

POSTDOC.MOBILITY CALL AUGUST 2025

12 May 2025, 10:00 – 11:30

The SNSF Postdoc.Mobility team

Scientific Officers

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Grant Managers

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Contact information

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- Slides will be available on our website

Overview of the SNSF Career instruments

SNSF Career Funding Schemes



Develop your research expertise

Postdoc.Mobility (PM)

Postdoc abroad

1 – 2 years

Return Grants

Postdoc in CH after PM

3 – 12 months



Lead your research project

Ambizione

Mid-career researcher

4 years



Lead your research project and your team

SNSF Starting Grants

Assistant professor/
Group leader

5 years

Eligibility criteria

Personal requirements Postdoc.Mobility (1)

All requirements must be fulfilled on the date of 5 August 2025

PhD/MD-PhD

- You submit your application no more than 3 years* after the date of your PhD defense, or
- you will complete the PhD within 9 months after the submission deadline.

Medical studies with doctorate

- You submit your application no more than 8 years* after the state examination, or
- you will complete your doctorate (Dr. med) within 9 months after the submission deadline.
- You have done at least 3 years of clinical work.
- Studies towards an MD-PhD cannot be funded under this scheme.

* Extension of the eligibility window is possible, see next slide

Personal requirements Postdoc.Mobility (2)

- Extension of the window of eligibility can be requested based on the following reasons:
 - paternity, adoption or parental leave
 - inability to work due to illness or accident
 - care duties
 - services that benefit the general public, particularly military or civilian service
 - continuing education in connection with the applicant's research activities, particularly internships or clinical work

Only the actual incurred delay can be requested

Maternity: extension of 18 months per child

Personal requirements Postdoc.Mobility (3)

All requirements must be fulfilled on the date of 5 August 2025

- CH passport or Swiss permanent residence, residence or cross-border commuter permit (C, B, L, G)
- The permit must either be valid at the submission deadline or should have expired no more than 6 months before the submission deadline
- At least 2 years of activity at a Swiss research institution (for foreign nationals) -> postdoc, PhD, ...

Personal requirements Return Grants

- Applications for a return grant can only be submitted during an **ongoing Postdoc.Mobility fellowship** at the official submission deadlines.
- Exception: if the Postdoc.Mobility fellowship ends on 31 July 2025 (or on 31 January 2026), a proposal for a return grant can still be submitted on 5 August 2025 (or on 3 February 2026, respectively).

- **For Postdoc.Mobility and the Return Grants: Please consult the Postdoc.Mobility Regulations, the guidelines and the checklist on our website to check your formal eligibility.**

Application details (1)

Deadlines:

- Beginning of February and August at 17:00:00 Swiss local time
- Exact dates are communicated on the website and in the guidelines
- Next deadline: **Tuesday, 5 August 2025 17:00:00 Swiss local time**
→ **NOT-NEGOTIABLE**
- Parallel submission for the same period to e.g. Ambizione not possible, except RG

Duration:

- **PM:** 12-24 months
- **RG:** 3-12 months

Start:

- Earliest: 6 months after the deadline, i.e. 1 August for February call and 1 February for August call
- Latest: 12 months after the ruling, i.e. 1 July for February call and 1 January for August call

PM = Postdoc.Mobility

RG = Return CH Grant

Application details (2)

Host institution(s):

PM:

- Abroad
- 1 or more institutes
- Max. 1/3 in CH
- Max. 1/4 at institutions in the practical field (industry, administration, etc.)
- Home country if justified (except CH)
- Place of education not possible

RG:

- CH
- Place of education possible

Worktime percentage:

- 100%
- 80% in case of care duties, teaching, clinical activity

How to apply

General tips

- All relevant information can be found on the SNSF website and on mySNF [Postdoc.Mobility Regulations](#), [Guidelines Postdoc.Mobility](#), [Guidelines Return Grants](#), and [Checklist](#) for submitting a proposal are on our website (Homepage > Funding > Find funding scheme > Postdoc.Mobility)
- Submission via www.mySNF.ch
 - Register on mySNF as early as possible (scheme open 3 months before deadline)
- Start planning your submission early: deadlines are strict and non-negotiable, and the document upload may take some time, mySNF closes exactly at 17:00:00
- Invest enough time for preparing all required documents (e.g., research plan, confirmation(s) host institute(s), support letter(s)...))
- You are competing with many applicants, i.e., your proposal must stand out and make a difference

