

Call for Projects 2018

The Swiss Network for International Studies launches its eleventh Call for Projects

The Swiss Network for International Studies (SNIS) offers project grants for pluri-disciplinary research teams. The project grants run for two years and range from 100'000 to 300'000 Swiss Francs. Eligible institutions of Swiss higher education and research (<http://bit.ly/2dCPA7p>) can submit project proposals that qualify as:

1. **International studies:** Projects carry out research on global issues that are either relevant in the international arena or at least concern multiple countries simultaneously. The SNIS considers that International Studies deal not only with the analysis of international relations, but also with political, economic, social, environmental, legal, health, scientific and development issues.
2. **Pluri-disciplinary studies:** Projects are pluri-disciplinary and they can include disciplines from the social and natural sciences.

In addition to the above criteria, the SNIS strongly encourages collaborations with International Organizations and NGOs.

Thematically, submissions can be made in one of the following two sections:

- **General call:** In any area of **International Studies** as defined above.
- **Special theme 2018:** The fourth industrial revolution and its implications for multilateral cooperation

Deadline for the submission of the pre-proposals

11th January 2018 13:00h (Swiss Time - GMT +1)



OR (the coordinator must be)

- a post-doctoral scientist employed at least 40% by an eligible Swiss academic institution for the duration of the project. In this case, up to 60% of the post-doctorate salary can be funded by the SNIS.
- **IMPORTANT:** The coordinator of the project shall not be working as a coordinator of an unfinished SNIS project at the moment of submission of the pre-proposal.

Primary Evaluation Criteria

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

- Projects carry out research on global issues that are either relevant in the international arena or at least concern multiple countries simultaneously. Projects where a Swiss research team investigates a research question in a single foreign country without at least comparing these insights with data collected (on the same question) in Switzerland will not be funded.

PLURI-DISCIPLINARY STUDIES

- Research questions and teams must be at least pluri-disciplinary and can include disciplines from the social and natural sciences. The applicants must demonstrate the value added of the pluri-disciplinary approach and the team must be composed of experts from different academic backgrounds. It does not suffice that one person claims proficiency in many disciplines.

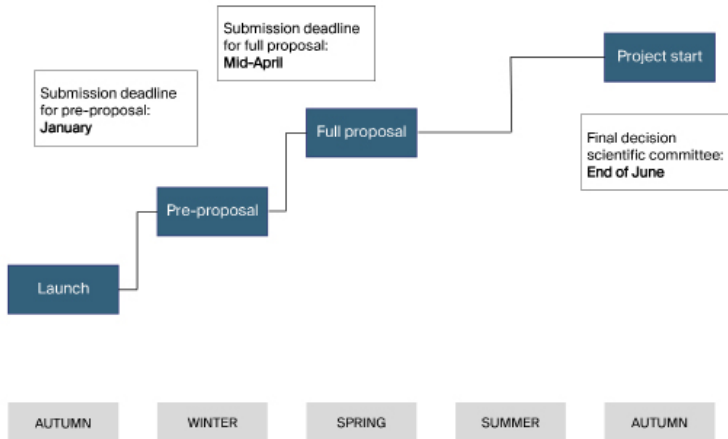
ACADEMIC ORIGINALITY AND RIGOR

- The project must demonstrate its originality and value added against the corpus of established literature.
- The proposal needs to show that the team has the necessary skills and experience to answer the research question.
- Applicants must demonstrate that they have the infrastructure and equipment for carrying out the project.

Additional Criteria

- Cooperation / joint research with international organisations and/or NGOs.
- Policy relevance.
- Involvement of two or more universities in Switzerland.
- Involvement of researchers from abroad.
- Interdisciplinary approach (which goes beyond the required pluri-/multi-disciplinarity).
- Co-funding from other sources.
- Involvement of PhD students and post-docs.
- Involvement of local partners / researchers for case / field studies.

