

*English is not an official language of Switzerland. This translation is provided for information purposes only and has no legal force.*

## **Regulations on Project Funding**

**of 5 April 2023**

The Research Council

based on Articles 3 and 48 of the Regulations on research grants (hereinafter "Funding Regulations") issues the following Regulations:

### **Chapter 1      Project Funding**

#### **Article 1      Objectives and principles**

<sup>1</sup> The Swiss National Science Foundation (hereinafter "the SNSF") provides Project Funding to enable qualified researchers to conduct research projects on self-chosen topics and with self-chosen goals independently and under their own responsibility.

<sup>2</sup> The SNSF awards grants for research projects. Through Project Funding, it aims to award researchers a basic grant that is appropriate for the planned research. In particular, researchers can apply for coverage of research costs and staff salaries as well as for the funding of scientific cooperation, networking and communication; however, they may not apply for their own salaries. Subject to Article 4 paragraph 4, the project funds awarded may be distributed freely among the applicants.

<sup>3</sup> Grants are awarded based on the scientific appraisal of the submitted proposals.

<sup>4</sup> Project Funding grants are governed by these Regulations as well as the other applicable rules of the SNSF. The Funding Regulations of the SNSF<sup>1</sup> apply, in particular.

### **Chapter 2      Requirements for the submission of proposals**

#### **Article 2      Personal requirements, general**

<sup>1</sup> Natural persons are eligible to submit applications if they meet the general eligibility requirements for the submission of applications pursuant to Article 10 of the Funding Regulations of the SNSF. The requirements set out in Article 13 of the Funding Regulations with regard to the proposed research must also be met.

<sup>2</sup> Applicants with a doctorate must have obtained the latter four years before the submission date of the application. Applicants without a doctorate must generally have completed three years of research work

---

<sup>1</sup> [Funding Regulations of the SNSF](#).

as their main source of income since obtaining their higher education degree. Such research work will be regarded as equivalent to a doctorate.

<sup>3</sup> Researchers who assume an independent research position in accordance with paragraphs 4 and 5 below less than four years after obtaining their doctorate may submit Project Funding applications as soon as they assume the said position.

<sup>4</sup> Applicants must be in a position to carry out research projects under their own responsibility and to lead project staff both scientifically and as personnel.

<sup>5</sup> Applicants must make a substantial contribution to the proposed research and their work must not be directed by instructions from third parties.

<sup>6</sup> Applicants employed by a research institution located outside Switzerland are only permitted in the context of Lead Agency, Weave, or International Co-Investigator Scheme applications.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>7</sup> In principle, the SNSF considers only one application per applicant within a period of 12 months. Consequently, an application that was previously scientifically evaluated and rejected by the SNSF or by a partner organisation under the Lead Agency, Weave or International Co-Investigator Scheme is not admitted again in the subsequent call. Exceptions apply to applications that were rejected in random selection and Lead Agency applications scientifically evaluated and recommended for funding by the SNSF but rejected by the partner organisation.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>8</sup> In addition, the provisions of Chapter 3 of these Regulations must be met.

### **Article 3            Other personal requirements**

<sup>1</sup> Applicants must be able to show that

- a. they are conducting their research activities along with any scientific teaching activities to an extent equivalent to at least 50% FTE. Researchers devoting less than 50% of their time to scientific activities are eligible if their scientific research and teaching activities are usually carried out in the context of another professional activity;
- b. they are employed at least for the duration of the project at a research institution eligible for research funding from the SNSF or have been given assurance of such employment in writing;
- c. the necessary research infrastructure is at their disposal.

<sup>2</sup> If the proposed project is not to be conducted in the context of a position, applicants must show that they are independently conducting scientific research in Switzerland as their main source of income. The SNSF may demand further information on the research conditions.

### **Article 4            Duration of funding, minimum grants**

<sup>1</sup> The grants are awarded for a minimum of one year and a maximum of four years.

<sup>2</sup> Over the entire duration of the grant, each applicant may request an average maximum amount of CHF 250,000 per annum of which personnel costs may not exceed CHF 200,000.<sup>4</sup> A higher amount

---

<sup>2</sup> Amended based on the decision of the Academic Board of the Research Council of 21 January 2026, in force immediately.

<sup>3</sup> Amended based on the decision of the Academic Board of the Research Council of 21 January 2026, in force immediately.

<sup>4</sup> See Section 7.1. ff of the [General implementation regulations for the Funding Regulations](#).

than the average may be requested for any individual year, provided the total grant over the entire duration does not exceed the permitted maximum. The annual instalments awarded may not be exceeded.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>3</sup> The minimum amount that may be requested in research applications submitted to the SNSF is CHF 100,000. The SNSF does not consider applications for lower amounts.

