

Call for Temporary Backup Schemes for "Horizon 2020"

SNSF Starting Grants 2014

1. Scope and objective of the call

The changed status of Switzerland with regard to the European research programme "Horizon 2020" has led the SNSF to initiate Temporary Backup Schemes as a transitional measure. This call offers a substitute for the ERC call for Starting Grants with deadline 25 March 2020, for which proposals with destination Switzerland are not eligible.

2. Eligibility

¹ Researchers who would like to conduct a research project at a host institution in Switzerland are eligible to participate in the call. For the duration of the project, they must be employed at a research centre of a higher education institution or a research centre outside academia that is domiciled in Switzerland. In all other respects, the requirements set out in the Funding Regulations of the SNSF apply http://www.snf.ch/SiteCollectionDocuments/allg_reglement_e.pdf.

² Applicants:

- a. must have obtained their doctorate or a similar qualification between 11 December 2006 and 11 December 2011. If the relevant date is before 11 December 2006, exceptions will be made to a certain extent in the event of maternity, paternity or illness (see extended call document);
- b. must have published at least one article as main author in an international, peer-reviewed journal; the article must have been written without the help of the supervisor of the doctoral thesis;
- c. spend at least half of their total working time in Switzerland pursuant to paragraph 1. This is subject to the re-association of Switzerland in "Horizon 2020", in which case this restriction would be changed to 'spend at least half of their total working time in an EU member or associated state'.
- d. devote at least 50 per cent of their work-time to the planned research project.

³ Restrictions apply to applicants who simultaneously submit an application to the European Research Council under the Call Identifier ERC-2014-StG, and applicants with rejected and approved applications within the scope of previous work programs of the ERC (see extended call document).

3. Submission of applications and deadline

¹ The applications must be submitted to the SNSF electronically via the mySNF platform.

² mySNF will be open for applications for the programme "Horizon 2020"/Starting Grants from **15 to 25 March 2014**.

³ The following documents need to be submitted with the application:

- Extended Synopsis (5 pages)
- Curriculum vitae (2 pages)
- Track record (2 pages)
- Research plan (15 pages)
- Letter of support from the host institution
- Doctoral certificate (copy)
- Administrative information as per the requirements set out in mySNF
- other documents as per the extended call document

4. Procedure and assessment criteria

4.1 The evaluation procedure comprises two phases

In **phase 1**, the extended synopses are evaluated by the responsible panel, provided that the formal requirements for the submission of proposals are met. The panel recommends proposals for admission to phase 2 to the Commission for Temporary Backup Schemes (CTBS). The unsuccessful proposals are rejected through a ruling once the Commission has made its decision.

In **phase 2** the proposals are also evaluated externally and interviews are held with the applicants. On the basis of this, the panels recommend that proposals be either funded or rejected by the Commission.

4.2 Assessment criteria

The scientific quality of the research proposals and the scientific qualifications of the researchers are relevant for the scientific evaluation. For all particulars, the provisions set out in the extended call document apply.

4.3 Funding decisions

The funding decisions are made by the CTBS based on the panels' recommendations and approved by the Presiding Board of the National Research Council.

The decisions are communicated to the applicants in the form of a ruling.

For phase 1: no later than the end of September 2014.

For phase 2: by the end of December 2014.

4.4 Start of project, project duration

Projects may start on 1.2.2015 at the earliest. The grant is awarded for a maximum of 5 years.

4.5 Grant administration

Grants are administered pursuant to the rules set out in the Funding Regulations and its Implementation Regulations.

4.6 Reporting

Reporting is effected pursuant to the requirements and information set out in the rulings.

5. Information on right of appeal

Rulings of the SNSF may be appealed against before the Swiss Federal Administrative Court. No one is legally entitled to receive funding.

6. Amount and composition of the grant

A maximum amount of CHF 1,500,000 is awarded for 5 years. To this may be added a maximum amount of CHF 500,000 for installation costs in connection with the move to Switzerland due to the SNSF Starting Grant and/or for the acquisition or utilisation of scientific infrastructure.

7. Eligible costs

The following costs, which are directly linked to the research project, may be claimed:

- a. the applicants' salaries
- b. the salaries of scientific and technical collaborators in research projects within the scope of the salary or hourly rates prescribed by the SNSF;
- c. material costs that are directly related to the research work, namely material of enduring value, expendable items, field expenses, travel costs or third-party charges;
- d. The costs of scientific publications produced in the context of the funded research;
- e. Costs of conferences and workshops in connection with the funded research
- f. Costs of tasks assigned to third parties, as long as they do not constitute an essential part of the planned work (sub-contractors)

²The costs must be applied for and quantified in the proposal.

8. Overhead 15%

The SNSF pays an overhead of 15% on the awarded grants. The overhead is paid to the host institution. Its use is regulated by the principles set out in the Overhead Regulations of the SNSF.

9. General provisions for the Temporary Backup Schemes

The duration of Temporary Backup Schemes depends on decisions as to the status of Switzerland with respect to the European research programme "Horizon 2020". The provisions concerning organisation and contents of the Temporary Backup Schemes are subject to changes in the relevant conditions for Switzerland. The SNSF reserves the right to transfer its measures to "Horizon 2020" and terminate the Temporary Backup Schemes in the event of Switzerland's participation in "Horizon 2020". Approved grants will in any case remain valid. Their handling may be adjusted to the new conditions, however.

10. Further provisions

¹ In addition, the provisions set out in the extended call document apply.

² In the event of any issues that are not regulated in the call and the extended call document, the provisions of the SNSF concerning research funding shall apply, in particular the Funding Regulations of the SNSF and its Implementation Regulations.

11. Contact

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12. Enactment

The Presiding Board of the National Research Council decided to issue this call on 12 March 2014, and the call was enacted on 15 March 2014.