

Guidelines for writing the research plan (scientific part of the proposal)

Investigator-driven research: Interdisciplinary projects

The research plan must consist of original text that has been written by the applicants themselves. A limited amount of text (or other material, graphs, etc.) by third parties or text published by the applicants themselves is permissible in the sections concerning the state of research as well as when describing standard methods. The quoted texts must be clearly designated as such (quotation marks or appropriate wording) and a verifiable source must be mentioned nearby and in the bibliography.

The research plan should be organized in 5 sections (2.1. – 2.5.), preceded by a summary (1.). We kindly ask you to use the section headings indicated below. In general, proposals are sent out for external review (par. 18 of the SNSF grant regulation). In order to ensure that the scientific content of your proposal can be adequately assessed, please provide a detailed research plan which sets out clearly the aims, objects and methods of the project you are planning.

For interdisciplinary applications the scientific part must be written in English. Apart from the research fields of mathematics, natural sciences, engineering sciences, biology, medicine, psychology and economics, exceptions can be accorded prior to submission upon request to the administrative office of the SNSF.

1. Summary of the research plan

Should give the most important features of your research plan and place your project in a broader scientific context.

2. Research plan

Maximum 20 pages and 80'000 characters including blank space, footnotes, figures, tables, formulae and references. The font size should be 10 pt with a line spacing of 1.5. In general, appendices are to be avoided.

2.1. Current state of research in the field

By citing the most important publications in the field under concern, please set out the scientific background and basis of your project, explain the need to perform research on the topic you propose, and briefly describe important relevant research currently performed in Switzerland and elsewhere.

2.2. Current state of your own research

If you are submitting a **new proposal**, please describe briefly your work in the research field or in related fields and indicate your relevant publications.

If you are submitting a **follow-up proposal**, please set out briefly the state of the art in the precursor project and give the most important results obtained within the latter.

2.3. Detailed research plan

Information on aims, rationale, methods and data

Against the background described in sections 2.1. and 2.2., please state the aims that you plan to attain during the lifetime of the project. Please consider the following points:

- Which investigations and / or experiments do you plan to carry out / are necessary to attain the stated aims?
- What is the rationale for getting the project started and how will the work most likely develop later on?

Information concerning the methods necessary to attain the aims:

- Which are the methods available to you?
- To which other methods do you have access and how?
- Which methods need to be developed?

Data and data collection:

- Which data are available to you and from where?
- Which data need to be collected?

2.4. Schedule and milestones

As far as possible, please give an approximate schedule for the work to be carried out within the project and indicate the most important milestones. In particular, please describe the major tasks of the staff to be employed within the project.

2.5. Importance and impact

Scientific importance and impact

Please describe briefly the importance of your research to the scientific community and the impact you expect from the project on research and training / teaching in your field / discipline. Please indicate how you will publish / communicate your results.

Broader impact

If it applies, please describe the impact of your research beyond your field / discipline and to the non-scientific community. In particular, describe potential impact and transfer measures to economy, industry, politics or society.

3. Interdisciplinary research*

Please describe in approximately one DIN A4 page what makes the submitted proposal interdisciplinary, why is an interdisciplinary approach necessary and how will it be carried out in the implementation of the research plan.

* A project declared as interdisciplinary by the applicant will be evaluated by the *Specialised Committee Interdisciplinary Research (FA-ID)*. The Specialised Committee Interdisciplinary Research is composed of at least eight members of the National Research Council, and each of the four SNSF divisions are represented.