



POSTDOC.MOBILITY CALL FEBRUARY 2025

19 November 2024, 10:00 – 11:30

# The SNSF Postdoc.Mobility team

## Scientific Officers

- SSH: Coralie Dorsaz, David Möller
- MINT: Rafael Kronenberg-Tenga, **Noélie Maillard Schaffter**, Ramona Rauber
- LS: **Martina Haug, Renate Zindel**

## Grant Managers

- **Stjepan Krnjic, Lenard Schmid, Isabelle Walker, Ursula Zoss**

## Contact information

- E-mail: [pm@snf.ch](mailto:pm@snf.ch)
- Phone: **+41 31 308 22 22**
  
- Slides will be available on our website

# Overview of the SNSF Career instruments



**Develop your  
research expertise**

Develop your  
research expertise

Lead your research  
project

Lead your research  
project and your team

**Postdoc.Mobility**

Swiss Postdoctoral  
Fellowship

Ambizione

SNSF Starting  
Grants

**Postdoc abroad  
2 years**

Postdoc in CH  
2 years

Mid-career  
researcher  
4 years

Assistant Professor /  
Group Leader  
5 years

# Eligibility criteria

# Personal requirements

*must be fulfilled on the date of 1 February 2025*

1

Postdoc.Mobility:  
PhD/MD-PhD or  
medical studies with  
doctorate

2

Postdoc.Mobility:  
CH permit + 2 years of  
research activity in CH  
(non-Swiss nationals)

3

Return CH Grant:  
ongoing  
Postdoc.Mobility

1

Postdoc.Mobility:  
PhD/MD-PhD or  
medical studies with  
doctorate

### **PhD/MD-PhD:**

- You submit your application no more than 3 years\* after the date of your PhD defense
- You complete the PhD within the 9 months after the submission deadline

### **Medical studies with doctorate:**

- You submit your application no more than 8 years\* after the state examination
- Doctorate (Dr.med) completed within 9 months after the submission deadline
- You have done at least 3 years of clinical work
- Studies towards an MD-PhD cannot be funded under this scheme

# Extension of the window of eligibility

Can be requested based on the following reasons:

- paternity, adoption or parental leave
- inability to work due to illness or accident
- care duties
- services that benefit the general public, particularly military or civilian service
- continuing education in connection with the applicant's research activities, particularly internships or clinical work

Only the actual incurred delay can be requested

**Maternity:** extension of 18 months per child



2

### Postdoc.Mobility:

CH permit + 2 years of  
research activity in CH  
(non-Swiss nationals)

### Permit:

- Swiss permit: B, C, L or G

### Research activity:

- Employment of at least 2 years' duration at a research institution in Switzerland (such as PhD, postdoc...)

3

Return CH Grant:  
ongoing  
Postdoc.Mobility

**Return CH Grant:**

- You submit your application during the ongoing Postdoc.Mobility

# What can be requested

## Duration:

- **PM:** 12-24 months
- **RG:** 3-12 months

## Deadlines:

- 1 February and 2 August at 17:00:00 Swiss local time  
→ NOT-NEGOTIABLE
- Parallel submission for the same period to e.g. Ambizione not possible, except RG

## Start:

- Earliest: 6 months after the deadline, i.e. 1 August for February call and 1 February for August call
- Latest: 12 months after the ruling, i.e. 1 July for February call and 1 January for August call

## Time percentage:

- 100%
- 80% in case of care duties, teaching, clinical activity

## Host institution(s):

### PM:

- Abroad
- 1 or more institutes
- Max. 1/3 in CH
- Max. 1/4 at institutions in the practical field (industry, administration, etc.)
- Home country if justified (except CH)
- Place of education not possible

### RG:

- CH
- Place of education possible

PM = Postdoc.Mobility

RG = Return CH Grant

# How to apply

# General tips

- All relevant information can be found on the SNSF website and on mySNF [Postdoc.Mobility Regulations](#), [Guidelines Postdoc.Mobility](#), [Guidelines Return Grants](#), and [Checklist](#) for submitting a proposal are on our website (Homepage > Funding > Find funding scheme > Postdoc.Mobility)
- Submission via [www.mySNF.ch](http://www.mySNF.ch)
  - Register on mySNF as early as possible (scheme open 3 months before deadline)
- Start planning your submission early: deadlines are strict and non-negotiable
- Invest enough time for preparing all required documents (e.g., research plan, reference letters, confirmation(s) host institute(s), support letter(s)...) )
- You are competing with many applicants, i.e., your proposal must stand out and make a difference