<sup>4</sup> In collaborative projects with three or more applicants, the maximum grant is limited to CHF 3 million.<sup>6</sup>

## **Article 5            Formal requirements<sup>7</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> The submission dates are generally 1 April and 1 October.

<sup>2</sup> If an application is an interdisciplinary project and at least one of the areas of research falls within those mentioned in paragraph 1 of section 1.16 of the General implementation regulations for the Funding Regulations, the proposal must always be submitted in English.

<sup>3</sup> The SNSF may require a translation of the research plan into another language if an external evaluation of the application is not possible.

<sup>4</sup> Moreover, all other formal requirements for submitting applications apply, in particular the SNSF Funding Regulations and their implementing provisions.

## **Chapter 3           Applications and eligible costs**

### **Article 6            Applications**

<sup>1</sup> Project Funding applications must be submitted in accordance with the requirements issued by the SNSF for such grants and must contain all the necessary data and documents.

<sup>2</sup> The applicants must describe the proposed research project in the research plan.

<sup>3</sup> The SNSF may restrict the submission of Project Funding applications by grantees of other SNSF funding schemes, in particular career funding, in the corresponding regulations and calls.

### **Article 7            Eligible costs for the project**

<sup>1</sup> Project Funding grants may be used to cover the following costs:

- a. the salaries of scientific and technical staff in research projects within the scope of the salary ranges and rates prescribed by the SNSF;
- b. material costs that are directly related to the research work, namely material of enduring value, expendable items, field expenses, travel expenses, third-party charges, cost of computing time and data<sup>8</sup> as well as of providing open access to research data<sup>9</sup>;

---

<sup>5</sup> Amended based on the decision of the Academic Board of the Research Council of 21 January 2026, in force immediately.

<sup>6</sup> Amended based on the decision of the Academic Board of the Research Council of 21 January 2026, in force immediately.

<sup>7</sup> Amended based on the decision of the Academic Board of the Research Council of 25 February 2025, in force as of 1 April 2025.

<sup>8</sup> Amended based on the decision of the National Research Council of 9 December 2015, in force as of 1 January 2016.

<sup>9</sup> Amended based on the decision of the National Research Council of 21 March 2017, in force as of 1 April 2017.

- c. The costs of equipment and material of enduring value (in the following: equipment) are eligible for funding up to a maximum of 300,000 francs. A minimum of 50% co-funding by the institution is required for the cumulative costs of equipment exceeding 100,000 francs. The necessity of the equipment for the proposed research must be detailed in the proposal;<sup>10</sup>
- d. direct costs incurred through the use of research infrastructure linked to the research work;
- e. costs for the organisation of conferences and workshops in connection with the funded research;
- f. costs for national and international cooperation and networking activities carried out in connection with the funded research;
- g. additional costs for coordinating the research project in the case of applications with three or more applicants;
- h. For International Co-Investigator Scheme projects, the salary rates of the country concerned apply.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>2</sup> The costs must be applied for and quantified in the proposal.

<sup>3</sup> The requirements for assumption of the costs are set out in separate provisions issued by the SNSF. In particular, the SNSF may set upper limits for individual cost categories as well as binding rates for salaries and minimum requirements for employment positions.

<sup>4</sup> The SNSF may award global budgets and approve transfers between the individual cost categories during the funding period. The details are set out in separate provisions of the SNSF.

<sup>5</sup> ...<sup>12</sup>

## **Article 8 Eligible costs for career measures**

<sup>1</sup> The following costs for career measures are covered:

- a. Flexibility grants<sup>13</sup> of the SNSF for employees with care responsibilities;
- b. Mobility grants;
- c. Gender equality grant.

<sup>2</sup> The requirements for the assumption of costs and the ceilings set by the SNSF are laid down in the separate provisions issued by the SNSF for these grants.

<sup>3</sup> The grants must be requested in the applications or during the running time of the grant. The SNSF may stipulate that the costs of some of these measures be debited to the grant without any corresponding request having been made. In such cases, the SNSF pays an additional amount (deficit guarantee) if the project funds prove to be insufficient.

<sup>4</sup> ...<sup>14</sup>

---

<sup>10</sup> Inserted based on the decision of the Presiding Board of the Research Council of 29 October 2024, in force as of 1 October 2025.

<sup>11</sup> Amended based on the decision of the Academic Board of the Research Council of 21 January 2026, in force immediately.

<sup>12</sup> Repealed based on the decision of the Presiding Board of the Research Council of 8 December 2021 as of 31 December 2024.

