

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 Thematic and Solution-Oriented Research (TSOR)**

**For April 2027, the SNSF is seeking new research councillors to become members of the Programme Committee Thematic and Solution-Oriented Research (TSOR).<sup>1</sup>**

The Programme Committee Thematic and Solution-Oriented Research (TSOR) is responsible for funding, analysing, monitoring and integrating thematic and solution-oriented research activities in the Swiss research landscape. The Programme Committee TSOR steers and implements thematic and solution-oriented research within the SNSF, translating societal and policy needs into research instruments, while insuring scientific excellence and creating added value for science and society through enabling inter- and transdisciplinary approaches, dialogue, coordination and implementation. It oversees the following funding schemes: National Research Programmes (NRP), SOR4D, Agora, Quantum, Investigator initiated clinical trials (IICT) and BRIDGE.

To complement the existing expertise of the Programme Committee Thematic and Solution-Oriented Research (TSOR) and to enhance its diversity, we are seeking **two** additional members with the following specific expertise.

### **Specific expertise**

Suitable candidates are excellent researchers ([SNSF's model of excellence](#)) and are experienced in the management of research programmes and the implementation of research findings (science communication, dialogue, knowledge and technology transfer) that impact both the academic and non-academic worlds, possibly with aspects of co-creation, transdisciplinary research. In addition, candidates have a demonstrated track record in their research field, experience in interdisciplinary collaboration and experience in one of the following areas of expertise.

- At the intersection of Life Sciences and MINT disciplines, ideally with a background in industrially oriented biosciences
- Patient-oriented clinical research (ideally with transdisciplinary experience and experience with governance, ethical and legal frameworks)

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<sup>1</sup> [Current composition of the Programme Committee Thematic and Solution-Oriented Research](#)

## 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 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 in 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
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)

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<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.