

Overview of the instruments of the SNSF for international mobility and collaboration

Our strategic objective in [international cooperation](#) is to facilitate and optimise global scientific collaboration and exchange. Our activities aim to foster cross-border cooperation to the benefit of Swiss science. Through our international activities, we contribute to the increase of research capacity in Switzerland and abroad.

We base our international co-operation on the following principles and on the explicit understanding that these principles are shared with our co-operating partners:

- **Global approach.** We connect researchers globally.
- **Simplicity.** We promote simple procedures, aiming to include international collaboration and mobility in regular research funding whenever possible.
- **Multilateral co-operation and knowledge circulation.** We enable and promote talent circulation and the resulting exchange of ideas including free access to publications and data resulting from international projects.
- **Good scientific practice.** We are committed to collaboration that is transparent, treats all applicants on an equal basis, promotes research integrity, and respects human rights as well as the legal framework of research, both during the evaluation process and in conducting research projects.
- **Academic freedom.** We support the principle of research freedom and defend scientific autonomy, in a spirit of trust in scientists.
- **Excellence.** We make scientific excellence the main criterion for allocating funds.

Category	Description	Eligible countries	Eligible costs	Deadlines
<i>Individual mobility</i>				
<u>Scientific Exchanges</u>	Scientific Exchanges are aimed at researchers who wish to host their own scientific event in Switzerland, invite colleagues from abroad for a research visit to Switzerland, or visit their colleagues in another country. Scientific conferences or workshops may last from 1 to 5 days; research visits are funded for a period of 1 to 6 months.	Any country	Travel expenses, room and board costs of the travelling researchers, up to CHF 25,000; expenses for accompanying children (do not count towards upper limit of CHF 25k)	At least 4 months before the scheduled start of funding
<u>Mobility grants in projects</u>	Mobility grants are aimed at doctoral students who wish to improve their scientific profile by going abroad for 6 to 12 months while employed in an ongoing SNSF research project. The stay must take place within the timeframe of the research project.	Any country	Travel and living costs, as well as fees for conferences and workshops, up to CHF 20,000	At least 3 months before the scheduled start of the stay abroad
<u>Postdoc.Mobility</u>	Postdoc.Mobility fellowships are aimed at researchers who have done a doctorate or who complete it within the next nine months and wish to pursue an academic career in Switzerland after their time abroad. The funding period is 24 months for a research stay abroad, and 3 to 12 months for a return grant to finance their initial period of research after returning to Switzerland.	Any country	Grant for subsistence costs, flat-rate for travel expenses and possible contribution to research and conference costs	1 February, 1 August
<u>Money Follows Researcher</u>	Aimed at researchers who move abroad and would like current SNSF funding to continue. The project can either continue in Switzerland while being managed from abroad or it can be transferred to the new location.	Any country	The SNSF makes decisions as to the further use of funds on a case-by-case basis	A detailed request must be submitted to the SNSF division responsible for the grant as early as possible.

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<i>Collaboration in research projects within international and collaborative programmes</i>				
<u>Swiss bilateral programmes</u>	The bilateral programmes of the Swiss Confederation are aimed at promoting and strengthening scientific cooperation with non-European countries that show high research potential.	See the website of the SERI on bilateral cooperation programmes	As in project funding for researchers in Switzerland (see relevant call documents)	Ad hoc calls; see the calls website and newsletter for more information.
<u>Enlargement contribution</u>	Switzerland is contributing to the EU enlargement by supporting efforts to reduce economic and social disparities. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) mandated the SNSF and its counterpart in a partner country to launch and coordinate calls for Joint Research Projects (JRPs).	Croatia	As in project funding for researchers in Switzerland (see relevant call documents)	Currently there are no further calls foreseen.
<u>SPIRIT</u>	The Swiss Programme for International Research by Scientific Investigation Teams (SPIRIT) promotes team-oriented cross-border research. It is intended for 2 to 4 research groups, with at least 1 applicant in Switzerland and at least 1 applicant in an eligible partner country.	Based on the DAC list of the OECD (with exceptions) . See www.snsf.ch/spirit .	As in project funding for all applicants; at least 30% of the budget used in Switzerland, at least 30% in the partner countries.	Pre-proposals can be submitted anytime, full proposals upon invitation only
<u>Sinergia</u>	Sinergia promotes the interdisciplinary collaboration of 2 to 4 applicants proposing breakthrough research. If there are 3 or 4 applicants, 1 applicant may be based at a research institution abroad, if their expertise is essential.	Any country	As in project funding for all applicants	1 June, 1 December
<u>COST</u>	COST (European Cooperation in Science & Technology) supports Europe-wide scientific cooperation across all science and technology fields by means of broad scientific networks, COST Actions. COST Actions do not fund research itself, but support networking via different tools such as meetings, short-term scientific exchanges, training schools and dissemination activities. The SNSF opens yearly calls for the funding of national COST Projects , intended to support the research of Swiss researchers involved in ongoing COST Actions.	COST Actions: COST Member States COST Projects: only Switzerland	COST Actions: networking activities COST Projects: As in project funding, except for equipment.	COST Actions: See COST website: www.cost.eu COST Projects: yearly calls: www.snsf.ch/cost
<u>r4d</u>	Swiss Programme for Research on Global Issues for Development (r4d programme) of the SNSF and the SDC is aimed at researchers in Switzerland and in developing and emerging countries who wish to execute a joint research project on global issues. The programme focuses on reducing poverty and protecting public goods in developing countries.	Based on the DAC list of the OECD (See call document for details)	As in project funding for all applicants. 1. At least 50% of the academic personnel (in person months) per project resides in developing countries (group 2. At least 40% of the approved amount must go to the partners from country group 1. 3. 10% to 15% of the amount awarded to a project must be used for application and communication.	No further calls