<sup>13</sup> Amended based on the decision of the National Research Council of 15 August 2017, in force as of 1 January 2018.

<sup>14</sup> Repealed based on the decision of the Presiding Board of the Research Council of 8 December 2021 as of 31 December 2024.

#### **Article 9 Grants for collaborative projects**

Collaborative projects require that:

- a. they are submitted by several applicants;
- b. the specialist knowledge and the scientific contribution of two or more applicants are required;
- c. collaboration is essential for achieving the research goals and creates an additional benefit.

#### **Article 10 Grants for interdisciplinary projects**

Interdisciplinary research in terms of these Regulations means research that goes beyond the limits of existing disciplines. The disciplines may be represented by one applicant or by several applicants. An application is deemed to be interdisciplinary if the following requirements are met:

- a. the intended research goals require the integration of elements (such as theories, methods, concepts) from two or more disciplines;
- b. combining these elements is not yet customary in the field concerned;
- c. the various disciplines contribute to the proposed research from different perspectives.

#### **Article 11 Grants for project completion**

If, for unforeseeable reasons, additional funds are needed for the successful completion of a project, an application for a project completion grant pursuant to Article 36 of the Funding Regulations may be submitted.

### **Chapter 4 ICIS and Weave / Lead Agency process**

#### **Article 12 International Co-Investigator Scheme<sup>15</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> International Co-Investigator Scheme applications may only be submitted on the basis of a generally reciprocal agreement concluded between the SNSF and a partner country<sup>16</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> International Co-Investigator Scheme applications shall be submitted and evaluated in accordance with the rules governing SNSF Project Funding. Sub-projects conducted in the partner country shall be financed by the SNSF. The applicants from abroad must meet the SNSF application requirements *mutatis mutandis*.

<sup>3</sup> International Co-Investigator Scheme applications must fulfil the following conditions:

- a. the project cannot be carried out without the applicants based in the partner country;
- b. the applicants based in the partner country must, by analogy, satisfy the conditions applicable to applicants based in Switzerland<sup>17</sup>;
- c. the sub-projects conducted in the partner country demonstrably add significant value to the overall project;

---

<sup>15</sup> Inserted based on the decision of the Academic Board of the Research Council of 25 February 2026, in force immediately.

<sup>16</sup> Information on eligible countries and the conditions can be found on the SNSF website.

<sup>17</sup> See art. 10 ff of the [Funding Regulations](#).

- d. the corresponding applicant must be employed by a Swiss institution pursuant to Article 10 of the Funding Regulations of the SNSF;
- e. the share of financing allocated to sub-projects conducted in the partner country may not exceed 50%.

<sup>4</sup> The share of the grant allocated to sub-projects conducted in the partner country shall be paid in Swiss francs to the grant administration office of the corresponding grantee, which shall forward it to the competent office abroad. This share of the grant is calculated without overhead on the basis of the usual costs in the partner countries, particularly with regard to salary rates.

### **Article 13 Weave / Lead Agency process<sup>18</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Weave / Lead Agency applications may only be submitted on the basis of a generally reciprocal agreement concluded by the SNSF with a partner organisation from a partner country.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Applicants abroad must meet the personal requirements set out by the competent partner organisation.

<sup>3</sup> The duration of the project must comply with the regulations of the competent partner organisation.

<sup>4</sup> The SNSF regulations governing eligible costs, as well as the minimum and maximum amounts, apply to the budget of the Swiss part of the project.

If the project is approved, each organisation finances the part of the project conducted in its own country.

<sup>5</sup> The Lead Agency evaluates the overall project according to its own evaluation procedure; the partner organisation shall accept the decision of the Lead Agency.

<sup>6</sup> A copy of the application evaluated by the partner organisation must be submitted to the SNSF no later than seven working days after its submission to the Lead Agency.

<sup>7</sup> An approved application will only be funded if all competent partner organisations commit to funding the part of the project carried out in their own country.

## **Chapter 5 Applicants and submission of applications**

### **Article 14 Applicants, several applicants and project partners**

<sup>1</sup> Applications for Project Funding grants may be submitted by a single person or by several persons (applicants).

<sup>2</sup> Several applicants are eligible if they are needed to achieve the targets set for the planned project. In the case of two or more applicants, one person must be designated as the applicant engaging in correspondence with the SNSF.

<sup>3</sup> Each applicant must meet the eligibility requirements for the submission of applications pursuant to these Regulations and the Funding Regulations, and each is personally responsible for the project.

---

<sup>18</sup> Inserted based on the decision of the Academic Board of the Research Council of 25 February 2026, in force immediately.

