

# 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**

20.11.2019, Coffee Lecture Mittelstrasse

# 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

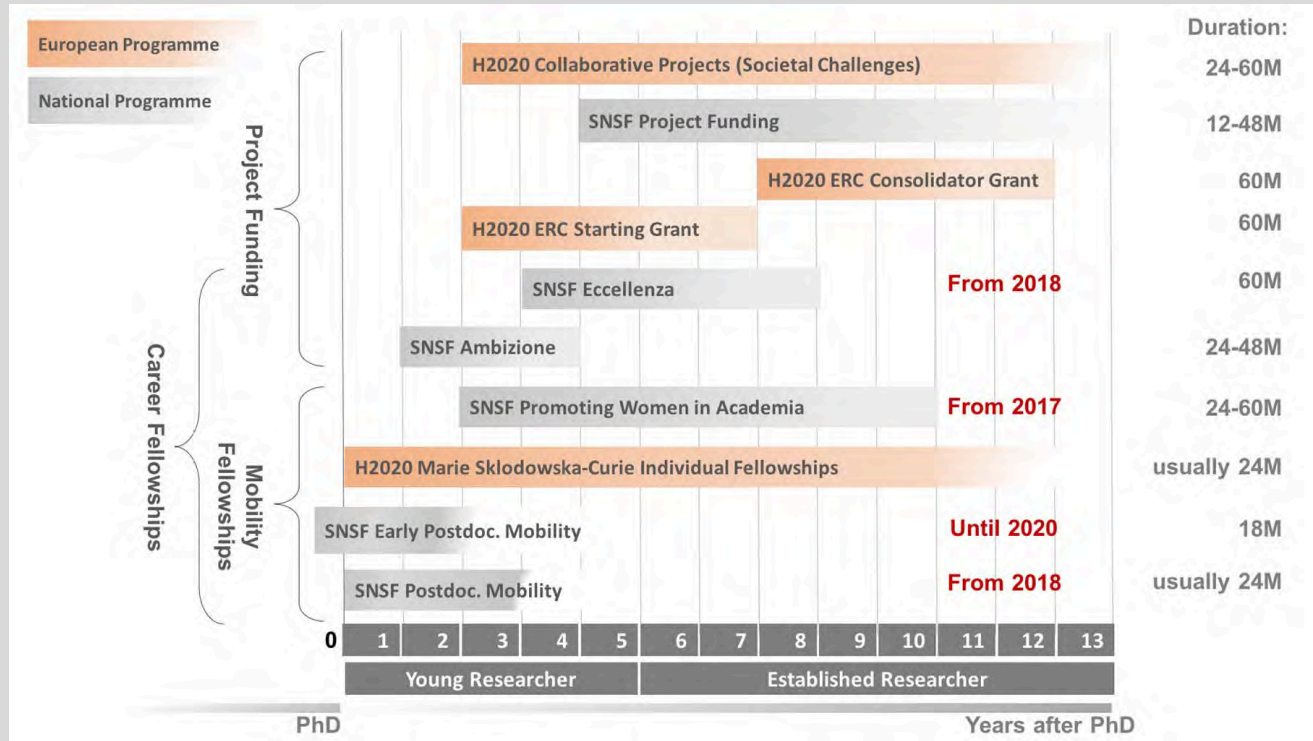


# Grants Office Services



# SNSF and EU Funding Instruments

## Partial Overview of Fellowships and Grants



## Doc.CH

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%)

