



# SNSF International Cooperation Strategy

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# 1 Introduction

Research transcends national boundaries as it addresses problems of common interest on a global scale. With a reputation recognised beyond its borders, Swiss research contributes to the joint effort to solve global, complex and urgent challenges. Switzerland and its economy benefit from the global exchange of knowledge and access to international scientific infrastructures and networks. Switzerland's openness makes it possible to compete with the best and to attract the best talent. The interaction of researchers from diverse backgrounds stimulates the emergence of new ideas and sustains the exchange of knowledge, competences and practices in the long term.

In this document, the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) presents and explains its international strategy and how it is translated into action. This strategy is an integral part of the SNSF's overall legal and general strategic<sup>1</sup> framework.

The international strategy allows partners to understand the rationale and the limits of SNSF funding activities.

<sup>1</sup> SNSF strategy:  
<https://www.snf.ch/en/jpLYL6bWXNo6LvBX/page/aboutus/profile/strategy>

## 2 Strategic Objective and Principles

### Preamble

The international anchoring of research and funding activities is of central importance for the Swiss research community and the Swiss National Science Foundation. By giving better and stronger support to diversity in research, with a particular emphasis on gender equality, we foster excellence to the benefit of research in Switzerland. By awarding research grants through a competitive process, we play a key role in setting scientific standards and guaranteeing high-quality research in a rapidly changing environment. We are open to all kinds of excellent scientific research, and strengthening our foresight activities allows us to build research capacity in promising areas as well as to enhance our knowledge of research policy and use it to the benefit of society.

### Strategic Objective

Our strategic objective in international cooperation is to facilitate and optimise global scientific collaboration and exchange. Our activities aim to foster cross-border cooperation to the benefit of Swiss science. Through our international activities, we contribute to the increase of research capacity in Switzerland and abroad.

### Principles

We base our international cooperation on the following principles and on the explicit understanding that these principles are shared with our co-operating partners:

#### – Global approach

We connect researchers globally.

#### – Simplicity

We promote simple procedures, aiming to include international collaboration and mobility in regular research funding whenever possible

#### – Multilateral cooperation and knowledge circulation

We enable and promote talent circulation and the resulting exchange of ideas including free access to publications and data resulting from international projects.

#### – Good scientific practice

We are committed to collaboration that is transparent, treats all applicants on an equal basis, promotes research integrity, and respects human rights as well as the legal framework of research, both during the evaluation process and in conducting research projects

#### – Academic freedom

We support the principle of research freedom and defend scientific autonomy, in a spirit of trust in scientists.

#### – Excellence

We make scientific excellence the main criterion for allocating funds.

### 3 Legal and Strategic Context

The Swiss Confederation is engaged in maintaining a world-leading position in education, research and innovation. As highlighted in its international strategy for research and innovation, it participates in the development of the European Research and Innovation Area through Swiss cooperation in European programmes and organisations and provides support for global scientific and technological cooperation of Swiss universities and research institutions with their foreign counterparts, particularly through the development and promotion of bilateral partnerships with selected countries and regions<sup>2</sup>. The SNSF defines its funding of international research collaboration in accordance with the Confederation's goals and measures<sup>3,4</sup>.

To fulfil its mission, the SNSF works with its Swiss and international research policy partners and complements their efforts. Institutional governmental partners are, in particular, the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI), the Federal Government's centre of competence for national and international issues in education, research and innovation, and the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), including the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). These collaborations also strengthen the mutual benefits between research and diplomacy at the European and global level.

In addition, to maximise the impact of international collaboration programmes at the national level, the SNSF is in direct contact with the Swiss research community, providing information and keeping track of researchers' needs.

