Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships

An opportunity to welcome talented international researchers
Welcome message

By Delphine Julen, Programme Manager, Research Office
Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships at a glance

- Swiss universities
- Federal Institutes of Technology
- Swiss Universities of Applied Sciences
- Schools of music and fine arts

- 11 welcome offices
- < 8 FTE
- PhD CHF 1’920.-
- PostDoc CHF 3’500.-
- CHF 9.4M annual budget allocation
- N 1:1 reciprocity (bi- & multilateral)
- regional pools
- S 1:0 priority countries

- 7925 alumni
- 340 grant holders
- 90% research
- 184 countries
- 16 delegates
- 10% fine arts

applicants 1’500+
criteria 1) candidate’s profile
2) research project
3) academic context

postgraduate scholarships

Welcome Message
Agenda

- Welcome Message
  Delphine Julen

- Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships: What is it?
  Prof. François Avellan

- Practical information
  Karin Delavy-Juillerat

- Q&A Session
Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships: What is it?

By Prof. François Avellan, Member of the Federal Commission for Scholarships (FCS)
Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships

For Whom?
- Excellent foreign post-graduate (PhD or postdoc) researchers

What?
- Research stays at the doctoral or postdoctoral level in a higher education institution in Switzerland

By Whom?
- Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research
Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships

Aims

- Promote international exchange and **bilateral research cooperation** between Switzerland and over 180 countries
- Contribute to **academic continuity, brain and talent circulation**, specifically in developing countries
- Reciprocity basis with industrialized countries **VS** one-sided basis for developing countries (both regional pools and priority countries)
2017 Policy for Excellence Scholarships

- **Industrialized countries** direct reciprocity basis:
  - Priority countries: (South Korea, Japan, Israel, Poland, Czech Rep.)
  - EU Pool:

- **Developing countries** one-sided basis:
  - Priority Countries: (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Ivory Coast, Tanzania)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Anticipated Grants</th>
<th>Received Applications</th>
<th>Allocated Grants</th>
<th>Success Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>160</td>
<td>723</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95</td>
<td>475</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Application Procedure

- Candidates submit their scholarship applications at the Swiss embassy in their country of origin.
- Local Swiss embassy are in charge to check the eligibility and transmit the application.
- Deadline varies from country to country (September-December).
## Selection Procedure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application procedure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Release of programme for 180+ countries</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Go to <a href="http://www.sbfi.admin.ch/scholarships_en">www.sbfi.admin.ch/scholarships_en</a> early August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Call for proposals</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Get the application package from the Swiss representation this September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Submission deadline at Swiss representation</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Note: This date varies from country to country September–December</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Selection</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By the Federal Commission for Scholarships FCS by the end of May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Start of scholarship</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At the Swiss academic host institution next September</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Screening and check by the Commission Office.
- Applications are sent to the Federal Commission for Scholarships for Foreign Students (FCS).
Federal Commission for Scholarships (FCS)

Members of the FCS (2016-2019)

President
Jacques Moeschler, Uni GE

delegates
EPFL François Avellan
ETH Zürich Stefano Bernasconi
IHEID Isabelle Schulte-Tenckhoff
Uni BAS Suanne Bickel
Uni FR Hugo Bizzarri
UNIL David Giauque
UniLU Markus Ries
USI Michael Gibbert
Uni BE Philippe Renaud
Uni ZH Johann Steurer
Uni NE Peter Kropf
Uni SG Antoinette Weibel

represents
swissuniversities Maria Anisimova
swissuniversities Christine Kyburz
VSS Oriana Schällbaum

➢ 16 members
➢ Meeting 3x/year

What is it?
Selection Criteria

The FCS assesses scholarship applications according to the following three criteria:

1) **Candidate profile**: academic profile, research capacity and motivation

2) **Quality of the research project**: originality and methodological soundness

3) **Academic context (host institution)**: quality and context of supervision and potential for future research cooperation
# 3 Types of Scholarships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What</th>
<th>Research scholarships</th>
<th>PhD scholarships</th>
<th>Postdoctoral scholarships</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For whom</td>
<td>for a pre-doctoral or doctoral exchange at a Swiss institution</td>
<td>for a doctoral work at a Swiss academic institution</td>
<td>for a postdoctoral exchange at a Swiss Academic Institution up to 3 years after PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How much</td>
<td>CHF 1’920 / month</td>
<td>CHF 1’920 / month</td>
<td>CHF 3’500 / month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How long</td>
<td>6-12 months (starting in September)</td>
<td>36 months (starting in September)</td>
<td>6-12 months (starting in September)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# 3 Types of Scholarships: Eligibility Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What</th>
<th>Research scholarships</th>
<th>PhD scholarships</th>
<th>Postdoctoral scholarships</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For whom</td>
<td>for a pre-doctoral or doctoral exchange at a Swiss institution</td>
<td>for a doctoral work at a Swiss academic institution</td>
<td>for a post-doctoral exchange at a Swiss Academic Institution up to 3 years after PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How much</td>
<td>CHF 1’920 / month</td>
<td>CHF 1’920 / month</td>
<td>CHF 3’500 / month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How long</td>
<td>6-12 months (starting in September)</td>
<td>36 months (starting in September)</td>
<td>6-12 months (starting in September)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Eligibility criteria | • Master degree or equivalent  
• Not older than 35 years old | • Master degree or equivalent  
• Not older than 35 years old | • PhD degree completed before the starting date of the scholarship if accepted  
• Not more than 3 years after the PhD award |
| | • Letter of support from host supervisor  
• In command of the necessary language  
• Must not have benefited from a Swiss Government Scholarship in the past  
• Must not have been in Switzerland for more than 1 year at the beginning of the scholarship |
# 3 Types of Scholarships: Host Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What</th>
<th>Research scholarships</th>
<th>PhD scholarships</th>
<th>Postdoctoral scholarships</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>For whom</strong></td>
<td>for a pre-doctoral or doctoral exchange at a Swiss institution</td>
<td>for a doctoral work at a Swiss academic institution</td>
<td>for a postdoctoral exchange at a Swiss Academic Institution up to 3 years after PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>How much</strong></td>
<td>CHF 1’920 / month</td>
<td>CHF 1’920 / month</td>
<td>CHF 3’500 / month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>How long</strong></td>
<td>6-12 months (starting in September)</td>
<td>36 months (starting in September)</td>
<td>6-12 months (starting in September)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Host info</strong></td>
<td>Salary complement at the discretion of host professor.</td>
<td>Candidate must first be accepted by one of the EPFL doctoral school programmes. The thesis director must secure adequate funding to complete the candidate's salary up to EPFL standards of remuneration for doctoral students. He/she is responsible to schedule funding for the PhD after the 36 months of scholarship.</td>
<td>Salary complement at the discretion of host professor.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships are prestigious and highly competitive.

