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Regulations on grants for postdocs with family care duties who are employed in SNSF research projects – 120% support grants

13 February 2013

The National Research Council

based on Article 46 of the Regulations of the Swiss National Science Foundation on research grants of 14 December 2007 (Funding Regulations¹)

issues the following Regulations:

1. General provisions

Article 1 Principle

¹ The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) awards time-limited support grants to postdocs employed in SNSF-funded research projects with a work-time percentage of at least 80% so that they may achieve a better balance between career and family (hereinafter "120% support grants").

² With the exception of postdocs with an Ambizione grant (Ambizione grantees), grantees are excluded from this measure.²

³ The 120% support grants give the postdocs greater flexibility in pursuing their careers. They support researchers in achieving a balance between their academic career and family care duties by allowing for or extending part-time employment, or covering child care costs, so that there is no delay, or only a minimal delay, in the research work.

Article 2 How the 120% support grant works

¹ www.snsf.ch > About us > Statutes & legal framework

² New wording based on the decision of the National Research Council of 17 June 2014, in force since 1 July 2014.

¹ The 120% support grants are awarded to postdocs with child care duties who are pursuing an academic career.

² The 120% support grants allow the postdocs to reduce their work-time percentage from 80-100% to a minimum of 60%, or they contribute towards covering the costs of external child care.

³ If a reduction in the work-time percentage is envisaged, the freed up percentage can be increased by up to 20% so that a further person (technical assistant/lab assistant/scientific assistant, hereinafter "support person") may be employed in the SNSF research project with a work-time percentage of no more than 60%.

⁴ The rules of the SNSF with regard to the engagement of staff members apply to the employment of support persons.

⁵ If a reduction in the work-time percentage is not envisaged, the grant may be used to cover child care costs. The cost of this measure is limited to 20% of the gross salary of the postdoc.

⁶ The two measures "Reduction in the work-time percentage with employment of a support person" and "Child care without reduction in the work-time percentage" may be combined.

2. Formal requirements

Article 3 Personal requirements

Postdocs and Ambizione grantees³ who meet the following requirements are eligible to apply for a 120% support grant:

- a. They are employed with a work-time percentage of at least 80% in an SNSF-funded research project at a Swiss institution and are pursuing an academic career. The potential for an academic career must be confirmed by the responsible grantee or by the Ambizione grantee's superior⁴.
- b. They are able to show that they bear the main share of care duties for their children who have not yet reached the age when compulsory education (incl. kindergarden) begins.
- c. They state that, in the case of a reduction in the work-time percentage, they intend to work at least 80% once the support measure expires.

Article 4 Objective requirements

¹ The 120% support grants can only be acquired during the running time of the SNSF-funded project.

² The application for a 120% support grant must be submitted in electronic form and in the prescribed file formats and must contain all mandatory data and enclosures. The mandatory enclosures include, in particular:

- a. Proof of child care (incl. brief description of the situation)
- b. Details of the measures applied for: scope and duration of the reduction in work-time percentage and explanation of the benefit to be gained from the proposed support person (list of duties) or description of the child care measure pursuant to Article 2 paragraph 5;
- c. Career plan and CV;

³ New wording based on decision of the National Research Council of 17 June 2014, in force since 1 July 2014.

⁴ New wording based on decision of the National Research Council of 17 June 2014, in force since 1 July 2014.

- d. Detailed budget explaining how the 120% support grant is to be used;
- e. Letter of support from the responsible grantee of the SNSF project or the Ambizione grantee's superior⁵ and confirmation that the support person applied for will be engaged;

Article 5 Submission of applications and deadlines

¹ The applications must be compiled by the postdocs or the Ambizione grantees⁶ themselves. Subsequently, they must be submitted by the responsible grantee of the project funded by the SNSF.

² The applications must subsequently be submitted by the responsible grantee of the SNSF-funded project. Ambizione grantees submit their applications themselves.⁷

³ The applications must be submitted electronically via mySNF under the item "Supplementary grants".

⁴ The applications must be submitted no later than two months before the start of the planned measure. The punctuality of proposals is regulated in Article 9 paragraph 2 of the Funding Regulations.

⁵ Applications for 120% support grants may be submitted at any time within the scope of an ongoing project funded by the SNSF. Applications may be submitted as of the day on which the postdoc is reported to the SNSF as an employee in the project or the day on which the Ambizione grant starts,⁸ but no later than four months before its expiry.

⁶ 120% support grants are not paid retroactively.

3. The evaluation procedure

Article 6 Procedure

¹ The applications are evaluated in the order of their submission.

² The SNSF makes a limited budget available for 120% support grants each year. Support grants are only awarded until the funds are exhausted.

Article 7 Non-consideration of applications

The SNSF does not consider applications that fail to meet the requirements set out in Articles 3 to 5 or any other SNSF provisions on eligibility.

Article 8 Evaluation criteria

¹ Applications that meet the formal requirements are evaluated in depth.

² The following evaluation criteria are applied:

- a. Verification of the academic potential confirmed by the responsible grantee;
- b. Usefulness of the proposed support measure.

⁵ New wording based on decision of the National Research Council of 17 June 2014, in force since 1 July 2014.

⁶ New wording based on decision of the National Research Council of 17 June 2014, in force since 1 July 2014.

⁷ New wording based on decision of the National Research Council of 17 June 2014, in force since 1 July 2014.

⁸ New wording based on decision of the National Research Council of 17 June 2014, in force since 1 July 2014.

4. Eligible costs

Article 9 Costs

¹ The SNSF covers the following costs up to a limit of 20% of the posdoc's gross salary recalculated to the gross salary of a 100% position:

- a. The cost of the support person's salary at the SNSF rate, factoring in the funds freed up by the reduction and/or
- b. the costs of child care up to an amount of CHF 1000 per child and month according to the SNSF scale.

² The SNSF awards 120% support grants for no longer than the running time of the project or Ambizione grant approved by the SNSF⁹.

³ No research costs may be claimed within the scope of 120% support grants.

⁴ Any contributions towards child care costs from the employer of a parent are deducted from the SNSF grant towards child care costs.

⁵ The SNSF may reduce the duration and the budget, particularly if the SNSF rates are not complied with or the support measure is only deemed useful in part.

5. Rights and obligations of grantees

Article 10 Release of funds

The awarded funds are paid on receipt of a corresponding request from the responsible grantee of the research project funded by the SNSF or from the Ambizione grantee¹⁰. The procedure is governed by Article 34 of the Funding Regulations.

Article 11 Reporting

¹ Reporting shall be effected within the scope of the regular scientific report on the research project funded by the SNSF or the Ambizione grant¹¹. No separate scientific report need be submitted.

² The financial statement shall be submitted within the scope of the regular financial report. The costs of the support measure must be explicitly mentioned.

³ Funds that are not used may not be allocated for any other purposes within the project and must be refunded to the SNSF.

⁴ All costs must be documented by receipts.

⁹ New wording based on decision of the National Research Council of 17 June 2014, in force since 1 July 2014.

¹⁰ New wording based on decision of the National Research Council of 17 June 2014, in force since 1 July 2014.

¹¹ New wording based on decision of the National Research Council of 17 June 2014, in force since 1 July 2014.

6. Final Provisions

Article 12 Further provisions

¹ Subject to any specific provisions in these Regulations, the provisions of the Funding Regulations and the General Implementation Regulations for the Funding Regulations¹² apply.

Article 13 Entry into force

¹ These regulations were approved by the National Research Council on 13 February 2013 and enter into force on 1 June 2013.

¹² www.snsf.ch > About us > Statutes & legal framework