<sup>2</sup> Swiss International Cooperation in Research and Innovation:  
<https://www.sbf.admin.ch/sbfi/en/home/research-and-innovation/international-cooperation-r-and-i.html>

<sup>3</sup> Art. 10 of the Federal Act on the Promotion of Research and Innovation (RIPA/ FIFG)  
<https://www.admin.ch/opc/en/classified-compilation/20091419/index.html#a10>

<sup>4</sup> SNSF Statutes, art. 1, al. 2,  
[http://www.snf.ch/SiteCollectionDocuments/statuten\\_15\\_e.pdf](http://www.snf.ch/SiteCollectionDocuments/statuten_15_e.pdf)

# 4 Principles

## 4.1 Global approach

Scientific research is globalised and, at the same time, ever more specialised. The global exchange of ideas is a major driving force behind scientific excellence.

In response to the strong interest of Swiss researchers in collaborating with partners all over the world, the SNSF aims to enable international scientific cooperation. The SNSF explicitly adopts a global perspective and offers a flexible framework for researchers to connect with other researchers, regardless of their country and regardless of already existing cooperation networks. This may also include supporting research partners in low and middle-income countries to enable collaborations that would otherwise not take place.

Beyond bilateral cooperation, the SNSF funds participation in multi-lateral initiatives at the European and global level. This contributes to avoiding fragmented funding landscapes and fosters synergies, both between funding organisations and researchers. Furthermore, it facilitates the integration of Swiss researchers within international networks and strengthens the competitiveness of all partners. The decision to participate in such initiatives takes into account the strength of the Swiss research community in the targeted field and the expected added-value, as well as the participation of key national and international partners. The SNSF uses a systematic approach to identifying potentially interesting initiatives, as well as partners to work with, including those with a more applied focus.

In its efforts to implement a global approach, the SNSF is committed to following the Agenda 2030 of the United Nations and the related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a reference framework. This is directly reflected in the design of specific research funding schemes. Furthermore, the SNSF is committed to flexible and quick responses in times of global emergencies and crises.

More generally, the SNSF aims to support global cooperation networks that accelerate the translation of existing research results into practice – notably applications relevant to sustainable development.

## 4.2 Simplicity

The SNSF aims to limit the administrative efforts of researchers as far as possible. It strives for simplicity and lean management in the design and implementation of its funding schemes. The same applies to collaborations with partner organisations. In order to avoid a proliferation of funding schemes, the SNSF integrates, whenever possible and appropriate, ways of supporting bi- and multilateral cooperation within existing funding schemes. Furthermore, the SNSF safeguards the necessary flexibility in its funding activities to not only support a broad spectrum of research, but also to facilitate rapid responses to cooperation needs and provide sufficient support to international research communities.

# 4 Principles

## 4.3 Multilateral cooperation and knowledge circulation

The right framework conditions must be in place so that knowledge can circulate and researchers can exploit synergies between different fields of specialisation, achieve the critical mass necessary to successfully conduct research projects, recruit the best talent and build professional networks. Relevant framework conditions include free movement of people, free expression of opinions, funding for research and appropriate organisational structures, access to research infrastructures and encouragement of careers.

### 4.3.1 Support Switzerland's integration within the European Research and Innovation Area

Access to relevant multilateral funding channels and exposure to international competition helps to make Switzerland an attractive science hub. At the European level, it is of fundamental importance for Switzerland to remain integrated within the European Research and Innovation Area. Therefore, the SNSF considers it a priority that Switzerland is fully associated to the European Framework Programmes for Research and Innovation. Participation in the European Framework Programmes is complementary to national funding, but does not exclude overlaps in funding where there is a strategic advantage.

The SNSF closely follows developments in the global and European research funding environment and actively engages in debates that shape its future directly or together with other European organisations within Science Europe<sup>5</sup>. For its activities at the European level, the SNSF exchanges information with SwissCore, the Swiss contact office for education, research and innovation in Brussels, the relevant divisions at SERI, and the Mission of Switzerland to the European Union.

### 4.3.2 Participation in international fora

The SNSF engages in a number of different science policy fora such as the Global Research Council<sup>6</sup> (GRC) or Science Europe, and it provides its expertise in committees and working groups of inter-governmental institutions and programmes, such as the Global Science Forum (GSF) of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) or the EU Framework Programme Committees. Furthermore, the SNSF participates in international disciplinary funders' fora.

