

Overview of opportunities for international cooperation

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.


Mobility and networking

Name	Description	Country	Eligible costs	Deadlines
Scientific Exchanges	Scientific Exchanges are aimed at Swiss-based researchers who wish to <ul style="list-style-type: none">– invite colleagues from abroad for a research visit to Switzerland or visit their colleagues abroad. Research visits are funded for a period of 1 to 6 months.– host a scientific event in Switzerland. Scientific conferences or workshops may last from 1 to 5 days and can also be conducted in an online or hybrid format.	Any country	Travel expenses, room and board costs of the travelling researchers; expenses for accompanying children (do not count towards upper budget limit).	At least 4 months before the scheduled start of the funding.

 Funding opportunities with a focus on international cooperation

Mobility and networking

Name	Description	Country	Eligible costs	Deadlines
<u>Collaboration and networking costs in SNSF-funded projects</u>	Project grants may be requested or 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	Eligible costs are described in: Art. 8 of the Project Funding Regulations . Costs must be included in the budget of submitted projects.	Deadline of the applicable scheme. Funds from global budgets of grants can be used for this purpose as long as the grant is ongoing.
<u>COST Actions</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. They support networking via different tools such as meetings, short-term scientific exchanges, training schools and dissemination activities. Researchers can participate in an ongoing COST Action or launch a new COST Action. COST Actions last 4 years.	Full or cooperating members of COST Association	Networking activities and collaboration.	See COST website
<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 5,000 additionally per accompanying family member.	At least two 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, who complete it within the next nine months or conducted research work for at least three years after their higher education degree 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	Mobility grant covers subsistence costs (applicant and dependent children) and flatrate for travel expenses (applicant, spouse/partner/dependent children) and possible contribution to research and conference costs. Return grants: grantee's salary (incl. social security contributions) and contribution to research costs. Eligible for Flexibility grants (Annex 4, General implementation regulations).	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 Section responsible for the grant as early as possible.

 Funding opportunities with a focus on international cooperation


Cross-border cooperation

Name	Description	Countries	Eligible costs	Deadlines
<u>Weave/Lead Agency</u>	Weave and Lead Agency are part of the SNSF's project funding schemes. A single funder is the Lead Agency for the evaluation of 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: <u>France, São Paulo, South Africa, South Tyrol</u>	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 organization. Lead Agency: depends on the Lead Agency, see website of the country in question.
<u>International Co-Investigator Scheme</u> (Money follows Co-operation Line)	The International Co-Investigator scheme is aimed at researchers in Switzerland whose project includes a subproject abroad. The SNSF evaluates and finances both the project and the subproject abroad. It is available for a limited number of countries with which the SNSF has signed an agreement. Such projects are evaluated and funded by the SNSF.	Denmark, Norway, Sweden, the Netherlands, 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 organization.
<u>SOR4D</u>	The Solution-oriented Research for Development (SOR4D) programme is a joint funding instrument between the SDC and the SNSF. The goal of the SOR4D programme is to produce better knowledge, solutions and innovation by needs-driven, transdisciplinary research that opens up new ways for advancing sustainable development and reducing poverty in the least developed, low and lower middle-income countries. It only funds projects involving mixed consortia of academic and practice partners and transdisciplinary set-ups. Grants are awarded for a period of three years. Projects with high potential for scaling-up, application and transformation can be funded for an additional 12 months with Transformation Accelerating Grants.	<u>Countries listed by the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD.</u>	As in project funding for all Applicants. Three financial conditions apply: 1. At least 50% of the approved amount must be spent in the ODA recipient partner country. 2. At least 20% of the approved amount must be allocated to development actors. 3. At least 10% of the approved amount must be spent for communication and dissemination activities.	Various, yearly calls, see <u>website</u> .

