Funding Instruments of the SNSF and the European Commission

Overview for Early Career Researchers from the Humanities and Social Sciences

Michael Sollberger, Vice-Rectorate Research, Grants Office
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Vice-Rectorate Research
Grants Office

- First point of contact for funding questions related to large, publicly funded, competitive research programmes
- Runs the Euresearch Regional Office Bern

- Provides Uni Bern researchers at all levels with
  - information
  - personal guidance and
  - administrative support on acquiring and managing national and international research funding
Vice-Rectorate Research
Euresearch Regional Office Bern

- Non-profit association with offices in all the Swiss regions and a Network Office in Bern
- Mandated by the Swiss government (SERI)
- Register to receive targeted funding information
- Inform, advise and connect researchers on European research and innovation programmes
Grants Office

Services

- Funding opportunities, Idea check, Eligibility
- Concept advice, Consortium advice
- Feedback, Budget, Forms
- Contracts, IPR, Ethics, Budget
- Reports, Audits
SNSF and EU Funding Instruments

Partial Overview of Fellowships and Grants
SNSF Fellowships

Goal: Write dissertation on a topic of your choice in the HSS

Eligibility:
- Master degree (or similar) acquired no more than 2Y before deadline
- Positive assessment of, and excellent marks in, degree thesis
- Change of institution at least once between B.A. and PhD matriculation

Grant Duration: 2-4Y (2Y + 1Y or 2Y)

What you get:
- Own salary
- Costs related to project implementation (travel, conference, etc.)

Deadline (success rate): 10 March and 10 September (~30%)
SNSF Fellowships
Early Postdoc.Mobility (until end of 2020)

Goal: Enhance scientific profile abroad

Eligibility:
- 9M before and up to 2Y after PhD (or PhD equivalent)
- CH nationality or at least 3Y activity at CH research institution

Grant Duration: Usually 18M

What you get:
- Grant for subsistence costs
- Flat-rate for travel costs
- Possible contribution to research, conference costs, matriculation fees

Deadline (success rate): 1 March and 1 September (~47%)
SNSF Fellowships
Postdoc.Mobility

Goal: Increase scientific independence and enhance profile abroad

Eligibility:
- Up to 3Y after PhD (or PhD equivalent qualification)
- CH nationality or 2Y research activity at CH research institution

Grant Duration: usually 24M (fellowship) and 3-12M (return phase)

What you get:
- Grant for subsistence costs
- Flat-rate for travel costs
- Possible contribution to research, conference costs, matriculation fees

Deadline (success rate): 1 February and 1 August (~50%)
SNSF Fellowships

Ambizione

Goal: Become an independent researcher

Eligibility:
- 1 to 4 Y post PhD
- Mobility rule: research of at least 12M at other institution than PhD

Grant Duration: 2-4Y

What you get:
- Ambizione Grant: own salary and project funds (up to 400’000 CHF)
- Ambizione Project Grant: only project funds (up to 400’000 CHF)

Deadline (success rate): 1 November 2019 (~26%)
SNSF Fellowships

PRIMA (Promoting Women in Academia)

Goal: Get prepared for a professorship

Eligibility:

- Women researchers only
- 2 to 10Y after PhD (or PhD equivalent qualification)
- 2Y research experience after PhD Grant

Duration: 3-5Y (stay abroad up to 2Y)

What you get:

- Own salary and project funds (up to 750’000 CHF)

Deadline (success rate): 1 November 2019 (~14%)
SNSF Fellowships

Eccellenza

Goal: Build your team, realize research project as Ass. Prof.

Eccellenza Professorial Fellowship:
- 3 to 8Y post PhD
- Mobility: 24 months postdoc research, of which at least 1Y abroad
- CH national, CH degree from higher education institution, or 2Y research activity in CH

Eccellenza Grant:
- Started position as APTT in CH no more than 18 months before the deadline

Grant Duration: 3-5Y

What you get:
- Professorial Fellowship: own salary and project funds (up to 1 Mio CHF)
- Grant: project funds (up to 1.5 Mio CHF)

Deadline (success rate): 1 February 2020 (~21%)
SNSF Programme
Spark – Pilot Funding Scheme 2019-2020

Goal: Rapid funding of unconventional ideas

Eligibility:
- Open to applicants with a doctorate or equivalent qualification
- Support of a CH host institution providing infrastructure for duration of project

Review Process: Proposals are evaluated in a double-blind, fast review process (approx. 3M)

Grant Duration: 6-12M

What you get:
- CHF 50,000 - 100,000 (may cover the applicant’s salary)

