



## Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships

# Postdoctoral Scholarships

**Academic year:** 2021-2022

**Country:** Iran

**Opening of the call:** 10 August 2020

**Submission deadline:** 12 November 2020

### Scholarship

⇒ Swiss Government Excellence Postdoctoral Scholarships for foreign researchers

### Offered by

⇒ The Swiss Government via the Federal Commission for Scholarships for Foreign Students FCS

### Objectives

⇒ To enable selected applicants to undertake a postdoctoral research 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.

### 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 \(ETHZ\)](#)  
[Research Institutes of the ETH Domain \(PSI; WSL; EMPA; EAWAG\)](#)

⇒ [Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies \(IHEID\)](#)

### Universities of applied Sciences

⇒ [University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland](#) / [Bern University of Applied Sciences](#) / [University of Applied Sciences Northwest Switzerland](#) / [University of applied Sciences Eastern Switzerland](#) / [Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts](#) / [University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland](#) / [The Zürcher Fachhochschule](#)

### Teaching and Research Institutes

⇒ [Universities of teacher education](#)

### Validity

⇒ The Scholarship is valid only for full-time postdoctoral research in Switzerland. It is not valid for mixed research (part time in Switzerland and part time in another country). This scholarship is **not compatible with fieldtrips outside Switzerland**. Therefore no possibility and no funding for fieldwork.

<b>Target group</b>	⇒ Highly qualified postdoctoral researchers at the beginning of their academic career from all academic fields. No funding for sabbaticals.
<b>Duration</b>	⇒ 12 months (starting in September); no prolongation possible. 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.
<b>Amount and additional allowances</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ The scholarship amounts to a monthly payment of CHF 3'500.</li> <li>⇒ For non-EU and non-EFTA grantees only: the FCS pays mandatory Swiss health insurance.</li> <li>⇒ There are no family allowances.</li> <li>⇒ No financial support for conferences.</li> <li>⇒ 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).</li> <li>⇒ Special CHF 300 housing allowance (paid once at the beginning of the scholarship).</li> <li>⇒ One-year half-fare public transportation card.</li> <li>⇒ Support services and various trips, dinners and sightseeing tours organised for Swiss Government Excellence Scholarship holders.</li> </ul>
<b>Eligibility criteria and specific conditions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ PhD degree achieved <b>after 31 December 2016 and before 31 July 2020</b> (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.</li> <li>⇒ 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.</li> <li>⇒ 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 specific support letter, the application will be rejected.</li> <li>⇒ 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.</li> <li>⇒ 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.</li> <li>⇒ Applicants must be in command of the necessary language skills required for the postdoctoral research.</li> <li>⇒ Applicants who have already benefited from a Swiss Government Excellence Scholarship are not eligible to apply for a second scholarship.</li> <li>⇒ Scholarship holders are expected to move to Switzerland during their grant period.</li> </ul>
<b>Selection criteria</b>	<p>The following aspects and selection criteria are primarily considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ The candidate: academic profile, research capacity and motivation.</li> <li>⇒ The research project: originality and methodological soundness.</li> <li>⇒ The academic context: quality and context of supervision and potential for future academic cooperation.</li> </ul>

### Application timeframe

- ⇒ Opening of the call: 10 August 2020
- ⇒ Application deadline: 13 November 2020
- ⇒ Beginning of the scholarship: **01 September 2021**

### Application procedure

- ⇒ The application package can be obtained by email from the Embassy of Switzerland in Teheran (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 postdoctoral research.
  - 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\*:
- ⇒ Embassy of Switzerland  
Yasaman 2, Sharifi Manesh, Elahieh  
19395-4683 Teheran  
Iran  
  
E-mail: [teh.scholarships@eda.admin.ch](mailto:teh.scholarships@eda.admin.ch)  
Tel: 0098 21 2200 8333  
Web: <https://www.eda.admin.ch/tehran>  
\* -