Research plan

Postdoc.Mobility

- Number of pages: max. **8 pages**
- Character count: max. **30'000 characters including spaces**, without bibliography

Return CH Grant

- Number of pages: max. **4 pages**
- Character count: max. **15'000 characters including spaces**, without bibliography

Both

- Please follow the guidelines/instructions carefully, also regarding the requested structure
- At least point 10 font size and 1.5 line spacing
- Research plan should be understandable for experts (within area of research) as well as for people in the wider discipline
- No annexes allowed

Max. number of pages AND of characters must be respected, otherwise, your application will be formally rejected

Confirmation letter(s) host institution(s)

- For stays of at least 1 month
- Official letter head of the host institution (no e-mail)
- Original signature of the head(s) of the institution or host professor(s)
- Has to state the start and end dates
- **Has to state clearly that the necessary infrastructure is available for the duration of the research stay**
- If you submit a proposal for a project requiring authorisations or notifications, the letter must confirm compliance with the legal provisions and ethical guidelines of the relevant country and host institution
- If the letter cannot provide such confirmation by the time the fellowship application is submitted, a second letter from the host institute indicating that the authorisations have been obtained must be provided by the time the funds are released at the latest. In any case, the fellowship can only be released for payment once the SNSF is in possession of such confirmation from the host institute

Support letter(s) from the mentor(s) at the host institution(s)

- A support letter from the mentor(s) at the host institution(s) must be uploaded for each stay of 6 months or more
- The mentor(s) at the host institution(s) must confirm their willingness to support the applicant for their future career path
- The SNSF requires the mentor at the host institution to comment on the following aspects:
 - How will the research project be supported scientifically?
 - How will the applicant's scientific independence be ensured and promoted?
 - How will the continuous intellectual development and continuing education of the applicant be facilitated?
 - What resources needed for the research will the mentor make available to the applicant should they receive a fellowship?
- The person who signs the confirmation letter can also sign the support letter. However, 2 letters must be submitted

Requested funding

Postdoc.Mobility

- Grant towards living costs, flat-rate for travel expenses ([fellowship and travel allowances rates](#)). Please note this is a scholarship, not a salary
- Child allowances

Return CH Grant

- Salary and social contribution

Both

- Contribution to research and conference costs (max. CHF 5'000/year) **must be requested with the application**

+ Add expense	
Place of stay	+
Research funds	
Participation on travel expenses	

+ Add expense	
The applicants' own salaries	
Additional project costs (incl. consumables)	

Do not upload, otherwise you will be asked to delete

- Cover letter
- Career plan
- Reference letters
- Annexes to the research plan
- Publications, PhD thesis...

Evaluation procedure and timeline



Detailed description of the evaluation procedure -> [Evaluation procedure](#)

Evaluation criteria

Evaluation criteria*

Applicant

- Scientific research output to date (quality), relative to the net academic age
- Ability, based on achievements to date, to conduct the project and contribute to it personally
- Career development and mobility (past and future)

Project

- Scientific relevance, quality, originality and topicality
- Suitability of approach, methodology and feasibility

Host institution

- Scientific support, suitability and added value regarding the proposed project
- Suitability to ensure and promote the applicant's independence, intellectual development and continuing education
- For RG: value added to a scientific/academic career in CH

Host institutions abroad

Evaluation criteria

- Scientific support, suitability and added value regarding the proposed project
- Suitability to ensure and promote the applicant's independence, intellectual development and continuing education

Clarify as early as possible whether a stay at the host institution is subject to any conditions, e.g.:

- Overhead -> the SNSF does not pay overhead or bench fees.
- Minimum salary requirements (for example at US institutions) -> SNSF fellowship rates are binding, any gap should be covered by the host institution -> clarify questions regarding funding etc. early enough.
- Status of visiting researchers (for example in France, where fellowship holders usually must be employed after a certain period).
- [Research in crisis area](#): The SNSF assesses the feasibility of research proposals during the scientific evaluation process. Risk analyses presented in the research plan are also examined. These may present alternative options, for example how the research could be carried out without travelling to countries with a significant security risk or whether it could be carried out entirely in another country.

