

The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) is the main agency promoting scientific research in Switzerland. It supports research across all scientific disciplines on behalf of the Swiss federal government. As the scientific body of the SNSF, the Research Council is responsible for the development of funding schemes and funding policies, the scientific evaluation process, including the chairing of panels and the evaluation of proposals, and the selection of applications to be funded. The profile of the Research Council as a whole must deliver these functions whilst also reflecting the diversity of the Swiss higher education landscape as a whole.

## **Election to the Research Council: Programme Committee International Cooperation**

**For April or October 2027, the SNSF is seeking new research councillors to become members of the Programme Committee International Cooperation.<sup>1</sup>**

The Programme Committee International Cooperation is responsible for the international strategy of the SNSF as well as promoting, funding and facilitating international scientific exchange and cooperation. In addition, it is responsible for the implementation of international research cooperation activities of the Confederation and coordination with partner countries to strengthen the international anchoring and competitiveness of Swiss research. It oversees the following funding schemes: Bilateral Programmes, Enlargement Contribution, SPIRIT, Scientific Exchanges, Scholars at Risk, International Complementary Measures and European Partnerships.

To complement the existing expertise of the Programme Committee International Cooperation and to enhance its diversity, we are seeking **five** additional members with the following specific expertise.

### **Specific expertise**

Suitable candidates will possess expertise in international cooperation in relation to research funding, particularly experience in EU/Horizon panels or wider non-Swiss research councils. Expertise or experience with regions or countries where partnerships involve complex political or regulatory considerations is an asset.

They are excellent researchers (SNSF's model of excellence) with a demonstrated track record in their research field. They bring experience in one of the following areas of expertise, preferably combined with expertise in interdisciplinary research:

- Research focus or collaborations in Central and Eastern Europe and Post-Soviet States in the Social Sciences and Humanities or related fields
- AI development, digitalisation and associated research fields
- Geosciences or sustainability
- Patient-oriented clinical research
- Expertise in knowledge security

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<sup>1</sup> [Current composition of the Programme Committee International Cooperation](#)

## Diversity requirements

The SNSF is committed to diversity and equal opportunities and aims at advancing groups that are underrepresented in science. For instance, the SNSF aims for a share of at least 40 per cent women and at least 40 per cent men in the Research Council and its bodies. Among suitable candidates, preference will be given to candidates who enhance this commitment.

## Profile of a research councillor

Research councillors need to understand national and international research trends in their field and to have the capacity to work across disciplinary boundaries and integrate different perspectives. They have experience with SNSF funding schemes or other national and international funding programmes.

They are aware of and forward-thinking about new research funding approaches and best practices in research ethics and evaluation. Ideally, they are familiar with grant evaluation, including the assessment of collaborative or interdisciplinary research projects. They have experience in chairing research evaluation panels or in other decision-making bodies.

Research councillors identify with and are committed to the SNSF's fundamental funding principles, mission and values (see the SNSF website for its mission statement, strategy and Statutes and legal framework). They can represent these both internally and externally, work well in a team and exhibit personal integrity and social responsibility.

Proficiency in English is required. Very good knowledge of at least one Swiss national language and a passive understanding of a second national language are preferable.

## Conditions

1. Availability equivalent to 20% FTE
2. Mandate to commence on 1 April or 1 October 2027
3. Four-year term, re-election possible once
4. Disclosure of any positions that may be incompatible with the mandate, particularly management and supervisory roles at organisations applying for SNSF funding. This includes roles such as rectorate members, presidents, directors, school management members and holders of key management functions within important organisational units, such as faculty deans (for more details, refer to the [Foundation Regulations](#), Art. 28.5)

The mandate entails fair compensation. Within the 20% FTE, the range of tasks may evolve over time.

**Please submit your application via email to [rc-election@snf.ch](mailto:rc-election@snf.ch) by 14 June 2026, midnight.** Your application must be submitted as one document comprising a motivation letter (maximum of 2 pages) in which you set out your potential contribution to the realisation of the SNSF's vision and a CV (maximum of 2 pages). The CV should reflect your relevant skills and proven experience in relation to the

required profile and include details regarding your institutional responsibilities. In addition, please provide up to 2 pages in which you describe your major research achievements and contributions to the academic community or to society more broadly. When preparing the documents, please note that the SNSF adheres to the DORA principles.

Please indicate in your application any potential incompatibilities<sup>2</sup> with the mandate or potential conflicts of interest.

Candidates will be selected in a one-stage interview process. The interviews will take place in October 2026.

## Contact

[rc-election@snf.ch](mailto:rc-election@snf.ch)

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<sup>2</sup> The following are incompatible with membership of the Research Council ([Foundation Regulations](#) Section IV, Art. 28,5):

- a. overall management and supervisory functions at organisations whose members apply for funding from the SNSF, such as rectorate members, presidents, directors or members of school management
- b. management functions at important organisational units or research subdivisions or research infrastructures of organisations under letter a, such as the deans of faculties of the cantonal universities;
- c. management and supervisory functions in organisations whose purpose or activity involves safeguarding the interests of specific areas of research or of researchers vis-à-vis the SNSF;
- d. management functions in a National Centre of Competence in Research, limited to eligibility for election to the corresponding body of the Research Council;
- e. other scenarios that could compromise impartiality.