Finding Funding

5th information session on research funding for early-career researchers at the University of Bern

Special focus on: Natural Sciences, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine

Date: Thursday, 8 June 2017, 13:30 – 17:15
Location: University of Bern, Main Building, Room 101

Contents

The acquisition of external funding is a core competence for researchers. At Swiss universities, third-party funding is substantially provided by the Swiss National Science Foundation SNSF and the participation in European research programs. Established events regularly supply information on these options. However, many of the funding opportunities in this segment are not directly accessible for younger researchers, particularly for doctoral students and assistants.

Our session provides information on the 'classic' players in research funding and points to alternative funding opportunities through foundations and federal agencies – which, depending on the discipline, may contribute a considerable share to research funding at universities. Young researchers are frequently less familiar with the funding activities of these institutions, and it often is not immediately apparent whether relevant options are available at a specific institution.

Each year, the session focuses on particular disciplines in an attempt to do justice to the heterogeneity in the different research fields. The focus of this 5th session lies on early-career researchers from the areas of the natural sciences, medicine and veterinary medicine, who are in the final stage of the PhD or in their postdoc phase.

Target audience:

- Advanced PhD students from the fields of natural sciences, medicine and veterinary medicine with or without employment at the University of Bern who are looking for options to finance their PhD (or parts of it, e.g. travel expenses) and/or connected activities, such as conferences.
- Postdocs from the fields of natural sciences, medicine and veterinary medicine at the University of Bern who are looking for funds either to continue their individual academic career (salary, expenses) or to finance a research project or a small research group.
- Participants of the mentoring programs at the University of Bern.
- Intermediate staff members working in a different research area but interested in a broad overview of funding opportunities.

Language

The presentations will be held in English. Individual questions may be asked in German.

Attendance

Attendance is free for MVUB members. Non-members must pay an attendance fee of 20 CHF. Registration is obligatory. Online registration is available on the MVUB website. Limited number of places – first come, first served.
Program 'Finding Funding for early-career researchers' 2017

Part I: Presentations

Participants receive information on various funding opportunities, as well as advice on the application procedure and some Dos and Don'ts for the search for external funding.

13:30 Welcome by moderator Simone Rufener, PhD, Grants Office, University of Bern

13:35 Presentation Fundraising at universities: Dorothea Bergler, Head of University Advancement, University of Bern
   Overview of the terms of fundraising and third-party funding; interests and criteria on the part of the donors; general procedure in applying for funding

13:55 Presentation Foundations: Robert Schmuki, Head Executive Training & Knowledge Transfer, Center for Philanthropy Studies (CEPS), Basel
   What is a foundation? How do I find a suitable foundation for my purposes? Research funding foundations in Switzerland; procedure and criteria of the application process

14:25 Presentation Government-funded research: Christina Blumer, Head of Research Management, Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office FSVO
   Overview of government-funded research; research in the FSVO: calls, procedure, criteria, sample projects

14:55 Coffee break

15:15 Presentation Swiss National Science Foundation: Prof. Nicolas Thomas, Vice President SNSF-Research Commission, University of Bern
   SNSF funding schemes for early career researchers, function of the research commission, advice for applicants (procedure, criteria)

15:40 Presentation Horizon 2020: Maddalena Tognola, Euresearch Regional Office Bern and University of Bern
   European funding schemes for early-career researchers, advice for applicants, Grants Office

16:05 Presentation Experience report: SNSF Professor Susanne Reffert, Theoretical Physics, University of Bern
   Report on individual experiences in applying for funding, practical advice, and tricks of the trade

Part II: Individual Questions and Answers session

The experts will be available for individual questions at separate desks. Participants circulate freely.

16:30 Q & A session (and coffee)

Part III: Closing statements

Experts report on individual questions that may concern all participants; final questions from the audience; closing remarks / take home messages

17:00 Closing statements

17:15 End of the event