If you are successful...

- Read carefully the decision letter (conditions etc.)
- For administrative questions, see our [Information set Postdoc.Mobility](#) and our FAQ on the website
 - Taxes
 - Instalment/bank account
 - Insurances
 - Maternity, parental leave
 - Reporting (scientific and financial reports)
 - ...
- For individual questions where you cannot find information: contact us!

If you are not successful...

First...

- Read carefully the decision letter
- If you have questions, contact us for clarifications

If you are thinking of resubmitting,...

- Check if you still fulfil all formal requirements for the same funding scheme
- Consider the points criticised when preparing the new application
- You may apply once more for a Postdoc.Mobility resp. Return CH Grant

If you strongly disagree with the decision,...

- You can ask for reconsideration or appeal against the decision

Possible reasons for rejection (non-exhaustive)

- Lack of details with regard to the **evaluation criteria**
- Not clearly demonstrated **experience** or **expertise** in the field of the project
- Quality of **scientific achievements** not clear, not convincing
- Unclear or missing **own contribution** to the project
- **Aims, research questions** or **hypotheses** unclear or not well defined
- Lack of **coherence**, lack of **focus**
- Missing **references** to sources, archives, literature or competitors
- **Theoretical framework** is not clear
- Not enough details about the **experimental approaches**
- Unclear, outdated or inappropriate, or insufficiently developed **methods** (inc. data collection)
- Unclear statistical plan/power calculation, etc.
- Overambitious, **feasibility** not clearly given
- No **backup plan**
- ...

FAQ

FAQ

Can I apply for Postdoc.Mobility if I have already submitted an Ambizione or SNSF Starting Grant application?

If you have submitted an application for Ambizione or the SNSF StG which is under evaluation, you cannot submit an application for a Postdoc.Mobility fellowship for the same funding period

Does the PhD count for the two years of research of activity in Switzerland for foreigner with a Swiss permit?

Yes, if you were/are doing your PhD at a Swiss institution (place of work is relevant).

Are exceptions possible regarding the minimum two-year Swiss link?

No. The minimum two-year Swiss link must be fulfilled on 5 August 2025.

Do you consider the oral exam, final draft submission or public defense as date for the PhD?

The date of the examination or respectively the date of the defence of the doctoral thesis is the relevant date (the public defence is, with few exceptions, held on a different day than the exam and is therefore not relevant here).

FAQ

Can I apply to go to more than one host institution?

Yes, this is possible. You must submit a confirmation letter from each host institution (for stays as of 1 month) and a support letter from each mentor (for stays as of 6 months).

Can a dual national apply to go to one of their home country, where they have never lived, studied...?

Yes, but a request for exemption has to be uploaded in the application.

Is it possible for the host institution to top up the stipend?

Yes, if there is a minimal amount demanded at the host institute. The SNSF does not top up the stipends.

FAQ

I am planning a research stay in the United States. What should I do if I am unsure whether I will have access to my host institution or the resources provided by the host institution, e.g. local funding to meet a minimum requirement or insurance coverage?

Contact your host institution and relevant authorities as soon as possible for necessary information and stay updated on any developments that may affect you. If your Postdoc.Mobility application is approved but your planned stay at the host institution is no longer possible, you may arrange to carry out your project elsewhere. Important: Any changes to the research project (incl. host) or the conditions for conducting it must be submitted to the SNSF in advance for approval.

Will my Postdoc.Mobility fellowship be taxed in Switzerland?

Generally, all cantons consider the fellowships to be taxable income in the year of approval or in the year of payment. If you have any questions, please contact the relevant tax office directly.

