

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 Thematic and Solution-Oriented Research**

### **For April 2025, the SNSF is seeking new research councillors as members of the Programme Committee Thematic and Solution-Oriented Research**

The Programme Committee Thematic and Solution-Oriented Research is responsible for funding, analysing, monitoring and integrating thematic and solution-oriented research activities in the Swiss research landscape. It creates added value for science and society through interactions, thematic research coordination and implementation. It fosters dialogue between science and the potential beneficiaries of research findings in Switzerland and beyond, spanning society, economy and politics. It oversees the following funding schemes: National Research Programmes (NRP), SOR4D, Implementation Networks, Agora, Quantum, Investigator initiated clinical trials (IICT) and BRIDGE (joint instrument with Innosuisse).

To complement the existing expertise of the Programme Committee Thematic and Solution-Oriented Research and enhance its diversity, we are seeking 1 to 2 additional members with the following specific expertise.

#### **Specific expertise**

Suitable candidates are excellent researchers ([SNSF's model of excellence](#)) and are experienced in the management of research programmes and the implementation of research findings (science communication, dialogue, knowledge and technology transfer) that impact both the academic and non-academic worlds. In addition, candidates have a demonstrated track record in their research field and experience in one of the following areas of expertise

- Physics with broad knowledge of quantum technologies such as quantum computing, quantum sensing, and quantum applications, and preferably with industry experience
- Computing sciences with broad knowledge of quantum technologies such as quantum computing, quantum sensing, and quantum applications, and preferably with industry experience
- Transdisciplinary and participative research in social sciences, preferably with an affiliation with a university of applied sciences or teacher education
- Transdisciplinary and participative research in the humanities, preferably with an affiliation with a university of applied sciences or teacher education

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 begin on 1 April 2025, or by agreement
- 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](mailto: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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