

## **17th call for the SNSF Professorships: 40 awards for 2016**

The 17th call for the SNSF Professorships attracted 264 applications from scientists in spring 2015.

August 2015 saw the completion of the first part of the procedure, after which 75 candidates were invited to submit a detailed application. 71 persons presented their project in January 2016 to the evaluation committees of the National Research Council. For the second stage of the evaluation, the Council additionally called upon the assistance of external experts.

The Swiss National Science Foundation has now awarded 40 SNSF Professorships to promising young researchers who have proved to be of exceptional scientific ability. The final selection also placed particular emphasis upon the candidates' suitability and commitment to teaching.

SNSF professorships places very high demands on the candidates. Unfortunately, due to the limited number of awards that can be granted by the SNSF, even highly qualified candidates could not always be taken into consideration.

Since 2009, the Research Council applies a separate set of conditions to evaluate research proposals in clinically oriented areas. In 2016, 2 of the 13 grants in biology and medicine were awarded to clinical researchers.

The proportion of researchers abroad who will return with an SNSF professorship to Switzerland in 2016 is 34%. "Brain gain" thus continues to be an important aim of the funding scheme.

The share of women who received an SNSF professorship in 2016 is 39% (2015: 35%). After 17 calls for proposals 2000-2015, the targeted overall share of women grantees (30% across all cohorts) has now been achieved. The SNSF will continue its efforts to increase the proportion of female SNSF professorship grantees in the next years.

The new SNSF professors will be working in 7 Swiss Universities and both Federal Institutes of Technology. They will be active in research, teaching and clinical work and will enjoy the status of an assistant professor or equivalent. The SNSF thereby provides them with a strong foundation for their future careers.

### Distribution by Disciplines

Discipline	Number of grants 2016	Cumulated grants 2000-2016	Percentage 2016	Cumulated percentage
Humanities	7	116	32.5%	32%
Social Sciences	6	90		
Mathematics and Natural Sciences	9	176	35%	34%
Engineering Sciences	5	45		
Biology	11	167	32.5%	34%
Medicine	2	55		
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>649*</b>	100%	100%

\* This total refers to the number of grants, not to the number of active SNSF professors (the latter varies based on how many persons are appointed to a chair position).

### Distribution by Universities and Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology

University / ETH	Number of grants 2016	Number of grants 2000-2016
University of Basel	3	83
University of Berne	13	85
University of Fribourg	1	38
University of Geneva	4	86
The Graduate Institute of Geneva	0	5
University of Lausanne	2	57
University of Luzern	0	9
University of Neuchâtel	1	21
University of St. Gall	0	6
University of Lugano (USI)	0	2
University of Zurich	6	116
ETH Lausanne	3	50
ETH Zurich	7	86
Zurich University of the Arts	0	1
Schola Cantorum Basiliensis	0	1
Bern University of the Arts	0	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>649*</b>