

Confirmation of the higher education institution

Introductory remarks: *The SNSF awards SNSF Eccellenza Professorial Fellowships and SNSF Eccellenza Grants to very highly qualified young researchers who are aiming for a permanent professorship. This scheme enables them to achieve their goal as leaders of a generously funded research project and team at a higher education institution in Switzerland.*

SNSF Eccellenza Professorial Fellowships

These fellowships are aimed at excellent researchers in all disciplines who have a doctorate or equivalent qualification and who are pursuing an academic career, but have **not yet won an assistant professorship** (according to Article 4 paragraph 1 of the Regulations on SNSF Eccellenza Professorial Fellowships and SNSF Eccellenza Grants).

They can request their own salary at the local rates applicable to assistant professors as well as project funds of up to 1,000,000 Swiss francs for five years.

SNSF Eccellenza Grants

These grants are aimed at researchers in all disciplines who have recently been appointed as assistant professors with tenure track (APTT) at a Swiss higher education institution. **Their positions as assistant professor with tenure track must be guaranteed independently of any Eccellenza grant** and, as a binding rule, the **start date of their employment as APTT** must lie within the following time window (according to Article 5 paragraph 1 of the Regulations on SNSF Eccellenza Professorial Fellowships and SNSF Eccellenza Grants): the position as assistant professor with tenure track at a university or any comparable position at a university of applied sciences or university of teacher education must start, **at the earliest, 18 months before the submission deadline and, at the latest, on the first day of the project.**

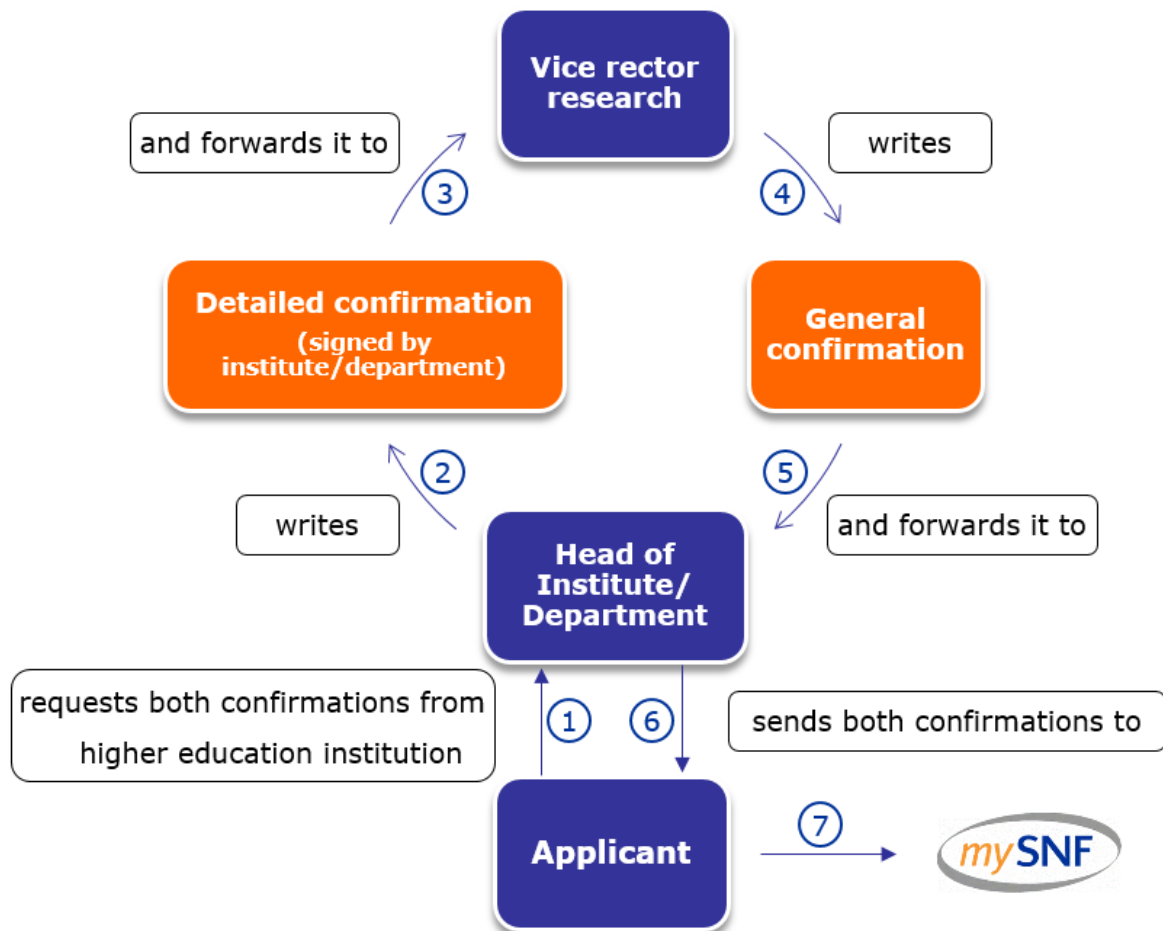
They can apply for project funds of up to 1,500,000 Swiss francs for five years.

