

12 April 2022 – mk

Guidelines for Scholars at Risk applications

The SNSF offers financial support for the placement of scholars at threat through Scholars at Risk (SAR), a non-governmental organisation based in New York, whose Swiss members are associated in SAR Switzerland. While this support can be applied for via the Scientific Exchanges funding scheme, the requirements are not identical with those of a regular research visit under this scheme. This document therefore provides guidance on how to complete and submit a SAR application.

1. Eligibility and prerequisites

In general, funding opportunities are **only available to scholars who have passed the evaluation process of Scholars at Risk** and who have a hosting arrangement at an institution that is a member of SAR Switzerland (see <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/sections/sar-switzerland>). An application for financial support of a Scholars at Risk placement must be submitted **by the Scholars at Risk coordinator** at the institution that intends to host a scholar at threat in order to be eligible. This requires the SAR coordinator to be registered on *mySNF* (www.mysnf.ch).

The grant can be used to cover **travel and living expenses**. The financial requirements should be estimated as the equivalent of a PhD or postdoc salary, depending on the CV and track record of the scholar in question, up to a maximum of CHF110'000. While the grant application can specify a maximum duration of 12 months, it is possible to obtain a cost-neutral extension for up to 12 additional months, provided that the grant has not been used up, e.g. due to additional funding acquired from other sources. This enables a placement for longer than one year.

Please note that the SNSF generally only funds scholars that have a PhD. Scholars without a PhD can only be supported if the completion of the doctorate is to be expected shortly after the start of the placement or if the scholar has been actively engaged in research for at least three years, which needs to be demonstrated clearly in the application documents. Also note that scholars supported by a SAR grant cannot be employed on a SNSF-funded project; if they are, their funding would have to come from the budget of that project.

For the application itself, documentation providing the following information is required:

- Confirmation by SAR that the scholar in question has been assessed and fulfils the eligibility criteria
- CV of the scholar in question
- Documentation providing details on the place (department, institute) and planned duration of the placement as well as on the support that the host institution provides to the scholar,

including any terms of the invitation that the host institution and the scholar have agreed upon; this may include an invitation letter from the host institution

- Documentation on the financial requirements for the placement (see below: Requested funding – Finanzieller Bedarf – Besoin financier)
- Details on the planned research or other scholarly activity during the SAR placement
- Summary of the requested funding

2. Submission on *mySNF*

The application form for Scientific Exchanges – and, therefore, for requests to support a SAR placement – are available on *mySNF* under Science Communication. While most of the data containers and the information required should be self-explanatory, the following information should resolve any questions or ambiguity.

Responsible applicant – Verantwortliche/r Gesuchsteller/in – Requérant-e responsable

Most of this data container is completed automatically. Under “Correspondence address of application”, select “Address of workplace”. Please note that the responsible applicant should be the SAR coordinator in question, who will need to have or obtain a *mySNF* account for this purpose; other applicants, such as the researcher(s) hosting the scholar, can be added in the next data container.

Other applicants – Weitere Gesuchsteller/innen - Autre-s requérant-e-s

Additional applicants can be added here if they make sense for the proposal, for instance the researcher hosting the scholar in the department where the scholar is to be placed. Please note that any additional applicants also require a *mySNF* account.

Applicants’ employment – Anstellungsverhältnis der Gesuchstellenden – Emploi des personnes requérantes

Under “Contact person”, specify the head of department or team where the scholar is to be placed.

Basic data I – Grunddaten I – Données de base I

Any title can be entered, though please note that all SNSF grants are listed on the public database P3. Please also note that the requested starting date entered here must be the first day of the respective month.

Basic data II – Grunddaten II – Données de base II

The summary can be a minimal text. No keywords are required. For “Financial administration”, the responsible applicant should select the one that applies to their institution; if no financial administration is listed for that particular institution, “Another office” needs to be selected instead.

Requested funding – Finanzieller Bedarf – Besoin financier

Applicants should add a budget item for the overall amount requested. The overall amount should be based on the equivalent of a salary for the duration in question and the travel costs necessary for the scholar to travel to Switzerland, but it must not exceed CHF110’000. Research costs and additional travel costs are not eligible. Details on how this amount is constituted should be uploaded as a separate document in the data container “Further documents for scientific events or research visits”.

Scientific event – Wissenschaftliche Veranstaltung – Événement scientifique

The fields “Aim and motivation” and “Organisation” are mandatory, though a single letter or digit can be entered as a placeholder so that the data container can be submitted.

CV and publication list – Lebenslauf und Publikationsliste – CV et liste de publications

The CV of the scholar should be uploaded here.

Further documents for scientific events or research visits**Weitere Dokumente für Veranstaltungen und Forschungsaufenthalte****Autres documents pour les manifestations et les séjours de recherche**

The documents listed in section 1 above should be uploaded to this data container.

Once an application has been submitted, it will be verified by the SNSF and a confirmation is sent to the responsible applicant. If any information is missing or if there are any issues with the application, the SNSF will contact the responsible applicant. Applications should be processed within 2-4 weeks. The SNSF will send a decision letter to the applicant(s) and inform SAR Switzerland accordingly.

3. Contact

If you have any questions concerning SNSF support of scholars at threat through Scholars at Risk or the application process, please contact:

Matt Kimmich

matt.kimmich@snf.ch / scientific.exchanges@snf.ch

031 308 22 44