

Liebes MVUB-Mitglied

Dear member of the Intermediate Staff Association at the University of Bern (MVUB)

We have recently decided to keep more of our communication in English in order to reach more of the international staff at the University. This is why this newsletter is composed in English only – apart from the few references to events and calls that are available exclusively in German.

So we would like to draw your attention to the following events and announcements:

MVUB Events

- **MVUB Lunchtalk 'Hot off the press – SNSF reforms and academic careers' (in English)**

Tuesday, 5 December 2017, 12.15-13.15

The Swiss National Science Foundation SNSF has the lead in funding research and promoting young researchers in Switzerland. Over the past year, it has been making changes to its project funding as well as its career funding programs. What are the consequences for young researchers? Which prerequisites are essential for pursuing an academic career? What options are there? And what are the pros and cons of this exciting and challenging venture?

Speaker: Prof. Dr. René Bloch, President SNSF Research Committee, University of Bern

Place: UniS, Schanzeneckstrasse 1, room A 201

The lunch talks consist of a short presentation and a discussion. They are free of charge. Please bring your own lunch. [More](#)

News

- **University committees - vacancies**

There is one vacancy in a University committee at the moment. An intermediate staff member is wanted on the following committee:

- Sozialfondskommission der SUB: 1 seat (assistant or lecturer)

Good German skills are required. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact info@mvub.unibe.ch. An overview of our representatives on University committees can be accessed on our [website](#).

- **SNSF Eccellenza Professorial Fellowships and Grants – first call opens 15 November**

The new SNSF Eccellenza funding scheme is aimed at highly qualified young researchers who are aiming for a permanent professorship. This scheme enables them to achieve their goal as leaders of a generously funded research project and team at a higher education institution in Switzerland. Around 45 Eccellenza awards – both SNSF Eccellenza Grants and SNSF Professorial Fellowships - are expected to be made in 2018. [More](#)

- **SNSF Postdoc.Mobility – first call - submission deadline 1 February 2018**

Postdoc.Mobility fellowships replace Advanced Postdoc.Mobility fellowships with immediate effect, supporting postdocs who wish to conduct or extend a research stay abroad. The fellowships are in principle granted for 24 months, but never for less than 12 months. [More](#)

- **SNSF Doc.Mobility and Early Postdoc.Mobility – submission deadline: 1 March 2018**

If you are planning to apply for one of these mobility grants, please contact the secretary of the SNSF Research Commission at the University of Bern for further information prior to the submission of your application. [More](#)

- Berrow Foundation Scholarships for Oxford – deadline 19 January 2018**

Six or more scholarships are awarded each year to enable graduates of Swiss universities to undertake a course of advanced study at the University of Oxford as members of Lincoln College. The Berrow Foundation Scholarships and Berrow Foundation Lord Florey Scholarships cover all University and College fees, college accommodation costs and a generous living allowance. They are tenable for up to three years. [More](#)
- UniBE Initiator Grants – application deadline 29 January 2018**

The Vice-Rectorate Research has an open call for applications for the 5th UniBE Initiator Grants. Submission deadline is Monday, 29 January 2018. This funding scheme supports early career researchers in the preparation of post PhD funding applications. The use of the grant depends on the individual needs. A maximum of CHF 20,000 can be requested. The evaluation of the submitted proposals will be carried out by the SNF Research Commission of the University of Bern. [More](#)
- ERC Consolidator Grants 2018 – applications by 15 February 2018**

Up to EUR 2 million for a ground-breaking basic research project. Intended for outstanding researchers with 7-12 years of experience after PhD (or equivalent). [More](#)
Please contact the Grants Office for further information: grantsoffice@research.unibe.ch
- Friedwart Bruckhaus-Förderpreis – application deadline 28 February 2018**

Die Schleyer-Stiftung vergibt einen Förderpreis für junge Wissenschaftlerinnen und Wissenschaftler zum Thema "Die Gestaltung der digitalen Revolution - Veränderungen in Wirtschaft, Staat und Gesellschaft". Application deadline is 28 February 2018. [More](#) (in German)
- Workshop 'First steps in intercultural learning' – 24 November 2017**

This workshop is aimed at students and PhD students who are preparing their stay abroad, as well as at international students and doctoral students who are currently enrolled at the University of Bern. The workshop aims to facilitate local and international students' intercultural learning during their study abroad. The workshop is organized by the International Office of the University of Bern. Free of charge, in English. Registration is mandatory. [More](#)
- Symposium on 'Careers in Science' - 29-30 November 2017, Geneva**

