



SNS Research Fellowships Procedures

Timing for 2025:

- April 15th open submission
 - June 30th deadline for application
 - October: Announcement of the fellowships at the 6th SFCNS Congress in Lausanne
-

1) Application and Evaluation Process

2x SNS Research Fellowship (25.000 CHF each) with matching funds from institutions

- SAYN membership is required (thus, residents are selected), no further age criteria.
 - Matching Funds are a prerequisite. A signed letter from the host institution granting matching funds (25.000 CHF/ fellowship) and full support of the candidate must be provided upon admission.
 - Main purpose of the fellowship is to grant protected research time for the candidate in a research institution in Switzerland.
 - Money is transferred to institutions. However, the SNS is not in the position to compensate institutions for the administration of the SNS funds, nor is it allowed to take out overheads from any funding granted by the SNS. The money is for support of the candidate only
If rejected, applicants can re-apply.
-

2) Formal Criteria:

- A former fellowship winner will not be awarded again (but application for prize and fellowship are possible by the same person).
- For the SNS fellowships, criteria are (1-9; 1= poor, 9 = excellent no fractions only whole numbers):
 - Scientific question, methods, feasibility, potential of the applicant
- For the SNG «research fellowship» clear criteria with respect to format, structure, and length of proposal must be adhered to (see below).
- The proposal must be written in English.

The scientific part should not exceed 6 pages following this structure:

1. Name of the applicant and title of the project
2. Summary (1 page)
3. Background (1 page)
4. Rationale, hypothesis and specific aims (1 page)
5. Experimental plans including own previous results and methodology (2 pages)
6. Significance for persons with a neurological disease (1 page)
7. References (not limited)
8. CV of the applicant
9. Applications should be written in Arial 10, space 1.15, margin 2.0
10. Figures and tables illustrating the application are encouraged
11. Must be submitted in English
12. Only 25.000 CHF can be applied for; this must be used for protected research time (no consumables can be granted). It needs to be clearly stated how other project costs will be covered.

3) Procedure for the fellowships:

- Grants are checked for formal criteria (IMK) – grants need to be in English (must be clear in the initial submission text).
- Grants are forwarded to scientific committee of the SNS (SC-SNS). SC-SNS splits grants into equal portions/SC member for own review and to 2-3 reviewers.
- Grants are sent for review according to evaluation criteria above. However, in addition to a ranking 1-9 (5 is “good”), reviewers will provide a short paragraph for each criterion; limit to 2-3 sentences/criterion (no limit word count).
- SC receive reviews and sort their candidates according to evaluation criteria.
- One virtual meeting of SC with introduction of best candidates of each SC member; SC comes to joint recommendation about fellowships. Reasons for decline are documented (primarily for internal purposes).
- The SNS Board is then informed about the winner.
- Grants need to be started within one year after awarding.

4) COI for Reviewers and SC members who rate the proposals:

- Currently at same institution
- Current joint research projects and/or publications should be declared (no strict exclusion criterion, unless first/last co-authorships)
- Previous joint publications are no exclusion criterion, but must be declared (no strict exclusion criterion)
- Any other (personal) COI must be declared

Gender and Diversity: no quota; but diversity will be considered.

5) Reporting Procedure

- 2.5 years after the year of awarding of the project (January after end of project), IMK (cc scientific committee) sends out an Email to applicants asking for:
1 page reporting about the project including answers to the questions
 - a) *Summary of what was achieved.*
 - b) *Results (publications other results of the project mentioning the SNG funding)?*
 - c) *Were matching funds received?*
 - d) *The report should express how the project has gone and whether there are any deviations from the original project plan.*
 - e) *This report needs to be signed by the applicant and the head of the institution.*
 - f) *The report is made available to the SC by IMK.*