

Regulations on the funding of open access publications

of 30 June 2026

The Research Council

based on Articles 7 and 48 of the Regulations on research grants ¹ (hereinafter: "Funding Regulations")

issues the following Regulations:

Chapter 1 Funding of open access publications: general

Article 1 Objectives and principles

¹ The Swiss National Science Foundation (hereinafter "the SNSF") awards grants towards scientific publications to promote the spread of knowledge and facilitate free and open access to high-quality scientific publications.

² The SNSF supports scientific, peer-reviewed publications as the initial dissemination of results stemming from research funded by the SNSF. These publications demonstrably contribute to the further development of the relevant field of research and are aimed primarily at researchers.

³ Funding is provided for academic publications that are made available immediately, free of charge and without restrictions (open access; gold OA).

⁴ Publication grants are awarded in accordance with these Regulations and other applicable rules stipulated by the SNSF. In particular, the Funding Regulations and their General Implementation Regulations² apply.

Article 2 Types of grants

¹ The SNSF awards grants towards the costs and fees for scientific open access publications (hereinafter: OA publications). It reimburses the publisher's services for quality control, production and distribution through the following types of grants:

- a. grants towards publications in open access journals: APCs (article processing charges);

¹ [Funding Regulations](#)

² [General Implementation Regulations for the Funding Regulations](#)

- b. grants towards open access book publications (monographs and edited volumes): BPCs (book processing charges); and
- c. grants towards OA publications of book chapters: BCPCs (book chapter processing charges).

Chapter 2 General requirements for publications and applicants

Article 3 Requirements for publications

¹ The SNSF funds scientific publications that are directly linked to research funded by the SNSF. A direct link exists if all of the following conditions are met:

- a. The key findings, which are published for the first time in the publication, were obtained as part of research activities funded by the SNSF. In particular, purely editorial work, as well as presentations and discussions of research findings are not regarded as research activities.
- b. As a general rule, the funded research was completed no more than five years ago.

² The publication must be accessible immediately, free of charge and without restrictions (open access; OA gold). No exceptions to this obligation are permitted.

³ The publications must meet the following requirements:

- a. Journals (APCs): articles in pure, high-level peer-reviewed OA journals;
- b. Books (BPCs):
 - monographs: comprehensive, peer-reviewed scientific works;
 - edited volumes: peer-reviewed scientific works on a particular topic that are the responsibility of an editor or team of editors and that consist of contributions from different authors, for which each is individually responsible.
- c. Book chapters (BCPCs): individual articles for which the authors are solely responsible, published in peer-reviewed edited volumes.

⁴ Doctoral theses and habilitations are regarded as monographs pursuant to paragraph 3 letter b if they have been prepared for publication as a book by a publisher.

⁵ Conference papers are regarded as book chapters if they are published as part of an edited volume pursuant to paragraph 3 letter b.

⁶ Book chapter processing charges (BCPCs) are covered for chapters in full gold OA edited volumes. However, in exceptional cases, BCPCs may also be applied for if no suitable gold OA edited volume is available and the book chapter in question is published in an edited volume that is not available immediately, free of charge and without restriction as an open access publication. In such cases, the BCPCs are used to guarantee immediate open access availability of the relevant book chapter.

Article 4 Requirements for applicants

¹ Grant applications may be submitted by grant recipients or staff members of the SNSF project from which the publication originated. Paragraph 4 remains reserved.

² The applicant must be author of the academic publication, subject to paragraph 3.

³ BPC applications for edited volumes must be submitted by the editor responsible for the publication, or by a member of the editorial team. The applicant must have authored the introduction and at least one other thematic contribution to the edited volume (sole authorship is not required).

⁴ BPC applications for monographs based on a doctoral thesis or habilitation thesis are admissible, provided that the work in question was defended and accepted at a Swiss university. Notwithstanding Art. 3 para. 1, such monographs do not necessarily have to have resulted from a research project funded by the SNSF.

