



Startup & Innovation Associate

Overview

Do you believe the next global breakthrough will come through startup innovation?

The Innovation team at Swissnex in India is supporting our global mission to reshape how we address sustainability, planetary health and emerging digital technologies through cross-border exchange. We are looking for a talented Startup & Innovation Associate to add to our team in Bengaluru.

India is one of the world's most dynamic innovation markets, offering scale, speed and ground for experimentation for Swiss startups looking to internationalise. We help them analyse the ecosystem, strategise go-to-market approaches and adapt their business model based on targeted customer feedback.

Apart from direct market entry, we support Swiss businesses who are looking to India for inspiration by acting as their ears on the ground. By scouting for emerging technology and relevant partnership opportunities, we enable Swiss and Indian actors to build affordable and accessible products together, turning ambition into real progress.

Swissnex in India advances areas important to the future of both countries, such as [healthtech](#), [sustainability](#) and [digital transformation](#).

This role brings with it a high level of trust and ownership of the projects assigned to you. We value any new ideas you can bring to the table, along with any novel technical tools and platforms for stakeholder engagement.

If this sounds like something you're passionate about, apply to join our team! This is a great opportunity for highly motivated, open-minded graduates to advance a forward-thinking diplomatic mission with a focus on science, technology and innovation.

Responsibilities

Programme Execution & Management:

- Lead and manage an Indo-Swiss cohort on a predefined theme, fostering cross-border collaboration.
- Develop and maintain a pipeline of Swiss startups exploring market opportunities India.



- Design and execute a structured cohort for technology validation in India.
- Oversee the successful delivery of the programme week, ensuring impactful engagements.
- Work closely with a team member to drive the programme forward.

Communication & Outreach:

- Develop content for Swissnex in India's startup support initiatives, including pitch decks, proposals and other materials.
- Represent Swissnex at external networking events in India to strengthen partnerships.

Stakeholder Management & Ecosystem Mapping:

- Identify and map key stakeholders in Switzerland across government, industry, academia and foundations. Act as a bridge between Swiss startups and relevant Indian partners, facilitating meaningful connections that enable collaboration and corporate innovation.

Experience and qualifications:

- You are graduating before September 2026 or have graduated within the last 12 months.
- You are either a Swiss citizen or have a valid Permit C.
- You are fluent in English and have an eye for detail.
- You have a Bachelor's or Master's degree in business, economics, STEM or a related field with a strong interest in innovation.

Desirable attributes:

- You are curious, eager and comfortable to engage with topics that might not be your core expertise.
- You enjoy working with stakeholders ranging from innovators in the private sector, in industry, government or startups, as well as students or established researchers.
- You can follow an independent workstream while multitasking and sticking to deadlines.
- You have experience in proposal writing and/or fundraising, including the preparation of pitch decks.
- You are quick to respond to emerging demands, proactively engage in projects and pick up different types of work quickly whenever needed.
- You genuinely enjoy working and connecting with other people. We like to share a good laugh at the office!



What we offer:

- An open culture in the context of a diplomatic mission.
- A unique opportunity to experience India.
- A high level of camaraderie within the team and with the other associates.
- The opportunity to take on responsibility and (co-)lead projects in the Innovation team.
- This internship presents a prospect for a 10-month period, commencing from September 1st, 2026 and concluding on June 30th, 2027.
- Assistance in housing and the visa process.
- Monthly living allowance of CHF 1'600 converted into INR. Living allowance is subject to AHV / AVS and the Swiss pension fund.
- 16.5 days of paid leave and up to 15 days of a mix of Indian and Swiss public holidays.

How can this role add to your profile?

Over 10 months in Bengaluru, you'll be able to:

- Develop and demonstrate intercultural competence.
- Gain international work experience in India, the world's fourth-largest economy.
- Build a strong professional network across India and Switzerland.
- Become comfortable with uncertainty and ambiguity.
- Learn what it takes to support science diplomacy in different sectors.
- Learn to build partnerships, ideate and execute projects independently.
- Improve your public-speaking and communication skills.

About Swissnex in India:

At Swissnex in India, Consulate General of Switzerland in Bengaluru, we foster forward-looking collaboration between Switzerland and India by connecting researchers, academic institutions, startups and innovation ecosystem players. We promote the exchange of ideas, knowledge and talent while also fulfilling the official representation, coordination and reporting functions of a Swiss Consulate General. We are a diplomatic anomaly, accelerating positive transformations at the frontiers of knowledge.

Based in Bengaluru, we operate at the heart of a dynamic hub of creativity, technology and entrepreneurship. From here, we link Swiss excellence in science and innovation with India's fast-evolving research and startup ecosystems, creating opportunities for meaningful partnerships and shared growth. We work in close collaboration with the wider Swiss network in India, including representations in New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata.



We work across disciplines and are active in a broad variety of fields ranging from tackling [antimicrobial resistance](#) to [rapidly decarbonising large sectors of the economy](#) and [empowering physically disabled people in their digital life](#).

To apply:

<https://swissnex.zohorecruit.eu/jobs/Careers/76605000000812486/Startup-Innovation-Associate?source=CareerSite>