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Practice-to-Science (PtS) Regulations

of 19 February 2019

The Research Council

based on Articles 4 and 48 of the Regulations on research grants (hereinafter "Funding Regulations")

issues the following Regulations:

Chapter 1 Practice-to-Science (PtS)

Article 1 Objectives and principles¹

¹ The Swiss National Science Foundation (hereinafter "the SNSF") allows qualified experts with certified practical experience to assume a temporary position as tenure-track professor (or equivalent), with the prospect of acquiring higher qualifications and a permanent position, at a university of applied sciences or a university of teacher education in Switzerland.

² The SNSF's Practice-to-Science grants (hereinafter "PtS grants") are aimed at making use-inspired research in Switzerland more competitive.

³ PtS grants are awarded to researchers in all disciplines taught at universities of applied sciences and universities of teacher education. The applications must concern use-inspired research fields pursuant to Article 2 letter a of the RIPA².

⁴ PtS grantees aim to improve their scientific qualifications and obtain a permanent position as professor at a university of applied sciences or a university of teacher education, where they must devote 0.5 FTE (full time equivalent; 50% of a full-time position) to research. They agree with the higher education institution on the criteria for gaining higher qualifications and/or a permanent position.

⁵ PtS grants are offered within the scope of a pilot project of fixed duration.

¹ Amended by decision of 23.3.2021, in force with immediate effect

² Federal Research and Innovation Promotion Act, SR 420.1

Article 2 Applicable law

PtS grants are governed by these Regulations as well as by the other applicable rules of the SNSF, in particular its Funding Regulations³ and the general implementation regulations for the Funding Regulations⁴. In addition, the submission of applications is governed by the conditions of the call.

Article 3 Amount and duration of the grant⁵

¹ PtS grants are paid for a minimum of one year and for a maximum of three years.

² The amount may not exceed CHF 600,000 for the three-year grant, meaning CHF 200'000 per year. If the duration of the grant is less than three years, the maximum amount will be proportionately reduced.

Chapter 2 Personal and formal requirements for the submission of proposals

Article 4 General personal requirements

¹ Eligible to apply are natural persons who meet the general eligibility requirements for the submission of applications pursuant to Article 10 of the Funding Regulations of the SNSF. The requirements set out in Article 13 of the Funding Regulations with regard to the proposed research must also be met.

² Applicants must have a doctorate or an equivalent qualification. To achieve equivalence with a doctorate, applicants without a doctorate must have spent at least three years conducting research as their main source of income since obtaining their higher education degree.

³ In addition, applicants must have three years of specific practical experience that is relevant to the research field and the proposed research project. Periods of part-time work must cumulatively meet the three-year requirement.

Article 5 Other personal requirements⁶

¹ Applicants must demonstrably have a position at professorial level at a university of applied sciences or a university of teacher education for the entire duration of the grant, or they must present an assurance of such a position as of the start date of the PtS grant at the latest. The position must not have started more than 24 months prior to the submission deadline of the Practice-to-Science applications.

² If the position is temporary, the applicants must be in possession of a written agreement regarding the qualification criteria and/or the criteria for permanent employment on expiry of the funding period. The agreement may be conditional on the awarding of a PtS grant.

³ For the duration of the PtS grant, grant holders must be able to devote at least 0.5 FTE (50% of a full-time position) to their research work.

³ www.snf.ch/SiteCollectionDocuments/allg_reglement_16_e.pdf

⁴ www.snf.ch/SiteCollectionDocuments/snsf-general-implementation-regulations-for-the-funding-regulations-e.pdf

⁵ Amended by decision of 23.3.2021, in force with immediate effect

⁶ Amended by decision of 23.3.2021, in force with immediate effect

Article 6 Formal requirements

¹ Grant applications must be submitted electronically to the SNSF.

² Calls for proposals for PtS grants as well as the relevant submission deadlines will be published on the website of the SNSF.

³ In all other respects, any further formal requirements for the submission of applications apply, in particular the Funding Regulations of the SNSF and its Implementation Regulations.

