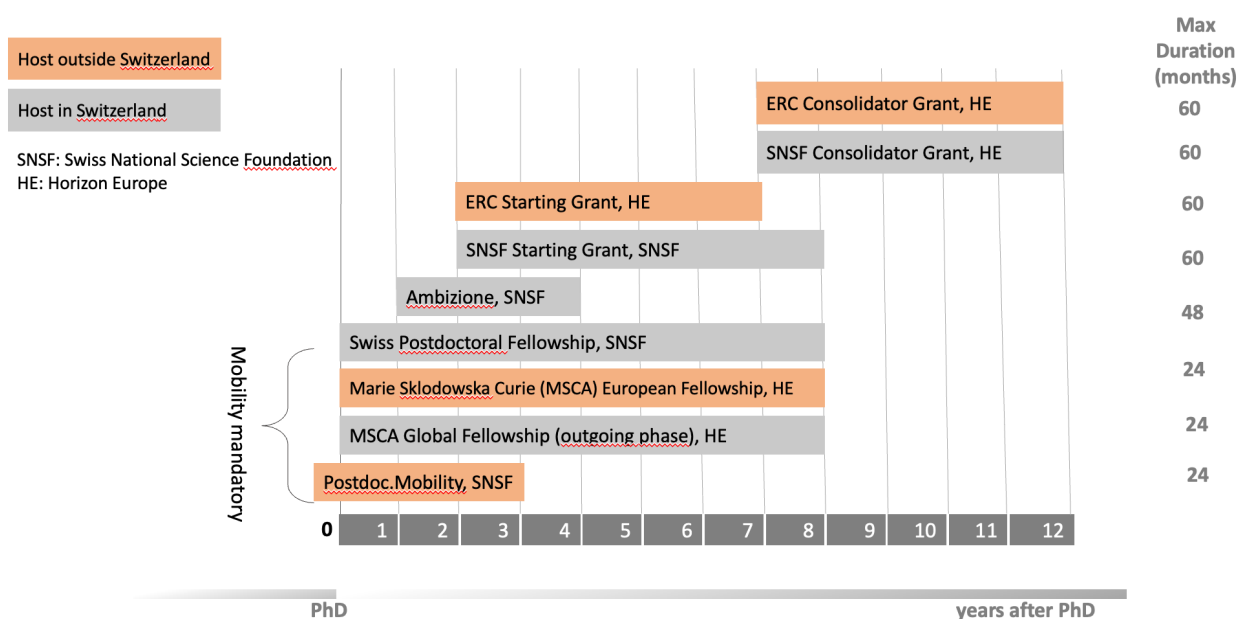


## PhD achieved – what’s next?

You recently successfully completed your PhD at the University of Bern – Congratulations!

The following overview features the largest national and European funding opportunities for the next steps of your academic career. It is meant as an instrument to obtain a first overview of funding options. For details on the schemes, please consult the funders’ websites and/or approach the [Grants Office of the University of Bern](#). For a discussion of your individual situation and suitability of different career options, you may seek advice with [Dr. Matthias Hirt](#) or [Dr. Judith Zbinden](#).

### Overview of schemes



### Eligibility regarding research age

Eligibility windows are strictly enforced with the date of the defence being considered the date of PhD. Special conditions apply to researchers with an MD degree. Both the SNSF and the EU (Horizon Europe) allow extensions under defined circumstances, such as maternity (extension of 18 months regardless of the actual duration of the maternity leave), paternal leave and/or long-term illness. Check with the Grants Office for details.

### Mandatory mobility for selected schemes

Mobility is considered an important asset for a research career. Additionally, strict rules on international mobility apply with Postdoc.Mobility, the MSCA fellowships and the Swiss Postdoctoral Fellowship. Check with the Grants Office for details.

### Particular situation because of current ineligibility to major European schemes

Note that Swiss Postdoctoral Fellowships, SNSF Starting Grants and SNSF Consolidator Grants are only available temporarily, namely while Switzerland is not associated to the European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (Horizon Europe). The three schemes are “transitional measures” to at least partly compensate for the fact that researchers are not currently eligible to apply with a Swiss host for MSCA European Fellowships, ERC Starting and Consolidator Grants. The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) implements them through call-by-call mandates from the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI).

The goal of the Swiss Federal Council remains a full association to Horizon Europe as soon as possible. Once an association is agreed upon, researchers will be eligible to apply with Swiss hosts to all European schemes (given mobility rules are adhered to) and transitional measures will be discontinued. For further explanation see [www.horizon-europe.ch](http://www.horizon-europe.ch), and/or consult with the [Grants Office](#).

## Funding schemes currently requiring a host institution outside Switzerland

### Postdoc.mobility



Postdoc.mobility fellowships by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) are open to researchers of Swiss nationality and those which have been active at a research institution in Switzerland for at least two years to conduct a (first) postdoc abroad. You can apply up to 9 months before completion of your PhD and have the possibility to apply for a return phase to an institution in Switzerland.

