

English is not an official language of Switzerland. This translation is provided for information purposes only and has no legal force.

Implementation regulations for SNSF professorships in energy research

13 August 2013

The National Research Council,

based on Article 1 paragraph 4 of the Regulations on SNSF professorships
issues the following Implementation Regulations:

Chapter 1 General provisions

Article 1 Principles

¹ The Federal Council's Dispatch on the "Coordinated Swiss Energy Research Action Plan – Measures for the Years 2013-2016" calls for the targeted funding of junior energy researchers. In principle, energy research is funded primarily at institutions involved in the setup and operation of inter-university competence centers (Swiss Competence Centers for Energy Research, SCCER).

² Within the scope of this funding, the SNSF awards SNSF professorships to internationally recognised and highly regarded junior energy researchers (hereinafter: energy professorships).

³ Energy professorships may be awarded at research centers of higher education institutions in Switzerland with proven credentials in energy research. Participation in a competence center (SCCER) is recommended but not mandatory.

⁴ The funding is awarded with a view to the grantee's permanent employment at the host institution upon expiry of the SNSF grant.

⁵ Subject to any deviating provisions in the following, the Regulations on SNSF professorships apply.

Artikel 2 Personal and objective requirements

¹ Junior scientists who wish to apply for an energy professorship must actively conduct energy research pursuant to Article 1 paragraph 1.

² Applications must be designated as "energy professorship applications".

³ The added value for energy research and any prospects for the application of research results must be set out convincingly in the research plan.

⁴ The condition stipulated in Article 3 paragraph 1 letter c of the Regulations on SNSF professorships (degree from a Swiss higher education institution, two years' activity at a Swiss higher education institution) does not apply.

⁵ If the research center of the higher education institution is participating in an SCCER, the applicant must submit written confirmation from the SCCER management guaranteeing, on the one hand, the applicant's scientific integration at the competence center within the scope of the research work and, on the other, his/her scientific independence.

⁶ The research center of the higher education institution chosen as host institution confirms that it will consider employing the successful applicant according to a pre-defined procedure upon expiry of the grant.

Article 3 Assessment criteria

¹ Applications for energy professorships are evaluated according to the assessment criteria set out in Article 7 of the Regulations on SNSF professorships.

² In addition, the following assessment criterion is applied: significance of the project for the establishment of competences in energy research in Switzerland.

Article 4 Obligations of the grantees

At the end of the funding period, the SNSF must be informed whether and in what form the grantee is employed at the host institution (tenure track position or permanent position/tenure).

Chapter 2 Special provisions for applicants at universities of applied sciences

Article 5 Personal requirements

In deviation from Article 3 paragraph 1 letter a, b and d of the Regulations on SNSF professorships, junior scientists who apply for Energy Professorships at universities of applied sciences must meet the following requirements:

They must:

- a. have a doctorate and several years of verifiable experience in use-inspired energy research;
- b. have acquired at least three and at the most nine years of research experience after the doctorate by the submission deadline. The date of the examination or viva voce and the submission deadline will be regarded as the relevant dates. No exceptions are possible with regard to the minimum period of three years. However, the maximum period of nine years after the doctorate represents a benchmark. The SNSF may accept applicants who exceed this benchmark, e.g. due to family care duties. The applicants must present their reasons for exceeding the benchmark in writing;
- c. have specific professional experience in the area of research-based development and innovation.

Article 6 Objective requirements

Regardless of Article 4 paragraph 4 letter e of the Regulations on SNSF professorships, a letter signed by the governing body of the university of applied sciences must be enclosed with the application for the second evaluation stage. In this letter, the said body confirms that the successful applicant will be able to devote at least 70% of his/her work-time to research and further scientific education and the remaining time primarily to teaching activities.

Article 7 Assessment criteria

Regardless of Article 7 paragraph 2 letters a, c and d of the Regulations on SNSF professorships, the following assessment criteria apply:

- a. The applicant's scientific track record (research and teaching experience);
- b. Experience in use-inspired research (e.g. professional experience and an independent contribution in the area of research-based development and innovation, independent contributions to patents);
- c. The applicant's readiness to be mobile (retrospectively: e.g. move from the higher education institution to industry and business) and in view of the intended place of work during the professorship (prospectively: e.g. move from industry and business to the higher education institution);
- d. Scientific quality of the planned research project and its relevance for use-inspired energy research.

Chapter 3 Final provisions

Article 8 Funding pursuant to the "Coordinated Swiss Energy Research Action Plan"

¹The SNSF avails itself of special funds for financing energy research.

²The awarding of energy professorships is dependent on the quality of the applications and on the available funds. The SNSF reserves the right not to exhaust the funds earmarked for a particular call and to use such funds to finance other measures that contribute to the establishment of competences in Swiss energy research (in particular, Ambizione Energy, AP Energy Grants).

Article 9 Entry into force

These Implementation Regulations enter into force on 1 February 2014.