## 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%)

## 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%)



## 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%)

## 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%)

## 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%)

## 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)

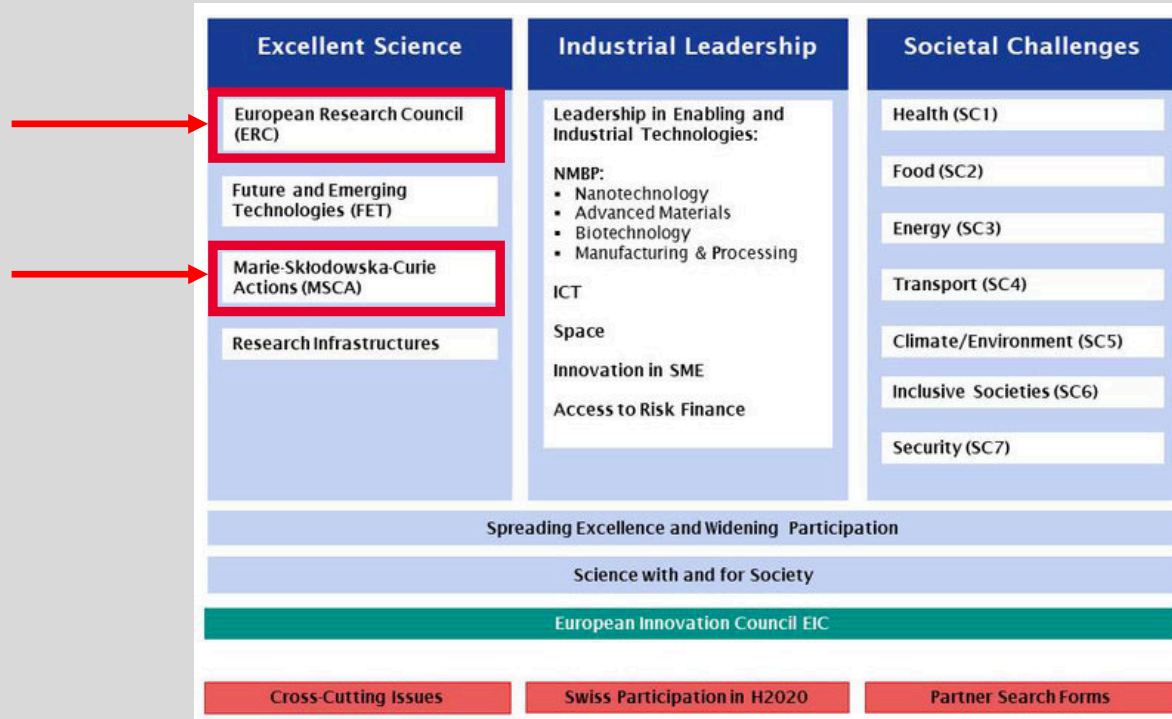
Grant Duration: 6-12M

What you get:

- CHF 50,000 - 100,000 (may cover the applicant's salary)

Deadline: 11 March 2020

## Funding Instruments for Young Researchers



# 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%)

## Marie-Curie Individual Fellowship

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%)



## 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

The screenshot shows a web interface for searching foundations and funds. On the left, a sidebar menu titled 'Stiftungen & Fonds' includes links for 'Alphabetische Liste', 'Gezielt suchen' (which is highlighted), and 'Nutzung der Datenbank'. The main content area is titled 'Stiftungen & Fonds – Gezielt suchen' and contains several search filters: 'Name, Stiftungszweck' (text input), 'Disziplin' (dropdown menu with 'Bitte auswählen'), 'Art der Förderung' (dropdown menu with 'Bitte auswählen'), and 'Antragsberechtigte' (dropdown menu with 'Bitte auswählen'). A red 'Suchen' button is located below these filters. To the right of the search area, there is a section titled 'Weiterführende Links' with a list of external resources, each preceded by a red double arrow: 'Eidgenössisches Stiftungsverzeichnis', 'Bundesverband deutscher Stiftungen', 'Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft', and 'Stiftungsindex der Schweizerischen Akademie der Medizinischen Wissenschaften'. At the bottom of the page, contact information for the University of Bern's Vice-Rectorate Research is provided, including an email address and phone number, along with a copyright notice for 2018 and a link to the imprint.

**Stiftungen & Fonds – Gezielt suchen**

Name, Stiftungszweck

Disziplin  
Bitte auswählen

Art der Förderung  
Bitte auswählen

Antragsberechtigte  
Bitte auswählen

**Suchen**

**Weiterführende Links**

- » Eidgenössisches Stiftungsverzeichnis
- » Bundesverband deutscher Stiftungen
- » Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft
- » Stiftungsindex der Schweizerischen Akademie der Medizinischen Wissenschaften

Universität Bern | Vizerektorat Forschung | Hochschulstrasse 6 | CH-3012 Bern | [stiftungen@research.unibe.ch](mailto:stiftungen@research.unibe.ch) | Tel +41 (0)31 631 51 09

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# 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



## 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

## Vice-Rectorate Research/Grants Office

For questions about specific grants:

[michael.sollberger@research.unibe.ch](mailto:michael.sollberger@research.unibe.ch)

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

For questions concerning your academic career:

[matthias.hirt@research.unibe.ch](mailto:matthias.hirt@research.unibe.ch)

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

For general questions to the Grants Office:

[grantsoffice@research.unibe.ch](mailto:grantsoffice@research.unibe.ch)

# Thank you for your attention

**Michael Sollberger, Grants Office**

20.11.2019 Coffee Lecture Mittelstrasse