Through dialogue and common interests, the SNSF establishes alliances, develops opinions, defends its policies and contributes to safeguarding the interests of research in Switzerland at an international level.

### 4.3.3 Cooperation with other science funding organisations

The SNSF seeks to establish closer links with other research funding organisations on an equal footing (reciprocity), deepening existing partnerships and extending the number of partnerships, primarily to facilitate cross-border research collaboration.

The SNSF engages in call-based (short- and mid-term time horizon) and institutional forms of cooperation (long-term time horizon) with partner agencies; the latter are based on International Co-investigator or Lead Agency schemes. For cases in which there are legal, practical or financial obstacles, the SNSF continues to discuss alternatives that are transparently communicated to the relevant stakeholders.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.scienceeurope.org/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.globalresearchcouncil.org/>

# 4 Principles

Institutional learning is an important aspect of cooperation between agencies. With the aim of institutional knowledge building and sharing, the SNSF engages in activities such as staff exchange, sharing of documents and examples, technical and policy discussions.

If requested, the SNSF acts as advisory body to other research agencies, for example by supporting the establishment of a new research funding organisation or by supporting evaluation processes.

### 4.3.4 Support for knowledge circulation

The SNSF is convinced that the free circulation of ideas and open science, conducted in a democratic society, lead to better science. The SNSF supports collaboration through scientific exchange in various settings, including visits by scholars and participation in international conferences. The accessibility and exchange of knowledge is further facilitated by the SNSF's requirement to make all publications and data produced by joint research projects publicly available according to the principles of open access to publications<sup>7</sup> and open data<sup>8</sup>.

<sup>7</sup> SNSF policy on Open Access to Publications:  
<https://www.snf.ch/fr/VyUvGzptStOEPUoC/dossier/open-access-to-publications>

<sup>8</sup> SNSF policy on Open Access to Research Data:  
<https://www.snf.ch/en/dMILj9t4LNk8NwyR/topic/open-research-data>

## 4.4 Good scientific practice

### 4.4.1 Standards in research

The SNSF is committed to promoting research integrity based on the fundamental principles of reliability, sincerity, respect, responsibility and diligence. In fostering international cooperation, the SNSF follows the “Principles and Procedures on Integrity in Scientific Research” of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences<sup>9</sup> and the “European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity” of the European umbrella organisation for academies ALLEA<sup>10</sup>. This applies in particular to reliability and transparency in the development, design and implementation of research and in the communication of research results.

To ensure collaboration on an equal footing, the SNSF encourages researchers to follow the 11 Principles for Transboundary Research Partnerships<sup>11</sup>.

<sup>9</sup> Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences, 2021: Code of conduct for scientific integrity.  
<http://go.swiss-academies.ch/integrity>.  
<http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4707560>.

<sup>10</sup> <https://allea.org/code-of-conduct/>

<sup>11</sup> Bruno Stöckli, Urs Wiesmann, Jon-Andri Lys, 2018: A Guide for Transboundary Research Partnerships: 11 Principles, 3rd edition (1st edition 2012), Bern, Switzerland. Swiss Commission for Research Partnerships with Developing Countries (KFPE).  
<https://11principles.org/>

# 4 Principles

## 4.4.2 Quality of the evaluation process

The SNSF strives to implement evaluation processes that are fair and transparent, and follows the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA)<sup>12</sup>. It thereby builds trust in its processes and ultimately in the research that receives its support. Funding decisions are based on an international and transparent peer review system following the principles of the GRC<sup>13</sup>. The SNSF applies clear rules to avoid conflicts of interest<sup>14</sup>. Furthermore, the SNSF is committed to equal opportunities, notably with respect to gender and to fighting implicit biases<sup>15</sup>.

The SNSF collaborates in true partnerships with other research agencies that share these goals — for instance through joint evaluations or based on the mutual recognition of responsibilities, as is the case in Lead Agency agreements. Shared ethical principles provide the necessary trust for such collaborations.

