

Tenth call for the SNSF Professorship programme: 45 awards for 2009

The tenth call for the SNSF Professorship programme attracted 175 applications from scientists in spring 2008.

August 2008 saw the completion of the first part of the procedure, when 65 candidates were invited to submit a detailed application. 63 persons presented their project in January 2009 to an evaluation committee of the National Research Council. In addition, the Council called upon the assistance of external experts during the second part of the evaluation.

The Swiss National Science Foundation has now awarded 45 SNSF Professorships to promising young researchers who have proved to be of exceptional scientific ability. The final selection placed particular emphasis upon the candidates' suitability and commitment to teaching.

The demands of the competition are at a very high level. In respect of the limited number of awards, which are at SNSF's disposal, very highly qualified candidates could not unfortunately always be taken into consideration.

The proportion of researchers abroad who will return with an SNSF professorship to Switzerland in 2009 is 29%. The brain gain will continue to be an important aim of the programme.

The proportion of female scientists, who received 2009 an SNSF professorship, is 33%. The proportion after ten calls for proposals is 29%. The SNSF will continue its efforts to increase the proportion of female scientists in the next years at least towards the targeted 30% .

The new SNSF professors are now working in eight Swiss Universities, both Federal Institutes of Technology and a University for Applied Sciences, where they will be active in research, teaching and clinical work and will enjoy the status of an assistant professor or the equivalent. The SNSF is confident that these professorships will prove to be a good start to their careers.

Distribution by Disciplines

Discipline	Number of subsidies 2009	Total of subsidies 2000-2009	percentage 2009	Total percentage
Humanities	6	66	31.2%	33%
Social Sciences	8	52		
Mathematics and Natural Sciences	14	97	35.5%	33.5%
Engineering Sciences	2	23		
Biology	11	88	33.3%	33.5%
Medicine	4	32		
Total	45	358*	100%	100%

* This total refers to the number of subsidies and not to the number of active SNSF professors (this number changes in accordance with the persons who are appointed to a chair position).

Distribution by Universities and Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology

University / ETH	Number of subsidies 2009	Total of subsidies 2000-2009
University of Basle	9	52
University of Berne	7	46
University of Fribourg	1	16
University of Geneva	6	49
University of Lausanne	2	30
University of Luzern	0	5
University of Neuchâtel	3	18
University of St. Gall	1	6
University of Zurich	7	54
ETH Lausanne	2	28
ETH Zurich	6	51
Hochschule für Gestaltung und Kunst Zürich	0	1
Schola Cantorum Basiliensis	0	1
Hochschule der Künste Bern	1	1
Total	45	358*

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