The Call for Projects is structured as a two-step process



In the first phase, research teams submit a pre-proposal that contains the description of the project (approx 4-5 pages) as well as information on the submitting research team members (for details, see Appendices 1 and 2). The SNIS Scientific Committee decides which applicants are invited to submit a full proposal.

In the second phase, teams receiving an affirmative response to their pre-proposal are invited to submit a full proposal. Details of this second round will be communicated to those teams that are invited for that stage.

Criteria for the Selection of Projects

Please note that **all formal criteria and all primary evaluation criteria have to be met**. Meeting one or more of the additional evaluation criteria is not strictly necessary, but considered as important assets.

Formal criteria

- At least one Swiss university or other Swiss institution of tertiary education or research must be involved as the leading institution in the project. The list of qualifying institutions can be found at: <http://bit.ly/2dCPA7p>
- The project coordinator must be :
 - a full-time professor or full-time post-doctoral academic staff member employed on a multiple-year contract. In this case the SNIS will not fund the salary of the coordinator, but the coordinator's contribution is considered as 'in kind' financing by the hosting institution;

Appendix 1: Content of Project Description

The application in the first round consists of a concise project description of 10'000 characters maximum, that has to be submitted in English and which should include the following points:

- Literature review
- Demonstration of the research gap
- Research question / hypothesis
- Methodology
- Research tasks, milestones
- Expected results and their relevance to scientific and practical advancements
- Bibliography

In addition to the project description the coordinator must indicate details on participating members (see Appendix 2). **Please note that all project members that are mentioned in the project proposal must have been personally contacted and they must have given their consent for participating in the project.** Technically, when a coordinator enters a new team member on the platform this person will get an email notice that he / she has been added to a project on the SNIS website.

Use of SNIS Funds

Salaries

- Salaries of doctoral students paid with SNIS funds should correspond to the scales of the SNSF: <http://bit.ly/2emN73Z>. The scales are considered to be the remuneration for a 100% position of which a minimum 60% should be dedicated to thesis-related work. If using the FNS scales is not possible due to specific salary scales and rules of the employing institution, scales and rules of the employing institution can be used. In this case, the team has to provide a full explanation of reasons.
- For other positions than doctoral students, scales and rules of the university / institution where the person will be employed apply. The SNIS reserves the right to trim compensations in accordance with good practice in the Swiss system of higher education and research. In general, an employment level of less than 50% is allowed with SNIS funds only if other funding sources are used to raise the combined employment level to at least 50% of a full time appointment. Scales and rules of the institution where the person will be employed apply for the part of employment paid with SNIS funds.

Travel expenses

- Rules of the institution that manages SNIS funds apply for these expenses.

Infrastructure and equipment

- The SNIS does neither fund infrastructure nor equipment.

Publications

- The SNIS does not fund publications.

Administrative costs (overheads)

- Due to its limited funding envelope, the SNIS does not fund any administrative activities or overheads

Appendix 2: Roles of Team Members and Potential SNIS Funding

Please note that all project members that are mentioned in the project proposal must have been personally contacted and they must have given their consent for participating in the project.

Role	Function in project	Employment status	SNIS funding
Coordinator	Manages the project and is the primary contact for the SNIS and responsible for the successful conclusion of the project.	Professor or post-doc with full time contract in a qualified Swiss institution.	No SNIS funding ¹ .
		Post-doc with at least 40% contract in a qualified Swiss institution.	SNIS will fund up to 60% of salary.
Co-coordinator ²	Deputy coordinator, acts as primary contact for SNIS in case of absence of the coordinator.	Professor or post-doc with full time contract in a qualified Swiss institution.	No SNIS funding.
		Post-doc with at least 40% contract in a qualified Swiss institution.	SNIS will fund up to 60% of salary.
Principal member	Principal research persons ³ .	Researchers (can be IO members or PhD students or other researchers etc.).	Salary paid by SNIS (max 60%).
Associated member	Research persons involved in the project, whose salaries are accounted for by external funding e.g. members of IOs, NGOs, prof. of partners institutions.	-	No SNIS funding.