



## Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships

# Research Fellowship

**Academic year:** 2020-2021  
**Country:** Bulgaria

**Opening of the call:** 01 November 2019  
**Submission deadline:** 20 November 2019

<b>Scholarship</b>	⇒	Swiss Government Excellence Research Scholarships for foreign students
<b>Offered by</b>	⇒	The Swiss Government via the Federal Commission for Scholarships for Foreign Students FCS
<b>Objectives</b>	⇒	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.
<b>Universities</b>	⇒	<a href="#">University of Basel</a> / <a href="#">University of Bern</a> / <a href="#">University of Fribourg</a> / <a href="#">University of Geneva</a> / <a href="#">University of Lausanne</a> / <a href="#">University of Lucerne</a> / <a href="#">University of Neuchâtel</a> / <a href="#">University of St. Gallen</a> / <a href="#">University of Zurich</a> / <a href="#">Università della Svizzera italiana</a>
<b>Federal institutes of technology</b>	⇒	<a href="#">Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL)</a> <a href="#">Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETHZ)</a> <a href="#">Research Institutes of the ETH Domain (PSI; WSL; EMPA; EAWAG)</a>
<b>Teaching and research institutes</b>	⇒	<a href="#">Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID)</a>
<b>Universities of applied sciences</b>	⇒	<a href="#">University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland</a> / <a href="#">Bern University of Applied Sciences</a> / <a href="#">University of Applied Sciences Northwest Switzerland</a> / <a href="#">University of applied Sciences Eastern Switzerland</a> / <a href="#">Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts</a> / <a href="#">University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland</a> / <a href="#">The Zürcher Fachhochschule</a>
<b>Universities of teacher education</b>	⇒	<a href="#">Universities of teacher education</a>
<b>Validity</b>	⇒	The Scholarship is valid only for full-time research in Switzerland. It is not valid for mixed research (part time in Switzerland and part time in another country). This scholarship is <b>not compatible with fieldtrips outside Switzerland</b> . Therefore no possibility and no funding for fieldwork. Furthermore, this scholarship type is not available for scholars holding a PhD degree. PhD students with an ongoing or planned doctoral project that is carried out within the framework of a formalised agreement between two universities



(“cotutelle de thèse” cooperation between a Swiss and a foreign university) and under the joint direction of two supervisors **are eligible for a 12 month research fellowship only.**

### Target group

⇒ Highly qualified postgraduate researchers from all academic fields as well as young medical doctors.

### Duration

⇒ 12 months maximum (starting in September); no prolongation possible. The research fellowship cannot be upgraded into a prolongable PhD scholarship.  
⇒ 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.  
⇒ For non-EU and non-EFTA grantees only: the FCS pays mandatory Swiss health insurance.  
⇒ There are no family allowances.  
⇒ Scholarship holders from non-EU and non-EFTA countries receive a flight allowance (lump sum) for a ticket back to their country of origin (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 achieved **before 31 July 2020** (degree certificate) recognised by the Swiss university. As a proof, the degree has to be submitted to the Federal Commission for Scholarships before the start of the scholarship.  
⇒ Applicants must be born after **31 December 1984**.  
⇒ Applicants who have been in Switzerland since more than one year at the beginning of the scholarship in September are not eligible.  
⇒ Applicants must provide a letter from an academic host professor (including her/his short CV) at the chosen Swiss university confirming why she/he is willing to supervise and support the research. Without such support, 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.  
⇒ Scholarship holders are expected to move to Switzerland during their grant period.

### Selection criteria

⇒ The following aspects and selection criteria are primarily considered:  
⇒ The candidate: academic profile, research capacity and motivation.  
⇒ The research project: originality and methodological soundness.  
⇒ The academic context: quality and context of supervision and potential for future academic cooperation.

### Application timeframe

- ⇒ Opening of the call: 01 November 2019
- ⇒ Application deadline: 20 November 2019
- ⇒ Beginning of the scholarship: **01 September 2020**

### Application procedure

- ⇒ The application package can be obtained by email from the Swiss Embassy in Sofia (see below).

### Application documents

- ⇒ Please submit 2 sets (=1 original + 1 copy) of application documents in exact order given below: The 1<sup>st</sup> set contains the original, **signed** documents plus the confidential letters of recommendation and, if applicable the attested translations in English. The other set is the copy of the 1<sup>st</sup> set except for the confidential letters of recommendation (only 1<sup>st</sup> set). No copies for 2<sup>nd</sup> set.
  - 1) **Signed FCS application form** (typed and printed) with photo.
  - 2) A full CV with list of academic publications, awards, etc.
  - 3) A motivation letter (max. 2 pages).
  - 4) A complete research proposal (max. 5 pages, **signed**), using exclusively the FCS research proposal form.
  - 5) A copy of the letter from an academic host professor (including her/his short CV) at the chosen Swiss university confirming why she/he is willing to supervise and support the research.
  - ⇒ For research fellowships in addition:
    - 6) A short CV of the academic mentor at the home institution.
    - 6) Two confidential letters of recommendation from two different professors in the applicant's field (use exclusively the FCS reference form – originals in sealed envelopes only for the 1<sup>st</sup> set). No copies for 2<sup>nd</sup> set.
    - 7) Photocopies of certificates and grade sheets from previously attended universities/colleges and diplomas with grades, starting with the most recent. If not in English, French, Italian or German with attested certified translations in English. Do not submit the original certificates.
    - 8) **Signed** medical certificate (use only the FCS health certificate form).
    - 9) Two copies of the applicant's passport (main page with personal data). Dual nationals add copies of both passports. Applicants already in Switzerland during the application procedure add a copy of the residence permit for Switzerland.
  - ⇒ **Please do not put the documents into plastic folders or binders.**

### Contact institution for the application

- ⇒ Questions and application documents, should be submitted to the following address – if not mentioned otherwise below\*:
  - ⇒ Swiss Embassy  
ul. Chipka 33  
1504 Sofia
  
  - E-mail: [sofia@eda.admin.ch](mailto:sofia@eda.admin.ch)
  - Tel: 00359 2 943 41 85
  - Web: <https://www.eda.admin.ch/sofia>
  - \* Contact person: Mr Dimiter Dimov,  
Project Coordinator  
Center for Advanced Study Sofia  
7, Stefan Karadja Str., vh.3, ap.23



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