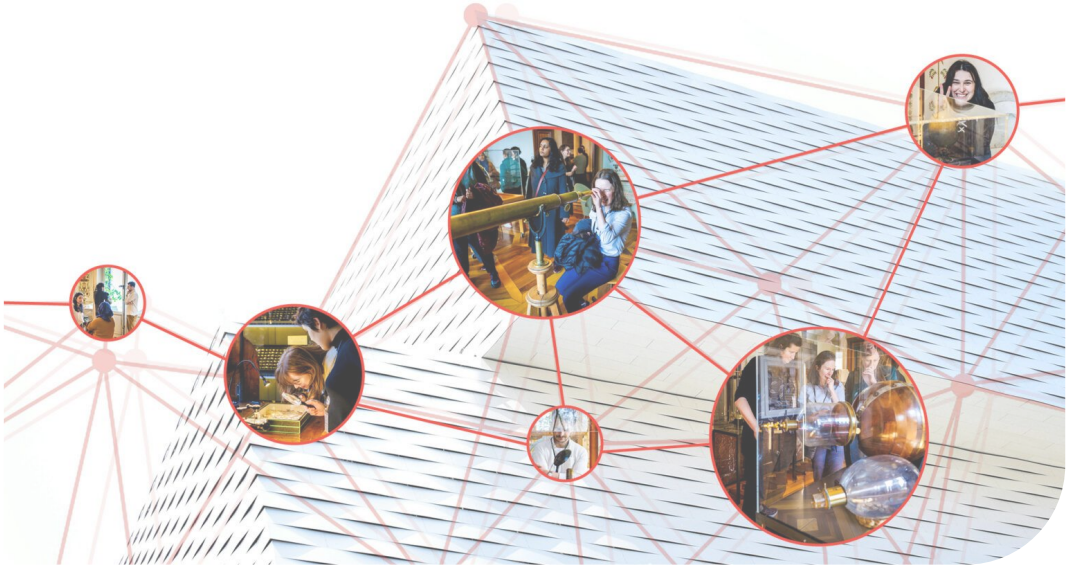
# Opportunities for Researchers in Switzerland



**CIFAR-SNSF Webinar**
**September 2026**

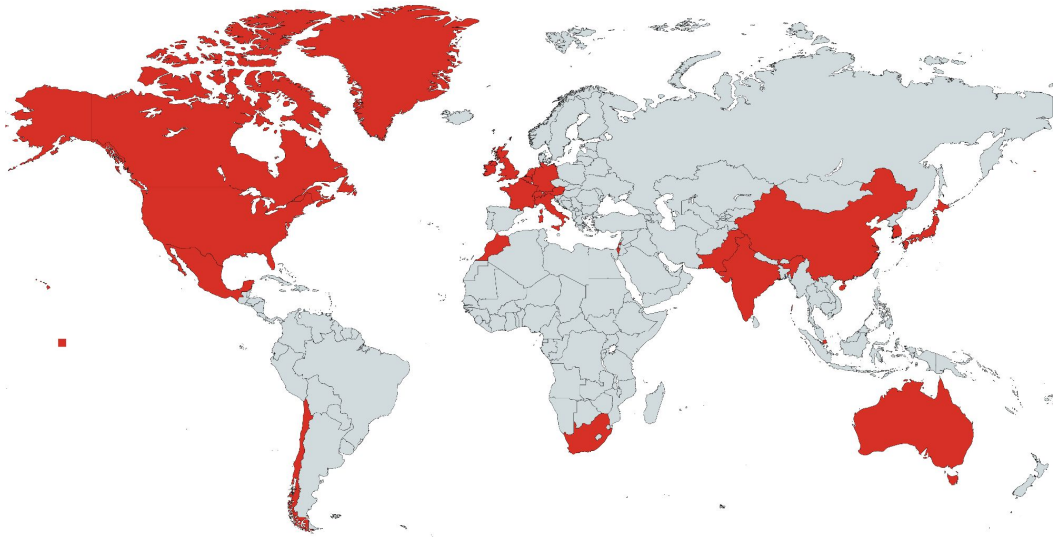
Swiss National Science Foundation

CIFAR

# Who We Are

The Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR) is a globally influential research organization proudly based in Canada. We mobilize the world's most brilliant people across disciplines and at all career stages to advance transformative knowledge and solve humanity's biggest problems, together. We are supported by the governments of Canada and Québec, as well as Canadian and international foundations, individuals, corporations and partner organizations.

# CIFAR Network (2026)



**24** countries

CIFAR researchers are based all over the world

**26**

Nobel Laureates

**6**

A. M. Turing Award Winners

CIFAR

THE NEXT LEAP STARTS **HERE**
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# Where we work

CIFAR convenes and mobilizes the world's most brilliant people across disciplines and at all career stages to advance transformative knowledge and solve humanity's biggest problems, together.

Where We Work

An Innovative and Performance-Driven Organization

# CIFAR-SNSF Partnership

- CIFAR Research Program Meetings
- Catalyst Funds
- Next Generation Initiatives:
  - ❑ Schools
  - ❑ Radical Interdisciplinarity
  - ❑ Global Scholars

Additional questions regarding CIFAR activities please contact:
partnerships@cifar.ca

# CIFAR Research Programs

CIFAR Programs are global interdisciplinary networks that convene top international researchers twice a year over 5-year to address some of science's biggest challenges.