Further FAQ on our website: [Postdoc.Mobility](#) -> FAQ

Practical information

- Contact the research institution(s) and the mentor(s) well in advance for the **confirmation letter(s) and the support letter(s)**
- Avoid submitting at the very last moment, uploading documents and confirming each section in mySNF may take some time!
Submission deadline: 5 August 2025, 17:00:00 Swiss local time
- Question “rumors/myths” – better contact the SNSF at pm@snf.ch

Thank you!



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/snsf>



<https://bsky.app/profile/snsf-ch.bsky.social>



https://social.anoxinon.de/@snsf_ch



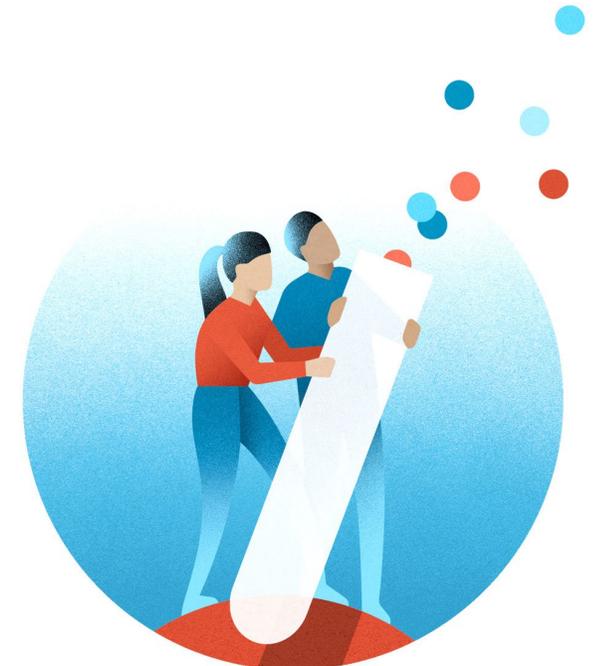
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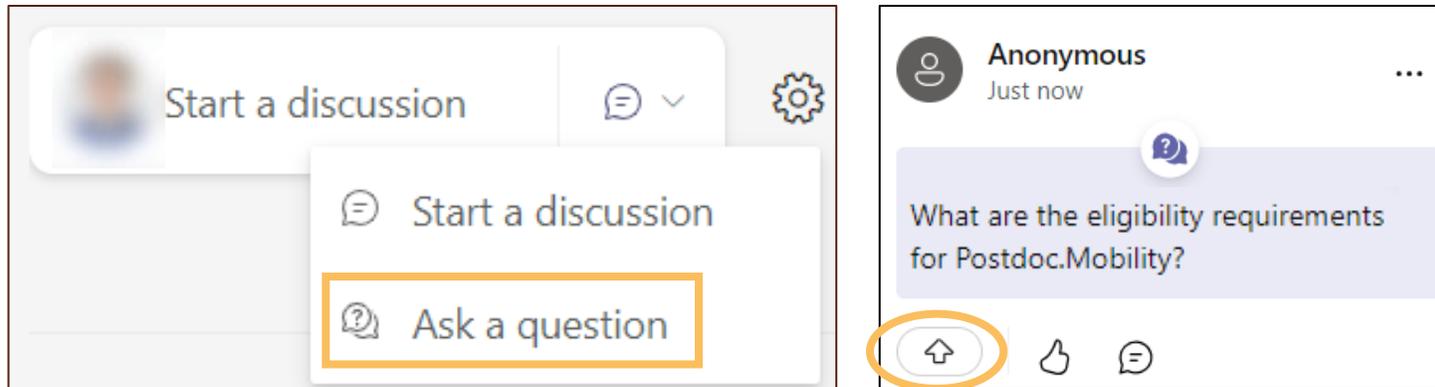
Check out our website: <https://www.snf.ch/en>

Visit the SNSF Data Portal: data.snf.ch !



Rules for the Q&A session

- **Ask brief and general questions** relating to this call in Teams, language: English
- Click on ask a question and choose anonymous. We moderate and publish the questions



- **Upvote any published question** by clicking on the arrow. Upvote rather than ask a similar question. We will answer questions orally
- We will not publish specific questions relating to your personal situation. For this you can reach us at pm@snf.ch
- We stop the Q&A at **11:30**