

# Regulations on Scholars at Risk (SAR) Grants

of 6 June 2023

*English is not an official language of Switzerland. This translation is provided for information purposes only and has no legal force.*

The National Research Council,  
based on Articles 9 and 48 of the Funding Regulations of 27 February 2015<sup>1</sup>,  
issues the following Regulations:

## 1 General

### **Article 1 Objectives and principles**

The SNSF may award grants for placements in Switzerland of scholars under threat, i.e. researchers from abroad who have obtained Scholars at Risk (SAR) status and for whom the Switzerland Section of SAR (SAR Switzerland) coordinates and facilitates a research stay at a Swiss research institution. These grants are referred to as SAR Grants.

### **Article 2 Applicable law**

Subject to any specific provisions in these Regulations, the provisions of the Funding Regulations and the General implementation regulations for the Funding Regulations<sup>2</sup> apply.

## 2 Personal and formal requirements

### **Article 3 Personal requirements**

<sup>1</sup> The responsible applicant for a SAR Grant must either be the SAR coordinator at the host university or a researcher hosting the scholar in their unit.

<sup>2</sup> To be eligible for support by a SAR Grant, the scholar under threat must have been granted SAR status by Scholars at Risk in New York. In addition, they must be supported by SAR Switzerland<sup>3</sup> and assured a scientific placement at a Swiss research institution. The SNSF may limit the number of SAR Grants awarded per year. No one is entitled to a SAR Grant, whatever their circumstances.

<sup>3</sup> The scholar under threat must hold a doctorate. For scholars without a doctorate, three years of research work as their main source of income since doing their higher education degree will generally be

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.snf.ch/SiteCollectionDocuments/allg\\_reglement\\_16\\_d.pdf](http://www.snf.ch/SiteCollectionDocuments/allg_reglement_16_d.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.snf.ch/SiteCollectionDocuments/snf-ausfuehrungsreglement\\_beitragsreglement\\_d.pdf](http://www.snf.ch/SiteCollectionDocuments/snf-ausfuehrungsreglement_beitragsreglement_d.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/sections/sar-switzerland/>

regarded as equivalent to a doctorate. The equivalence requirement also applies to scholars who have completed their studies in human, dental or veterinary medicine.

#### **Article 4      Formal requirements**

<sup>1</sup> Applications for SAR Grants must be submitted to the SNSF via its online submission tool.

<sup>2</sup> There are no set submission deadlines and applications may be submitted at any time.

### **3      Applications and eligible costs**

#### **Article 5      Applications**

<sup>1</sup> Applications for SAR Grants must be submitted in accordance with the requirements issued by the SNSF and must contain all the necessary information and documents.

<sup>2</sup> Applications can be submitted either by the SAR coordinator at the host university or by the researcher hosting the scholar in their unit; if the SAR coordinator is not the responsible applicant, they must be included as a co-applicant. If a scholar is hosted by more than one researcher, these can also be included as co-applicants.

<sup>3</sup> An application for a SAR Grant must include:

- a. a CV of the scholar under threat;
- b. a confirmation from SAR NY that the scholar has been granted SAR status;
- c. documentation regarding the scientific activity planned during the scholar's stay;
- d. confirmation that the host institution will support the scholar in accordance with the regulations and guidelines for SAR Grants; and
- e. an outline of how the placement is to be financed (e.g. travel costs, salary of the scholar, available additional funding or plans to obtain such funding).

#### **Article 6      Eligible costs**

<sup>1</sup> A SAR Grant covers a set amount of CHF 75'000 for a duration of 12 months; an extension for up to 12 additional months amounting to CHF 25'000 may be applied for once per placement. The host institution can use the grant as a salary or scholarship in favour of the scholar. In addition, it can be used to cover the costs for an initial journey to Switzerland. Materials, infrastructure costs or any other research-related costs cannot be covered from the grant.

### **4      Assessment criteria and procedure**

#### **Article 7      Assessment criteria**

<sup>1</sup> Applications must meet the personal and formal requirements. No further assessment criteria are applied.

<sup>2</sup> SAR Grants are approved according to the date of receipt of eligible applications within the limits of the available budget (“first come, first served basis”).

#### **Article 8 Evaluation and decisions**

<sup>1</sup> The Research Council has delegated the evaluation and decision-making with regard to SAR Grants to an evaluation body at the Administrative Offices of the SNSF.

<sup>2</sup> The said body generally decides and communicates the decision in the form of a ruling within two months of submission.

<sup>3</sup> The SNSF sends written confirmation of the grant to the applicant and informs SAR Switzerland Section of the grant and the current state of the allocated budget. The grant is credited to the grant administration office at the host institution, which manages the financial resources awarded under the grant.

## **5 Grants and grant administration**

#### **Article 9 Grants**

SAR grants are generally transferred to the host institution via the grant administration office and must be used according to the conditions set out in the ruling.

#### **Article 10 Reporting, receipts and reimbursements**

<sup>1</sup> The SAR coordinator for the host institution assists and monitors the funded scholar during the stay.

<sup>2</sup> The responsible applicant is also responsible for submitting the relevant financial and scientific reports and reporting documents, which must be drawn up in accordance with the guidelines for SAR Grants.

#### **Article 11 Entry into force**

<sup>1</sup> These Regulations enter into force on 6 June 2023.