Chapter 3 Applications: submission, eligible costs and grant amount

Article 5 Applications: deadlines and submission platform

¹ Applications for publication funding may be submitted at any time via the designated platforms, in accordance with the SNSF's requirements, and must include all necessary data.

² APC applications must be submitted via the platform operated by the SNSF's external partner. BPC and BCPC applications must be submitted via the SNSF's platform.

³ The SNSF does not award BPC grants for publications that have already been published at the time the application is submitted or the funding decision is made.

Article 6 Applications: requirements

¹ Applications for APCs, BPCs and BCPCs must be based on the version of the peer-reviewed article, manuscript or book chapter that was approved by the publisher and must contain all of the information requested by the SNSF.

² In their application, applicants must explain and provide evidence of the direct connection between a specific SNSF-funded research project and the publication.

³ BPC applicants must submit the requested information and documents, particularly the quality control information (Article 7) and a well-founded funding request for the modules to be funded (Articles 8 and 9).

⁴ The SNSF does not consider applications from authors who are planning to publish through a publishing house they run themselves.

Article 7 Quality control (peer review) by publishers as a prerequisite for BPCs

¹ Quality control for monographs and edited volumes is the responsibility of the publishers. In addition to the services they provide, publishers must arrange and document a peer review in accordance with the requirements set out below. The result of the peer review is accepted as proof of quality by the SNSF, provided it was conducted in accordance with the requirements.

² The peer review procedure must fulfil the following requirements:

- a. at least one independent, external and meaningful review in written form;
- b. assessment of the entire manuscript;

- c. the reviewer must demonstrably comply with the SNSF rules regarding conflicts of interest and must be independent as regards their relationship with the authors and with the publisher;
- d. the topic of the publication must lie in the reviewer's area of expertise;
- e. documentation of the peer review and in particular of the manner in which each criticism offered by the reviewer has been considered and acted on.
- f. In the case of edited volumes, the review must also address the scientific quality of each individual contribution.

³ The peer review carried out by the publisher must have been completed by the time the application is submitted. In collaboration with the publishers, applicants must integrate the documentation and results into the application in accordance with SNSF requirements.

Article 8 Funding amount: general provisions

¹ The SNSF funds APCs, BPCs and BCPCs only up to the amount of the costs and fees actually incurred.

² The actual costs and fees for the following publishing services are eligible: quality control, including peer review; editing and/or proofreading of the manuscript; typesetting, layout and cover design; image processing and image rights; marketing and distribution; provision of the conventional, digital and open-access-specific metadata required by the SNSF; and publication of the open access work on the publisher's website.

³ Applications for BPC funding must be based on a publisher's offer which clearly states the costs for the requested publishing services.

⁴ The SNSF may reduce the amounts requested in applications for APCs, BPCs or BCPCs if they are not reasonable or in line with market rates.

Article 9 Funding amount: APCs, BPCs and BCPCs

¹ For journal articles and book chapters, the SNSF reimburses the costs that are customary for peer-reviewed publications at recognised academic publishers.

² APCs for journal articles are reimbursed up to a maximum of CHF 3,500. Applications for larger amounts will not be considered. Partial financing is not permitted.

³ For monographs and edited volumes, the SNSF reimburses BPCs according to the following rates for different modules:

- a. BPC basic module: up to a maximum of CHF 12,000 for a citable open access publication of up to 750,000 characters (including spaces);
- b. Supplementary module for additional costs in the event of a higher number of characters: an additional maximum amount of CHF 3,000 for up to 250,000 additional characters, or an additional maximum amount of CHF 5,000 for more than 1 million characters.
- c. Supplementary module for demonstrable additional costs arising from increased expenditure on image processing and image rights, as well as for additional costs relating to accessibility: up to a maximum of CHF 5,000;

- d. Supplementary module for demonstrable additional costs for production of an e-book that includes additional functions, such as audio and video files, interactive functions, etc., that are available in the OA version, at the most an additional CHF 5,000; and
- e. Supplementary module for demonstrable additional costs for foreign language proofreading, which is considered justified and performed if the publication of the work in a foreign language (any language other than the author's mother tongue) will increase the visibility and readership of the research results: at the most an additional CHF 5,000.

