# Research Funding Opportunities for Postdocs

# 15/04/2019 13:00 HCI G3







Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich

# Plan

13:00 Introduction (Tomasz Kacprzak, AVETH)

13:05 EU Grants Access (André Wunder, EU GrantsAccess)

13:25 Questions

13:30 Sharing experience with MSCA grant (Angela Steinauer, MSCA Fellow)

13:40 Questions

- 13:45 SNSF/ETH funding (Elisabeth Mitter, ETHZ Office of Research)
- 14:05 Questions
- 14:10 Sharing experience with SNSF/EU grants (Lavinia Heisenberg, PRIMA/ERC)
- 14:20 Questions to everyone
- 14:30 Close

# Feedback form: <u>bit.ly/2UTpYK2</u>

# About AVETH



- AVETH is the Academic Association of Scientific Staff at ETH Zurich Soon celebrating its 50th anniversary!
- Organising different types of events (info, social, etc)
- Participation in ETH Politics
- Delegates to many ETH commissions: ETH Assembly, Strategy Commission, Arbitration, ASVZ, and others
- Psychological Counselling, Buddy System
- Survival Guide for new arrivals to ETH <u>www.aveth.ethz.ch/aveth-survival-guide/</u>
- AVETH Postdocs team
- Join AVETH: <u>www.aveth.ethz.ch/joinus</u>





### Funding opportunities for Postdocs European Funding

EU GrantsAccess | André Wunder | 15 April 2019









# Outline

- The services of EU GrantsAccess
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions / Individual Fellowships
- Research Professional
- Other PostDoc Funding
- The EURAXESS portal

Finding funding made easy.

### EU GrantsAccess - our services

- The joint office of the University of Zurich and ETH Zurich for International Research Programmes
- Pre- and post-award support for all international research programmes:
  - Advise on funding opportunities
  - Idea and Proposal checking
  - Administrative, financial and legal support
  - Proposal Writing Workshops
  - Individual coaching
  - Information events

#### Get in touch when planning to submit a proposal: grants@sl.ethz.ch

All our services are free of charge!

Finding funding made easy.

# Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Individual Fellowships (IF)

### **KEY FEATURES:**

- Mobility
- Career Development
- 'Bottom-up'
- Any nationality
- No age limit

"The goal of Individual Fellowships is to enhance the creative and innovative potential of experienced researchers, wishing to diversify their individual competence in terms of skill acquisition through advanced training, inter-national and intersectoral mobility."

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# Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions IF Mobility rule for IF

The researchers shall not have resided or carried out their main activity in the country of their future host organisation for **more than 12 months in the 3 years prior to the deadline for submission of proposals.** 

#### Next deadline 11.09.2019

 $\rightarrow$  No more than 12 months since 11.09.2016

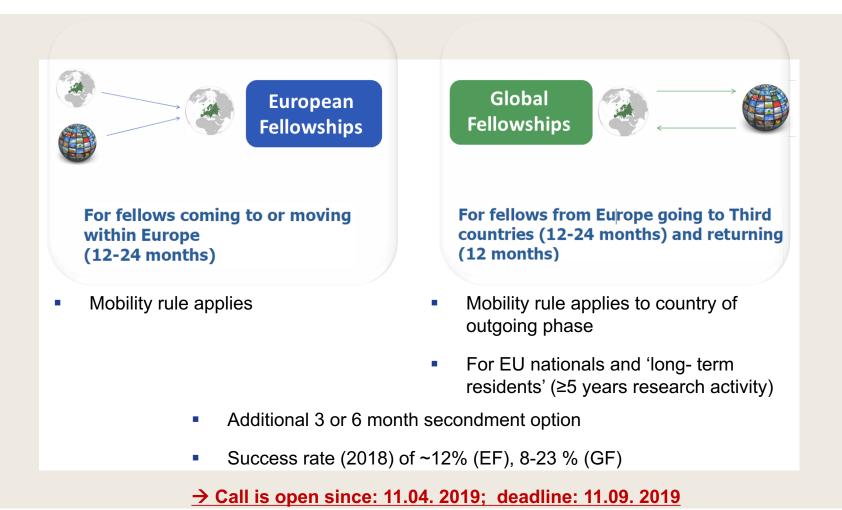
### Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions IF Where can I be hosted?

