

Comparison between SNSF StG 2024 and ERC StG 2024

Version of 30 November 2023

This document was created by the ERC NCPs based on the call documents published by the ERC and the SNSF. We have attempted to list all substantial differences between the two calls that are reflected in the documents, but we cannot guarantee an exhaustive list. If you discover missing aspects, please do let us know.

Underlying documents:

[ERC StG and CoG Information for Applicants 2024](#)
[SNSF StG 2024 Call Document](#)

1. Eligibility Criteria

1.1 Applicant

ERC = Applicants must be between 2 and 7 years post PhD. This time window is calculated using the date of the PhD defense as the start date for this time window. Those with an MD need to also provide proof of an appointment that requires doctoral equivalency. Eligibility may be extended for a variety of reasons from maternity leave to military service (for details see ERC Info for Applicants).

SNSF = Applicants must be between 2 and 8 years post PhD. This time window is calculated also using the date of the PhD defense as the start date. Those with an MD may apply after 3 years of clinical work plus 2 years of research, and no more than 12 years after obtaining their MD. Eligibility may also be extended for a variety of reasons from maternity leave to military service (for details see Clause 1.11 of the [General Implementation for the Funding Regulations](#)).

1.2 Host Institution

ERC = Host institutions must be legal entities established in either a member state or an associated country, and international organisations are considered eligible. Host institutions usually employ the PI for the duration of the project, but other arrangements, if justified (e.g. self employment of the PI) may be accommodated.

SNSF = The host institution must be a higher education or research institution established in Switzerland. Research institutions that offer assistant professor positions must guarantee such a position for the successful applicant for the duration of the project. Research institutions that do not offer assistant professor positions and titles, must offer a position involving independent project and management responsibility e.g. ("group leader position").

2. Open Research Data

ERC = A data management plan is required during the first 6 months of the project, and all data generated or collected during the project are expected to be made publicly available (unless there are legal or ethical issues which would impede such).

SNSF = A data management plan is also required after the submission of the project and before funds are released. All data generated or collected during the project are also expected to be made publicly available (unless there are legal or ethical issues which would impede such).

3. Budget

ERC = EUR 1.5 million (including 25% overheads). Basic budget information is included in the online forms upon submission via the F&T portal, and a complete description and justification of the entire budget is required in the online submission forms. Additional budget above the EUR 1.5 mil may be requested with justification (see ERC Info for Applicants for further details).

SNSF = CHF 1.8 million (not including overheads which are paid on top of the budget). Evaluation panels assess budgets and may modify them. All costs must be entered on mySNF upon submission and therein explained and justified (including PI's salary, salary of team members, and any equipment or research costs). No further additional funds may be requested.

4. Creating Documents for Upload

4.1 Research Proposal / Research Plan

ERC = The research proposal has two parts: B1 and B2. B1 has three subsections: the extended synopsis (max 5 pages), the CV (max 2 pages), and early achievements and track record (max 2 pages). B2 (max 14 pages) has only two subsections: the state of the art and objectives and then the methodology. All documents must use font size at least 11, Times New Roman or similar. Documents that are not in English will be translated to English for evaluation using computer-aided technology. All documents must be submitted in pdf format. See the Information for Applicants for more details.

SNSF = Research plan must not exceed 15 pages and 60,000 characters. The research plan also has three sections: state of the art and objectives, methodology, and bibliography. Formatting for submitted documents is the same as for the ERC. See call document for further details.

4.2 CV and Track Record

ERC = The CV is included in B1 (max 2 pages) and should follow the template provided. Current research grants and open applications are listed in the funding ID table and do not count toward the page limit. The track record is also in B1 (max 2 pages) and is where the applicant describes his/her most outstanding and impactful publications and achievements.

SNSF = The CV and major achievements are now required to be in a new format, the template for which is provided via a link in the call document, and will then be uploaded as a pdf upon submission. Other funds received or requested must also be declared in the submission forms via mySNF.

5. Evaluation

5.1 Evaluation Procedure

ERC = 27 panels exist to which applicants directly submit their proposals. Evaluation takes place in two steps: step 1, in which panel members assess only B1 and score proposals (A, B, or C), and invite those who score 'A invited to interview' to step 2, which remote referees assess the full proposal (B1 and B2) and candidates are invited to an interview. In step 2, candidates receive either an A score (some of which will be funded and some not, depending on budgetary limitations) or B (who are not funded). Applicants may list 3 reviewers to be excluded from the evaluation process.

SNSF = Panels will be established per domain based on number of applicants in each (assessed from summaries and key words: 8 panels were formed for the SNSF-StG 2022 call). Panels will evaluate proposals in 2 phases: phase 1 in which panels rank all proposals and select those who will pass to phase 2 (those who do not being informed at this point), and phase 2 in which proposals will be sent out to external reviewers and candidates will be invited to the SNF to give an interview about their proposed project. Panels will then subsequently rank all proposals in phase 2 based on external reviews, the candidate's performance in the interview, and internal panel discussions. The scientific steering committee will make ultimate funding decisions based on panels' rankings of proposals. Applicants may name any number of people to be excluded as reviewers.

5.2 Evaluation Criteria

All criteria used to assess the ground-breaking nature and potential impact of the research project, the scientific approach, and the qualification of the applicant themselves are identical for the ERC and SNSF Starting Grants.