

Marie Heim-Vögtlin grants: Results of the 2016 call

The 26th call of the Marie Heim-Vögtlin (MHV) scheme attracted 147 applications by women researchers, a slight increase compared to the previous year (5%).

After an initial selection, 57 candidates were invited to present their project to one of the three MHV evaluation committees of the National Research Council.

In December 2016, the Swiss National Science Foundation awarded 42 new MHV grants: 17 in the humanities and social sciences, 8 in mathematics, natural and engineering sciences and 17 in biology and medicine. 17% of the new MHV grantees are doctoral students, who mostly work in the humanities and social sciences. The new recipients will begin or continue their research activities in 12 Swiss institutions of higher education and research institutes.

The Research Council placed particular emphasis on the candidates' reasons to apply for a MHV grant. Indeed, these grants are meant for women with excellent scientific qualifications who had to reduce or interrupt their research activities due to family commitments. Furthermore, the MHV scheme primarily offers support to scientists who would find it difficult to obtain other funding due to their nonlinear background.

95% of the new recipients had experienced delays in their scientific career after having children and, for more than a third of them, also due to the professional career of their partner.

The Research Council also considered the long-term perspectives offered by a MHV grant. A key criterion was therefore the commitment of the host institutions to employ the grantees beyond the end of the grant. This commitment contributes to achieving the key objective of the scheme: the integration of women researchers in academia and their long-term pursuit of an independent scientific career.

The SNSF will not launch any further calls for the Marie Heim-Vögtlin scheme. As of autumn 2017, a new funding scheme for excellent women researchers at postdoc level called PRIMA (Promoting Women in Academia) will be launched.

MHV grants 2016: grants according to research field

	Doctorate level	Postdoc. level	Total	%
Humanities	5	6	11	26
Social sciences	1	5	6	14
Mathematics and natural sciences	0	4	4	10
Engineering sciences	1	3	4	10
Biology	0	11	11	26
Medicine	0	6	6	14
Total	7	35	42	100

MHV grants 2016: grants according to host institution

	Total
EMPA	1
EPFL	2
ETHZ	5
FMI	2
IHEID	1
UniBE	3
UniBS	7
UniFR	1
UniGE	4
UniLA	3
UniZH	12
USI	1