HOST ORGANISATIONS:

- Universities
- Public & Private Research Institutes
- International Organisations (e.g. CERN, EMBL)
- Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs)
- Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)
- Big companies

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### Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions IF Types of Individual Fellowships



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# Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions IF Budget: How does it work?

- The host institution receives the funding
- You get hired by your host institution

	Researcher unit cost			Institutional unit cost		
Marie Skłodowska- Curie Action	person/month			person/month		
	Living allowance*	Mobility allowance	Family allowance	Research, training and networking costs	Management and indirect costs	
Individual Fellowships	4880	600	500	800	650	

# Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions IF Budget: How does it work?

EXAMPLE

Max Planck Institute (Germany), with family

• Monthly Salary:

4'880€ x 0.97 + 600€ + 500€ - (social contribution)

5'833.6€ - (social contribution)

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# Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions IF What to do next?

- You need a supervisor from an institution in a Member State or Associated Country, who is willing to work with you.
- Get in touch with us
- Check the important documents
- Visit our training:

28.06. 2019 and 25.07. 2019:

**Applicants Training for Individual Fellowships** 

Finding funding made easy.

# Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions IF What to do next?

General Approach to plan MSCA-IF-project

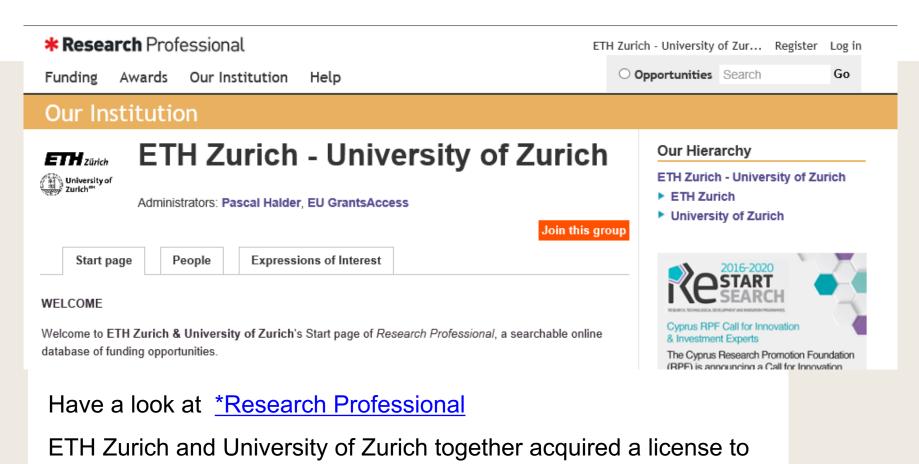
- Specify your long-term goals
- Analyze your CV (tools: <u>http://myidp.sciencecareers.org</u> /<u>www.rdfplanner.net</u>)
- Identify the gap of your CV to reach your long term goals
- The project should close the identified gap

Art of Grantsmanship:

http://www.hfsp.org/funding/art-grantsmanship

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### **Research Professional**



make this database freely accessible to its researchers.

# Other PostDoc Funding Opportunities

Scheme	Eligibility	Duration (Month)	Salary per year	Topic restriction	SR (%)	Mobility
MSCA-EF	PhD	12-24	84'175 € (Family, CH)	No	~12	Yes
ERC-StG	PhD ≥ 2 and ≤ 7 years	60	individual	No	13	No
HFSP	PhD ≤ 3	36	Country dependent	Yes	15.5	Yes
ЕМВО	PhD ≤ 2	12-24	Country dependent	Yes	15	Yes
SGES	PhD ≤ 5	12	42'000 CHF	No	20	Yes
SNF Ambizione	PhD ≤ 5	36	105'000 CHF	No	31	No
Branco Weiss	PhD ≤ 5	60	individual	No	1,3	No
ETH Fellows	PhD ≤ 2	24	100'000 CHF	No	29	Yes

