



## Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships

# PhD Scholarships

**Academic year:** 2019-2020

**Country:** Moldova

**Opening of the call:** 02 September 2018

**Submission deadline:** 15 November 2018

<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="#">Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID)</a>
<b>Validity</b>	⇒	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).
	⇒	“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>	⇒	3 years maximum (starting in September)

## 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 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.
- ⇒ Applicant's date of birth after **31 December 1983**.
- ⇒ 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 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 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.
- ⇒ Please note: 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.
- ⇒ \*) There are basically two different ways to achieve a doctorate degree (aka PhD). The first and best-known way consists in undertaking doctoral studies under the supervision of an academic mentor (supervisor). The second way consists in being admitted to a doctoral programme (aka doctoral school) which provides the framework for the following doctoral studies.
- ⇒ 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 for more than one year at the beginning of the scholarship in September are not eligible.

	<p>⇒ 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.</p> <p>⇒ <b>PLEASE NOTE:</b> The FCS application for a PhD scholarship and the application for admission by a Swiss University for a PhD study are two separate procedures.</p> <p>⇒ 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.</p>
<p><b>Selection criteria</b></p>	<p>⇒ The following aspects and selection criteria are primarily considered:</p> <p>⇒ The candidate: academic profile, research capacity and motivation.</p> <p>⇒ The research project: originality and methodological soundness.</p> <p>⇒ The academic context: quality and context of supervision and potential for future academic cooperation.</p>
<p><b>Application timeframe</b></p>	<p>⇒ Opening of the call: 02 September 2018</p> <p>⇒ Application deadline: 15 November 2018</p> <p>⇒ Beginning of the scholarship: <b>01 September 2019</b></p>
<p><b>Application procedure</b></p>	<p>⇒ The application package can be obtained by e-mail from the Swiss Cooperation Office/Representation of the Swiss Embassy to Moldova in Chisinau.</p>
<p><b>Application documents</b></p>	<p>⇒ 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.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <b>Signed FCS application form</b> (typed and printed) with photo.</li> <li>2) A full CV with list of academic publications, awards etc.</li> <li>3) A motivation letter (max. 2 pages).</li> <li>4) A complete research proposal (max. 5 pages, <b>signed</b>), using exclusively the FCS research proposal form.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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. Originals have not to be submitted.</li> </ol>



- 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 the "Permis B".

⇒ **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 Cooperation Office/Representation of the Swiss Embassy to  
Moldova in Moldova  
23 Mateevici str. Block B  
2009 Chisinau

E-mail: [chisinau@eda.admin.ch](mailto:chisinau@eda.admin.ch)

Tel: 0037322796938 79 69 44

Web: <https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/moldova/de/home.html>

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