BACKGROUND

The Swiss Government Excellence PhD Scholarships for foreign students are offered by the Swiss Government via the Federal Commission for Scholarships for Foreign Students FCS to enable selected applicants to undertake a PhD at one of the 10 Swiss cantonal universities, the two Swiss federal institutes of technology or the Graduate Institute. The scholarship is only valid for full-time PhD studies in Switzerland. It is not valid for mixed PhD programmes (part time in Switzerland and part time in another country). The scholarship is aimed at highly qualified postgraduate students (possessing the required degrees) from all academic fields.

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 / Università della Svizzera italiana

Federal institutes of technology
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL)
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETHZ)
Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID)

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

• Master’s degree or equivalent university degree recognised by the Swiss university. The applicant must have achieved this degree before the start of the scholarship next September. As a proof, the degree has to be submitted to the Federal Commission for Scholarships before the start of the scholarship.

• 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.

• 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.

• 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.

WHAT SPONSORSHIP WILL COVER

• The scholarship amounts to a monthly payment of CHF 1'920.

• 3 years maximum (starting in September)

• For non-EU and non-EFTA grantees only: the FCS pays mandatory Swiss health insurance.

• There are no family allowances.

• No financial support for fieldwork or for conferences.

• 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.

HOW TO APPLY
The application package can be obtained by e-mail from the Swiss Embassy in New Muckleneuk.

Please submit 2 sets (=1 original + 1 copy) of application documents in the 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.

**Required documents**

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 PhD thesis.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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. Originals have not to be submitted.
9. Signed medical certificate (use only the FCS health certificate form).
10. 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 the “Permis B”.

Please do not put the documents into plastic folders or binders.

**CONTACT DETAILS**

Questions and application documents, should to be submitted to the following address – if not mentioned otherwise below

Swiss Embassy in South Africa
225 Veale Street
0181 New Muckleneuk
E-mail: pre.vertretung@eda.admin.ch
Tel: 0027 12 452 0660
Web: https://www.eda.admin.ch/pretoria

**APPLICATION DEADLINES:**

**15 December 2018**