## 4.5 Academic freedom

### 4.5.1 Defence of the free pursuit of research interests

The SNSF is committed to protecting the academic freedom of researchers, as stipulated in the Swiss Constitution<sup>16</sup>. For the SNSF, academic freedom guarantees that researchers are able to freely pursue their research, choose with whom they want to collaborate nationally and internationally, and communicate their research results (no repression of academics). In accordance with the Magna Charta of the European Universities<sup>17</sup>, freedom also encompasses the free movement of ideas (access to information).

The SNSF is convinced that academic freedom is important for progress towards new and far-reaching findings or applications, and it supports this vision by offering opportunities for cooperation that are thematically open and do not prescribe the choice of partners in any way. The SNSF rejects censorship of ideas, ideological controls (e.g. pre-publication controls) and the systematic exclusion of topics.

<sup>12</sup> <https://sfdora.org/read/>

<sup>13</sup> Statement of Principles of the GRC on Peer/Merit Review:  
[https://www.globalresearchcouncil.org/fileadmin//documents/GRC\\_Publications/Statement\\_of\\_Principles\\_on\\_Peer-Merit\\_Review\\_2018.pdf](https://www.globalresearchcouncil.org/fileadmin//documents/GRC_Publications/Statement_of_Principles_on_Peer-Merit_Review_2018.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> SNSF policy on conflicts of interests:  
<https://www.snf.ch/en/6cs2wnfJtcfFDL6o/page/evaluation-procedure>

<sup>15</sup> SNSF policy on gender equality:  
<https://www.snf.ch/en/OPP6MZgvShTA9HDg/topic/research-policies>

<sup>16</sup> Swiss Constitution, Art. 20:  
<https://www.admin.ch/opc/en/classified-compilation/19995395/index.html#a20>

<sup>17</sup> Magna Charta Universitatum:  
<http://www.magna-charta.org/magna-charta-universitatum>

## 4 Principles

### **4.5.2 Science diplomacy and support for scholars at risk**

The SNSF believes that international scientific cooperation can build trust and strengthen research freedom. Its funding schemes allow scientists from different geographic and cultural backgrounds to collaborate, which can, in turn, contribute to bridging political differences between countries. Through its different international activities, the SNSF can also support scientific cooperation where academic freedom is at risk. In particular, SNSF funding can provide initial financial support for foreign scientists, who are under personal threat in their country of origin and wish to continue their scientific work at a Swiss institution, in a fruitful environment together with Swiss and other international colleagues.

### **4.6 Excellence**

The SNSF is committed to making funding decisions based on a project's potential to generate excellent research. Funding excellent research is regarded as a stepping-stone to the SNSF's overarching task of facilitating knowledge gain. The interpretation of excellence is inclusive and captures excellence in all its diversity. The central role of excellence does not lead to the exclusion of complementary criteria such as equal opportunities, or the potential to generate technological, social, cultural and economic benefits.

The SNSF is convinced that keeping excellence at the core of evaluation both nationally and internationally fosters fruitful and ambitious scientific cooperation to the benefit of all partners.

# Overview of opportunities for international cooperation

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## – Academic freedom

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## – Excellence

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## Mobility and networking

Name	Description	Country	Eligible costs	Deadlines
<b>Scientific Exchanges</b>	Scientific Exchanges are aimed at Swiss-based researchers who wish to <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– invite colleagues from abroad for a research visit to Switzerland or visit their colleagues abroad. Research visits are funded for a period of 1 to 6 months.</li><li>– host a scientific event in Switzerland. Scientific conferences or workshops may last from 1 to 5 days and can also be conducted in an online or hybrid format.</li></ul>	Any country	Travel expenses, room and board costs of the travelling researchers; expenses for accompanying children (do not count towards upper budget limit).	At least 4 months before the scheduled start of the funding.

