

# POSTDOC.MOBILITY CALL AUGUST 2026

18 May 2026, 10:00 – 11:30

# The SNSF Postdoc.Mobility team

## Scientific Officers

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- Slides will be available on our website [Postdoc.Mobility](#)

# 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 4 August 2026

## **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 6 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 6 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 4 August 2026

- **CH passport, Swiss permanent settlement permit (permit C) or married resp. in a registered partnership with a Swiss.** The permit C must either be valid at the submission deadline or should have expired no more than 6 months before the submission deadline.
- Candidates who do not fulfill these conditions are admitted if they are conducting or have conducted their **doctoral studies (PhD or MD) at a Swiss higher education institution\*** or if they have obtained their **state examination in Switzerland**, and had **not held a postdoctoral position abroad** prior to the submission deadline.

\* Doctorates awarded within the framework of cooperative doctoral programmes between universities of applied sciences/universities of teacher education and foreign institutions entitled to confer doctorates qualify applicants to submit an application, provided that the research work is or was carried out at the Swiss higher education institution.

# 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 2026, a proposal for a return grant can still be submitted on 4 August 2026.
  
- **For Postdoc.Mobility and the Return Grants: Please consult the Postdoc.Mobility Regulations and the guidelines 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, 4 August 2026 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

PM = Postdoc.Mobility

RG = Return CH Grant

# 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](#)**, are on our website (Homepage > Funding > Find funding scheme > Postdoc.Mobility)
- Submission via **[www.mysnf.ch](http://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**

# CV: Structure and main elements (SNSF Portal)

- Academic age
- Education & Employment (with supervisors)
- 3 Major achievements
- Works (up to 10), ideally with a direct link
- ORCID iD (make sure it is public)

**CV**

Jane Test  
Current position(s): Assistant professor with tenure track or similar  
Academic age: 8 year(s) 7 month(s)

**Education**

| Degree                | Organization  | Duration                                   |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| PhD / Dr.: Psychology | Italian Institute of Technology, IT<br>Department of Robotics, Brain and Cognitive Sciences | 01.2008 - 04.2011<br>3 year(s) 4 month(s)  |
| Master: Biology       | Sorbonne University, FR<br>Department of Psychology   | 10.2005 - 07.2007<br>1 year(s) 10 month(s) |
| Bachelor: Psychology  | Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, DE<br>Department of Psychology                      | 10.2002 - 07.2005<br>2 year(s) 10 month(s) |

**Employment**

| Role   | Organization   | Duration                                   |
|--|--|--|
| Assistant professor with tenure track or similar | Universität Bern - BE, CH<br>School of Health Sciences             | 09.2019 - Present<br>2 year(s) 10 month(s) |
| Senior researcher                                | Universität Zürich - ZH, CH<br>Department of Neuroscience          | 03.2016 - 08.2019<br>3 year(s) 6 month(s)  |
| Junior researcher / Postdoc                      | University of Wisconsin-Madison, US<br>Center for Neuroprosthetics | 10.2013 - 03.2016<br>2 year(s) 6 month(s)  |

Page 10 | 13 June 2022, Jane Test, ORCID ID 0000-0002-9500-4390

**Role**

| Role                        | Organization                                 | Duration                                  |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| Junior researcher / Postdoc | ETH Zurich, CH<br>Institute for Neuroscience | 05.2011 - 10.2013<br>2 year(s) 6 month(s) |

**Major achievements**

**Achievement 1**

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● [1] Journal article: Carberry, J. (2012). A Methodology for the Evaluation of Architecture. *Journal of Psychosomatics*, 5(11), 1-3. <https://doi.org/10.5555/12345678> [DOI](#)

● [2] Journal article: Carberry, J. (2011). The Impact of Interactive Ergonomics on Cryptography. *Journal of Psychoaromatics*, 8(11), 1-3. <https://doi.org/10.5555/98765432> [DOI](#)

● [3] Journal article: Adin, D., Fromont, L., Sappey, R., Rusch, J. E., Tjebkema, S., Kallman, H., Aherne, M., Verbe, M., & Goldberg, R. (2021). Effect of type of set on blood and plasma lactate concentrations, cardiac biomarkers, and echocardiogram in 4 dog breeds. *Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine*, 35(2), 771-779. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jvim.16075> [DOI](#)

● [4] Journal article: Santos, C., Carrone, N., Di Franco, A., Gavetti, I., Piretti, F., Turchetti, B., Mezzanona, A., Zucconi, L., Buzzzi, P., Ouglietta, M., & Orsi, S. (2022). Fungal communities in European alpine soils are not affected by short-term in situ simulated warming than bacterial communities. *Environmental Microbiology*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1462-2822.16090> [DOI](#)

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**Achievement 3**

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● [1] Journal article: Santos, C., Carrone, N., Di Franco, A., Gavetti, I., Piretti, F., Turchetti, B., Mezzanona, A., Zucconi, L., Buzzzi, P., Ouglietta, M., & Orsi, S. (2022). Fungal communities in European alpine soils are not affected by short-term in situ simulated warming than bacterial communities. *Environmental Microbiology*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1462-2822.16090> [DOI](#)

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Your curriculum vitae – all about the CV format

# 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 project requiring authorisations or notifications (the SNSF follows the regulations applicable in Switzerland), the letter must confirm compliance with the legal provisions and ethical guidelines in the country of the host institute and that all necessary authorisations have been obtained.
- If the letter cannot provide such confirmation by the submission deadline and if the necessary authorisations are only obtained at a later date, a second letter must be submitted at the latest before the release of funds. The funds 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)

- For stays of at least 6 months
- Official letter head of the host institution (no e-mail)
- Original signature of the mentor(s)
- 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 the decision letter carefully
- If you have questions, contact us for clarifications

## **If you are thinking of resubmitting,...**

- Check if you still fulfill 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 fulfill the eligibility requirements)

## **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, inappropriate or insufficiently developed **methods** (inc. data collection)
- Unclear statistical plan/power calculation, etc.
- Overambitious, **feasibility** not clearly given
- No **backup plan**
- ...

# Reform of career funding portfolio

- [The SNSF is reforming its career funding.](#) A new postdoctoral funding scheme will be launched in early 2028. It will replace both Postdoc.Mobility and Ambizione.
- Grantees will be able to develop their research project with a **high level of autonomy**.
- The scheme will correspond to the **R2 career level** ("recognised researcher") according to the research profiles descriptors of the European Union, i.e. postdoc or equivalent.
- Grantees will be **employed for the entire duration of the grant**, including during stays abroad, which will guarantee them access to all social benefits.
- The final submission deadline for Ambizione is set for November 2026, while the **final Postdoc.Mobility call will close in August 2027**.
- **The new postdoctoral funding scheme will be launched in early 2028**.
- More details about the eligibility criteria, evaluation process, grant duration, and funding amounts will be communicated by the end of this year.
- Transitional arrangement: **Researchers with an ongoing Postdoc.Mobility fellowships can still submit a Return Grant application even after 2027** (as long as they are still eligible -> ongoing Postdoc.Mobility fellowship)

# 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 SNSF StG which is under evaluation, you cannot submit an application for a Postdoc.Mobility fellowship for the same funding period.*

*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 defense of the doctoral thesis is the relevant date (the public defense 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

*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: 4 August 2026, 17:00:00 Swiss local time**
- Question “rumors/myths” – better contact the SNSF at [pm@snf.ch](mailto:pm@snf.ch)

Thank you!



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



<https://bsky.app/profile/snf-fns.ch>



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[Swiss National Science Foundation - YouTube](#)

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

Visit the SNSF Data Portal: <https://data.snf.ch/>