Scheme	links
MSCA-EF	<ul> <li>MSCA webpage: <u>http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/</u></li> <li>Proposal <u>submission</u></li> <li>CV analysis tools: <u>http://myidp.sciencecareers.org /www.rdfplanner.net</u></li> </ul>
ERC-StG	<ul> <li>ERC webpage: <u>http://erc.europa.eu/</u></li> <li>Proposal submission: <u>http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportuniti</u> <u>es/index.html</u></li> </ul>
HFSP	http://www.hfsp.org/funding/postdoctoral-fellowships
EMBO	http://www.embo.org/funding-awards/fellowships/long-term-fellowships
SGES	https://www.sbfi.admin.ch/sbfi/de/home/themen/bildungsraum- schweiz/stipendien/eskas.html
SNF Ambizione	http://www.snf.ch/en/funding/careers/ambizione/Pages/default.aspx
Branco Weiss	http://www.society-in-science.org/
ETH Fellows	https://www.ethz.ch/en/research/research-promotion/eth-internal- programmes/eth-fellowships.html

# Other PostDoc Funding Opportunities

- Further search options:
  - <u>https://www.swissuniversities.ch/en/services/scholarships-for-study-abroad/more-information/other-funding-opportunities/</u>
  - UZH: <u>http://www.researchers.uzh.ch/en/funding.html</u>
  - ETH: <u>https://www.ethz.ch/en/research/research-promotion.html</u>
  - Neurobiological research: NARSAD Young Investigator Grants

https://bbrfoundation.org/yi

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# Other PostDoc Funding Opportunities

Funding for women:

• SNF: PRIMA:

http://www.snf.ch/en/funding/careers/prima/Pages/default.aspx

- American Association of University Women (AAUW): http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/educational-funding-and-awards/international-fellowships/
- L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Fellowships: <u>http://www.fwis.fr/en/fellowships</u>
- Graduate Woman in Science (GWIS) National Fellowships Program:
   <u>http://www.gwis.org/?page=fellowship\_program</u>

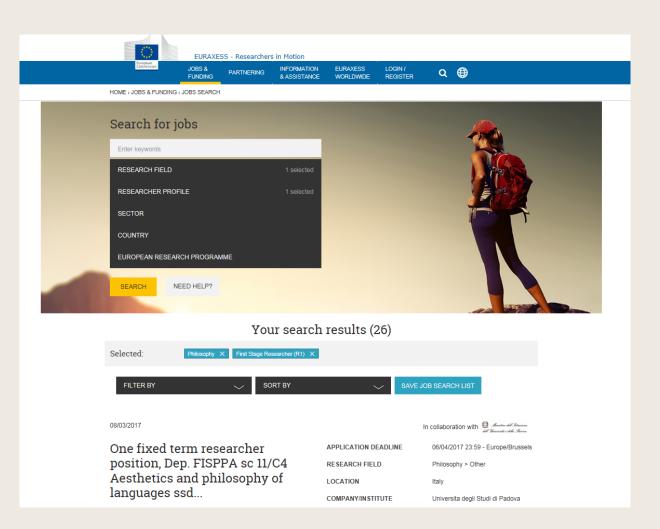
Finding funding made easy.

### Jobs on the EURAXESS portal

- The EURAXESS Researchers in Motion portal is a joint initiative of the European Commission and the countries participating in the European Union's Framework Programme for Research.
- **EURAXESS Jobs** is a recruitment tool free of charge
- https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/search

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### Jobs on the EURAXESS portal



### Thank you for your attention!



Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich







# Contact: EU GrantsAccess

EU GrantsAccess International Research Programmes

ETH Zürich University of Zurich

Seilergraben 53

8001 Zurich

Switzerland

grants@sl.ethz.ch +41 44 634 53 50

http://grantsaccess.ethz.ch/en/



#### Finding funding made easy.



# WRITING A SUCCESSFUL MSCA-IF APPLICATION

Angela Steinauer

April 15, 2019

# THE ROAD TO SUCCESS: MANY DRAFTS & GREAT READERS

#### Oct 2017: Applied for position Feb 2019: Jul 2018: at ETH Defended Notification of Aug 2018: *Feb* 2018: my PhD & successful MSCA-IF *Gave MSCA* Submitted first submitted thesis application! drafts funding proposal to readers (EMBO 1) May 2019: Aug 2018: Jan 2018: Submitted third Start of Accepted postdoc MSCA-IF funding proposal offer & started Mar 2018: (EMBO 2) funding gathering Submitted second information funding proposal Sept 2018: about various (ETH Fellowship) Started postdoc position & fellowships submitted MSCA-IF proposal

