

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: Policy Committee

For April 2025, the SNSF is seeking new research councillors as members of the Policy Committee

Mandated by the Academic Board, the Policy Committee analyses, coordinates and develops the SNSF's overarching funding policies. Its goal is to anticipate emerging trends and developments in research and research funding to ensure that the SNSF remains at the forefront in its mission to fund excellent research.

The Policy Committee helps identify and evaluate gaps and areas for improvement for research and research funding. It formulates concepts, provides recommendations and develops policy actions to help the SNSF fulfil its mandate in the best way possible (see specific tasks and responsibilities below).

To complement the existing expertise of the Policy Committee and enhance its diversity, we are seeking 4 to 5 additional members with the following specific expertise.

Specific expertise

Suitable candidates are excellent researchers ([SNSF's model of excellence](#)) and have the following expertise and experience in the following areas:

- Practical expertise in research or science policy, for example in areas such as research evaluation and funding effectiveness, early career support, international cooperation, ethics, scientific integrity, quality assurance or diversity and inclusion
- Proven record of successful collaboration and negotiation with different stakeholders
- Demonstrated ability to identify emerging issues and their potential impacts on an organisation

Ideally, applicants also have expertise in the areas of strategic development, financial planning or portfolio planning.

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 of women and at least 40 per cent of 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 on 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

Thomas Werder, member of the SNSF Executive Management
rc-election@snf.ch

Policy Committee – Tasks and responsibilities

- Identifying **emerging relevant topics and trends** in areas such as research funding, funding policy, funding mechanisms, research evaluation and the SNSF's positioning in the national and international research landscape
- Advising on and further developing measures to demonstrate, promote and assess the **impact and added value of research** for science, society and other stakeholders
- Proposing the **framework for national and international partnerships** to the Academic Board
- Proposing the framework for the **strategic alignment of the SNSF's funding portfolio** and evaluation processes with its overall strategic goals to the Academic Board
- Continuously reviewing the coherence of the portfolio
- Creating and coordinating the **multi-year programme** and the **action plan** (in cooperation with the different bodies)
- Establishing and coordinating **policy groups for transversal policy topics** as needed (e.g. quality assurance and effectiveness of research funding, funding of early-career researchers, international collaboration, ethics and scientific integrity, equality, diversity and inclusion)