⁴ The SNSF does not make any contributions towards the printing costs of monographs and edited volumes. If the publication is also issued in printed form, the SNSF's BPCs must be used exclusively for the digital version (first digital copy). The OA version must be published together with the print version at the latest and archived in the repositories specified by the SNSF at the same time (Article 14).

Chapter 4 Evaluation procedure and award

Article 10 Evaluation procedure

¹ APC applications are processed by the SNSF's external partner, whilst BPC and BCPC applications are processed by the SNSF.

² The SNSF checks whether the BPC applications meet the formal and material requirements and performs a quality check (Article 11). If the formal requirements are not met or the application is incomplete, the SNSF will not consider the application.

Article 11 Quality control by the SNSF

¹ For BPC applications, the SNSF checks whether the peer review procedure conducted by the publishers meets the requirements, particularly with regard to the impartiality of the reviewers, the usefulness of the reviews and the consideration and adaptation of the points criticised.

² For APC or BCPC applications, the SNSF accepts the peer review decision taken by the relevant journal or publisher.

³ The SNSF may exclude individual publishers from its funding for open access publications, namely if they do not meet quality standards or joint requirements of the Swiss higher education institutions.

Article 12 Decision

¹ The SNSF awards grants for APCs, BCPCs and BPCs, provided that the requirements set out in these Regulations are met.

² If the results of the peer review reveal any scientific shortcomings in the planned publication and/or if criticisms highlighted in the review are not adequately considered, the SNSF will reject the BPC application.

³ If individually requested additional BPC modules (Article 9) are not, or not adequately, justified, they will not be funded.

⁴ The decisions are communicated to the applicants in the form of an appealable ruling. The publisher receives a copy of the decision letter. For applications for APC funding for publications in open access journals, applicants are not issued with an appealable ruling, as these applications are processed by the SNSF's external partner. For such applications, an appealable ruling may be requested from the SNSF.

Article 13 Payment and publication

¹ The awarded grants for APCs, BPCs and BCPCs are generally paid directly to the publishers.

² Payment of the grant is conditional on the metadata having been submitted to the SNSF.

³ A monograph or an edited volume must be published within six months of the payment being made. Publishing before the BPC is awarded is not permissible and will result in the grant being revoked.

Chapter 5 Deposition, archiving and further provisions

Article 14 Deposition and archiving of BPC-funded publications

¹ The deposition of the BPC-funded publication is performed

- a. by the publisher displaying it prominently on their website;
- b. by the author or editor in an institutional or disciplinary repository;
- c. in the output data of the relevant SNSF grant; and
- d. by the SNSF through forwarding of the OA publication along with the metadata to the Swiss National Library and the OAPEN library.

Article 15 Further provisions and BPC-funded publications

¹ The publishing details given in the OA publication must contain the information required by the SNSF, in particular the year of publication, ISBN number(s), DOI³, Creative Commons licence⁴ and a note stating that the publication was financially supported by the SNSF.

² Monographs and edited volumes must be licensed under at least the CC BY-NC-ND licence (Creative Commons: attribution, non-commercial, no derivatives). The SNSF recommends the CC-BY licence.

³ If further versions are published in addition to the version supported by the SNSF, particularly a printed book or a digital version that is subject to charges, a separate ISBN must be allocated for each version.

³ A Digital Object Identifier (DOI) is an unambiguous and permanent digital identifier for physical, digital or abstract objects. It is used mainly for scientific publications and datasets.

⁴ www.creativecommons.ch

Chapter 6 Entry into force and repeal of existing regulations

Article 16 Entry into force and repeal of existing regulations

¹ These Regulations enter into force on 1 January 2027.

² They repeal and replace the Regulations on the funding of open access publications of 7 November 2017.