# WHAT HELPED?

- Writing many drafts and applying for other fellowships
- Reading other MSCA proposals and the feedback that was given to the applicants (successful and unsuccessful)
- Seeking out mentors that had successfully applied for an MSCA-IF before
- Seeking out readers within my future lab
- Feedback from EU GrantsAccess office
- Attending information events like this one
- Following instructions in the MSCA-IF Guide for Applicants

# **GENERAL TIPS & TRICKS**

- Clarity, clarity, clarity. Reviewers get frustrated when things are not easy to follow. Structure your specific aims: 1) Rationale. 2) Approach. 3) Anticipated outcomes & interpretation. 4) Pitfalls & alternative approaches.
- ► Avoid typos.
- > Put a **schematic** of your proposed research early in the proposal.
- ► Use white space effectively.
- ► **Bullet points** can be useful for the eye.
- ► Credibility and specificity.
- Ask yourself: how well suited is the proposed research to the time frame, your personal career goals, and the training experience?
- Use good words, make your proposal interesting to read. Find native speakers to proofread your proposal.
- Imagine you are a reviewer reading your proposal after having read five others before: How can you make the job easier for them? —> Follow the checklist!

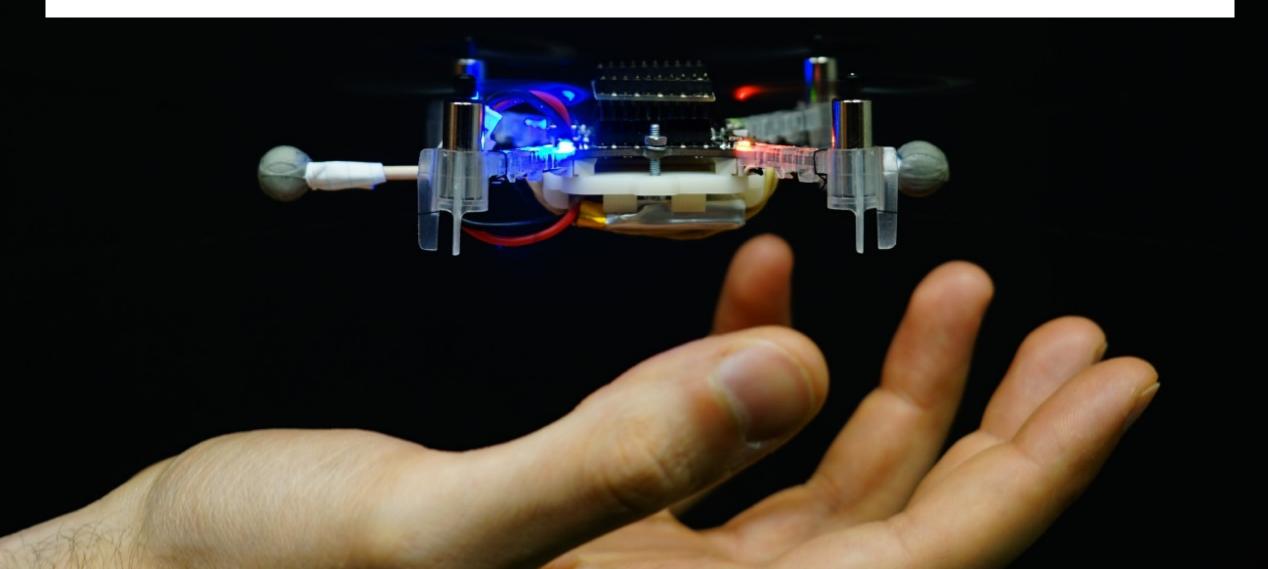
# **TIPS & TRICKS FOR THE MSCA-IF APPLICATION**