 Funding opportunities with a focus on international cooperation

## Mobility and networking

Name	Description	Country	Eligible costs	Deadlines
<b><u>Collaboration and networking costs in SNSF-funded projects</u></b>	Project grants may be requested or used to cover the following costs: for national and international cooperation and networking activities carried out in connection with the funded research as well as for the organisation of conferences and workshops in connection with the funded research.	Any country	Eligible costs are described in: <a href="#">Art. 8 of the Project Funding Regulations</a> . Costs must be included in the budget of submitted projects.	Deadline of the applicable scheme. Funds from global budgets of grants can be used for this purpose as long as the grant is ongoing.
<b><u>COST Actions</u></b>	COST (European Cooperation in Science & Technology) supports Europe-wide scientific cooperation across all science and technology fields by means of broad scientific networks, COST Actions. They support networking via different tools such as meetings, short-term scientific exchanges, training schools and dissemination activities. Researchers can participate in an ongoing COST Action or launch a new COST Action. COST Actions last 4 years.	Full or cooperating members of COST Association	Networking activities and collaboration.	See <a href="#">COST website</a>
<b><u>Mobility grants in projects</u></b>	Mobility grants are aimed at doctoral students who wish to improve their scientific profile by going abroad for 6 to 12 months while employed in an ongoing SNSF research project. The stay must take place within the timeframe of the research project.	Any country	Travel and living costs, as well as fees for conferences and workshops. Up to CHF 5,000 additionally per accompanying family member.	At least two months before the scheduled start of the stay abroad.
<b><u>Postdoc. Mobility</u></b>	Postdoc. Mobility fellowships are aimed at researchers who have done a doctorate, who complete it within the next nine months or conducted research work for at least three years after their higher education degree and wish to pursue an academic career in Switzerland after their time abroad. The funding period is 24 months for a research stay abroad, and 3 to 12 months for a return grant to finance their initial period of research after returning to Switzerland.	Any country	Mobility grant covers subsistence costs (applicant and dependent children) and flatrate for travel expenses (applicant, spouse/partner/dependent children) and possible contribution to research and conference costs. Return grants: grantee's salary (incl. social security contributions) and contribution to research costs. Eligible for Flexibility grants (Annex 4, <a href="#">General implementation regulations</a> ).	1 February, 1 August
<b><u>Money Follows Researcher</u></b>	Aimed at researchers who move abroad and would like current SNSF funding to continue. The project can either continue in Switzerland while being managed from abroad or it can be transferred to the new location.	Any country	The SNSF makes decisions as to the further use of funds on a case-by-case basis.	A detailed request must be submitted to the SNSF Section responsible for the grant as early as possible.

## Cross-border cooperation

Name	Description	Countries	Eligible costs	Deadlines
<b><u>Weave/Lead Agency</u></b>	Weave and Lead Agency are part of the SNSF's project funding schemes. A single funder is the Lead Agency for the evaluation of projects with international partners, either the SNSF or its partner agency abroad. The researchers need to make only a single submission to the Lead Agency, instead of several proposals to different national agencies. The multilateral <b>Weave</b> agreement gives researchers the choice of the Lead Agency and enables trilateral projects. In the case of bilateral <b>Lead Agency</b> agreements, the lead is usually on an annual rotation basis and only bilateral projects are possible.	<b>Weave:</b> Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Luxembourg, Poland, Slovenia, Sweden <b>Lead Agency:</b> <u>France, São Paulo, South Africa, South Tyrol</u>	In Switzerland: as in project funding.  In the partner country: according to the respective national regulations.	<b>Weave:</b> 1 April, 1 October, if submitted to the SNSF or the deadline of the partner organization.  <b>Lead Agency:</b> depends on the Lead Agency, see website of the country in question.
<b><u>International Co-Investigator Scheme</u></b> (Money follows Co-operation Line)	The International Co-Investigator scheme is aimed at researchers in Switzerland whose project includes a subproject abroad. The SNSF evaluates and finances both the project and the subproject abroad. It is available for a limited number of countries with which the SNSF has signed an agreement. Such projects are evaluated and funded by the SNSF.	Denmark, Norway, Sweden, the Netherlands, UK (social sciences and humanities only)	As in project funding for all applicants from either country.	In project funding (1 April, 1 October), if the majority of the research is in Switzerland; otherwise submission to the partner organization.
<b><u>SOR4D</u></b>	The Solution-oriented Research for Development (SOR4D) programme is a joint funding instrument between the SDC and the SNSF. The goal of the SOR4D programme is to produce better knowledge, solutions and innovation by needs-driven, transdisciplinary research that opens up new ways for advancing sustainable development and reducing poverty in the least developed, low and lower middle-income countries. It only funds projects involving mixed consortia of academic and practice partners and transdisciplinary set-ups. Grants are awarded for a period of three years. Projects with high potential for scaling-up, application and transformation can be funded for an additional 12 months with Transformation Accelerating Grants.	<u>Countries listed by the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD.</u>	As in project funding for all Applicants. Three financial conditions apply: 1. At least 50% of the approved amount must be spent in the ODA recipient partner country. 2. At least 20% of the approved amount must be allocated to development actors. 3. At least 10% of the approved amount must be spent for communication and dissemination activities.	Various, yearly calls, see <u>website</u> .

