You have finished your PhD – What now?
You recently successfully completed your PhD at the University of Bern, for which we offer you our warmest congratulations. We have prepared an overview of some of the national and European funding possibilities in order to help you with the mid- and long-term planning of your academic career. This summary will help you with questions such as: Where do I obtain financial support in order to further my scientific research? Which postdoc fellowships would be suitable for me?

**Overview: Individual fellowships and grants according to level of academic experience**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration (months)</th>
<th>60</th>
<th>60</th>
<th>60</th>
<th>24-60</th>
<th>24-48</th>
<th>usually 24</th>
<th>usually 24</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Young Researcher</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Established Researcher</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
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**Note:** The eligibility window can be extended under certain circumstances. Possible reasons include clinical duties, maternity (18 months per child) and family care duties. **Attention:** Limited options for Horizon Europe schemes. Please note information in the text.

**European Research Council (ERC): Starting und Consolidator Grants**

Supported are pioneer research projects, the topic of which the researchers themselves can choose. Projects must be scientifically excellent, innovative and ambitious. A typical ERC project has a profile that while risky promises a large scientific gain if successful. It is expected that applicants have already published in internationally recognized journals. With an ERC grant, you can finance yourself and establish your own research group.

As Switzerland is currently not associated to the Horizon Europe Framework Programme, researchers are not eligible to apply to the ERC Starting and Consolidator Grants with a Swiss host institution. National transitional solutions are foreseen in case Swiss researchers are not eligible to participate in these calls in 2022. The new funding schemes would be based on the European calls as far as possible, but with different submission deadlines. The State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation will provide further information on such measures in due course.

Further info: www.erc.europa.eu
ERC Starting Grant:
Aim: Conduct an innovative, “high-risk, high-gain” project with your own team.
2-7 years after PhD, for scientifically excellent researchers and projects, duration usually 60 months, EUR 1.5 million per project (plus an additional EUR 1 million for certain major costs), annual call for proposals.

ERC Consolidator Grant (CoG):
Aim: Conduct an innovative, “high-risk, high-gain” project with your own team.
7-12 years after PhD, for scientifically excellent researchers and projects, duration usually 60 months, EUR 2 million per project (plus an additional EUR 1 million for certain major costs), annual call for proposals.

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA): Postdoctoral Fellowships
The aim is to promote the mobility of postdoctoral researchers, the research topic can be chosen freely. The fellowship also serves to acquire new skills that lead to an increase in competitiveness of the applicant in their future career. To be eligible, applicants must not have spent more than 1 year in the host country in the last 3 years before the deadline.

As Switzerland is currently considered a non-associated Third Country with respect to the Horizon Europe Framework Programme, participation in individual projects such as the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship with a Swiss host institution is not possible. However, it is possible to complete the 12- to 24-month outgoing phase of an MSCA Global Postdoctoral Fellowship in Switzerland.

In 2021, the SNSF offered the SNSF Swiss Postdoctoral Fellowships as a transitional solution for researchers who intended to apply for a MSCA European Postdoctoral Fellowship. Whether and in which form this transitional solution will be available again in 2022 is still uncertain.

Further info: www.ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions > Actions > Postdoctoral fellowships

MSCA European Postdoctoral Fellowship (EF):
Aim: Complete high-quality training in Europe.
Up to 8 years after PhD, duration usually 24 months, lump sum for salary and research costs, annual call for proposals.

MSCA Global Postdoctoral Fellowship (GF):
Aim: Complete high-quality training outside Europe (mandatory return phase to Europe).
Up to 8 years after PhD, duration between 24 and 36 months, lump sum for salary and project costs, annual call for proposals.

Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)
The SNSF offers a wide range of funding schemes for young scientists and provides a useful selection tool.
Further info: www.snf.ch > Funding > Find funding scheme

Postdoc.Mobility
Aim: Increase scientific independence and enhance scientific profile while abroad.
9 months before and up to 3 years after PhD or equivalent qualification for Swiss postdocs (or link to Switzerland, see regulations), duration usually 24 months (with return option), lump sum for salary and possibly project costs, twice-yearly call for proposals.

