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Regulations on grants for research semesters for members of the Research Council who leave office

1 November 2011

The National Research Council

based on Article 48¹ of the Regulations of the Swiss National Science Foundation on research grants (hereinafter "Funding Regulations") and the decision by the Executive Committee of the Foundation Council of 4 March 2011 as well as the decision of the Foundation Council of 1 April 2011

issues the following Regulations:

Article 1 Principle

¹ The Swiss National Science Foundation may enable former members of the Research Council who have stepped down after many years of membership to focus on their research work for a certain period by awarding them a grant so that they may reduce their teaching activities as well as any tasks related to academic self-management.

² A grant for a research semester may only be applied for once. No supplementary grants are awarded.

³ The duration of the research semester is generally six months.

Article 2 Personal requirements

¹ These regulations apply to applicants who:

- a. are full-time professors at a Swiss higher education institution or hold a similar position at a Swiss or foreign higher education institution;
- b. were members of the Research Council for a period of office of eight years, subject to paragraph 2;

¹ Amendment; funding regulations of 27.2.2015, in force since 1 January 2016.

- c. showed commitment to their role as members of the Research Council and respected the recognised principles of membership of the Research Council².

² In justifiable cases, the grant may exceptionally be awarded to applicants who were members of the Research Council for at least six years, in particular if their tasks exceeded the normal range of tasks to be accomplished.

Article 3 Objective requirements

Applications for a research semester grant must include the following data and documents:

- a. timing and duration of the research semester;
- b. a short research plan;
- c. detailed information on the costs incurred by the reduction in the applicant's duties;
- d. a confirmation from the higher education institution stating that it supports the planned project.

Article 4 Deadlines

¹ The application must be submitted to the SNSF no later than six months after the applicant steps down from the Research Council.

The research semester must generally be taken two years after stepping down from the Research Council at the latest.

³ In justifiable cases, in particular if the higher education institution deems a postponement to be necessary for unforeseeable reasons, the SNSF may extend the deadline for taking the research semester pursuant to paragraph 2.

Article 5 Eligible costs

¹ In principle, eligible costs comprise the actual costs incurred for the salary and social security contributions of a person to replace the applicant for one semester at an institution of higher education. The salary must be in line with the customary rates at the place in question.

² In justifiable cases, in particular if applicants can show in their applications that they cannot be sufficiently relieved of their workload in a single semester for the sake of their research work, the duration of the grant awarded based on paragraph 1 may be extended to one year.

³ If a sabbatical is taken during the same period, the SNSF will cover half of the actual costs of the replacement person.

Article 6 Scientific evaluation

Decisions on applications for a research semester grant are based on a simplified procedure; no external reviews are generally solicited.

² cf. Article 7 paragraph 3 letter g of the Election regulations of the National Research Council of 25 January 2008.

Article 7 Scientific reporting

The scientific reporting after completion of the research semester may take the form of a short report on the most important results of the research work conducted.

Article 8 Final provisions and entry into force

¹ Persons who are or were members of the Research Council at the start of the 2012-2015 period of office or later and who meet the other application requirements pursuant to Article 2 are entitled to submit an application. No application may be submitted before these Regulations enter into force.

² Unless these Regulations provide otherwise, the provisions of the Funding Regulations and the General implementation regulations for the Funding Regulations apply.

³ These Regulations enter into force on 1 January 2012. The Executive Committee of the Foundation Council approved these Regulations on 14 December 2011.