Welcome Apéro 2023

Coordination of the promotion of early career researchers

The Coordination Office for the promotion of early career researchers in the Vice-Rectorate Research supports researchers at the University of Bern with suitable measures to ensure outstanding performance during their academic careers.

The Coordination Office for the promotion of early career researchers offers advice on academic careers, has a comprehensive range of information (on the website under Research > Promotion of Early Career Researchers), and coordinates specific target group-oriented funding offers for early career researchers (in particular at doctoral and postdoctoral level).

Twice a year (in April and October), an application round of the Fund for the Promotion of Young Researchers is held in cooperation with the intermediate staff association of the University of Bern (see the separate fact sheet). With up to CHF 5,000, the pool supports innovative projects by researchers at doctoral / postdoctoral level, which serve to network and build independent profiles (e.g. workshops, conferences or innovative course formats).

With the UniBE Initiator Grants, a funding instrument has been created for postdoctoral researchers to prepare large external funding applications (project and career funding). A maximum of CHF 30,000 is available per grant. The intended use is very open. There is one call per year. The applications are evaluated by the Research Commission of the University of Bern.

To support the mobility of doctoral students (who are not funded by the SNSF), there is the UniBE Doc.Mobility grant with two application rounds per year (1 March and 1 September), also evaluated by the Research Commission. It finances stays at foreign research institutions, usually lasting 12 months.

For research stays up to eight weeks, the newly introduced Short Travel Grants (by the Vice-Rectorate Development) offer funding for travel and other expenses up to 8'000 CHF.

Together with the Office for Equal Opportunities, the Coordination Office for the promotion of early career researchers also offers the 120%-Care-Grant for early career researchers with care responsibilities from postdoc level onwards. The grant makes it possible to temporarily reduce the workload and hire a support person.

Detailed information on these specific funding schemes can be found on the respective websites (at unibe.ch under Research > Promotion of Research > Uni Internal Grants).

The Vice-Rectorate organizes further measures for the promotion of research and provides information about various research awards.

All researchers at the University receive up-to-date information on the promotion of research in a regular newsletter.

The VRF offers access to two databases that help fundraising:

- Research Professional (database for international external funding acquisition, login within the university network)
- Fundraiso (database for foundation and financing searches in Switzerland, login within the university network)

The University of Bern is committed to attractive working conditions for researchers. It supports the European Charter for Researchers and the European Commission’s Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers (Charter & Code). More information can be found on the website under Research > Good Scientific Practice > Charter & Code.

The University of Bern has also signed DORA (San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment) and is committed to the Better Science initiative.