 Funding opportunities with a focus on international cooperation

## Cross-border cooperation

Name	Description	Countries	Eligible costs	Deadlines
<b><u>SPIRIT</u></b>	<p>The Swiss Programme for International Research by Scientific Investigation Teams (SPIRIT) promotes team-oriented cross-border research. It is intended for 2 to 4 research groups, with at least one applicant in Switzerland and at least one applicant in an eligible partner country.</p> <p>Swiss applicants must meet the eligibility requirements applicable to SNSF project funding. These requirements apply mutatis mutandis to applicants from abroad. Grants are awarded for 2 to 4 years.</p>	Based on the <a href="#">DAC list of the OECD (with exceptions)</a> . See <a href="#">website</a> .	As in project funding for all applicants; at least 30% of the budget used in Switzerland, at least 30% in the partner countries.	2 November
<b><u>Bilateral programmes of the Swiss Confederation</u></b>	The bilateral programmes of the Swiss Confederation are aimed at promoting and strengthening scientific cooperation with non-European countries that show high research potential.	See the website of the SERI on <a href="#">bilateral cooperation programmes</a>	As in project funding for researchers in Switzerland (see relevant call documents)	Ad hoc calls; see <a href="#">open calls website</a> , <a href="#">newsletter</a> and <a href="#">research.swiss</a> for more information.
<b><u>Enlargement contributions</u></b>	Switzerland is contributing to the EU enlargement by supporting efforts to reduce economic and social disparities. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) mandated the SNSF and its counterpart in a partner country to launch and coordinate calls for Joint Research Projects (JRPs).		As in project funding for researchers in Switzerland (see relevant call documents).	See <a href="#">webpage</a>
<b><u>Multilateral initiatives</u></b>	In multilateral Initiatives research funders, ministries, research performing organisations join forces to launch calls for transnational collaborative projects. The SNSF participates in a number of multilateral initiatives in and outside of Europe (as listed on the website)	Participating countries for each multilateral initiative	As in project funding for the Swiss project part.	See <a href="#">open calls</a> , <a href="#">newsletter</a> .
<b><u>COST Projects</u></b>	COST (European Cooperation in Science & Technology) supports Europe-wide scientific cooperation across all science and technology fields by means of broad scientific networks, COST Actions. Researchers based in Switzerland who actively participate in a COST Action can apply for the funding of a research project for up to four years.	<a href="#">Full or cooperating members of COST Association</a>	As in project funding, except for equipment.	One call per year (around May)

