

The revised Funding Regulations and the General Implementation Regulations of the SNSF: overview of key changes

Introductory comment:

The Funding Regulations and the General Implementation Regulations provide the legal basis for the SNSF's funding activities. Regulations for individual funding schemes may contain deviating provisions for the relevant scheme that take precedence over the general provisions in specific points.

A number of rules now included in the revised regulations were already in force but regulated elsewhere, notably in the Research Act. These rules are now more easily accessible as part of the legal framework of the SNSF. In some cases, existing practices have been enshrined in a rule in order to increase transparency and legal certainty (hence the "Up to now" column has been left empty for some items).

	Up to now	As of January 2016*
General		
Project funding	Project funding included in the Funding Regulations	Separate regulations for project funding
Requirements for applicants		
Employment	Proof of employment already by the submission deadline	Proof of employment during the funding period is necessary; exception: for temporary, tenured academic posts the SNSF accepts a period of employment that is shorter than the duration of the project
Researchers with emeritus status	Eligible, the application must be deemed excellent, institution must provide co-financing	In principle, retired persons with emeritus status are not eligible, unless they are still employed \geq 50% FTE
Minimum work-time percentage / Minimum extent of scientific activity	-	>50% scientific research and teaching activities
Two or more applicants	Two or more applicants per application are allowed if each makes a major contribution	Two or more applicants are allowed if necessary to meet the research objectives and if each makes a major contribution
Researchers who make only a minor contribution to the SNSF project without being responsible for it	Informal collaborations	Project partners (newly defined role) can benefit from the grant

Incompatibility of roles	-	Grantees of the SNSF cannot be employees in an SNSF project at the same time
COI	-	Any conflict of interests affecting an applicant must be reported
Scientific misconduct	-	Applicants must inform the SNSF about any pending proceedings or sanctions
Further funding	-	Applicants are obliged to inform the SNSF about all submitted, pending or approved proposals at the SNSF or at other organisations
Scientific qualifications / eligibility requirements		
Equivalent to a doctorate	-	At least 3 years' research work as one's main source of income after graduating from a higher education institution
Relevant date of doctorate	-	Date of viva voce or official acceptance of the thesis
Extension of the eligibility period for the submission of applications		Eligibility period may be extended by at the most one year for the following reasons: maternity, paternity, adoption or parental leave; inability to work (illness/accident); Care duties; Services that benefit the general public, particularly military or civilian service; Continuing education, particularly internships, clinical work; Compulsory participation in a doctoral school before starting work on one's doctoral thesis.
Eligible costs		
General eligible costs	Personnel costs incl. social security contributions, materials, material of enduring value, conferences and workshops (restrictive), open access publications, career measures and gender equality measures	Personnel costs incl. social security contributions, materials, material of enduring value, direct infrastructure costs, subcontracting, computing time and cloud computing, conferences and workshops, collaborations, project partners, open access publications, career

		measures (now includes re- search time for clinicians), gender equality measures and reduction of teaching duties
Employment of staff		
Employee categories	-Doctoral students -Employees with a doctor- ate; -Other employees; these in- clude graduates who do not intend to do a doctorate; technicians; auxiliary staff; -Scientific staff at universi- ties of applied sciences and universities of teacher edu- cation	-Doctoral students -Postdocs -Other employees; these in- clude graduates who do not plan to do a doctorate; em- ployees with a doctorate who do not wish to pursue an academic career (and are therefore not regarded as postdocs); technicians; aux- iliary staff
Maximum period of employment funded by the SNSF	4 years for doctoral stu- dents; 5 years for postdocs	4 years for doctoral stu- dents; 5 years for postdocs
Relevant start date for calculating the period of employment	Doctoral students: registra- tion date	For doctoral students the registration date; for post- docs the date of the viva voce or official acceptance of the thesis
Postponement of the start date for cal- culating the maximum period of em- ployment	-	Postponement of max. one year for the following rea- sons: -Maternity, paternity, adop- tion or parental leave; -Inability to work due to ill- ness or accident; -Care duties; -Services for the general public, particularly military or civilian service; -Continuing education, par- ticularly internships, clinical work; -Compulsory participation in a doctoral school before starting work on the doc- toral thesis
Extension of the maximum period of employment (reasons for extension in the course of an ongoing grant)	-	Extension of max. one year for the above-mentioned reasons
Minimum requirements with regard to work-time percentage of doctoral stu- dents and postdocs in research projects	For doctoral students a min- imum work-time percentage of 60% FTE is compulsory: this "protected time" is to be devoted exclusively to the doctoral thesis	For doctoral students a min- imum work-time percentage of 60% FTE is compulsory: this "protected time" is to be devoted exclusively to the doctoral thesis. Postdocs must only be assigned a small share of tasks that do not help to enhance their

		scientific qualifications (max. 20%)
Grant conditions		
Maximum grant duration in project funding	Three years	Four years
Extension of maximum grant duration	-	On request, an extension of max. one year may be granted in case of maternity, adoption, illness, accident, military service or other services

*Project funding will be governed by the old Funding Regulations (FR2007) and the old Implementation Regulations (IR2015) up to the call in October 2016