



## Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships

# PhD Scholarships

**Academic year:** 2021-2022  
**Country:** Costa Rica

**Opening of the call:** 10 August 2020  
**Submission deadline:** 30 November 2020

<b>Scholarship</b>	⇒	Swiss Government Excellence PhD Scholarships for foreign students
<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 PhD at one of the 10 Swiss cantonal universities, the two Swiss federal institutes of technology or the Graduate Institute.
<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>
	⇒	<a href="#">Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID)</a>
<b>Validity</b>	⇒	The scholarship is valid only 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). ⇒ “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.
<b>Target group</b>	⇒	Highly qualified postgraduate students (possessing the required degrees) from all academic fields.
<b>Duration</b>	⇒	12 months (starting in September) prolongable up to 36 months based on the achieved academic results.

## Amount and additional allowances

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

## Eligibility criteria and specific conditions

- ⇒ 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 specific support letter, 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 PhD studies/ research.
  - ⇒ 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.
  - ⇒ 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 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.



- ⇒ There are two different ways to achieve a doctorate degree (aka PhD). The first way consists in undertaking **doctoral studies under the supervision of an academic mentor** (supervisor). In this case, the **admission to the PhD takes place after the scholarship start**.
- ⇒ The second way consists in **being admitted to a doctoral school**, 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 **admission letter from the doctoral school is required with the application dossier**. 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.

### Selection criteria

- ⇒ The following aspects and selection criteria are primarily considered:
- ⇒ The candidate: academic profile, research capacity and motivation.
- ⇒ The research project: originality and methodological soundness.
- ⇒ The academic context: quality and context of supervision and potential for future academic cooperation.

### Application timeframe

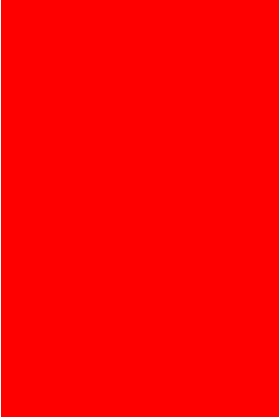
- ⇒ Opening of the call: 10 August 2020
- ⇒ Application deadline: 30 November 2020
- ⇒ Beginning of the scholarship: **01 September 2021**

### Application procedure

- ⇒ The application package can be obtained by e-mail from the Embassy of Switzerland in San José.

### 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 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.
- 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.

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- 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 below\*:

⇒ Embassy of Switzerland  
Edificion Centro Colón piso 10  
10102 San José  
Costa Rica

E-mail: [sanjose@eda.admin.ch](mailto:sanjose@eda.admin.ch)  
Tel: 00506 22 21 48 29  
Web: <https://www.eda.admin.ch/sanjose>

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