Ambizione
Aim: Become scientifically independent.
The SNSF awards two types of Ambizione grants: “Ambizione grant with salary” and “Ambizione project grant”. The following applies to both grants: 1 to 4 years after PhD or equivalent qualification, for highly qualified researchers, past and planned mobility is an important evaluation criterion, duration 24-48 months in Switzerland, contribution covers salary and/or project costs (project funds up to CHF 400,000), annual call for proposals.
### PRIMA (Promoting Women in Academia)

**Aim:** Attain qualifications required for a professorial position in Switzerland.

2 to 10 years after PhD or equivalent qualification, for female researchers with outstanding career paths and excellent research ideas, duration 24-60 months in Switzerland (mobility possible), contribution covers salary and project costs (project funds up to CHF 750,000), annual call for proposals.

### Eccellenza Professorial Fellowship

**Aim:** Realize an independent research project with your own team and attain qualifications for a permanent professorship.

3 to 8 years after PhD or equivalent qualification, for highly qualified Swiss researchers (or link to Switzerland, see regulations), past and planned mobility is an important evaluation criterion, duration usually 60 months in Switzerland, contribution covers salary and project costs (project funds up to CHF 1 million), annual call for proposals.

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### University of Bern

The Vice-Rectorate Research of the University of Bern supports young researchers with personal counselling, an informative web presence and different funding instruments.

Further information: [www.unibe.ch > Research > Promotion of early career researchers](www.unibe.ch)

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### Promotion Fund

**Aim:** Carry out activities to build or strengthen a scientific network.

For intermediate staff at the University of Bern, contribution up to CHF 5,000 for networking and innovative activities (e.g., meetings, workshops, professional development measures), biannual call for proposals.

### UniBE Initiator Grant

**Aim:** Prepare your own third-party funding application.

For postdocs at the University of Bern, contribution up to CHF 30,000 for the preparation of large, competitive third-party funding applications (project and individual costs), annual call for proposals.

### 120% Care-Grant

**Aim:** Reduce employment level and employ a support person.

For postdoctoral researchers (or equivalent position) with a postdoc agreement (excluding postdocs paid by the SNSF), reduction of work-time percentage with employment of a support person.

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### “Research Professional” international database for funding opportunities

**Research Professional** An extensive database that simplifies the search for suitable funding instruments for your research. Funding opportunities and fellowships for postdocs, research prizes, travel grants and many other calls for proposals can be found quickly and easily. The service is free of charge for researchers at the University of Bern and Inselspital.

Further information: [www.unibe.ch > Research > Promotion of Research > Funding > Funding Search > Research Professional](www.unibe.ch)

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### „Fundraiso.ch“ swiss directory of foundations, funds and sponsors

**Fundraiso.ch** A comprehensive online and up-to-date directory that enables you to search for foundations, sponsors and funds for your project efficiently and independently. The service is free of charge for researchers at the University of Bern and Inselspital.

Further information: [www.unibe.ch > Research > Promotion of Research > Funding > Funding Search > Fundraiso](www.unibe.ch)
**Online job portals**

Academic positions in science and research can be found on the following job portals:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Portal</th>
<th>URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ETH GET HIRED</td>
<td><a href="http://www.eth-gethired.ch/en">www.eth-gethired.ch/en</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>academics.ch</td>
<td><a href="http://www.academics.ch">www.academics.ch</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>myScience</td>
<td><a href="http://www.myscience.ch/jobs">www.myscience.ch/jobs</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EURAXESS</td>
<td><a href="https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs">https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you have questions or would like a detailed consultation, please contact one of the following offices in the Vice-Rectorate Research:

For questions concerning an academic career:
- **Dr. Matthias Hirt**  +41 (0)31 684 40 29  matthias.hirt@unibe.ch
- **Dr. Simone Rufener**  +41 (0)31 684 48 05  simone.rufener@unibe.ch

For questions concerning a planned project for a specific funding instrument:
- **Grants Office**  +41 (0)31 631 52 72  grantsoffice@unibe.ch

Further information about the promotion of early career researchers:
www.unibe.ch > Research > Promotion of early career researchers > Career steps > Post-doc

Further information on European funding programs:
www.unibe.ch > Research > Promotion of Research > Funding > Funding Programs