

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

# Regulations for the attribution of the Marie Heim-Vögtlin Prize

of 10 December 2025

## **Article 1 Principles and purpose**

<sup>1</sup> The Marie Heim-Vögtlin (MHV) is awarded to a female researcher who has distinguished herself by the excellence, originality and impact of her scientific work, conducted within the framework of a career funding grant of the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF).

The MHV Prize seeks to highlight the role of women in research, promote their visibility within the scientific community and the general public and support their career advancement. Honouring the spirit of Marie Heim-Vögtlin, a pioneer for women in Swiss science, the prize contributes to equal opportunities and diversity in research.

## **Article 2 Characteristics of the prize**

<sup>1</sup> The MHV Prize is awarded annually by the Programme Committee Careers of the SNSF Research Council.

<sup>2</sup> The prize is endowed with 25,000 Swiss francs, which is presented in the form of a bank cheque. The prizewinner may freely dispose of the prize money.

<sup>3</sup> The prize recognises a female researcher who received SNSF career funding at the postdoctoral level, either through the Postdoc.Mobility or Ambizione funding schemes.

## **Article 3 Nomination**

<sup>1</sup> In a public call organised by the SNSF, the scientific community is invited to nominate potential candidates for the prize. The nominations must be justified in accordance with the requirements, in particular the evaluation criteria set out in Article 4.

<sup>2</sup> Both self-nominations and nominations by third parties (peers, mentors, institutions) are accepted. For self-nominations, the candidate must designate a referee.

<sup>3</sup> Nominees must have been beneficiaries of SNSF career funding at the postdoctoral level, specifically through the Postdoc.Mobility or Ambizione funding schemes, completed within the two years preceding the nomination year.

<sup>4</sup> Members of the research community, including members of the Research Council, are authorised to nominate researchers, provided that they do not participate in any way in the selection of the prize winner.

#### **Article 4 Selection of the prizewinner**

<sup>1</sup> The Programme Committee Careers of the Research Council is responsible for selecting the prizewinner. The committee conducts a multi-stage evaluation procedure, in accordance with SNSF standards.

<sup>2</sup> After a formal check by the SNSF Administrative Offices, each application is assigned to two members of the Programme Committee Careers of the Research Council who act as rapporteurs. Rapporteurs are obliged to report any potential involvement or conflicts of interest as early and proactively as possible. They review the applications according to the criteria defined in paragraph 4 and make a recommendation. Any candidate supported by at least one rapporteur proceeds to the next stage.

<sup>3</sup> If seven or more applications are retained, the Programme Committee Careers of the Research Council forms a selection sub-panel, composed of committee members and, if necessary, other experts from the Research Council. The composition is to respect disciplinary diversity and SNSF conflict of interest rules. Sub-panel members rank the applications by weighted vote. The four highest-ranked candidates advance to the next stage.

<sup>4</sup> The Programme Committee Careers of the Research Council selects the laureate based on the information in the nomination, following an evaluation process in line with SNSF standards. The evaluation criteria consist of two core areas :

- Scientific excellence: quality, originality and impact of work conducted during and after SNSF funding; contribution to the advancement of knowledge in the relevant field.
- Career profile and development: development of an independent scientific profile, demonstration of autonomy in research, career progression and establishment of a scientific network.

In cases of equivalent excellence, the committee may consider additional criteria, such as disciplinary, regional and linguistic diversity.

<sup>5</sup> The rapporteurs present the finalists' applications at a session of the Programme Committee Careers of the Research Council. The committee deliberates and designates the MHV Prize laureate by simple majority in a confidential vote.

#### **Article 5 Announcement of the prizewinner**

<sup>1</sup> The public announcement of the name of the MHV Prize winner is made by the SNSF.

<sup>2</sup> All members of the Research Council must treat the information received during the procedure as strictly confidential and are obliged to maintain confidentiality until the official announcement.

#### **Article 6 Pilot phase and evaluation**

The procedure defined in these regulations is implemented as a pilot for two consecutive editions.