

SNSF New Funding regulations & New general implementation regulations entered into force on 01/01/2016

The New Funding Regulations (FR) and the New general Implementation Regulations (IR) of the SNSF entered into force the 1st of January 2016 and are applicable also to the funding arrangements initiated prior to their entry into force (the SNSF will apply the new provisions to pending procedures and ongoing grants only if they do not disadvantage the researchers).

Project Funding will be governed by the old FR and the old IR up to the call in October 2016. New or amended provisions in FR2016 and IR2016 will be applied before 1 October 2016 upon request, if they are to the advantage of applicants (e.g. extension of employment periods for doctoral students; new eligible costs).

Some changes have not yet been implemented and will not be applicable for the time being; these are marked in yellow in the table.

Until September 2016, changes to the requirements for applicants will apply only if the new rules are or have been expressly referenced in the relevant call documents and mySNF help texts.

Overview of the main changes:

Requirements for applicants and scientific qualification

	Old	New
Proof of employment (IR §1.1)	Proof of employment already by the submission deadline.	Self-declaration by the applicant to attest the employment during the funding period. for temporary, tenured academic posts the SNSF accepts a period of employment shorter than the duration of the project.
Emeritus applicants (IR §1.4)	Eligible if the application is deemed excellent and the institution provide co-financing (20%).	Eligible only if still employed at a minimum of 50% FTE.
Minimum work-time percentage (IR §1.5)		Employed at a minimum of 50% FTE. Research activities and scientific teaching activities must constitute the equivalent of at least 50% FTE.
Two or more applicants (FR §12)	2 or more applicants allowed if each makes a major contribution.	Two or more applicants are eligible if necessary to meet the research objectives and if each makes a major contribution.
Doctorate and comparable research experience (IR §1.10)		Applicants without a doctoral degree: at least three years of research work as their main source of income after graduating from a higher education institution.
Extension of the eligibility period (IR §1.11)		Eligibility period may be extended by a maximum of 1 year for the following reasons: childcare duty; inability to work due to illness or accident; care duties; military or civilian service; continuing education, clinical work; compulsory participation in a doctoral school before starting work on the doctoral thesis.
Project Partner (FR §11, IR §1.12)		Project Partners are researcher who make a partial contribution to the research project

		without being responsible for the project. Accepted if their contribution is necessary for carrying out the planned research and does not serve any commercial purposes.
Incompatibility of roles (IR 1.13)		Grantees of the SNSF may not at the same time be employed as staff members in an SNSF project.
Conflict of interest (IR §1.18)		Persons who are related or otherwise closely associated with each other should not collaborate scientifically on the same project. Any conflict of interests affecting an applicant must be reported.
Scientific misconduct (FR §15)		Applicants must inform the SNSF about any pending proceedings or sanctions.
Overlap of funding periods (IR 1.19)		Grants with overlapping funding periods are only approved if the research projects clearly address separate topics and the applicants are in a position to make substantial contributions to each of the research projects.
Further funding (FR §18)		Applicants are obliged to inform the SNSF about all submitted, pending or approved proposals at the SNSF or at other organisations.

Eligible costs

General eligible costs (IR §2.8-2.22)	Personnel costs, materials, material of enduring value, conferences and workshops (restrictive), open access publications, career measures and gender equality measures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Equipment if acquired specifically for the project and not part of the basic infrastructure; - Travel costs directly linked to the research projects (room and board costs, public transport); - Cost of services provided by project partners (not the salaries) up to 20% of the total budget; - Costs generated by third parties mandated by the research project up to 10% of the total budget; - Costs of computing time and cloud computing. Costs of data acquisition; - Organisation and travel costs for conduction conferences and workshops; - Personnel, research and travel costs; - Costs for national and international collaborations; - Open access publications; - Career measures. Gender equality measures.
General NOT eligible costs (IR §2.8-2.22)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Equipment and facilities that generally form part of the basic infrastructure, operation and standards of a scientific institution;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Salaries of the project partners; - Hardware and software. Scientific literature, tools and aids; - Expenses for postage, phone calls, photocopies, translations, ...; - Personnel costs for collaboration partners and for non-scientific staff.
Reduction of teaching duty (IR §2.23)		For humans and social sciences projects funded by the SNSF, the costs incurred due to the reduction of teaching commitments are eligible. The reduction must directly benefit the funded research.

Employment of staff

Maximum period of employment (IR §7.3)	Doctoral students: 4 years Postdocs: 5 years	Doctoral students: 4 years Postdocs: 5 years
Start date for calculating the period of employment (IR §7.3)	Doctoral students: registration date.	Doctoral students: registration for doctoral studies. Postdocs: date of the viva voce or the official acceptance of the thesis.
Postponement of the start date (IR §7.3)		The start date may be postponed by at the most one year for the following reasons: maternity, paternity, adoption or parental leave; inability to work due to illness or accident; care duties; military or civilian service; continuing education, clinical work; compulsory participation in a doctoral school before starting work on the doctoral thesis.
Minimum work-time percentage of employees (IR §7.4 & 7.6)	Doctoral students: min 60% FTE.	Doctoral students: min. 60% FTE. At least 60% FTE devoted to their doctoral thesis; no more than an additional 20% devoted to other tasks at the institute. Postdocs may devote no more than 20% of their time to tasks within the institution that do not directly affect their scientific qualifications.

Rights to research results; use, publication ad accessibility

Commercial use, patents and protective rights (IR §11.2)		Notice of the commercial use of research results or the filing of patents or similar protective rights must be given to the SNSF.
Mention of SNSF grant in publications (IR §11.7)		Grantees are obliged to mention the SNSF grant in all scientific publications and communication activities relating to research projects.
Open access duty (IR §11.10)		Grantees have a duty to publish research results in digital form on free internet publications sites.