Chapter 3 Applications and eligible costs

Article 7 Applications⁷

Applications for PtS grants must meet the requirements of the SNSF and must comprise all the necessary data and documents. This includes, in particular:

- a. a description of the research project that is at the most ten pages long (research plan). The language of the application must be chosen in accordance with Clause 1.16 of the General implementation regulations for the Funding Regulations;
- b. a document issued by the university of applied sciences or the university of teacher education confirming the employment conditions, incl. the agreement on the criteria for obtaining higher qualifications and/or a permanent position, and a document setting out the conditions and measures aimed at making the applicant sufficiently qualified to do research (e.g. coaching; further training on research methodology);
- c. a letter from the university of applied sciences or the university of teacher education expressing support and giving assurances:
 - regarding coverage of the research costs if they are not fully covered by the PtS grant;
 - confirming that the applicant would be able to devote at least 50% (0.5 FTE) to independent research work as required under the grant; and
 - confirming that the applicant would have access to the necessary infrastructure;
- d. a budget.

Article 8 Eligible costs⁸

¹ Under the PtS grants scheme, the SNSF awards grants of maximum CHF 200,000 per year.

² The grant may be used to cover costs in accordance with SNSF provisions: grantee's salaries for up to 0.5 FTE in accordance with the rates stipulated by the relevant higher education institution; and/or eligible costs pursuant to Clause 2 of the Implementation Regulations for the Funding Regulations.

³ The costs must be listed in the budget.

⁷ Amended by decision of 23.3.2021, in force with immediate effect

⁸ Amended by decision of 23.3.2021, in force with immediate effect

Chapter 4 Other applications or SNSF grants; restrictions

Article 9 PtS grants in relation to other SNSF funding schemes

¹ The SNSF does not grant any other career grants for the duration of a PtS grant.

² If there is an overlap between the evaluation process or ongoing grants in SNSF career funding and PtS applications or grants, the overlap must be eliminated by withdrawing applications. If the overlap is not eliminated, the SNSF will not consider the application submitted last.

Chapter 5 Assessment criteria and procedures

Article 10 Assessment criteria, scientific evaluation

¹ Applications that meet the personal and formal requirements are evaluated scientifically.

² The relevant criteria for the awarding of PtS grants are the qualifications of the applicants and the scientific quality of the research projects.

³ The assessment of personal requirements is based on the following criteria:

- a. practical expertise and its relevance for the envisaged higher qualification and/or the research project; and
- b. research track record within academia and in the practical field up to now.

⁴ Projects are assessed based on the following criteria:

- a. scientific quality⁹ of the research project: value added to the current state of research, approach and methodology, feasibility, chances of success, broader impact; and
- b. budget: adequate and plausible.

Article 11 Evaluation procedure and decision¹⁰

¹ The selection procedure is divided into two phases. In the first phase, the best applications are selected based on the submitted documents by the Practice-to-Science evaluation committee for the second phase using the assessment criteria. Applicants who are not admitted to the second phase are informed through a written ruling in which the reasons for the decision are set out.

² The SNSF arranges for the applications chosen for the second phase to be reviewed by external experts. In the second phase, the SNSF generally asks the applicant to present the research project and career plan in person, as well as answer the questions put by the evaluation body.

³ The second phase is completed with a decision communicated to the applicants.

Chapter 6 Grants and grant administration

Article 12 Grants

PtS grants are awarded and managed according to the applicable rules of the SNSF, in particular the Funding Regulations of the SNSF and its Implementation Regulations.

⁹ In artistic research: both quality of research and artistic quality

¹⁰ Amended by decision of 23.3.2021, in force with immediate effect

Article 13 Reporting

¹ The grant holders are obliged to submit reports in accordance with the requirements stipulated by the SNSF.

² In particular, an interim report and output data must be provided 18 months after the start of the project at the latest, and a final report on conclusion of the project.

³ The final report must include the decision regarding the obtainment of higher qualifications and/or of a permanent position.

Chapter 7 Entry into force

Article 14 Entry into force

These Regulations enter into force on 15 January 2020.