Deadline: 11 March 2020
Horizon 2020

Funding Instruments for Young Researchers

- European Research Council (ERC)
- Future and Emerging Technologies (FET)
- Marie-Sklodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)
- Research Infrastructures

- Leadership in Enabling and Industrial Technologies:
  - NMBP:
    - Nanotechnology
    - Advanced Materials
    - Biotechnology
    - Manufacturing & Processing
  - ICT
  - Space
  - Innovation in SME
  - Access to Risk Finance

- Health (SC1)
- Food (SC2)
- Energy (SC3)
- Transport (SC4)
- Climate/Environment (SC5)
- Inclusive Societies (SC6)
- Security (SC7)

- Cross Cutting Issues
- Swiss Participation in H2020
- Partner Search Forms
H2020 Project Funding

ERC Starting Grant (ERC StG)

Goal: Carry out a high risk – high gain, ground-breaking project with own team

Who: Researchers who want to become independent principal investigators

Eligibility:
- 2 to 7Y after PhD
- Any nationality, no mobility required
- Scientific excellence (both PI and project)
- Ground-breaking nature of project

Grant Duration: Usually 5Y

What you get: own salary and project funds (up to 1.5 Mio Euro)

Deadline (success rate): unclear, begin 2021 at the earliest under Horizon Europe (~12%, CH: ~22%)
H2020 Project Funding
ERC Synergy Grant (ERC SyG)

Goal: Carry out a high risk – high gain, ground-breaking project with own team

Who: PIs who bring together complementary skills, knowledge, and resources in new ways to jointly address ambitious research problems

Eligibility:
- 2-4 excellent PIs (with StG, CoG, or AdG profile)
- Any nationality, no mobility required
- Scientific excellence (of PI and project)
- Ground-breaking nature of project

Grant Duration: up to 6Y

What you get: own salary and project funds (up to 10 Mio Euro)

Deadline (success rate): unclear, begin 2021 at the earliest under Horizon Europe (~10%)
Goal: Training fellowship to increase employability and career perspectives

Eligibility:
- Geographical mobility required: cannot have lived/worked in the future host country for more than 1Y during the 3Y prior to submission deadline ("mobility rule")
- PhD or at least 4Y full-time research experience

Grant Duration:
- European Fellowship (EF): Coming to or moving within “Europe” (1-2Y)
- Global Fellowship (GF): Going outside “Europe” (1-2Y) and returning (1Y)

What you get:
- Own salary (researcher unit cost)
- Research, training, networking, management (institutional unit cost)

Deadline (success rate SOC): probably Sept. 2020 (EF: ~13%; GF: ~22%)
H2020 Collaborative Project

Marie-Curie Innovative Training Network

Goal: Collaborative training networks that offer transnational and intersectoral fellowships at doctoral level, awarded to early-stage researchers (ESR). PIs train a new generation of innovative and entrepreneurial ESR.

Eligibility:
- At least 3 partners from 3 different EU MS/AS
- Partners from different sectors (not a formal requirement)
- ESR: mobility rule just as for IF

Grant Duration:
- Max. 4Y
- Max. recruitment time for ESR: 3Y

What you get:
- Own salary (researcher unit cost)
- Research, training, networking, management (institutional unit cost)

Deadline (success rate): Jan. 2020 (~5-10%)
Finding Funding at Uni Bern

Database: Foundations & Funds

- Small database of Swiss foundations and funds
- Database managed by the Vice-Rectorate Research
- Accessible from within the University of Bern and Inselspital network
Finding Funding at Uni Bern
Database: Research Professional

- Search for public funding agencies as well as private foundations and organizations
- Very large and comprehensive database preselected for Swiss eligibility
- University of Bern has a subscription
- Create an account to save searches and receive email updates
- Accessible from within the University of Bern network or campus account
Internal Grants at Uni Bern

Promotion of International Projects

Travel Grants:
- Goal: Get involved in international research projects (H2020, COST, EUREKA)
- What do you get: Up to CHF 1,000 per person and trip
- Eligibility: Researchers at the University of Bern with a PhD

Seed Money:
- Goal: Prepare a European collaborative project as coordinator
- What do you get: Up to CHF 10,000 (60,000 per year in total) - money can be spent on travel, consultants, translating, editing, etc.
- Eligibility: Employees of the University of Bern
Contacts

Vice-Rectorate Research/Grants Office

For questions about specific grants: 
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(Humanities, Human Sciences, Economics, Social Sciences, Law, Theology) 

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(Humanities, Human Sciences, Economics, Social Sciences, Law, Theology) 

For general questions to the Grants Office: 
 grantsoffice@research.unibe.ch
Thank you for your attention

Michael Sollberger, Grants Office
20.11.2019 Coffee Lecture von Roll