

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: Policy Committee

For April 2027, the SNSF is seeking new research councillors as members of the Policy Committee.¹

Mandated by the Academic Board, the Policy Committee analyses, coordinates and develops the SNSF's overarching funding policies. Its goal is to anticipate emerging trends and developments in research and research funding to ensure that the SNSF remains at the forefront in its mission to fund excellent research.

The Policy Committee helps identify and evaluate gaps and areas for improvement for research and research funding. It formulates concepts, provides recommendations and develops policy actions to help the SNSF fulfil its mandate in the best way possible (see specific tasks and responsibilities below).

To complement the existing expertise of the Policy Committee and enhance its diversity, we are seeking **two** additional members with the following specific expertise.

Specific expertise

Suitable candidates will have practical expertise in research or science policy, for example in areas such as research evaluation and funding effectiveness, early career support, international cooperation, ethics, scientific integrity, quality assurance, sustainability, and/or diversity and inclusion. They will have a proven record of successful collaboration with different stakeholders. Expertise in the areas of strategic development, foresight, financial planning or portfolio planning would be an advantage as is experience with other research funding organisations, especially outside of Switzerland.

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

- Life sciences or mathematics, computer sciences, natural sciences, technology/engineering

Diversity requirements

The SNSF is committed to diversity and equal opportunities and aims at advancing groups that are underrepresented in research. For instance, the SNSF aims for a share of at least 40 per cent of women

¹ [Current composition of the Policy Committee](#)

and at least 40 per cent of men in the Research Council and its bodies. Considering the current composition of the Policy Committee, women are strongly and explicitly encouraged to apply and will be given preference in case of equal suitability.

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 diverse 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, 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 on 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. Knowledge of at least one Swiss national language, and passive understanding of a second national language, is preferable.

Conditions

1. Availability equivalent to 20% FTE
2. Mandate to commence on 1 April 2027
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 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 relevant to the required profile and include details of 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 incompatibilities² 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

² 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.