



Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships

Research Scholarships

Academic year: 2017-2018

Country: Serbia

Opening of the call: 01.08.2016

Submission deadline: 23.11.2016

Scholarship	⇒	Swiss Government Excellence Research Scholarships for foreign students
Offered by	⇒	The Swiss Government via the Federal Commission for Scholarships for Foreign Students FCS
Objectives	⇒	To enable selected applicants to undertake research in the realm of their PhD or medical specialisation at one of the 10 Swiss cantonal universities, the two Swiss federal institutes of technology, the public teaching and research institutes or the universities of applied sciences.
Universities	⇒	University of Basel / University of Bern / University of Fribourg / University of Geneva / University of Lausanne / University of Lucerne / University of Neuchâtel / University of St Gallen / University of Zurich / University of Lugano
Federal institutes of technology	⇒	Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH Zurich) Research institutes of the ETH Domain (PSI; WSL; EMPA; EAWAG)
Teaching and research institutes	⇒	Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID)
Universities of applied sciences	⇒	University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland / Bern University of Applied Sciences / University of Applied Sciences Northwestern Switzerland / University of Applied Sciences Eastern Switzerland / Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts / University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland / The Zürcher Fachhochschule
Universities of teacher education	⇒	Universities of teacher education
Validity	⇒	The Scholarship is only valid for full-time research in Switzerland. It is not valid for mixed research (part time in Switzerland and part time in another country).

Target group	⇒ Highly qualified postgraduate researchers from all academic fields as well as young medical doctors.
Duration	⇒ 12 months maximum (starting in September); no extension possible. Grant applications for stays lasting less than 9 months will not be treated as a priority. Grant applications for stays lasting less than 6 months will be rejected.
Amount and additional allowances	⇒ The scholarship amounts to a monthly payment of CHF 1,920. ⇒ Tuition fees are waived. ⇒ For non-EU and non-EFTA grantees only: mandatory Swiss health insurance is paid by the FCS. ⇒ Non-European grantees receive a lump sum for their airfare (provided at the end of the scholarship). ⇒ Special CHF 300 housing allowance (paid once at the beginning of the scholarship). ⇒ One-year half-fare public transportation card. ⇒ Support services and various trips, dinners and sightseeing tours organised for Swiss Government Excellence Scholarship holders.
Eligibility criteria and specific conditions	⇒ Master's degree or equivalent university degree. ⇒ The applicant must not be more than 35 years old at the time of the application. ⇒ Applicants who have been in Switzerland for more than one year at the beginning of the scholarship in September are not eligible. ⇒ Applicants must provide a letter (or e-mail) from a professor at the Swiss host institution stating that they are willing to supervise the research. Without such confirmation the application will be rejected. ⇒ Applicants must have a research proposal including a timeframe. This is the centrepiece of the application. The applicant must devote all required attention to it. ⇒ Applicants must be in command of the necessary language skills required for the research/studies. ⇒ Applicants who have already benefited from a Swiss Government Excellence Scholarship are not eligible to apply for a second scholarship.
Selection criteria	The following aspects and selection criteria are primarily considered: ⇒ The candidate: academic profile and research capacity. ⇒ The research project: originality and methodological soundness. ⇒ The academic context: quality of supervision and potential for future academic cooperation.
Application procedure	⇒ The application package can be obtained by email from the Swiss Embassy in Belgrade. ⇒ Applications should be submitted in triplicate, with the number of copies indicated (hard copies only). The original, signed documents and attested translations should be submitted, along with two copies thereof. For details see the application guidelines available from your contact institution (see below).

Application timeframe

- ⇒ Opening of the call: 01.08.2016
- ⇒ Application deadline: 23.11.2016
- ⇒ Selection interview, if applicable ask: Swiss Embassy
- ⇒ Beginning of the scholarship: 1.9.2017

Application documents

(Please provide originals plus two sets of copies on A4 paper. Please do not staple the documents or put them into plastic folders or binders).

- ⇒ The official FCS 2017-2018 **application form** (typed and printed). Handwritten forms will not be accepted.
- ⇒ A full **curriculum vitae** with list of academic publications.
- ⇒ A **letter of motivation** (max. 2 pages).
- ⇒ A complete **research proposal** (max. 5 pages). Use only the official research proposal form provided with the application package.
- ⇒ A copy of the **letter or email from a professor** at the chosen Swiss university confirming that they are willing to supervise the PhD studies. Include a short **CV of your academic host supervisor**.
- ⇒ Short **CV of your actual academic contact person/mentor** at your home institution.
- ⇒ Photocopies of all **certificates and grade sheets** from previously attended universities/colleges and diplomas with grades. (If the originals are not in English, French, German or Italian, the copies must be translated into one of these languages and attested. Attestations can be made by a university or government officer.)
- ⇒ **Two letters of recommendation** from professors in the applicant's field (use only the official reference form provided with the application package). A **health certificate** (use only the official health certificate provided with the application package).
- ⇒ Each application set should contain **two copies of the applicant's passport** (main page with personal data).

Contact institution for the application

- ⇒ Questions and application documents should be submitted to the following address:
- ⇒ Swiss Embassy in Belgrade
Bulevar Oslobođenja 4, 11000 Belgrade

- Email: bel.vertretung@eda.admin.ch
- Tel: 00381 11 3065 820
- Web: www.eda.admin.ch/belgrade