Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs,
Education and Research EAER

Federal Commission for Scholarships for Foreign Students FCS

Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships

PhD Scholarships

Academic year: **2016-2017**
Country: **Ukraine**

Opening of the Call: **01.09.2015**
Submission Deadline: **05.12.2015**

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).

- ⇨ 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.

Eligibility Criteria and specific conditions

- ⇨ 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 *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.

Selection Criteria

The following dimensions and selection criteria are considered mainly:

- ⇨ 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.

Application Procedure

- ⇨ The application package can be obtained by e-mail from the Swiss Embassy in Kyiv.
- ⇨ The deadline for the submission of applications is 05.12.2015
- ⇨ 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).

Application Time Framework

⇨ Opening of the call:	01.09.2015
⇨ Application Deadline:	05.12.2015
⇨ 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 Kyiv
  vul. Kozyatynska, 12, 01015 Kyiv

E-mail: kie.vertretung@eda.admin.ch
Tel: 00380 44 281 61 35
Web: www.eda.admin.ch/kiev

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