

The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) is the main agency promoting scientific research in Switzerland. It supports research across all scientific disciplines on behalf of the Swiss federal government. As the scientific body of the SNSF, the Research Council is responsible for the development of funding schemes and funding policies, the scientific evaluation process, including the chairing of panels and the evaluation of proposals, and the selection of applications to be funded.

Election to the Research Council: Programme Committee Careers

For April 2025, the SNSF is seeking new research councillors to become members of the Programme Committee Careers

The Programme Committee Careers is responsible for career funding, the aim of which is to promote the professional development of highly qualified, early-career researchers in academia, science and society. It oversees the following funding schemes: Postdoc.Mobility, Swiss Postdoctoral Fellowships, Ambizione and SNSF Starting Grants.

To complement the existing expertise of the Programme Committee Careers and to enhance its diversity, we are seeking 1 to 3 additional members with the following specific expertise.

Specific expertise

Suitable candidates have knowledge of and concern for the challenges facing the career development of early-career researcher. They bring a good understanding of the various scientific and academic career paths across different higher education and research institutions, in particular universities of applied sciences or universities of teacher education. Candidates are excellent researchers ([SNSF's model of excellence](#)) and have a demonstrated track record in their research field as well as experience in one of the following areas of expertise:

- Arts
- Humanities
- Economics
- Health sciences
- Medical sciences
- Physics

In keeping with the programme committee's focus, researchers who are in the first five to ten years of their careers as lead researchers are specifically encouraged to apply. The SNSF is committed to diversity and equal opportunities and aims at advancing groups that are underrepresented in science. For instance, the SNSF aims for a share of at least 40 per cent women and at least 40 per cent men in the Research Council and its bodies. Among suitable candidates, preference will be given to candidates who enhance this commitment.

Profile of a research councillor

Experienced research councillors understand national and international research trends in their field and have a broad interest in various research areas. They are well-versed in research funding

developments, particularly those relevant to the Swiss research landscape, and have experience with SNSF funding schemes or other national and international funding programmes.

They are aware of and forward-thinking about new research funding approaches and best practices in research ethics and evaluation. Ideally, more experienced research councillors have experience in grant evaluation, including the assessment of collaborative or interdisciplinary research projects. They have demonstrated leadership in chairing research evaluation panels or in other decision-making bodies.

Research councillors identify with and are committed to the SNSF's fundamental funding principles, mission and values (see the SNSF website for its [mission statement](#), [strategy](#) and [Statutes and legal framework](#)). They can represent these both internally and externally, work well in a team and exhibit personal integrity and social responsibility.

Proficiency in English is required. Very good knowledge of at least one Swiss national language and a passive understanding of a second national language are preferable.

Conditions

- Availability equivalent to 20% FTE
- Mandate to commence on 1 April 2025 or as otherwise agreed
- Four-year term, re-election possible once
- Disclosure of any positions that may be incompatible with the mandate, particularly management and supervisory roles at organisations applying for SNSF funding. This includes roles such as rectorate members, presidents, directors, school management members and holders of key management functions within important organisational units, such as faculty deans (for more details, refer to the [Foundation Regulations](#), Art. 28.5)

The mandate entails fair compensation. Within the 20% FTE, the range of tasks may evolve over time. If deemed appropriate, it could also include a second mandate in one of the other committees of the Research Council.

Please submit your application via email to rc-election@snf.ch by 30 September 2024. Your application must comprise a motivation letter (maximum of 2 pages) in which you set out your potential contribution to the realisation of the SNSF's vision and a CV (maximum of 2 pages). The CV should reflect your relevant skills and proven experience in relation to the required profile and include details regarding your institutional responsibilities. In addition, please provide up to 2 pages in which you describe your major research achievements and contributions to the academic community or to society more broadly. When preparing the documents, please note that the SNSF adheres to the DORA principles.

Candidates will be selected in a one-stage interview process. The interviews will take place on 7, 14 and 15 November 2024.

Contact person

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