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<u>NCCRs</u>	National Centres of Competence in Research (NCCRs) are aimed at established researchers in Switzerland who wish to pursue a long-term research project on a theme of strategic importance. The NCCR management teams are based at a higher education institution or at another renowned research institution. NCCRs are backed by one or more home institution. Expertise from abroad can be incorporated in the NCCR if it does not exist or is insufficiently developed in Switzerland.	Any country	According to <u>NCCR budget guidelines</u> - Analogous to project funding, no overhead.	Currently no call
<u>NRPs</u>	National Research Programmes (NRPs) embrace research projects that contribute to solving the key problems of today. The Federal Council makes the selection of topics, which it then refers on to the SNSF to address within the scope of an NRP. Collaboration with research groups in other countries is possible, provided the co-operation either generates significant added value that could not be achieved without cross-border cooperation, or that substantially enhances the proposed research with respect to content or methodology, or if the competence of researchers from abroad is essential for the successful completion of the project. As a rule, the funding share requested for researchers abroad may not exceed 30% of the overall budget.	Any country	As in project funding for all applicants from either country	NFP calls are launched at irregular intervals; see the <u>calls website</u> and the <u>newsletter</u> .
<i>Collaboration in projects: supplementary measures</i>				
<u>Project partners in SNSF-funded projects</u>	Project partners are researchers in Switzerland or abroad who make a partial contribution to the research project without being responsible for the project.	Any country	Research costs, excluding salaries, of up to 20% of the project budget.	Project partners must be designated in the project application and included in the budget.
<u>Collaboration and networking costs in SNSF-funded projects</u>	Project grants may be used to cover the following costs: for national and international cooperation and networking activities carried out in connection with the funded research as well as for the organisation of conferences and workshops in connection with the funded research.	Any country	Costs of collaboration activities directly linked to the research project, travel costs, organization costs for events	Must be included in the budget of submitted projects.
<u>International Co-Investigator Scheme</u> (formerly Money follows Co-operation Line)	The International Co-Investigator Scheme provides funding for cross-border projects with international partners. It is available for a limited number of countries with which the SNSF has signed an agreement. The projects includes a Swiss-based project and a subprojects conducted by the international partner, which are evaluated and funded by the SNSF, and reciprocally.	Denmark, Norway, Sweden, the Netherlands, as well as UK (social sciences and humanities only)	As in project funding for all applicants from either country	In project funding (1 April, 1 October), if the majority of the research is in Switzerland; otherwise submission to the partner organisation
<u>Weave/Lead Agency</u>	Weave and Lead Agency are part of the SNSF's project funding scheme. A single funder is the Lead Agency for projects with international partners, either the SNSF or its partner agency abroad. The researchers need to make only a single submission to the Lead Agency, instead of several proposals to different national agencies. The multilateral Weave agreement gives researchers the choice of the Lead Agency and enables trilateral projects. In the case of bilateral Lead Agency agreements, the lead is usually on an annual rotation basis and only bilateral projects are possible.	Weave: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Luxembourg, Poland, Slovenia, Sweden Lead Agency: France, Sao Paolo, South Africa, South Tyrol	In Switzerland: as in project funding In the partner country: according to the respective national regulations	Weave: 1 April, 1 October, if submitted to the SNSF or the deadline of the partner organisation Lead Agency: depends on the Lead Agency