- ► Make sure you **fulfill all the requirements**.
- Evaluators have checklists, make sure they are able to tick all the boxes. Use the same language as found on the reviewer checklist. Write checklist items in bold.
- Spend enough time on your training plan, the impact and implementation sections. Set realistic, yet ambitious goals.
  - Career development: what strengths do you bring and how can this fellowship fill in the gaps? Symbiosis between you (the fellow) and your host institution.
  - Outreach: what are you passionate about? Be credible and creative. "Having done" is better than as "will do."
- Be specific, describe concrete actions (planned outreach, conferences, experiments, etc.).
- Submit proposal early—at least a few days in advance—so that EU GrantsAccess office can check your work.
- Follow MSCA-IF instructions closely, don't miss any of the checklist items! My personal rule: triple-check everything. :)

It's a numbers game: keep doing what you're doing if you love what you do and you'll eventually be successful!

# Funding opportunities for Postdocs: ETHZ and SNSF

Elisabeth Mitter, Scientific Coordinator, Office of Research, VPFW AVETH Event: Funding opportunities for Postdocs – Monday, 15 April 2019



### **Overview**

### ETHZ internal funding

- ETHZ Career Seed Grants
- ETH Fellowships
- Branco Weiss Fellowships

- SNSF funding
  - Ambizione Fellowships
  - PRIMA Fellowships
  - Eccellenza Fellowships
  - Early Postdoc.Mobility
  - Postdoc.Mobility
  - Scientific exchanges and Agora
- Some tips

## **ETH Zurich Career Seed Grants**

www.seedprojects.ethz.ch

Deadlines: 1 March and 1 September,

decision within 4 months

### **Characteristics:**

- Funding for small, autonomous projects
- Provide support to young researchers at ETHZ in establishing their own record of independent research
- Explore or develop novel, ambitious ideas, new research directions and/or collaborations
- E.g. pilot or feasibility studies, small, selfcontained research projects, development of new methodology or technology

### **Beneficiaries:**

- High-performing early-stage postdocs with academic, non-permanent position at the ETH Zurich for the intended duration of the project
- prior research output at ETHZ

**Funding**: 30'000 CHF for up to one year, covers research costs, user fees, targeted travel; **no** ongoing research or postdoc salaries

Evaluation Committee: ETH Research

Commission

Country/Place: ETH Zurich

#### **ETH** zürich

### ETH Fellows www.ethfellows.ethz.ch

**Deadlines:** 1 March and 1 September, decision within 4 months

### **Characteristics:**

- Attract excellent young scientists at the beginning of their careers to the ETH Zurich
- Own research idea; own initiative; first step towards independence

### Conditions

- Up to two years after PhD
- Candidates must not have obtained their doctorate from ETH or UZH; must not have worked at ETH for more than 6 months

- Proposal is submitted together with an ETH host professor, topic of proposal can be in all fields of the ETH
- Two-step evaluation procedure
   Duration and Funding:
- 24 months, salary and research costs, currently CHF 231'200 max

Country/Place: ETH Zurich

### Evaluation Committee: ETH Research

Commission

About 28 new fellows/year

Cofunded by Marie Sklodowska Curie-Actions

### **Society in Science – The Branco Weiss Fellowship**

http://www.society-in-science.org

### Deadline: 15 January

### **Characteristics:**

- Supporting postdocs from all disciplines, with a novel and rigorous project, and willing to engage in dialogue with other disciplines and on relevant social issues
- Fellows are free to work at research institutions anywhere in the world
- Evaluated by Branco Weiss Directorate, selected ETH faculty members, and external reviewers
- Two-step procedure with interview

