

11 October 2019  
Reykjavík, Iceland



**Workshop:  
Forum of Arctic Science Funders  
Switzerland**

## Swiss Arctic Research Funding

- Research funding awarded on a competitive basis, according to qualitative assessment criteria
- The Federal government provides funding through the federal agency Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)
- The Swiss Polar Institute complements SNSF funding (in particular for logistics, field trips, health and safety, etc.)
- Switzerland is fully associated to Horizon 2020 and is linked to the climate and polar topics currently underway



## The Swiss Polar Institute

- Creates new opportunities (e.g. organisation of Swiss expeditions, flagship initiatives and support to international initiatives) for the Swiss and international science community
- Offers complementary funding to scientists (e.g. logistics or travel costs)
  - Summer Schools and Maritime Universities
  - Polar Access Fund
  - SPI Exploratory Grants
  - SPI Technogrants
- Facilitates access of Swiss actors to facilities and infrastructure in polar regions through international cooperation
- Offers services and courses to increase health and safety in the field
- Increases synergies between Swiss researchers active in polar regions – with a particular focus on young researchers and interdisciplinary collaborations
- Promotes public awareness of the polar regions and extreme environments

SPI activities are open to all researchers based in Switzerland

# SNSF encourages international collaboration and exchange in science with a large portfolio of funding instruments

Category	Description	Eligible countries	Eligible costs	Deadlines
<b>Individual Mobility</b>				
<b>Scientific Exchanges</b>	Scientific Exchanges are aimed at researchers who wish to host their own scientific event in Switzerland, invite colleagues from abroad for a research visit to Switzerland, or visit their colleagues in another country. Scientific conferences or workshops may last from 1 to 5 days; research visits are funded for a period of 1 to 6 months.	Any country	Travel expenses, room and board costs of the travelling researchers, up to CHF 25,000	At least 4 months before the scheduled start of funding
<b>Mobility grants in projects</b>	Mobility grants are aimed at doctoral students who wish to improve their scientific profile by going abroad for 6 to 12 months while employed in an ongoing SNSF research project. The stay must take place within the timeframe of the research project.	Any country	Travel and living costs, as well as fees for conferences and workshops, up to CHF 20,000	At least 3 months before the scheduled start of the stay abroad
<b>Doc.Mobility, Early Postdoc.Mobility and Postdoc.Mobility</b>	<b>Doc.Mobility</b> fellowships are aimed at doctoral students who wish to enhance their scientific profile by working at a research institution abroad for 6 to 18 months. <b>Early Postdoc.Mobility</b> fellowships are designed for early-career postdocs who wish to enhance their scientific profile by working at a research institution abroad for 12 to 18 months. <b>Postdoc.Mobility</b> fellowships are aimed at researchers who have done a doctorate and wish to pursue an academic career in Switzerland. The funding period is 24 months for a research stay abroad, and 3 to 12 months for a return grant to finance their initial period of research after returning to Switzerland.	Any country	Grant for subsistence costs, flat-rate for travel expenses and possible contribution to research, conference costs and matriculation fees	Doc.Mobility/Early Postdoc.Mobility: 1 March, 1 September (last submission in 2020)  Postdoc.Mobility: 1 February, 1 August
<b>Money Follows Researcher</b>	Aimed at researchers who move abroad and would like current SNSF funding to continue. The project can either continue in Switzerland while being managed from abroad or it can be transferred to the new location.	Any country	The SNSF makes decisions as to the further use of funds on a case-by-case basis	A detailed request, must be submitted to the SNSF division responsible for the grant as early as possible.
<b>Collaboration in research projects within international and collaborative programmes</b>				
<b>Swiss bilateral programmes</b>	The bilateral programmes of the Swiss Confederation are aimed at promoting and strengthening scientific cooperation with non-European countries that show high research potential.	Argentina, Brazil, China, India, Japan, Russia, South Africa, South Korea	As in project funding for researchers in Switzerland (see relevant call documents)	Ad hoc calls; see website and newsletter for more information
<b>SPIRIT</b>	The Swiss Programme for International Research by Scientific Investigation Teams (SPIRIT) promotes team-oriented cross-border research. It is intended for 2 to 4 research groups, with at least 1 applicant engaged in research work in Switzerland and at least 1 applicant in an eligible partner country.	Based on the DAC list of the OECD (with exceptions) See <a href="http://www.snsf.ch/spirit">www.snsf.ch/spirit</a>	As in project funding for all applicants; at least 30% of the budget used in Switzerland, at least 30% in the partner countries	Pre-proposals can be submitted anytime, full proposals upon invitation only; at least 14 months before project starts
<b>Sinergia</b>	Sinergia promotes interdisciplinary collaboration between 2 to 4 applicants proposing breakthrough research projects. If there are 3 or 4 applicants, 1 applicant may be based at a research institution abroad, if their expertise is essential but unavailable in Switzerland.	Any country	As in project funding for all applicants	1 June, 1 December

