

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

Regulations on the transfer of ERC Grants to Switzerland (ERC Transfer Grants)

of 14 July 2015

The Research Council

based on Article 48¹ of the Funding Regulations of the SNSF² and Article 9 letter b of the Organisational Regulations of the National Research Council³

issues the following Regulations:

Article 1 Background and purpose

¹ Due to Switzerland's temporary exclusion from the European research programme 'Horizon 2020', researchers from Switzerland were not able to participate in the two calls launched by the ERC in 2014: namely for Starting Grants (March 2014) and for Consolidator Grants (April 2014). As a stop-gap measure for researchers in Switzerland, the SNSF awarded "SNSF Starting Grants" and "SNSF Consolidator Grants" under the "SNSF Temporary Backup Schemes".

² Funds awarded under the two ERC calls in 2014 for Starting Grants and Consolidator Grants may not be transferred to Switzerland due to the exclusion of Switzerland from 'Horizon 2020' that was in force at the time.

³ In the interests of safeguarding Swiss research efforts, holders of Starting Grants and Consolidator Grants from the 2014 ERC calls are to receive funding to enable them to transfer their research projects to Switzerland. The SNSF is implementing this measure on the basis of a mandate from the Federal Government.

Article 2 Scope and principles

¹ These Regulations lay down the rules for the financing of Starting Grants and Consolidator Grants awarded by the ERC in 2014 that are to be transferred to Switzerland (hereinafter: ERC Transfer Grants).

¹ Amendment; funding regulations of 27.2.2015, in force since 1 January 2016

² Funding Regulations of the SNSF (http://www.snf.ch/SiteCollectionDocuments/allg_reglement_e.pdf)

³ Organisational Regulations of the National Research Council
(http://www.snf.ch/SiteCollectionDocuments/por_org_rec_reglement_e.pdf)

² The provisions of these Regulations are subject to any changes in the background situation pursuant to Article 1.

³ Approved grants will in any case remain valid. The handling of such grants may be adapted to the changed conditions, however.

Article 3 Requirements for the proposals and for their submission

¹ Applications for ERC Transfer Grants may be submitted only by holders of Starting Grants and Consolidator Grants from the 2014 ERC calls (hereinafter: ERC Grants).

² Applicants must demonstrably meet the following requirements:

- a. An employment relationship in Switzerland in the context of which the ERC Transfer Grant would be used;
- b. confirmation from the employer institution pursuant to letter a above guaranteeing employment of the applicants, the necessary research infrastructure and employment of the project staff;
- c. confirmation from the applicants that, once transferred, the ERC Grant can be continued with the amount of funding originally approved and that they will devote at least 50% of their work-time to the relevant project. Significant changes, particularly concerning staff members and collaborations, must be explained and justified. The research plan must be taken over from the ERC Grant unchanged; and
- d. confirmation with regard to the remaining duration and remaining balance of the ERC Grant.

³ Applications, as a general rule, must be submitted to the SNSF no later than three months before the transfer. This deadline may be shortened in exceptional cases if adequate reasons can be given. Apart from the exceptions set out in the final provision, no retroactive applications will be accepted.

⁴ Applications must be submitted via *mySNF* in accordance with the formal requirements of the SNSF and must include all documents requested by the SNSF.

Article 4 Duration and amount of funding

¹ The SNSF awards ERC Transfer Grants at the earliest upon transfer of the research project and start of employment in Switzerland and for a period no longer than the remaining duration of the ERC Grant.

² The amount of the grant corresponds to the remaining balance of the ERC Grant after deduction of the overhead awarded by the ERC.

³ The SNSF does not offer grants to cover any additional costs incurred due to the transfer.

⁴ If the ERC Transfer Grant holders obtain a new ERC Grant during the running time of the ERC Transfer Grant, the ERC Transfer Grant shall expire when the new ERC grant commences.

Article 5 Overhead

The overhead is paid additionally from separate earmarked funds in accordance with the overhead provisions issued by the SNSF.

Article 6 Organisational provisions

¹ The Administrative Offices of the SNSF examine whether the requirements are demonstrably met and, this being the case, shall approve the ERC Transfer Grant.

² Its decisions are communicated in the form of a ruling (Article 29⁴ Funding Regulations).

³ The grant will only be released once the applicants have submitted a lay summary of their project to the SNSF.

Article 7 Grant administration, reporting

¹ ERC Transfer Grants are administered in accordance with the rules issued by the SNSF.

² Holders of ERC Transfer Grants are obliged to submit reports to the SNSF in accordance with the requirements stipulated by the SNSF.

³ In particular, an interim report must be submitted 24 months after commencement of the grant, as well as a final report upon conclusion of the project.

Article 8 Applicable law

Unless these Regulations provide otherwise, the provisions of the Funding Regulations of the SNSF and its Implementation Regulations apply.

Article 9 Entry into force and final provision

¹ These Regulations enter into force on 1 September 2015.

² Provided they are eligible to apply, ERC Grant holders who have effected the transfer to Switzerland prior to 1 September 2015 can submit a retroactive application for ERC Transfer Grants until 31 December 2015.

⁴ Amendment; funding regulations of 27.2.2015, in force since 1 January 2016