

The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) is the main agency promoting scientific research in Switzerland. It supports research across all scientific disciplines on behalf of the Swiss federal government. As the scientific body of the SNSF, the Research Council is responsible for the development of funding schemes and funding policies, the scientific evaluation process, including the chairing of panels and the evaluation of proposals, and the selection of applications to be funded. The profile of the Research Council as a whole must deliver these functions whilst also reflecting the diversity of the Swiss higher education landscape as a whole.

## Election to the Research Council: Programme Committee Careers

**For April and October 2027, the SNSF is seeking new research councillors as members of the Programme Committee Careers.<sup>1</sup>**

The Programme Committee Careers is responsible for funding highly qualified early career researchers, including researchers at R2 (Postdoc.Mobility; Ambizione) and R3 (SNSF Starting Grant) level, to promote their professional development in academia, science and society. It is also currently revising its career funding policies and is developing the future career funding portfolio.

To complement the existing expertise of the Programme Committee Careers, we are seeking **four** additional members with the following specific expertise.

### **Specific expertise**

Suitable candidates will have an interest in policy-making with respect to questions concerning early career researchers and their career trajectories, especially beyond their own supervision experience. They will have knowledge of and concern for the challenges facing the career development of early career researchers and will bring a good understanding of the various scientific and academic career paths in different higher education and research institutions, or in universities of teacher education. Appreciation of non-linear, non-academic or industrial research career paths is necessary. They will have the capacity to chair evaluation panels relating to the SNSF's career funding.

Candidates are excellent researchers ([SNSF's model of excellence](#)) and have a demonstrated track record in their research field and experience in one of the following areas:

- Humanities, with expertise in qualitative research
- Experimental sciences, notably material science and engineering and chemistry
- MINT basic sciences, preferably theoretical
- Clinical Research and Medicine

Expertise in artificial intelligence or interdisciplinary research would also be an advantage.

---

<sup>1</sup> [Current composition of the Programme Committee Careers](#)

## Diversity requirements

The SNSF is committed to diversity and equal opportunities and aims at advancing groups that are underrepresented in science. For instance, the SNSF aims for a share of at least 40 per cent women and at least 40 per cent men in the Research Council and its bodies. Among suitable candidates, preference will be given to candidates who enhance this commitment.

## Profile of a research councillor

Research councillors need to understand national and international research trends in their field and to have the capacity to work across disciplinary boundaries and integrate different perspectives. They have experience with SNSF funding schemes or other national and international funding programmes.

They are aware of and forward-thinking about new research funding approaches and best practices in research ethics and evaluation. Ideally, more experienced research councillors are familiar with grant evaluation, including the assessment of collaborative or interdisciplinary research projects. They have experience in chairing research evaluation panels or in other decision-making bodies.

Research councillors identify with and are committed to the SNSF's fundamental funding principles, mission and values (see the SNSF website for its [mission statement](#), [strategy](#) and [Statutes and legal framework](#)). They can represent these both internally and externally, work well in a team and exhibit personal integrity and social responsibility.

Proficiency in English is required. Very good knowledge of at least one Swiss national language and a passive understanding of a second national language are preferable.

## Conditions

1. Availability equivalent to 20% FTE
2. Mandate to commence on
  - 1 April 2027 for the Humanities profile and the Clinical Research & Medicine profile
  - 1 October 2027 for the Experimental science and MINT profiles
3. Four-year term, re-election possible once
4. Disclosure of any positions that may be incompatible with the mandate, particularly management and supervisory roles at organisations applying for SNSF funding. This includes roles such as rectorate members, presidents, directors, school management members and holders of key management functions within important organisational units, such as faculty deans (for more details, refer to the [Foundation Regulations](#), Art. 28.5)

The mandate entails fair compensation. Within the 20% FTE, the range of tasks may evolve over time.

**Please submit your application via email to [rc-election@snf.ch](mailto:rc-election@snf.ch) by 14 June 2026, midnight.** Your application must be submitted as one document comprising a motivation letter (maximum of 2 pages)

in which you set out your potential contribution to the realisation of the SNSF's vision and a CV (maximum of 2 pages). The CV should reflect your relevant skills and proven experience in relation to the required profile and include details regarding your institutional responsibilities. In addition, please provide up to 2 pages in which you describe your major research achievements and contributions to the academic community or to society more broadly. When preparing the documents, please note that the SNSF adheres to the DORA principles.

Please indicate in your application any potential incompatibilities<sup>2</sup> with the mandate or potential conflicts of interest.

Candidates will be selected in a one-stage interview process. The interviews will take place in October 2026.

## Contact

[rc-election@snf.ch](mailto:rc-election@snf.ch)

---

<sup>2</sup> The following are incompatible with membership of the Research Council ([Foundation Regulations](#) Section IV, Art. 28,5):

- a. overall management and supervisory functions at organisations whose members apply for funding from the SNSF, such as rectorate members, presidents, directors or members of school management
- b. management functions at important organisational units or research subdivisions or research infrastructures of organisations under letter a, such as the deans of faculties of the cantonal universities;
- c. management and supervisory functions in organisations whose purpose or activity involves safeguarding the interests of specific areas of research or of researchers vis-à-vis the SNSF;
- d. management functions in a National Centre of Competence in Research, limited to eligibility for election to the corresponding body of the Research Council;
- e. other scenarios that could compromise impartiality.