



Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships

PhD Scholarships

Academic year: 2016-2017

Country: **Belarus**

Opening of the Call: 07.09.2015

Submission Deadline: 07.12.2015

Scholarship	⇒	Swiss Government Excellence PhD Scholarships for foreign students
Offered by	⇒	The Swiss Government through the Federal Commission for Scholarships for Foreign Students FCS
Objectives	⇒	To enable selected applicants to undertake a PhD in one of the 10 Swiss Public Universities, the two Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology and public teaching and research institutes.
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 / University of Lugano
Federal Institutes of Technology	⇒	Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL) Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETHZ)
Teaching and Research Institutes	⇒	Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID)
Validity	⇒	The scholarship is only valid for full time PhD studies in Switzerland. It is not valid for mixed PhD programs (part time in Switzerland and part time in a third country).
Target Group	⇒	Highly qualified postgraduate students (in possession of the required degrees) from all academic fields.
Duration	⇒	3 years maximum (starting in September)
Amount and additional allowances	⇒	The scholarship amounts to a monthly payment of 1'920 Swiss Francs. ⇒ Exemption of the tuition fees (except for EPFL). ⇒ For non-EU and non-EFTA grantees only: Mandatory Swiss Health insurance paid by the FCS. ⇒ A lump sum for air fare for non-European grantees only (provided at the end of the scholarship).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Special 300 Swiss Francs housing allowance (paid once at the beginning of the scholarship). ⇒ 1 year half-fare public transportation card. ⇒ Counseling and various trips, dinners and sightseeing tours organized for Swiss Government Excellence Scholarship holders.
<p>Eligibility Criteria and specific conditions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Master degree or equivalent University degree recognized by the Swiss University. ⇒ The applicant must not be more than 35 years old at the moment of the application. ⇒ Applicants who are in Switzerland for more than 1 year at the beginning of the scholarship in September are not eligible. ⇒ Applicants must provide a letter (or e-mail) from a Professor from the Swiss host institution stating that they are willing to supervise the PhD. In the case where the PhD is run within a structured doctoral school applicants must provide included in their application an admission letter or the proof that they are being considered for admission. Without such a document the application will be rejected. ⇒ Applicants must have a research proposal including a timeframe (this is the central piece 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 already benefited from a Swiss Government Excellence Scholarship are not eligible to apply for a second scholarship. ⇒ 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 <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>Selection Criteria</p>	<p>The following dimensions and selection criteria are considered mainly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ The candidate: Her/his academic profile and research capacity. ⇒ The research project: It's originality and methodological soundness. ⇒ The academic context: The quality of supervision and the potential for future academic cooperation.
<p>Application Procedure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ The application package can be obtained by e-mail from the Swiss Embassy in Minsk. ⇒ The deadline for the submission of applications is 07.12.2015 ⇒ Applications have to be submitted in 3 sets with the indicated number of copies (hard copies only). The 1st set contains the original, signed documents and the attested translations. The other 2 sets are the copies of the 1st set. For details see the Application Guidelines available at your contact institution (see below).
<p>Application Time Framework</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Opening of the call: 07.09.2015 ⇒ Application Deadline: 07.12.2015 ⇒ Selection Interview, ask: Swiss Embassy ⇒ Beginning of the scholarship: 01.09.2016

Application documents

(Please provide 3 sets of copies on A4 paper. Please do not staple the documents and/or put them into plastic sheets or binders).

- ⇒ The FCS 2016-2017 official application form (typed and printed). No handwritten forms will be accepted.
 - ⇒ Copies of all university certificates and grade-sheets (all copies must be attested, and translated if originals are not in English, German, French or Italian. Attestations can be done by the University or a Government Officer.
 - ⇒ 2 letters of recommendation from Professors in the applicants field (use exclusively the official reference form provided with the application package).
 - ⇒ A complete research proposal (max. 5 pages), use exclusively the official research proposal form provided with the application package.
 - ⇒ A motivation letter (max. 2 pages).
 - ⇒ A full curriculum vitae with list of academic publications.
 - ⇒ A copy of the confirmation from a Professor at the intended Swiss University that they are willing to supervise the PhD studies.
 - ⇒ Include a short CV of your academic supervisor.
 - ⇒ In the case where the PhD is run within a structured doctoral school, a copy of the PhD admission letter or a least a proof that the candidate is being considered for admission. Without such a document the application will be rejected.
 - ⇒ A health certificate (use exclusively the official health certificate provided with the application package).
- Each application set with two copies of the passport (main page with personal data).

Contact institution for the application

- ⇒ Questions and application documents, have to be submitted at the following address:
 - ⇒ Swiss Embassy in Minsk
pl. Svobody, 11, 220030 Minsk
- E-mail: min.vertretung@eda.admin.ch
Tel: 00375 17 222 44 72
Web: www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/rebs/eur/vblr/afobel.html

Summing up

- ⇒ The FCS 2016-2017 official application form with photo
- ⇒ CV with list of publications
- ⇒ Motivation letter (max. 2 pages)
- ⇒ A copy of the confirmation from a professor at the intended Swiss university stating that they are willing to supervise the research (incl. a short CV)
- ⇒ 2 letters of recommendation from professors (use the FCS form only)
- ⇒ A complete and signed research proposal (max. 5 pages) using exclusively the official FCS research proposal form provided with the application package
- ⇒ Photocopies of certificates from previously attended university/colleges and diplomas with grades
- ⇒ Medical certificate (use solely the official FCS form)
- ⇒ Two copies of passport