 Funding opportunities with a focus on international cooperation


Cross-border cooperation

Name	Description	Countries	Eligible costs	Deadlines
<u>SPIRIT</u>	<p>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 one applicant in Switzerland and at least one applicant in an eligible partner country.</p> <p>Swiss applicants must meet the eligibility requirements applicable to SNSF project funding. These requirements apply mutatis mutandis to applicants from abroad. Grants are awarded for 2 to 4 years.</p>	Based on the DAC list of the OECD (with exceptions) . See website .	As in project funding for all applicants; at least 30% of the budget used in Switzerland, at least 30% in the partner countries.	2 November
<u>Bilateral programmes of the Swiss Confederation</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 open calls website , newsletter and research.swiss for more information.
<u>Enlargement contributions</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).		As in project funding for researchers in Switzerland (see relevant call documents).	See webpage
<u>Multilateral initiatives</u>	In multilateral Initiatives research funders, ministries, research performing organisations join forces to launch calls for transnational collaborative projects. The SNSF participates in a number of multilateral initiatives in and outside of Europe (as listed on the website)	Participating countries for each multilateral initiative	As in project funding for the Swiss project part.	See open calls , newsletter .
<u>COST Projects</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. Researchers based in Switzerland who actively participate in a COST Action can apply for the funding of a research project for up to four years.	Full or cooperating members of COST Association	As in project funding, except for equipment.	One call per year (around May)

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Cross-border cooperation


Name	Description	Countries	Eligible costs	Deadlines
Project partners in SNSF projects	Project partners (Art. 12.4 Regulations on Project Funding) are researchers in Switzerland or abroad who make a partial contribution to a research project. Project partners must be designated in the application. The project partner role is supported in most SNSF funding schemes.	Any country	Project partners may request up to 20% of a project's total budget.	Various, for Project Funding: 1 April and 1 October.
Sinergia	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.	2 November
National Centres of Competence in Research (NCCRs)	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 NCCR budget guidelines – Analogous to project funding, no overhead.	Calls for NCCRs are issued periodically, see webpage .
National Research Programmes (NRPs)	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 cooperation 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 open calls website and the newsletter .

 Funding opportunities that support international cooperation

Incoming researchers

Name	Description	Country	Eligible costs	Deadlines
Scholars at Risk (through Scientific Exchanges)	Scholars at Risk placements of up to one year for researchers under threat can be supported through Scientific Exchanges. These need to be assessed by Scholars at Risk in Switzerland and be offered a place at a Swiss university before they can be supported. Applications are submitted by Scholars at Risk representatives at the institution in question.	Any country	Travel expenses to Switzerland, equivalent of a one-year salary.	Scholars at Risk applications can be submitted at any time, with no deadline.
Employment of staff in SNSF grants	Project grants may be requested or used to cover the costs of PhD students, postdocs or other personnel. They can be hired from Switzerland or abroad to work on a project in Switzerland.	Any country	Eligible costs in project grants: Art. 8 of the Project Funding Regulations . Details in Art. 7 General Implementation Regulations .	Deadline of the applicable scheme. Funds from global budgets of grants can be used for this purpose as long as the grant is ongoing.
Ambizione	Ambizione is aimed at early-career researchers (from Switzerland or abroad) who wish to conduct, manage and lead an independent project in Switzerland. Applications may be submitted no later than 4 years after the PhD. Ambizione grants are awarded for up to 4 years.	Any country	PI's salary and the funds needed to carry out the project.	1 November
Spark	Spark funds the rapid testing or development of new scientific approaches, methods, theories, standards, ideas for application, etc. It is designed for projects that show unconventional thinking and introduce a unique approach. It is open to all disciplines and must be conducted at a Swiss research institution. Applicant must have a doctorate or equivalent qualifications. A confirmation from a host institution in Switzerland is required with the application. The project duration is 6 to 12 months.	Any country	Salary and social security contributions for the PI/ scientific and technical staff; material costs, project-related use of infrastructures at institutions or laboratories; costs for subcontracting; networking and mobility.	See webpage

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