# Overview of existing schemes of the SNSF to support international mobility and international cooperation

Category	Description	Eligible countries	Eligible costs	Deadlines
<b>COST</b>	COST (European Cooperation in Science & Technology) supports Europe-wide scientific cooperation across all science and technology fields by means of broad scientific networks, COST Actions. <b>COST Actions</b> do not fund research itself, but support networking via different tools such as meetings, short-term scientific exchanges, training schools and dissemination activities. The SNSF opens yearly calls for the funding of national <b>COST Projects</b> , intended to support the research of Swiss researchers involved in ongoing COST Actions.	COST Actions: COST Member States  COST Projects: only Switzerland	COST Actions: networking activities  COST Projects: As in project funding, except for equipment	COST Actions: See COST website: <a href="http://www.cost.eu">www.cost.eu</a>  COST Projects: yearly calls: <a href="http://www.snf.ch/cost">www.snf.ch/cost</a>
<b>Collaboration in research projects within project funding: supplementary measures</b>				
<b>Project partners in SNSF-funded projects</b>	Project partners are researchers in Switzerland or abroad who make a contribution to the research project without being responsible for the project.	Any country	Research costs, excluding salaries, of up to 20% of the project budget	Project partners must be designated in the project application and included in the budget
<b>Collaboration and networking costs in SNSF-funded projects</b>	Project funding grants may be used to cover the following costs: for national and international cooperation and networking activities carried out in connection with the funded research as well as for the organisation of conferences and workshops in connection with the funded research.	Any country	Costs of collaboration activities directly linked to the research project, travel costs, organization costs for events	Must be included in the budget of submitted projects
<b>International Co-Investigator Scheme</b> (formerly Money follows Co-operation Line)	The International Co-Investigator Scheme provides funding for cross-border projects with international partners. It is available for a limited number of countries with which the SNSF has signed an agreement. The projects include a Swiss-based project and a subprojects conducted by the international partner, which are evaluated and funded by the SNSF, and reciprocally.	Norway, Sweden and UK (social sciences and humanities only)	As in project funding for all applicants from either country	In project funding (1 April, 1 October), if the majority of the research is in Switzerland; otherwise submission to the partner organisation
<b>Lead Agency</b>	The Lead Agency process is aimed at researchers in Switzerland who wish to conduct a cross-border research project. It simplifies the submission and evaluation of transnational applications. It is available for a limited number of countries with which the SNSF has signed an agreement. Under the Lead Agency process, a joint application by researchers in Switzerland and abroad can be submitted to one of the two national research funding organisations.	Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Poland, and Slovenia	In Switzerland: as in project funding  In the partner country: according to the respective national regulations	In project funding (1 April, 1 October), if submitted to the SNSF; otherwise to the partner organisation (see website)

## For additional information

Please visit our website > [www.snf.ch/en/funding/directaccess/international](http://www.snf.ch/en/funding/directaccess/international) or contact [international@snf.ch](mailto:international@snf.ch)

## Towards a Swiss Polar Strategy

### International scientific collaboration is a key element of the Swiss polar activities

- Arctic Council Observer State since 2017
- Switzerland is present in key international fora and committees through Swiss Committee on Polar and High Altitude Research and the Swiss Polar Institute
- Swiss Polar Institute Science Plan (released in June 2019)
- Swiss Polar Policy Paper (drafting)



**Thank you!**