Success rate: 15 – 20%
Statistics: Last Call 2017

Allocation of newly awarded FCS scholarships in 2017, by higher education institution

- University of Basel: 24
- University of Bern: 27
- University of Fribourg: 11
- University of Geneva: 26
- University of Lausanne: 40
- University of Lucerne: 2
- University of Neuchatel: 7
- University of St. Gallen: 2
- University of Lugano: 4
- University of Zurich: 26
- Graduate Institute for International and Development Studies (IHEID): 6
- EPFL Lausanne: 25
- ETH Zurich: 28
- Bern University of Applied Sciences (UAS): 3
- UAS Northwestern Switzerland: 8
- UAS of Central Switzerland: 1
- Zurich UAS: 4
- UAS of Western Switzerland: 9
- UAS of Southern Switzerland: 3
Répartition des boursiers 2017 par institution et par type de bourse

UniBAS
UniBE
UniFR
UniGE
UniL
UniLU
UniNE
UniSG
USI
UniZH
IHEID
EPFL
ETH Zürich

Post-Doc  PhD  FA/SR
Role of the Supervisor (1/4)

- Applicants must find a professor at a Swiss academic institution willing to act as their supervisor.

- You may be contacted by an interested applicant starting August.

→ If you accept, what happens?

**Will you be my supervisor?**
Application:

- The supervisor must choose attentively their candidates.
  - The FCS recommends that you support **max. 1 or 2 applications per year**.

- The supervisor must provide the applicant with a **letter of support**, confirming that (1) he/she supports the project; (2) is willing to supervise the applicant; and (3) is willing to maintain possible future collaboration.
  - A **short CV** of the supervisor should be enclosed.

- For PhD scholarships, the supervisor informs the candidate that he must be **accepted by an EPFL doctoral programme before the FCS decision (March)**.
Role of the supervisor (3/4)

If granted:

- All granted projects must be uploaded on GrantsDB.

- **For PhD scholarships, the supervisor must complete the candidate's salary** according to EPFL standards for doctoral students.

- For Research and Postdoctoral scholarships, the salary complement is at the discretion of the host supervisor.

- As a supervisor, you agree to supervise the scholarship holder during their whole research stay, to integrate him/her in your team and provide good research conditions.

- The scholarships start on September 1st of the next year.
At the end:

- **For PhD scholarships**, the supervisor is responsible to organize a follow-up funding solution for completing the PhD after the 36 months.

- At the end of the scholarship, holders have to submit a final report for receiving the Swiss Government Excellence Scholarship Certificate.

- At the end, they are expected to return to their country of origin.
  - Finding employment in Switzerland contradicts the intention of the Excellence Scholarship which is to promote brain and talent circulation.
Practical information for Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships at EPFL

By Karin Delavy-Juillerat, Students Affairs
What does the scholarship cover?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What</th>
<th>Research scholarships</th>
<th>PhD scholarships</th>
<th>Postdoctoral scholarships</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For whom</td>
<td>for a pre-doctoral or doctoral exchange at a Swiss institution</td>
<td>for a doctoral work at a Swiss academic institution</td>
<td>for a post-doctoral exchange at a Swiss Academic Institution up to 3 years after Ph.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How much</td>
<td>CHF 1’920 / month</td>
<td>CHF 1’920 / month</td>
<td>CHF 3’500 / month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How long</td>
<td>6-12 months</td>
<td>36 months (starting in September)</td>
<td>6-12 months (starting in September)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition, the scholarship holder receives:

- Mandatory Swiss Health insurance paid by the FCS (Non-EU and Non-EFTA-citizen only)
- 1-year half-fare public travelcard
- One-time CHF 300.- housing allowance
- Various trips, dinners and sight-seeing tours
- Return allowance (lump sum) for the flight back to the country of origin (within 6 months after the end of the grant)

The scholarship is paid directly to the holder by SAE (not through the host laboratory).
Reception Service

Student Affairs:

Karin Delavy-Juillerat
Tel. +41 21 69 38077

- Assistance and personal advise to support:
  - Visa application;
  - Finding an accommodation, (housing allowance);
  - Extension of scholarship (for PhDs);
  - Integration (sightseeing trips and other extra-curricular activities, SBB-CFF half-fare travel card refund);
  - Every day life issues;
  - Good-bye gift.

- Advises and Support at any time if required!

- **Beginning of each month**: payment of the scholarship on the holder’s personal bank account.
For further requests and/or comments

Website:
http://sae.epfl.ch/swiss-government-scholarship

Emails:
Pre-Award
research@epfl.ch

Award, Post-Award
karin.juillerat@epfl.ch
Any questions for now?
Thank you for your attention!