### **Conditions:**

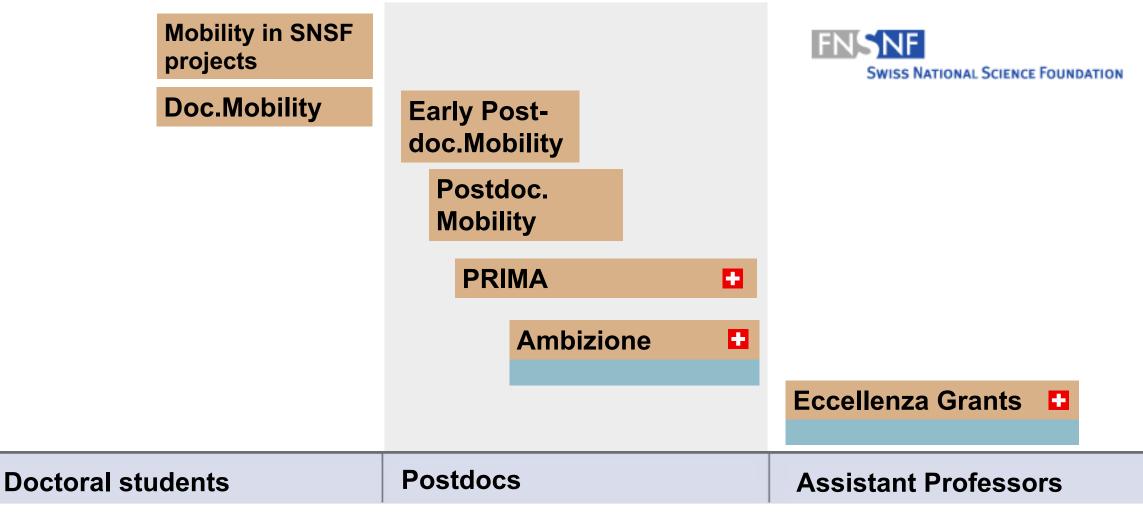
- up to five years after PhD
- Record of outstanding scientific achievement
- project departs from mainstream of discipline

**Duration and Funding:** Financial support (CHF 100'000 / year) for up to five years (2+3 years)

Target size: max.10 fellows p.a.

Success rate 1–3% overall, BUT...

### **SNSF Career Funding Instruments**



# **Ambizione Fellowships**

http://www.snf.ch/en/funding/careers/ambizione

- Aimed at young researchers who wish to conduct, manage and lead an independent research project at a Swiss institution
- for outstanding researchers aiming at an academic career; step towards early scientific independence
- Research stay at other institution (CH, abroad or non-academic) can be included
- Open to all researchers: from Switzerland and abroad
- Mobility requirement: at least 12 months of research at institution other than doctorate institution

### Academic age:

at the latest 4 years after doctorate with at least 1 year of research experience as a postdoc

Deadline at SNSF: 1 November 2019

### **Duration:**

max. 4 years, min 2 years of funding

### **Eligible Costs:**

Salary: ~105 kCHF/Year (optional)

Project funds: max. 400'000 CHF for 4 years, e.g. doctoral student can be employed

## PRIMA – Promoting Women in Acad Deadline at SNSF: 1 November 2019

http://www.snf.ch/en/funding/careers/prima

- 5-year fellowships for excellent female researchers
- Aim: promote scientific independence of highly qualified women researchers with excellent research idea
- Increase chances of obtaining a professorship
- Non-linear career paths welcome
- No prior mobility required, but have to plan research stay at another host institution during PRIMA fellowship

- New: leadership programme: coaching, workshops, networking
- Transfer of PRIMA grants: if appointed a professorship in Switzerland during PRIMA, remaining funds can be transferred to the new position.
- Eligibility: 2–10 years after doctorate, with at least two years of postdoctoral research activity
- Contribution: in total: ~ CHF 1.2 mio. salary + project funds: max. CHF 750'000 for 5 years

#### **H**zürich

## **Obligations of the universities (PRIMA & Ambizione):** Internal deadline: 15 October 2019 confirmation letters SNSF deadline: 1 November 2019

Consists of **two separate documents**:

**Detailed confirmation** of the host unit:

Submission to the Office of Research by **15 October 2019** in electronic format; signature of

**Contact Person** and **Head of Department** mandatory

General confirmation by the VPFW

Following receipt, a **letter signed by VPFW** will be issued and sent to the Contact Person before the SNSF submission deadline

Attention: Time of employment in non-permanent working contracts at the ETH Zurich is **limited** – check before applying