# Research plan

## Postdoc.Mobility

- Number of pages: max. **8 pages**
- Character count: max. **30'000 characters including spaces**, without bibliography

## **NEW** Return CH Grant

- Number of pages: max. **4 pages**
- Character count: max. **15'000 characters including spaces**, without bibliography

## Both

- At least point 10 font size and 1.5 line spacing
- Research plan should be understandable for experts (within area of research) as well as for people in the wider discipline
- Please follow the guidelines/instructions carefully

**Max. number of pages AND of characters must be respected, otherwise, your application will be formally rejected**

# CV: Structure and Main Elements (SNSF Portal)

- Academic age

- Education & Employment (with supervisors)

- 3 Major achievements

- Works (up to 10)

- ORCID (make sure it is public)

Swiss National Science Foundation

CV

Jane Test  
Current position(s): Assistant professor with tenure track or similar  
Academic age: 8 year(s) 7 month(s)

Education

Degree	Organisation	Duration
PhD / Dr.: Psychology	Italian Institute of Technology, IT Department of Robotics, Brain and Cognitive Sciences	01.2008 - 04.2011 3 year(s) 4 month(s)
Master: Biology	Sorbonne University, FR Department of Psychology	10.2005 - 07.2007 1 year(s) 10 month(s)
Bachelor: Psychology	Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, DE Department of Psychology	10.2002 - 07.2005 2 year(s) 10 month(s)

Employment

Role	Organisation	Duration
Assistant professor with tenure track or similar	Universität Bern - BE, CH School of Health Sciences	09.2019 - Present 2 year(s) 10 month(s)
Senior researcher	Universität Zürich - ZH, CH Department of Neuroscience	03.2016 - 08.2019 3 year(s) 6 month(s)
Junior researcher / Postdoc	University of Wisconsin-Madison, US Center for Neuroprosthetics	10.2013 - 03.2016 2 year(s) 6 month(s)

Page 10

SNSF

Role	Organisation	Duration
Junior researcher / Postdoc	ETH Zurich, CH Institute for Neuroscience	05.2011 - 10.2013 2 year(s) 6 month(s)

Major achievements

Achievement 1

1] Journal article: Carberry, J. (2012). A Methodology for the Evaluation of Architecture. *Journal of Psychosomatics*, 5(11), 1-3. [https://doi.org/10.5555/1245600\\_DCS](https://doi.org/10.5555/1245600_DCS)

2] Journal article: Carberry, J. (2011). The Impact of Interactive Ergonomics on Cryptography. *Journal of Psychoaromatics*, 8(11), 1-3. [https://doi.org/10.5555/9764211\\_DCS](https://doi.org/10.5555/9764211_DCS)

3] Journal article: Adin, D., Fromenti, L., Stepan, R., Rus, J. E., Tjornehoj, S., Kallman, H., Aherne, M., Verbe, M., & Goldberg, R. (2021). Effect of type of diet on blood and plasma baseline concentrations, cardiac biomarkers, and echocardiograms in 4 dogs. *Breast: Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine*, 35(2), 771-779. <https://doi.org/10.1111/bvim.16075>

4] Journal article: Sironen, C., Carroon, N. D., Fromenti, L., Pitteri, F., Tjornehoj, S., Mazzonza, A., Zoccol, L., Buzzi, P., Ouglihen, M., & Orsi, S. (2022). Fungal communities in European alpine soils are not affected by short-term in situ simulated warming than bacterial communities. *Environmental Microbiology*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1462-2825.16090>

Page 20

SNSF

1] Book chapter: Bassolino, M., Seno, A. Representation and perception of the body in space. (2021). In: Della Sala, S. (Ed.). *Encyclopedia of Behavioral Neuroscience*, vol. 2. Elsevier, pp. 160-168. <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-819111-1.00011-1>

2] Journal article: Kather, M., Wlazny, N. L., Makboul, A. K., Garg, A. X., & Haynes, R. B. (2020). Diagnostic test systematic reviews: bibliographic search filters ("Clinical Queries") for diagnostic accuracy studies perform well. *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology*, 120, 974-981. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclinepi.2020.11.005>

Achievement 3

1] Journal article: Sironen, C., Carroon, N. D., Fromenti, L., Pitteri, F., Tjornehoj, S., Mazzonza, A., Zoccol, L., Buzzi, P., Ouglihen, M., & Orsi, S. (2022). Fungal communities in European alpine soils are not affected by short-term in situ simulated warming than bacterial communities. *Environmental Microbiology*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1462-2825.16090>

