

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 International Cooperation

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

The Programme Committee International Cooperation is responsible for promoting, funding and facilitating international scientific exchange and cooperation as well as for the implementation of international research cooperation activities of the Confederation and coordination with partner countries to strengthen the international anchoring and competitiveness of Swiss research. It oversees the following funding schemes: Bilateral Programmes, Enlargement Contribution, SPIRIT, Scientific Exchanges, COST, Scholars at Risk, International Complementary Measures and European Partnerships.

To complement the existing expertise of the Programme Committee International Cooperation and to enhance its diversity, we are seeking 1 to 2 additional members with the following specific expertise.

Specific expertise

Suitable candidates possess expertise in and experience with international cooperations, particularly with regions or countries where partnerships involve complex political or regulatory considerations. They are excellent researchers ([SNSF's model of excellence](#)) and have a demonstrated track record in their research field and experience in one of the following areas of expertise, preferably combined with expertise in interdisciplinary research:

- Social Sciences
- Humanities

Proficiency in languages in addition to English and the Swiss national languages is desirable.

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 should be able to 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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