

Last call for the SNSF Professorships: 39 awards for 2018

The last call for the SNSF Professorships attracted 299 applications from scientists in spring 2017.

August 2017 saw the completion of the first part of the procedure, after which 74 candidates were invited to submit a detailed application. 69 persons presented their project in January 2018 to the evaluation committees of the National Research Council. For the second stage of the evaluation, the Council additionally called upon the assistance of external experts.

The Swiss National Science Foundation has now awarded 39 SNSF Professorships to promising young researchers who have proved to be of exceptional scientific ability. The final selection also placed particular emphasis upon the candidates' suitability and commitment to teaching.

SNSF professorships places very high demands on the candidates. Unfortunately, due to the limited number of awards that can be granted by the SNSF, even highly qualified candidates could not always be taken into consideration.

Since 2009, the Research Council applies a separate set of conditions to evaluate research proposals in clinically oriented areas. In 2018, 4 of the 12 grants in biology and medicine were awarded to clinical researchers.

The share of women who received an SNSF professorship in 2018 is 31%. After 19 calls for proposals, the targeted overall share of women grantees (30% across all cohorts) has been achieved and amounts to 31%.

The new SNSF professors will be working in 6 Swiss Universities and both Federal Institutes of Technology. They will be active in research, teaching and clinical work and will enjoy the status of an assistant professor or equivalent. The SNSF thereby provides them with a strong foundation for their future careers.

Distribution by Disciplines

Discipline	Number of grants 2018	Cumulated grants 2000-2018	Percentage 2018	Cumulated percentage
Humanities	9	134	35.9%	32.2%
Social Sciences	5	101		
Mathematics and Natural Sciences	10	200	33.3%	34.1%
Engineering Sciences	3	49		
Biology	8	184	30.8%	33.7%
Medicine	4	62		
Total	39	730*	100%	100%

* This total refers to the number of grants, not to the number of active SNSF professors (the latter varies based on how many persons are appointed to a chair position).

Distribution by Universities and Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology

University / ETH	Number of grants 2018	Number of grants 2000-2018
University of Basel	5	95
University of Berne	5	95
University of Fribourg	2	43
University of Geneva	9	99
The Graduate Institute of Geneva	0	5
University of Lausanne	6	66
University of Luzern	0	10
University of Neuchâtel	0	22
University of St. Gall	0	6
University of Lugano (USI)	0	2
University of Zurich	9	138
ETH Lausanne	2	53
ETH Zurich	1	91
Zurich University of the Arts	0	1
Schola Cantorum Basiliensis	0	1
Bern University of the Arts	0	3
Total	39	730*