POSTDOC.MOBILITY CALL AUGUST 2024

Online Q&A Session for Researchers
14 May 2024

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Please note that this presentation is only a summary. In case of doubt, please refer to the relevant regulation published on our website.
Plan of the presentation

1. Aim, target applicants
2. Submission: how to, important documents, tips
3. Evaluation criteria
4. Q&A
1. Aim, target applicants
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For which target group?

**Aim**
- Fellowship for a research stay abroad for postdocs who wish to pursue a scientific or academic career
- Allows researchers to acquire more in-depth knowledge, to increase their scientific independence and enhance their research profile
- Possibility to apply for a return CH grant after the fellowship abroad

**Eligibility criteria**
- Doctorate (PhD, MD-PhD) or medical degree, or completion of the doctorate within the next 9 months
- Submission up to 3 years after the doctorate
- Medical researchers without MD-PhD: submission up to 8 years after the state examination and at least 3 years' clinical activity
- Employment of at least 2 years' duration at a research institution in Switzerland and Swiss permit (for applicants who are not Swiss nationals)
- Return CH grant: Ongoing Postdoc.Mobility fellowship
Duration and budget

**Duration**
- Fellowship: 12 to 24 months
- Return CH grant: 3 to 12 months

**Eligible costs**
- Fellowship: grant towards living costs, flat-rate for travel expenses, child allowances
  (Please note: this is a scholarship, not a salary)
- Return CH grant: salary and social security contributions
- For both: contribution to research and conference costs

**Submission deadlines**
1 February and 2 August
17:00:00 Swiss local time
1. Aim, target applicants
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How to apply

- **Submission** via [www.mySNF.ch](http://www.mySNF.ch)
- **Evaluation:**
  - Formal verification
  - Scientific assessment (quality-based criteria) by the Postdoc.Mobility evaluation panels
  - Selection in a competitive procedure
- **Decision:** about 4-5 months after submission
Writing a proposal: tips

- **All relevant information can be found on the SNSF website and on mySNF**
  - [Postdoc.Mobility Regulations](#), [Guidelines](#) and [Checklist](#) for submitting a proposal are on our website
  (Homepage > Funding > Find funding scheme > Postdoc.Mobility)
- Register on mySNF as early as possible (scheme open 3 months before deadline)
- Start planning your submission **early**: deadlines are strict and non-negotiable
- Invest enough time for preparing all required documents (e.g. reference letters, confirmation host institute,…)
- You are competing with many applicants, i.e., your proposal must stand out and make a difference
- If you have questions, contact the SNSF: [pm@snf.ch](mailto:pm@snf.ch)
Writing a proposal: research plan

- Please follow the guidelines/instructions carefully (otherwise your application will be formally rejected)
- Number of pages (8), number of characters (30'000), font size and line spacing must follow the guidelines
- Research plan should be understandable for experts (within area of research) as well as for people in the wider discipline
Writing a proposal: CV

- New **standardized CV** introduced by the SNSF in 2022 to facilitate comparisons between applicants (more information on our website: [www.snf.ch](http://www.snf.ch) > Funding > How to > CV format)
- It describes your education, your employment history and your **major achievements** as a researcher
- It must be created via the portal: [https://portal.snf.ch/](https://portal.snf.ch/). The generated PDF must subsequently be uploaded in your application in mySNF
Standardised CV

CV

[Content text]

Education

[Content text]

Employment

[Content text]

Major achievements

[Content text]
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### Evaluation criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicant</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Host institution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Scientific research output to date (quality) of the applicant relative to the net academic age</td>
<td>- Scientific relevance, quality, originality and topicality</td>
<td>- Scientific support, suitability and added value regarding the proposed project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Expertise with regard to the proposed project</td>
<td>- Suitability of approach, methodology and feasibility</td>
<td>- Suitability to ensure and promote the applicant’s independence, intellectual development and continuing education</td>
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<td>- Mobility (past and future)</td>
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Around **40 - 50%** of submitted applications are approved for funding
Possible reasons for rejection (examples)

- Lack of details with regard to the evaluation criteria
- Not clearly demonstrated experience or expertise in the field of the project
- Quality of research output not clear, not convincing
- Unclear or missing own contribution to the project
- Aims, research questions or hypotheses unclear or not well defined
- Lack of coherence, lack of focus
- Missing references to sources, archives, literature or competitors
- Theoretical framework is not clear
- Not enough details about the experimental approaches
- Unclear, outdated or inappropriate, or insufficiently developed methods (inc. data collection)
- Overambitious, feasibility not clearly given
- No backup plan
If you are not successful…

First…
- Read carefully the decision letter
- If you have questions, ask the SNSF Administrative Office for clarifications

If you are thinking of resubmitting,…
- Check if you still fulfil all formal requirements for the same funding scheme
- Consider the points criticised by the evaluation panel
- List and explain your revisions made in the point-by-point response

If you strongly disagree with the decision,…
- You can ask for reconsideration or appeal against the decision
If you are successful...

- Read carefully the decision letter (conditions etc.)
- For administrative questions, see our Information set Postdoc.Mobility and our FAQ on the website
- For individual questions where you cannot find information: contact us!
Changes relative to the last calls

- No career plan
- No cover letter
- Change in eligibility rule for non-Swiss citizens: The Swiss permit should either be valid at the submission deadline (1 February or 2 August) or should have expired no more than 6 months before the submission deadline. Please note that a permit expires on notice of departure abroad or on the expiry of the term of validity of the permit.
Contact information

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**LS-M**  
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Lenard Schmid
Thank you!

Facebook.com/snfsf.ch

Linkedin.com/company/snsf

Youtube.com/SNSFinfo

Twitter.com/snsf_ch

Instagram.com/swissnationalsciencefoundation

Check out our website: https://www.snf.ch/en

Visit the SNSF Data Portal: data.snf.ch
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