

# SNSF STARTING GRANTS 2024

Simona Berardi, Julia Cahenzli, Sarah Glaser  
David Möller, Manuel Maissen, Katharina Valta  
François Lavergne, Christina Manner  
Myriam Passannante Carvalho,  
Daniel Kilian, Zuhail Matin

**Online Q&A Session for Researchers**  
**17 November 2023**

# SNSF Starting Grants 2024 is an integrative call

Transitional measure for the 2024 ERC Starting Grants

**and**

Eccellenza Professorial Fellowships / PRIMA

# SNSF Starting Grants 2024

## Aim

Grantees will lead an independent research project and direct a team of researchers in Switzerland.

## Target group

An SNSF StG comes after several years of research after the PhD, equivalent qualification or medical degree during which **grantees have already accomplished scientific independent achievements and contributed to impactful research in their field.**

## To be successful

You should have several major achievement that are independent of your work as a PhD student and of the associated PhD project.

# Topics SNSF Starting Grants 2024 Q&A session

- Employment position during the grant
- Relation to other funding
- Eligibility = requirements to submit an application
- Extension of the eligibility window
- Budget and duration
- Evaluation criteria
- Changes relative to last call
- Practical Information

# Employment position during the grant

You can submit an application independently of your current academic position, but a minimal employment position is expected during the grant:

- **Assistant professor at least; associate or full professors can also apply**  
→ for higher education institutions that offer such a position
- **Equivalent position with independent project and management responsibility**  
→ for institutions that do offer a position and title of assistant professor

**You can either request your full, part of or none of your salary, in case you already have a fully paid position.**

# Relation to other funding

- You **cannot** apply if you participate as a PI in an **ERC frontier project** (exemption: ERC synergy grant) or **SNSF Consolidator/Advanced Grant**. If you already have an ongoing ERC grant as PI, you may only apply if the existing project will be completed by the end of 2025 at latest
- You **can** apply for or already have other **SNSF funding**, but:
  - the research projects must address clearly distinguishable topics, and
  - you must be in a position to make substantial contributions to each of the research projects
- You **can** apply if you are an **Ambizione, PRIMA** or **Eccellenza** grantee, as follows:
  - you must request your own salary as part of the SNSF Starting Grant (cf. later slide about the budget)
  - the unused portion of your own salary from your previous grant must be refunded to the SNSF from the moment you start the SNSF Starting Grant

# Eligibility = requirements to submit an application

## **After your PhD defence or equivalent**

- you have at least 2 years (FTE) of research experience
- you submit your application no more than 8 years after the date of your PhD defence

## **After your medical degree (state examination or equivalent)**

- you have done at least 3 years (FTE) of clinical work and have at least 2 years (FTE) of research experience
- you submit your application no more than 12 years after obtaining your medical degree

# Extension of the eligibility window

Can be requested based on the following reasons:

- **paternity, adoption or parental leave;**
- **inability to work due to illness or accident;**
- **care duties;**
- **services that benefit the general public, particularly military or civilian service;**
- **continuing education in connection with the applicant's research activities, particularly internships or clinical work;**

Only the actual incurred delay can be requested.

- In the case of **maternity**: extension of 18 months per child

# Budget and duration

## Maximum CHF 1.8 mio for 5 years

- Does not include overhead (will be paid separately)
- Amount is proportionally lower for a shorter grant duration
- if you have no employment secured **for the whole duration of the grant**  
your full or partial salary will be covered as part of the budget (*i.e.* max. CHF 1.8 mio for salary + project)
- if you have an employment for **the whole duration of the grant**  
you will request only project funds (max. CHF 1.8 mio)
- **Family allowances** paid by employer are not included in the maximum amount of CHF 1.8 million.

# Evaluation criteria

## Research project

### Scientific Excellence

#### Groundbreaking nature & potential impact:

- To what extent are important challenges addressed?
- To what extent are the objectives beyond the state of the art?

#### Scientific approach:

- *Feasible* bearing in mind ground-breaking nature?
- Methodology and working arrangement, resources and timescales *appropriate*?

## Applicant

### Intellectual capacity and creativity:

- Ability to conduct ground-breaking research?
- Evidence of creative and original thinking?
- Scientific expertise and capacity to successfully execute project?

# Changes relative to last call

- [Confirmation Research Institution](#): only one letter, only one deadline
- **No career plan**
- **No revision notes** - every project is evaluated individually
- **No use-inspired data container**
- **Resubmission rule**: Possibility to submit a **third time** for applicants whose project reached the second evaluation phase for the SNSF Starting Grants 2023 and that was rejected in 2022

# Practical Information

- Start **preparing** your application **well in advance**
- Do **not** submit at the **last minute**
- **Research plan:** Respect **character count** (60'000 characters for research plan) and **page number** (15 maximum)  
**Line spacing 1.5 (instead of 1)**, character counter in mySNF binding

# Contact Information

E-mail: [stg@snf.ch](mailto:stg@snf.ch)

Phone: **+41 31 308 22 22**

## SSH

David Möller,  
Manuel Maissen,  
Katharina Valta

## MINT

François Lavergne,  
Christina Manner

## LS

Myriam Passannante Carvalho,  
Christina Manner

## Administrative concerns or help with mySNF

Daniel Kilian, Zuhai Matin