At any stage along the way, you may find yourself asking: am I heading in the right direction? What do I need to do next? Can I change direction? Where to go? How to do it? Become aware, discover, identify and learn the many science career possibilities ahead! The two-day symposium on 'Careers in Science: Academia and beyond' welcomes all young scientists, struggling with these crucial questions. The event is open to any Master or PhD student as well as postdocs of all science disciplines. [More](#)
- Veranstaltung "Exzellenz in der Wissenschaft" am 12. Dezember 2017 (in German)**

Bei [«Science at Noon»](#) diskutieren Akteure aus dem Netzwerk der Akademien der Wissenschaften regelmässig wissenschaftliche und wissenschaftspolitische Themen. Dr. Patricia Felber spricht über «Exzellenz», «Cosmo-Idioten» und das Konzept der «Slow University».

Ort und Zeit: Haus der Akademien, Laupenstrasse 7, Bern, 12.15-13 Uhr
- Workshop 'Veterinary Ethics, Legislation and Animal Welfare' – 15-16 January 2018**

The changing human-animal relationships entails benefits but also challenges. These include issues related to therapy and euthanasia of pets; to utility, transport and slaughter of farm animals; to hunt and fishery; to the use of animals for experiments; or to the massive killing of animals within the scope of epidemics control. In this workshop, we will use specific case studies to discuss and illuminate such issues from three perspectives: Veterinary ethics, animal protection legislation and animal welfare. The workshop is meant for people working in academia

or related fields interested in ethics, ranging from veterinary and human medicine to philosophy, theology, agri business, law, psychology and life sciences. Free of charge, in German and English, at the Vetsuisse Faculty, University of Bern. [More](#)

- **European career network Academic Positions platform**

The more international higher education is becoming, the more difficult it becomes for graduates, researchers and academics to get an overview of the available career opportunities worldwide. The Academic Positions platform offers a variety of PhD fellowships, Post Doc positions, Tenure tracks and Professorships from thousands of universities and institutions worldwide. Visit the career network at www.academicpositions.eu.

- **Grants Office**

The University of Bern's [Grants Office](#) offers support and advice to all researchers at the University of Bern in queries regarding research funding.

- **'Transferable Skills' – free courses for PhD Students and Postdocs**

Transferable skills are competencies acquired in one context that can be applied to other contexts, jobs, positions, functions or fields of work. Solid project management skills, for example, are required in research as well as in various other fields (construction projects, development projects, advertising or election campaigns). The courses are free of charge for PhD students and postdocs at the University of Bern. [Course program](#)

- **Workshops, courses and events offered by the Welcome Center at Uni Bern**

The Welcome Center at the University of Bern organises a range of courses and events for international researchers and students. [More](#)

- **SUB Social Fund for MVUB members**

The SUB Social Fund provides financial support for students and MVUB members (PhD students) who find themselves in difficult economic situations. The Social Funds Committee can grant up to 5000 CHF in interest-free loans or scholarships (which do not have to be repaid). [More](#)

- **Foundations and funds database**

The [foundations and funds](#) database offers researchers and students an overview of relevant research promoting foundations and funds that grant scholarships, award prizes, or financially support research projects (interface in German).

Notice: Intermediate staff at the Faculties

In many faculties, the intermediate staff are interconnected and inform members about relevant topics. Here are the links to the websites of mid-staff and of the contacts at the faculties:

Faculty of Science:	Information about Mittelbau Phil.-nat.
Faculty of Humanities:	Information about Mittelbau Phil.-hist.
Faculty of Human Sciences:	Information about Mittelbau Phil.-hum.
Faculty of Law:	Faculty board delegates , contact Philipp Stehlin
Faculty of Theology:	Contact Nancy Rahn
Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences:	Contact Jacqueline Thomet or Sophie Altermatt
Faculty of Medicine:	Contact Prof. Dr. med. Marcel Arnold (President VDM)
Vetsuisse Faculty:	Contact Dr. Walter U. Basso

Why become a MVUB member?

- Voice in University committees
- Information (Newsletter, Info-E-mails)
- Interconnection with intermediate staff from other disciplines
- Ideational support
- Discounts and preferred admission to MVUB events
- Free legal advice