With this, the SNSF supports talented individuals and incentivises the universities in the creation of more APTT-positions.

The written confirmation of the higher education institution consists of two separate letters:

1. Detailed confirmation of the higher education institution signed by the head of the institute/department.
2. General confirmation of the vice rectorate for research (or equivalent).

The statement of commitment of the Swiss higher education institution refers to the obligations which are stated in the Eccellenza regulations, in particular art. 8. In the case of SNSF Eccellenza Grants, it must also in particular address Article 5 of the Eccellenza regulations.



The directorate of the institute or department should forward the detailed confirmation of the higher education institution (point 1) to the vice-rectorate for research in order to receive the general confirmation (point 2).

Then, the head of the institute or department at the higher education institution should send both confirmations to the applicant for a timely submission of the application.

Both confirmations must follow the text template provided below and be written on paper using the official letterhead of the higher education institution. They **must be added to the application** and will only be regarded as complete if all the points relevant to the application are addressed.

1. Detailed confirmation of the higher education institution

The **[name research institution]** confirms its intention towards the principal investigator **[name applicant]** to adhere to the obligations listed below should an Eccellenza SNSF Professorial Fellowship / an SNSF Eccellenza Grant be awarded for the proposal entitled **[project title]**.

The higher education institution commits itself to engage the principal investigator (PI) for the duration of her/his Eccellenza Award and to:

- integrate the PI in the higher education institution and provide working space.
- support the PI in the management of his/her team and provide administrative assistance to the PI.
- provide research support to the PI and his/her team members throughout the duration of the project. In particular as regards an appropriate share of the funding of research expenses (e.g. material, equipment, personnel, travel, etc.) and access rights to infrastructures, equipment, and other services as necessary for conducting the research **[please specify]**.
- guarantee the necessary scientific independence of the PI, in particular as regards the:
 - realisation of the research under the scientific guidance of the PI;
 - selection and supervision of other team members;
 - use of the budget to achieve the scientific objectives of the project;
 - authority to publish as senior author and to invite as co-authors only those who have contributed substantially to the reported work.

[The following points MUST be addressed]

- Statement on the general interest of the higher education institution with regard to the PI and his/her research project/field as well as possible synergies.
- Statement on the project and its autonomy compared to other ongoing research objectives at the higher education institution.

[The following point should be addressed, IF APPLICABLE]

- *[In case of medical researchers doing clinical work]* [name applicant] can devote at least 50 % of the financed work-time percentage to the project and to his/her own further training and up to 50 % (on average during the entire grant period) to clinical work. The SNSF covers the share of the salary earmarked for research and teaching activities in full (100%), as well as an additional 10% of the share paid for clinical activities, at an assistant professor level. The host institute takes in charge the remaining salarial costs for clinical work.

- **[Further comments if desired]**

[Name, signature; signed by the head of the institute/department]

2. General confirmation of the vice rectorate for research

SNSF Eccellenza Professorial Fellowships:

The higher education institution commits itself for the duration of the fellowship to:

- guarantee the recipient of the SNSF Eccellenza Professorial Fellowship the status and title of a local assistant professor or an equivalent status.
- guarantee the recipient of the SNSF Eccellenza Professorial Fellowship the right to supervise dissertations (in the case of a higher education institution that awards doctoral degrees).
- inform the PI about job openings in her/his field of competence.
- ensure the possibility of teaching, however not exceeding 20% of the PI's work-time.

SNSF Eccellenza Grants:

The higher education institution commits itself for the duration of the grant to:

- guarantee the position of **[name applicant]** as assistant professor with Tenure Track **[since [date] / as of [at the latest date of the beginning of the project]]** for the requested duration of the project. **The employment level and the share dedicated to research should be clearly stated.** The following career path measures and career prospects are associated with the employment: **[please specify]**

The higher education institution confirms that

- The Tenure Track procedure follows the minimal standards issued by swissuniversities. Please attach the valid Tenure Track conditions of your institution.

The executive board of the **[name of the higher education institution]** supports the application of **[name applicant]** for an SNSF Eccellenza award and warrants the necessary conditions for the successful conduct of the research project pursuant to the letter of the **[name institute/department]**.

[Further comments if desired]

[Name, signature; signed by the vice-rector for research or equivalent]