidelines available at your contact institution (see below).
Application Time Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Opening of the call: 09.08.2015 ⇒ Application Deadline: 20.11.2015 ⇒ Selection Interview, ask: Swiss Embassy ⇒ Beginning of the scholarship: 01.09.2016

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 Postdoctoral Research.
- ⇒ Include a short CV of your academic supervisor.
- ⇒ 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
- Tel: 0034 91 436 39 60
- Web: 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