

Marie Heim-Vögtlin grants: Results of the 2013 call

The 23rd call of the Marie Heim-Vögtlin (MHV) scheme attracted 175 applications by women researchers, a significant increase compared to the previous year (+42%).

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 2013, the Swiss National Science Foundation awarded 39 new MHV grants: 17 in the humanities and social sciences, 7 in mathematics, natural and engineering sciences and 15 in biology and medicine. 21% of the new MHV grantees are doctoral students, who all work in the humanities and social sciences. The new recipients will begin or continue their research activities in 13 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 half of them, also due to the professional career of their partner. This year 5% of the grants were awarded to women researchers whose main reason for their career delay was the career of their partner.

The Research Council also considered the long-term perspectives offered by an 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 next call is scheduled for May 2014. Interested women researchers can submit their applications until 2 August.

MHV grants 2013: grants according to research field

	Doctoral level	Postdoc. level	Total	%
Humanities	6	6	12	44 %
Social sciences	2	3	5	
Mathematics and natural sciences	0	3	3	18 %
Engineering sciences	0	4	4	
Biology	0	14	14	38 %
Medicine	0	1	1	
Total	8	31	39	100%

MHV grants 2013: grants according to host institution

	Total
University of Bern	5
University of Basel	4
University of Fribourg	3
University of Geneva	4
University of Lausanne	1
University of Neuchâtel	2
University of Zurich	9
Università della Svizzera italiana	1
EPF Lausanne	2
ETH Zurich	4
FMI, Basel	2
Zürcher Fachhochschule	1
Various	1
Total	39

