APPLICATION DEADLINE
Funder deadline: 15th December 2020

BACKGROUND

Each year the Swiss Confederation awards Government Excellence Scholarships to promote international exchange and research cooperation between Switzerland and over 180 other countries. Recipients are selected by the awarding body, the Federal Commission for Scholarships for Foreign Students (FCS).

The Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships are aimed at young researchers from abroad who have completed a master’s degree or PhD and at foreign artists holding a bachelor’s degree.

The research scholarship is available to post-graduate researchers in any discipline (who hold a master’s degree as a minimum) who are planning to come to Switzerland to pursue research or further studies at doctoral or post-doctoral level. Research scholarships are awarded for research or study at all Swiss cantonal universities, universities of applied sciences and the two federal institutes of technology. Only candidates nominated by an academic mentor at one of these higher education institutions will be considered.

The scholarship pays a monthly stipend of between CHF 1920 – 3500 (depending on the scholarship) as well as additional benefits such as health insurance and a lump sum for airfare to and from the scholar’s country. Additional information on benefits can be found in the attached booklets.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

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<th>PhD Scholarships</th>
<th>Research Scholarships</th>
<th>Postdoctoral Scholarships</th>
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<td>Master’s degree or equivalent university degree achieved before 31 July 2021 (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.</td>
<td>PhD degree achieved after 31 December 2017 and before 31 July 2021 (PhD 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.</td>
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9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
• Master’s degree or equivalent university degree achieved before 31 July 2021 (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.

• Applicant’s date of birth after 31 December 1985.

• 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 PhD thesis. Without such support, the application will be rejected.

• If an assistant professor supports a candidature, a full professor who is entitled to supervise the PhD during the entire scholarship has to co-sign the support letter.

• 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.

Please see the attached booklet for more information.

• Applicants must be born after 31 December 1985.

• 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 postdoctoral 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.

Please see the attached booklet for more information.

• 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 postdoctoral research. Without such support, the application will be rejected.

• Not accepted as academic supervisors for postdoctoral scholarship applicants are their former PhD mentors and their co-directors for the cotutelle PhD if the academic supervisor is at a Swiss university.

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• Applicants must be in command of the necessary language skills required for the postdoctoral research.

• 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.

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PLEASE NOTE:
The FCS application for a PhD scholarship and the application for admission by a Swiss University for a PhD study are two separate procedures. The admission to a PhD study at your chosen Swiss University is a conditio sine qua non for a potential attribution of a FCS scholarship - but no guarantee though for a positive decision by the Federal Commission for Scholarships for Foreign Students FCS. It is the applicant’s responsibility to manage both procedures in parallel.

Please see the attached booklet for more information.

HOW TO APPLY
The application package can be obtained by e-mail from the Swiss Embassy in New Muckleneuk, preferably in the month of September: pretoria@eda.admin.ch

PhD Scholarships
- Please submit 2 sets (=1 original + 1 copy) of application documents in exact order given below: The 1st 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 1st set except for the confidential letters of recommendation (only 1st set). No copies for 2nd set.

Research Scholarships
- Please submit 2 sets (=1 original + 1 copy) of application documents in exact order given below: The 1st 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 1st set except for the confidential letters of recommendation (only 1st set). No copies for 2nd set.

Postdoctoral Scholarships
- Please submit 2 sets (=1 original + 1 copy) of application documents in exact order given below: The 1st 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 1st set except for the confidential letters of recommendation (only 1st set). No copies for 2nd set.
- Signed FCS application form (typed and printed) with photo.

- A full CV with list of academic publications, awards etc.

- A motivation letter (max. 2 pages).

- A complete research proposal (max. 5 pages, signed), using exclusively the FCS research proposal form.

- 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 PhD thesis.

- Applicants for doctoral schools (doctoral programmes): In addition to all other application documents (including the support letter from a supervisor), the admission letter from the doctoral school is required with the application dossiers.

- 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 1st set). No copies for 2nd set.

- 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.

- Signed medical certificate (use only the FCS health certificate form).
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- **Signed** medical certificate (use only the FCS health certificate form).

- 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.

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Send the complete application to:
Swiss Embassy
225 Veale Street
0181 New Muckleneuk
E-mail: pretoria@eda.admin.ch
Tel: 0027 12 452 0695
Web: [https://www.eda.admin.ch/pretoria](https://www.eda.admin.ch/pretoria)

Please send a complete copy of all documents submitted to the Faculty Research Office - natasha.jeftha@up.ac.za

**APPLICATION DEADLINES:**

**Funder deadline: 15th December 2020**

**CONTACTS FOR CALL QUERIES**

Funder Contact details: Embassy of Switzerland
E-mail: pretoria@eda.admin.ch
Tel: 0027 12 452 0695

Faculty Research Office: natasha.jeftha@up.ac.za