Page 30

# Reference letters

- Two confidential letters
- Have to be submitted by the reference persons via mySNF
- No rules for the choice of the persons (but cannot be family members of the applicant)
- Request these letters early enough because they must be submitted with the application



# Confirmation letter(s) host institution(s)

- For stay of at least 1 month
- Official letter head of the host institution (no e-mail)
- Original signature of the head(s) of the institution or host professor(s)
- Has to state the start and end dates
- Has to state clearly that the necessary infrastructure is available for the duration of the research stay
- If you submit a proposal for a project requiring authorisations or notifications, the letter must confirm compliance with the legal provisions and ethical guidelines of the relevant country and host institution
- If the letter cannot provide such confirmation by the time the fellowship application is submitted, a second letter from the host institute indicating that the authorisations have been obtained must be provided by the time the funds are released at the latest. In any case, the fellowship can only be released for payment once the SNSF is in possession of such confirmation from the host institute

# **NEW** Support letter(s) from the mentor(s) at the host institution(s)

- A support letter from the mentor(s) at the host institution(s) must be uploaded for each stay of 6 months or more
- The mentor(s) at the host institution(s) must confirm their willingness to support the applicant for their future career path
- The SNSF requires the mentor at the host institution to comment on the following aspects:
  - How will the research project be supported scientifically?
  - How will the applicant's scientific independence be ensured and promoted?
  - How will the continuous intellectual development and continuing education of the applicant be facilitated?
  - What resources needed for the research will the mentor make available to the applicant should they receive a fellowship?
- The person who signs the confirmation letter can also sign the support letter. However, 2 letters must be submitted

# Requested funding

## Postdoc.Mobility

- Grant towards living costs, flat-rate for travel expenses ([fellowship and travel allowances rates](#)). Please note this is a scholarship, not a salary
- Child allowances

## Return CH Grant

- Salary and social contribution

## Both

- Contribution to research and conference costs (max. CHF 5'000/year) **must be requested with the application**

+ Add expense	
Place of stay	+
Research funds	
Participation on travel expenses	

+ Add expense	
The applicants' own salaries	
Additional project costs (incl. consumables)	

# Do not upload, otherwise you will be asked to delete

- Cover letter
- Career plan
- Publications, PhD thesis...
- More than 2 reference letters

# Evaluation procedure and timeline



# Evaluation criteria

# Evaluation criteria\*

## Applicant

- Scientific research output to date (quality) of the applicant relative to the net academic age
- Expertise with regard to the proposed project
- Career development and mobility (past and future)

## Project

- Scientific relevance, quality, originality and topicality
- Suitability of approach, methodology and feasibility

## Host institution

- Scientific support, suitability and added value regarding the proposed project
- Suitability to ensure and promote the applicant's independence, intellectual development and continuing education
- For RG: value added to a scientific/academic career in CH



# If you are successful...

- Read carefully the decision letter (conditions etc.)
- For administrative questions, see our [Information set Postdoc.Mobility](#) and our FAQ on the website
  - Taxes
  - Instalment/bank account
  - Insurances
  - Maternity, parental leave
  - Reporting (scientific and financial reports)
  - ...
- For individual questions where you cannot find information: contact us!

# If you are not successful...

## **First...**

- Read carefully the decision letter
- If you have questions, contact us for clarifications

## **If you are thinking of resubmitting,...**

- Check if you still fulfil all formal requirements for the same funding scheme
- Consider the points criticised by the evaluation panel
- List and explain your revisions made in the point-by-point response
- You may apply once more for a Postdoc.Mobility resp. Return CH Grant

## **If you strongly disagree with the decision,...**

- You can ask for reconsideration or appeal against the decision

# Possible reasons for rejection (examples)

- Lack of details with regard to the **evaluation criteria**
- Not clearly demonstrated **experience** or **expertise** in the field of the project
- Quality of **research output** not clear, not convincing
- Unclear or missing **own contribution** to the project
- **Aims, research questions** or **hypotheses** unclear or not well defined
- Lack of **coherence**, lack of **focus**
- Missing **references** to sources, archives, literature or competitors
- **Theoretical framework** is not clear
- Not enough details about the **experimental approaches**
- Unclear, outdated or inappropriate, or insufficiently developed **methods** (inc. data collection)
- Unclear statistical plan/power calculation, etc.
- Overambitious, **feasibility** not clearly given
- No **backup plan**
- ...

