



## Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships

# Postdoctoral Scholarships

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

**Opening of the call:** 15 August 2019  
**Submission deadline:** 15 November 2019

<b>Scholarship</b>	⇒ Swiss Government Excellence Postdoctoral Scholarships for foreign researchers
<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 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.
<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>Universities of applied Sciences</b>	⇒ <a href="#">Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID)</a> <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>Teaching and Research Institutes</b>	⇒ <a href="#">Universities of teacher education</a>
<b>Validity</b>	⇒ 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 <b>not compatible with fieldtrips outside Switzerland</b> . 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.</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 support, 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>
<b>Application timeframe</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Opening of the call: 15 August 2019</li> <li>⇒ Application deadline: 15 November 2019</li> <li>⇒ Beginning of the scholarship: <b>01 September 2020</b></li> </ul>

## Application procedure

⇒ The application package can be obtained by email from the Archimedes Foundation in Tallinn (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\*:

⇒ Archimedes Foundation  
Koidula 13a  
10125 Tallinn

E-mail: [info@archimedes.ee](mailto:info@archimedes.ee)  
Tel: 00372 699 6496  
Web: <https://www.archimedes.ee>

\* -