SNSF STARTING GRANTS 2024

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Online Q&A Session for Researchers
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SNSF Starting Grants 2024 is an integrative call

Transitional measure for the 2024 ERC Starting Grants

and

Eccellenza Professorial Fellowships / PRIMA
SNSF Starting Grants 2024

Aim
Grantees will lead an independent research project and direct a team of researchers in Switzerland.

Target group
An SNSF StG comes after several years of research after the PhD, equivalent qualification or medical degree during which grantees have already accomplished scientific independent achievements and contributed to impactful research in their field.

To be successful
You should have several major achievement that are independent of your work as a PhD student and of the associated PhD project.
Topics SNSF Starting Grants 2024 Q&A session

- Employment position during the grant
- Relation to other funding
- Eligibility = requirements to submit an application
- Extension of the eligibility window
- Budget and duration
- Evaluation criteria
- Changes relative to last call
- Practical Information
Employment position during the grant

You can submit an application independently of your current academic position, but a minimal employment position is expected during the grant:

- **Assistant professor at least; associate or full professors can also apply**
  → for higher education institutions that offer such a position

- **Equivalent position with independent project and management responsibility**
  → for institutions that do offer a position and title of assistant professor

You can either request your full, part of or none of your salary, in case you already have a fully paid position.
Relation to other funding

- You **cannot** apply if you participate as a PI in an ERC frontier project (exemption: ERC synergy grant) or SNSF Consolidator/Advanced Grant. If you already have an ongoing ERC grant as PI, you may only apply if the existing project will be completed by the end of 2025 at latest.

- You **can** apply for or already have other SNSF funding, but:
  - the research projects must address clearly distinguishable topics, and
  - you must be in a position to make substantial contributions to each of the research projects.

- You **can** apply if you are an Ambizione, PRIMA or Eccellenza grantee, as follows:
  - you must request your own salary as part of the SNSF Starting Grant (cf. later slide about the budget)
  - the unused portion of your own salary from your previous grant must be refunded to the SNSF from the moment you start the SNSF Starting Grant.
Eligibility = requirements to submit an application

After your PhD defence or equivalent

- you have at least 2 years (FTE) of research experience
- you submit your application no more than 8 years after the date of your PhD defence

After your medical degree (state examination or equivalent)

- you have done at least 3 years (FTE) of clinical work and have at least 2 years (FTE) of research experience
- you submit your application no more than 12 years after obtaining your medical degree
Extension of the eligibility window

Can be requested based on the following reasons:

- paternity, adoption or parental leave;
- inability to work due to illness or accident;
- care duties;
- services that benefit the general public, particularly military or civilian service;
- continuing education in connection with the applicant’s research activities, particularly internships or clinical work;

Only the actual incurred delay can be requested.

- In the case of maternity: extension of 18 months per child
Budget and duration

Maximum CHF 1.8 mio for 5 years

- Does not include overhead (will be paid separately)

- Amount is proportionally lower for a shorter grant duration

- If you have no employment secured for the whole duration of the grant
  your full or partial salary will be covered as part of the budget (i.e. max. CHF 1.8 mio for salary + project)

- If you have an employment for the whole duration of the grant
  you will request only project funds (max. CHF 1.8 mio)

- Family allowances paid by employer are not included in the maximum amount of CHF 1.8 million.
Evaluation criteria

**Research project**

**Scientific Excellence**

Groundbreaking nature & potential impact:
- To what extent are important challenges addressed?
- To what extent are the objectives beyond the state of the art?

**Scientific approach:**
- *Feasible* bearing in mind ground-breaking nature?
- Methodology and working arrangement, resources and timescales *appropriate*?

**Applicant**

**Intellectual capacity and creativity:**
- Ability to conduct ground-breaking research?
- Evidence of creative and original thinking?
- Scientific expertise and capacity to successfully execute project?
Changes relative to last call

- **Confirmation Research Institution**: only one letter, only one deadline

- No career plan

- **No revision notes** - every project is evaluated individually

- **No use-inspired data container**

- **Resubmission rule**: Possibility to submit a **third time** for applicants whose project reached the second evaluation phase for the SNSF Starting Grants 2023 and that was rejected in 2022
Practical Information

- Start **preparing** your application **well in advance**

- Do **not** submit at the **last minute**

- **Research plan:** Respect **character count** (60’000 characters for research plan) and **page number** (15 maximum)
  
  **Line spacing 1.5 (instead of 1),** character counter in mySNF binding
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Administrative concerns or help with mySNF
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