<sup>19</sup> Information on eligible countries and the conditions can be found on the SNSF website.

<sup>4</sup> Project partners are researchers who contribute to a research project through cooperation without being responsible for the project. They must be designated as such in the application. Within the scope of their contributions such as analyses etc., project partners benefit from the SNSF grant. However, they do not count as (remunerated) employees of the project and are not among those responsible for the project as a whole. They may not refer to the support received from the SNSF as a grant they have acquired themselves.

<sup>5</sup> The relationship between the applicants and, after approval of the grant, between the grantees is governed by the Funding Regulations of the SNSF.

#### **Article 15      Project grants in relation to other forms of funding awarded by the SNSF; two or more project grants**

<sup>1</sup> In the Project Funding scheme, grantees may receive a maximum of two grants from the SNSF for the same funding period, provided at least one grant has been granted on the basis of a lead agency, Weave or International Co-investigator scheme evaluation. <sup>20</sup> Career funding grants held by researchers who are eligible as applicants for the Project Funding scheme are deemed to be Project Funding grants in this case.

<sup>2</sup> All research projects that overlap in time must have a clear thematic distinction from each other and all applicants must prove that he or she can make a substantial personal contribution to all the projects.

<sup>3</sup> In order to make a thematic distinction pursuant to paragraph 2, it is necessary to show that all projects are clearly different in terms of topic, aim, object of study and research question.

<sup>4</sup> It is possible to apply for a project grant for the period after expiry of a support measure by the SNSF that was subject to the restrictions applicable to Project Funding.<sup>21</sup>

#### **Article 16<sup>22</sup>**

### **Chapter 6      Assessment criteria and grants**

#### **Article 17      Assessment criteria, scientific evaluation**

<sup>1</sup> The relevant criteria for the award of Project Funding grants are the scientific quality of the research projects and the scientific qualifications of the applicant.

<sup>2</sup> Scientific evaluation is conducted in accordance with the criteria set out in Article 24 paragraph 2 of the Funding Regulations:

- a. scientific quality of the proposed research project: scientific relevance, topicality and originality, suitable methods, and feasibility;

---

<sup>20</sup> Amended based on the decision of the Academic Board of the Research Council of 21 January 2026, in force immediately.  
See article 19 paragraph 2.

<sup>21</sup> Amended based on the decision of the Academic Board of the Research Council of 21 January 2026, in force immediately.

<sup>22</sup> Repealed based on the decision of the Academic Board of the Research Council of 21 January 2026, in force immediately.

b. scientific qualifications of the researchers: scientific track record and ability to carry out the research project.

<sup>3</sup> For applications in use-inspired basic<sup>23</sup> research, the project's broader impact is considered in the evaluation as an element of its scientific quality in accordance with paragraph 2 letter a.

<sup>4</sup> In the case of collaborative projects, the aspect of how cooperation is conceived and organised with a view to achieving the joint research goals is also evaluated.

## **Article 18 Grants**

Project Funding grants are awarded and managed according to the applicable rules of the SNSF, in particular according to the Funding Regulations of the SNSF and its Implementation Regulations.

## **Article 19 Reporting**

<sup>1</sup> Holders of Project Funding grants are obliged to submit to the SNSF reports in accordance with the requirements stipulated by the SNSF.

<sup>2</sup> In particular, output data must be provided 18 months after the start of the project at the latest and a final report upon conclusion of a project.

## **Chapter 7 Applicable law, transitional provisions and entry into force**

### **Article 20 Applicable law**

Unless these Regulations provide otherwise, the provisions of the Funding Regulations of the SNSF and its Implementation Regulations apply.

### **Article 21 Transitional provisions**

<sup>1</sup> These Regulations are applicable to the funding arrangements initiated prior to their entry into force. However, if rights assigned to grantees on approval of funding are not in accordance with the new Regulations, such rights will nonetheless remain in force.

<sup>2</sup> Grantees of collaborative project grants approved prior to 1 April 2026 are authorised, for the duration of their ongoing collaborative project, to submit a second application under the Project Funding scheme and are, in this respect, treated in the same manner as applicants under the Lead Agency, Weave or International Co-Investigator Scheme (Article 15 paragraph 1 sentence 1).<sup>24</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Awarded or ongoing Sinergia grants are considered to be Project Funding grants in terms of Article 15 paragraph 2.

### **Article 22 Entry into force**

These Regulations come into force on 1 July 2023.

---

<sup>23</sup> Amendment of 27 October 2017, in force with immediate effect.

<sup>24</sup> Inserted based on the decision of the Academic Board of the Research Council of 21 January 2026.