



## Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships

# PhD Scholarships

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

**Opening of the call:** 02 September 2019  
**Submission deadline:** 02 December 2019

### Scholarship

⇒ Swiss Government Excellence PhD Scholarships for foreign students

### Offered by

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

### Objectives

⇒ 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.

### 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 \(IHEID\)](#)

### Validity

⇒ The scholarship is valid only for full-time PhD studies in Switzerland at a Swiss university. It is not valid for mixed PhD programmes (part time in Switzerland and part time in another country).  
⇒ "Cotutelle de these": PhD students with an ongoing or planned doctoral project that is carried out within the framework of a formalized agreement between two universities ("cotutelle de thèse" cooperation between a Swiss and a foreign university) and under the joint direction of two supervisors are eligible for a 12 month research fellowship only.

### Target group

⇒ Highly qualified postgraduate students (possessing the required degrees) from all academic fields.

### Duration

⇒ 12 months (starting in September) prolongable up to 36 months based on the achieved academic results.

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| <b>Amount and additional allowances</b>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ The scholarship amounts to a monthly payment of CHF 1'920.</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 fieldwork or 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>⇒ Master's degree or equivalent university degree achieved <b>before 31 July 2020</b> (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>⇒ Applicant's date of birth after <b>31 December 1984</b>.</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 PhD thesis. Without such support, the application will be rejected.</li> <li>⇒ 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.</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 PhD studies/ research.</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 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.</li> <li>⇒ <b>PLEASE NOTE:</b></li> <li>⇒ The FCS application for a PhD scholarship and the application for admission by a Swiss University for a PhD study are two separate procedures.</li> <li>⇒ The admission to a PhD study at your chosen Swiss University is a <i>conditio sine qua non</i> 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.</li> </ul> |

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|                              | ⇒ | There are two different ways to achieve a doctorate degree (aka PhD).<br>The first way consists in undertaking <b>doctoral studies under the supervision of an academic mentor</b> (supervisor). In this case, the <b>admission to the PhD takes place after the scholarship start</b> .  |
|                              | ⇒ | The second way consists in <b>being admitted to a doctoral school</b> , which provides the framework for the following doctoral studies. Please inquire your admission directly at the corresponding school.  |
|                              | ⇒ | In addition to all other application documents (including the support letter from a supervisor), the <b>admission letter from the doctoral school is required with the application dossier</b> . As this takes time applicants must plan accordingly and submit their application for admission to the doctoral school sufficiently in advance of the scholarship programme deadline.   |
|                              | ⇒ | If the chosen doctoral school does not allow you to contact a supervisor before being admitted to the school, the application for the Swiss Government Excellence Scholarship is not possible.  |
| <b>Selection criteria</b>    | ⇒ | The following aspects and selection criteria are primarily considered:<br>⇒ The candidate: academic profile, research capacity and motivation.<br>⇒ The research project: originality and methodological soundness.<br>⇒ The academic context: quality and context of supervision and potential for future academic cooperation.  |
| <b>Application timeframe</b> | ⇒ | Opening of the call: 02 September 2019<br>⇒ Application deadline: 02 December 2019<br>⇒ Beginning of the scholarship: <b>01 September 2020</b>  |
| <b>Application procedure</b> | ⇒ | The application package can be obtained by e-mail from the Swiss Embassy in Ljubljana.  |
| <b>Application documents</b> | ⇒ | 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, <b>signed</b> 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.<br><br>1) <b>Signed FCS application form</b> (typed and printed) with photo.<br>2) A full CV with list of academic publications, awards etc.<br>3) A motivation letter (max. 2 pages).<br>4) A complete research proposal (max. 5 pages, <b>signed</b> ), using exclusively the FCS research proposal form.<br>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.<br>Applicants for doctoral schools (doctoral programmes):<br>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.<br>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.<br>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 to be submitted to the following address – if not mentioned otherwise\*:
- ⇒ Swiss Embassy  
Trg republike 3  
1000 Ljubljana
- E-mail: [ljubljana@eda.admin.ch](mailto:ljubljana@eda.admin.ch)  
Tel: 00386 1 200 86 40  
Web: <https://www.eda.admin.ch/ljubljana>  
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