# FAQs

# FAQs

*Can I apply for Postdoc.Mobility if I have already submitted an Ambizione, SPF or StG application?*

*No, if you have submitted an application for Ambizione, SPF or the SNSF StG which is under evaluation, you cannot submit an application for a Postdoc.Mobility fellowship.*

*Does the PhD count for the two years of research of activity in Switzerland for foreigner with a Swiss permit?*

*Yes.*

*Are exceptions possible regarding the minimum two-year Swiss link?*

*No. The minimum two-year Swiss link must be fulfilled on 1 February 2025.*

*Do you consider the oral exam, final draft submission or public defense as date for the PhD?*

*Oral exam/private defense.*

# FAQs

*Can I apply to go to more than one host institution?*

*Yes, this is possible. You must submit a confirmation letter from each host institution (for stays as of 1 month) and a support letter from each mentor (for stays as of 6 months).*

*Can a dual national apply to go to one of their home country, where they have never lived, studied...?*

*Yes, but a request for exemption has to be uploaded in the application.*

*Is it possible for the host institution to top up the stipend?*

*Yes, if there is a minimal amount demanded at the host institute. The SNSF does not top up the stipends.*

*Will my Postdoc.Mobility fellowship be taxed in Switzerland?*

*Most cantons consider the fellowships to be taxable income in the year of approval or in the year of payment. If you have any questions, please contact the relevant tax office directly.*

# Practical information

- Contact the reference persons, the research institution(s) and the mentor(s) well in advance for the **reference letters, confirmation letter(s) and the support letter(s)**

- Avoid submitting at the very last moment

**Submission deadline: 3 February 2025, 17:00:00 Swiss local time**

- Question “rumors/myths” – better contact the SNSF at [pm@snf.ch](mailto:pm@snf.ch)

# Thank you!



**Facebook.com/snf.fns.snsf.ch**



**Youtube.com/SNSFinfo**



**Instagram.com/swissnationalsciencefoundation**



**Linkedin.com/company/snsf**



**Twitter.com/snsf\_ch**

Check out our website: <https://www.snf.ch/en>

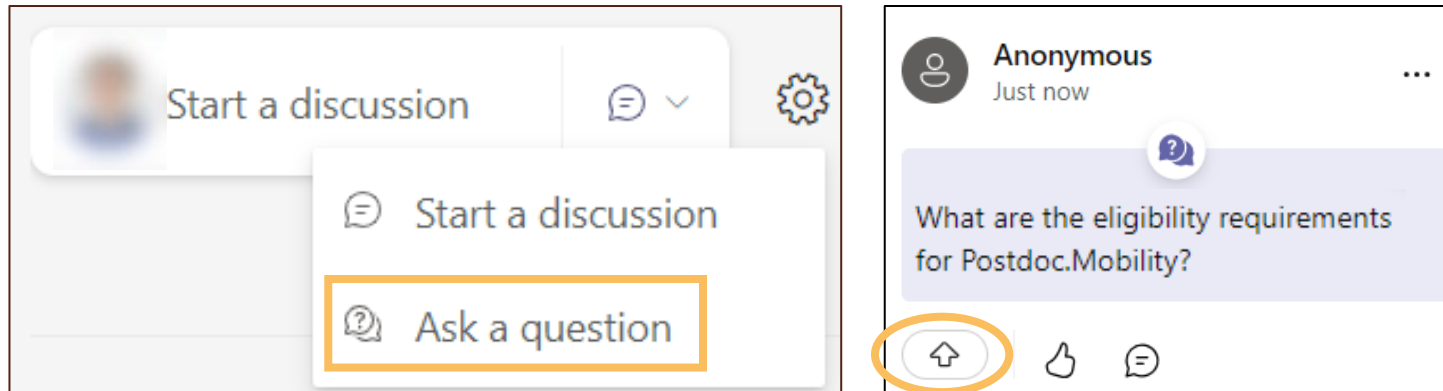
Visit the SNSF Data Portal: [data.snf.ch](https://data.snf.ch) !





# Rules for the Q&A session

- **Ask brief and general questions** relating to this call in Teams
- Click on ask a question and choose anonymous. We moderate and publish the questions



- **Upvote any published question** by clicking on the arrow. Upvote rather than ask a similar question. We will answer questions orally
- We will not publish specific questions relating to your personal situation. For this you can reach us at [pm@snf.ch](mailto:pm@snf.ch)
- We stop the Q&A at **11:30**