Deadlines twice a year; usually 1 February and 2 August

### European Research Council (ERC) Starting and Consolidator Grants



The ERC supports outstanding researchers with funding for ground-breaking research projects in all disciplines. A typical ERC project has a profile that while risky promises a significant scientific gain if successful. With an ERC grant, you can finance yourself and establish or consolidate your own research group.

Mobility is not an asset per se, and nationality is not relevant. Host institutions must be located in an EU member state or country associated to Horizon Europe and formally state their support towards applicants. ERC grants are portable within the EU member states and associated countries. The Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) provides financial support for researchers with a positively evaluated or running ERC projects moving to a Swiss institution.

ERC projects have a maximum duration of five years and a maximum budget of €1.5 mio for Starting and €2 mio for Consolidator Grants with the option to request additional funding of up to €1 mio for certain major cost items.

Deadlines yearly; Starting Grant: usually autumn; Consolidator Grant: usually winter

### Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) postdoctoral fellowships



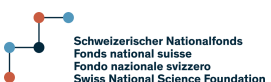
MSCA postdoctoral fellowships offer training and career development to researchers of any nationality by funding a postdoc stay in a country where the researcher has not lived/worked for more than a year before the deadline (mobility requirement).

With European postdoctoral fellowships, the host institution needs to be located in an EU member state or country associated to Horizon Europe. Global postdoctoral fellowships consist of an outgoing phase in a country outside the EU member states and associated countries (currently including Switzerland) followed by a mandatory return phase in Europe (i.e. in an EU member state or country associated to Horizon Europe).

Deadline yearly; usually September

## Funding schemes requiring a host institution in Switzerland

### Ambizione



Ambizione supports promising researchers with at least one year of research experience after their PhD and at least one recognised research output from this first postdoc phase to become scientifically independent. A description of past and future mobility (considering all its facets) and a clear vision for a career in academia form part of the application. You can request your own salary (but you don't need to if your salary is already secured) and project costs including salary for a PhD student.

Deadline yearly; usually early November

## Swiss Postdoctoral Fellowships



Swiss postdoctoral fellowships allow researchers who have not lived/worked in Switzerland for more than a year to conduct a project with a clear training component at a Swiss institution. The scheme thus partially makes up for researchers who want to move (or have recently moved) to Switzerland not being eligible to apply for a MSCA postdoctoral fellowship.

Transitional schemes; yearly deadline, check with Grants Office for information on open and upcoming calls

## SNSF Starting and Consolidator Grants



The SNSF has not implemented calls for SNSF Professorial Fellowships, its [announced](#) career funding instrument succeeding Eccellenza and PRIMA, since it targets researchers of very similar research age as the Starting Grant. Instead, the SNSF Starting Grant has been communicated as an integrative call that includes the budget for Professorial Fellowships, but is largely aligned to the ERC Starting Grant. The same applies to the SNSF Consolidator Grant.

Transitional scheme; yearly deadline, check with Grants Office for information on open and upcoming calls

## Internal funding schemes at the University of Bern



The University of Bern offers a [range of funding instruments](#) for researchers employed here that foster collaboration, mobility and support in preparing funding applications. Further information about the promotion of early career researchers can be found on [our website](#).

### Initiator Grant

The Initiator Grant is open to postdoctoral researchers who plan to apply for competitive funding with one of the main public funding agencies. Apply for up to 30 000 CHF for measures in preparation of the main funding application.

Deadline yearly; usually in February

### UniBE Short Travel Grants for (Post)Docs

Enhance your mobility by undertaking a research stay of 2-8 weeks abroad and apply for up to 7 000 CHF for stays within Europe and up to 8 000 CHF for stays outside Europe.

Deadline twice a year; usually 1 March and 1 September

### Promotion Fund

Apply for up to 5 000 CHF for activities that enhance your scientific network, e.g. organisation of a conference or workshop.

Deadlines twice a yearly; usually in spring and autumn

### 120% Care Grant

This grant for postdoc researchers with care responsibilities allows to temporarily reduce the workload through employment of a person supporting at work.

Deadlines four times a year

## Databases for funding searches

The University of Bern is subscribed to two databases of funding opportunities:

[Research Professional](#) helps you in finding national and international funding opportunities, while [Fundraisio](#) focuses on funding opportunities beyond public funders in Switzerland.

[Clinical Research Careers](#) offers guidance on funding and career support for persons engaged in clinical research.

## Job Portals

The following job portals help you finding employment as a researcher in Switzerland and beyond:

<https://eth-gethired.ch/en>

<https://www.myscience.ch/jobs>

<https://www.academics.de>

<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs>

For questions concerning an academic career:

Dr. Matthias Hirt           +41 (0)31 684 40 29 [matthias.hirt@unibe.ch](mailto:matthias.hirt@unibe.ch)

Dr. Judith Zbinden       +41 (0)31 684 48 05 [judith.zbinden@unibe.ch](mailto:judith.zbinden@unibe.ch)

For questions concerning a planned project for a specific funding instrument:

Grants Office            [grantsoffice@unibe.ch](mailto:grantsoffice@unibe.ch)