



APPLICATION DEADLINE

15 December 2021

BACKGROUND

The [Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships](#) are aimed **at young researchers from abroad** who have **completed a master's degree or PhD**. For South African citizens, three different types of fully funded scholarships are offered **starting in September 2022** in all academic fields.

Fundings are offered for the following three streams:

1. PhD Scholarships
2. Postdoctoral Scholarships
3. Research Scholarships (Academics & Medical Doctors)

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- **Citizens of South African**, Botswana, Lesotho, the Kingdom of Eswatini, Namibia and Mauritius (with global outreach);
- Master's degree or equivalent university degree achieved before 31 July 2022 (degree certificate) recognized 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 who have been in Switzerland since more than one year at the beginning of the scholarship in September are not eligible**. Reference document if applicable: residence permit to be added to the application documents;
- **Applicants who have already benefited from a Swiss Government Excellence Scholarship are not eligible** to apply for a second scholarship.

PhD Scholarships

- The scholarship is valid for 12 months and renewable for a **maximum of 3 years**;
- Applicants should have a Master's degree or equivalent University degree recognized by a Swiss University;
- The applicant **must not be older than 35 years at the time of application** (born after 31 December 1986).

Postdoctoral Scholarships

- The scholarship is valid for 12 months and renewable for a **maximum of 6 months**;
- The applicants should have a PhD degree;
- There cannot be a gap of more than 5 years between the award of the PhD and the application deadline.

Research Scholarships

- The Scholarship is intended **for highly qualified postdoctoral researchers from all academic fields** as well as **young Medical Doctors**;
- The scholarship is valid for **12 months maximum and non-renewable**;
- The applicant should have a Master's degree or equivalent;
- The applicant must not be older than 35 years at the time of application (born after 31 December 1986).

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATIONS:

The Federal Commission for Scholarships for Foreign Students assesses scholarship applications according to three criteria:

- a) Candidate profile;
- b) Quality of the research project or artistic work;
- c) Synergies and potential for future research cooperation

What the fellowship offers

- Stipend: Postdoctoral research: **CHF 3500/month**;
- Stipend: PhD and Research scholarship: **CHF 1920/month**;
- Mandatory **Swiss health insurance**;
- **One-time lump sum of CHF 300.-** with the first grant payment to help for payment of the housing deposit;
- **Flight allowance** (lump sum) for a ticket back to their country of origin (provided at the end of the scholarship);
- One-year half-fare **public transportation card**.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications must be submitted to the Embassy of Switzerland in South Africa.

To enquire the full application package, please contact the Embassy of Switzerland in South Africa by email: pretoria.science@eda.admin.ch. Further details can be found in the attached document and on the [website](#).

Please send a complete copy with all supporting documents, that you have submitted to the Faculty Research Office – natasha.jeftha@up.ac.za

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CONTACTS FOR CALL QUERIES

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