Brain, Mind, & Consciousness

Boundaries, Membership & Belonging

Child & Brain Development

Earth 4D: Subsurface Science & Exploration

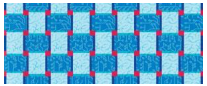
Fungal Kingdom: Threats & Opportunities

Future Flourishing

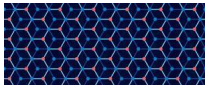
Healthy Microbiomes in a Changing World

Humanity's Urban Future

Innovation, Equity & the Future of Prosperity


Learning in Machines & Brains

CIFAR MacMillan Multiscale Human


Quantum Materials

# CIFAR-SNSF Catalyst Funds

The SNSF-CIFAR Catalyst Fund is designed to catalyze innovative, high-risk/high-reward projects between CIFAR Research Program members and Swiss-based researchers.

**Next Call:** September 2026

General Guidelines:

- Each project should have a minimum of two CIFAR program members and at least one Swiss-based researcher.
- Max CAD $50,000
- Funds are awarded for up to two years

# CIFAR-SNSF School

**SNSF-CIFAR School:** Using Empirical Data in the Social Sciences & Humanities: Ethics, Policy, and the Arts

January 26-28, 2027
St Gallen, Switzerland

**Key Dates**:

- Call for Applications: August 19, 2026
- Deadline for applicants based in Switzerland: October 28, 2026 at 12pm noon ET
- Decisions: by December 2026

Visit CIFAR Next Generation to learn more!

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# CIFAR AI Frontiers School

## Next School: Early 2027

***Applications Open Fall 2026***

**Format & Duration:** 1-week intensive program combining core technical instruction with hands-on experiential learning.

**Target Cohort:** Advanced PhD students and postdocs from across the CIFAR ecosystem selected for demonstrated technical expertise.

**Program Focus:** Bridge fundamental theory with real-world application through interdisciplinary, team-based challenge solving.

**For more information subscribe to the AICAN Bulletin:**

**https://cifar.ca/newsletter-sign-up/**

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# Radical Interdisciplinarity

This forum brings together up to 40 early-career researchers, empowering the next generation of research leaders to define new frontiers in interdisciplinary research. Participants have the opportunity to:

- Engage in collaborative, interdisciplinary and blue-sky brainstorming sessions;
- Network with other early-career and established researchers; and
- Form new collaborations and apply for seed funding following the meeting.

*Applicants must be within 10 years of receiving their PhD and hold a postdoctoral or faculty position in Canada or Switzerland.*

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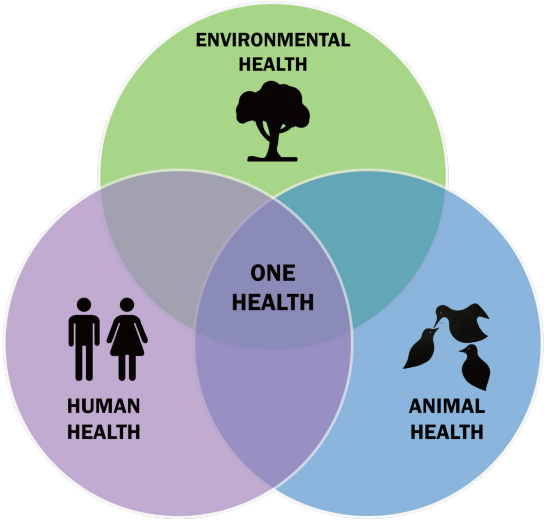
# 2027 Radical Interdisciplinarity

**One Health**
Bringing together researchers from medicine, veterinary science, ecology, epidemiology, and environmental science  to explore complex challenges, emerging research horizons, and unique avenues of inquiry.

March 1-3, 2027
Lucerne, Switzerland




**Key Dates:**

Call for applications: September 23, 2026
Application Deadline: November 11, 2026

**For more information visit:**
https://cifar.ca/next-generation/

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# CIFAR Global Scholars Program

This competitive Program develops highly talented early-career researchers into influential research leaders.

**The program has three core components:**

1. Participating in a CIFAR Research Program
2. Strengthening leadership & communication skills
3. Increasing impact within and outside of academia

**CIFAR Global Scholars receive:**

- $100k CAD in unrestricted research support over 2 yrs
- Opportunities to apply for CIFAR seed funds
- Membership in the extended community of Global Scholars
- Training in essential areas of research leadership, including trainee mentorship, communication and science advocacy.

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# CIFAR Global Scholars Program

The Programs recruiting this year include:

1. Brain, Mind & Consciousness
2. Fungal Kingdom: Threats & Opportunities
3. Healthy Microbiomes in a Changing World
4. Boundaries, Membership & Belonging
5. Innovation, Equity & the Future of Prosperity

**Key Dates**

Call for Applications: September 2, 2026
Application Deadline: November 4, 2026
Decisions by: March 2027

For more information visit: [cifar.ca/global-scholars](cifar.ca/global-scholars)
For any inquiries please contact: [global.scholars@cifar.ca](mailto:global.scholars@cifar.ca)

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# Partnership Highlights: CIFAR-SNSF

Highlights to date include:

- Nearly 150 researchers and trainees from 21 different Swiss research institutions participated in CIFAR events.
- 14 CIFAR meetings and events have been held in Switzerland, including 2 Radical Interdisciplinarity Forums and 2 SNSF-CIFAR Special Topic Workshops.
- 25 SNSF-CIFAR Catalyst Fund Grants have been awarded.

# Curious about Radical Interdisciplinarity? Here's a sneak peek!

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# Keep up-to-date on Upcoming Opportunities

## Sign up to our newsletters and follow us on social media.

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partnerships@cifar.ca

international@snf.ch