 Funding opportunities with a focus on international cooperation

## Cross-border cooperation

Name	Description	Countries	Eligible costs	Deadlines
<a href="#">Project partners in SNSF projects</a>	Project partners (Art. 12.4 <a href="#">Regulations on Project Funding</a> ) are researchers in Switzerland or abroad who make a partial contribution to a research project. Project partners must be designated in the application. The project partner role is supported in most SNSF funding schemes.	Any country	Project partners may request up to 20% of a project's total budget.	Various, for Project Funding: 1 April and 1 October.
<a href="#">Sinergia</a>	Sinergia promotes the interdisciplinary collaboration of 2 to 4 applicants proposing breakthrough research. If there are 3 or 4 applicants, 1 applicant may be based at a research institution abroad, if their expertise is essential.	Any country	As in project funding for all applicants.	2 November
<a href="#">National Centres of Competence in Research (NCCRs)</a>	National Centres of Competence in Research (NCCRs) are aimed at established researchers in Switzerland who wish to pursue a long-term research project on a theme of strategic importance. The NCCR management teams are based at a higher education institution or at another renowned research institution. NCCRs are backed by one or more home institution. Expertise from abroad can be incorporated in the NCCR if it does not exist or is insufficiently developed in Switzerland.	Any country	According to <a href="#">NCCR budget guidelines</a> – Analogous to project funding, no overhead.	Calls for NCCRs are issued periodically, see <a href="#">webpage</a> .
<a href="#">National Research Programmes (NRPs)</a>	National Research Programmes (NRPs) embrace research projects that contribute to solving the key problems of today. The Federal Council makes the selection of topics, which it then refers on to the SNSF to address within the scope of an NRP. Collaboration with research groups in other countries is possible, provided the cooperation either generates significant added value that could not be achieved without cross-border cooperation, or that substantially enhances the proposed research with respect to content or methodology, or if the competence of researchers from abroad is essential for the successful completion of the project. As a rule, the funding share requested for researchers abroad may not exceed 30% of the overall budget.	Any country	As in project funding for all applicants from either country.	NFP calls are launched at irregular intervals; see open calls website and the <a href="#">newsletter</a> .

 Funding opportunities that support international cooperation

## Incoming researchers

Name	Description	Country	Eligible costs	Deadlines
<b>Scholars at Risk (through Scientific Exchanges)</b>	Scholars at Risk placements of up to one year for researchers under threat can be supported through Scientific Exchanges. These need to be assessed by Scholars at Risk in Switzerland and be offered a place at a Swiss university before they can be supported. Applications are submitted by Scholars at Risk representatives at the institution in question.	Any country	Travel expenses to Switzerland, equivalent of a one-year salary.	Scholars at Risk applications can be submitted at any time, with no deadline.
<b>Employment of staff in SNSF grants</b>	Project grants may be requested or used to cover the costs of PhD students, postdocs or other personnel. They can be hired from Switzerland or abroad to work on a project in Switzerland.	Any country	Eligible costs in project grants: <a href="#">Art. 8 of the Project Funding Regulations</a> . Details in <a href="#">Art. 7 General Implementation Regulations</a> .	Deadline of the applicable scheme. Funds from global budgets of grants can be used for this purpose as long as the grant is ongoing.
<b>Ambizione</b>	Ambizione is aimed at early-career researchers (from Switzerland or abroad) who wish to conduct, manage and lead an independent project in Switzerland. Applications may be submitted no later than 4 years after the PhD. Ambizione grants are awarded for up to 4 years.	Any country	PI's salary and the funds needed to carry out the project.	1 November
<b>Spark</b>	Spark funds the rapid testing or development of new scientific approaches, methods, theories, standards, ideas for application, etc. It is designed for projects that show unconventional thinking and introduce a unique approach. It is open to all disciplines and must be conducted at a Swiss research institution. Applicant must have a doctorate or equivalent qualifications. A confirmation from a host institution in Switzerland is required with the application. The project duration is 6 to 12 months.	Any country	Salary and social security contributions for the PI/ scientific and technical staff; material costs, project-related use of infrastructures at institutions or laboratories; costs for subcontracting; networking and mobility.	See <a href="#">webpage</a>

 Funding opportunities with a focus on international cooperation

 Funding opportunities that support international cooperation