### Limited time of employment in non-permanent working contracts

- Mobility is important a research career at ETH Zurich is not possible, a research career without mobility is almost impossible.
- Time of employment in non-permanent working contracts at the ETH Zurich is limited:
  - Six years as scientific assistant (Doctoral Student and/or Postdoc)
  - Six years as senior assistant (Oberassistent/Oberassistentin)
  - Twelve years maximum in total in all ETH domain institutions together
- Age limit for new assistant professor positions at ETHZ: ~35 years

### SNSF-Eccellenza (replaced the SNF-Professorships)

#### **SNSF Eccellenza Professorial Fellowships**

- Objective: obtaining a permanent professorship
- Eligible are outstanding researchers from all disciplines that have not yet obtained an AP
- Eligibility: at least 3 and max. 8 years after PhD; CH citizen or have worked at CH institution for at least 2 years
- Award: own salary, plus project funds of up to CHF 1 Mio, for 5 years; no extension.

SNSF deadline: 1 February 2020

#### **SNSF Eccellenza Grants**

- Eligible: Researchers in all disciplines who have recently been appointed as AP with tenure track
- Eligibility Window: min. a granted position at the start of the project and max. 18 months of employment as APTT at the time of submission
- Award: project funds for 5 years, max. CHF 1.5 Mio.

More information: ETHZ Office of Faculty Affairs

### SNSF: Early Postdoc.Mobility Fellowships (EPM)

**Deadlines:** 1 March and 1 Sep, to be discontinued by the end of 2020

**Goal:** research stay abroad after PhD, to enhance academic profile, preparation for scientific career (in Switzerland)

**Research location:** different form place of education, not in the home country

**Eligibility:** Candidates have obtained or will soon obtain their doctorate from ETH (application between 9 months before and 2 years after PhD completion possible) & must have a valid residence permit to apply

**Benefits:** grant for subsistence costs at research location, for 18 months (+ 6 months by host institution, if possible), funding level adapted to host country, higher rates for grantees accompanied by spouses and children, plus travel allowance, research costs, budget for conference attendances

Evaluation committee: ETH Zurich Research Commission

Success rate: currently around 50 %.

### **SNSF: Postdoc.Mobility**

Deadlines: 1 February, 1 August

**Goal:** research stay abroad after PhD, to enhance academic profile, preparation for scientific career (in Switzerland)

**Research location:** different from place of education, not in the home country

**Eligibility:** up to three years after PhD completion and valid residence permit **Benefits:** same as EPM

Duration: stay abroad for 24 months (12 months min), with possible return grants to CH from 3 to 12 months,

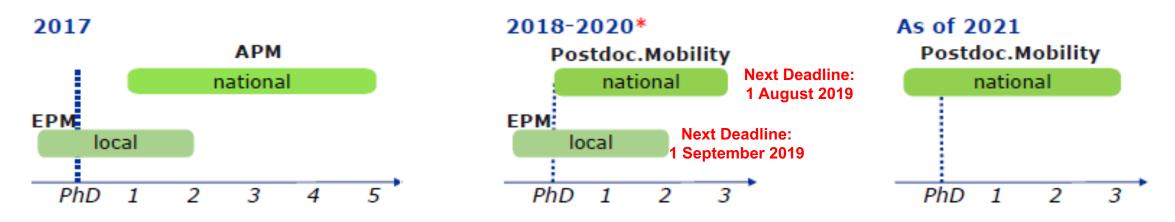
...for previous EPM-Fellows, a PM as a prolongation is possible. However, time windows become very narrow!

Evaluation committee: SNSF committee

Success rate: about 50%

## SNSF: Postdoc.Mobility: Towards one postdoc mobility scheme

#### Eligibility windows and evaluation levels



**Condition: Valid residence permit or CH passport on submission date** 

**EPM = Early Postdoc.Mobility**: Supported stay abroad by SNSF: 18 months. ETH Zurich Research Commission expects + 6 months paid by host in lab abroad.

**PM = Postdoc Mobility:** Supported stay abroad by SNSF 24 months, with possible return grants to CH from 3 to 12 months, open to all researchers, evaluated by SNSF directly

#### **SNSF: Scientific Exchanges and Agora**

#### **Scientific Exchanges:**

- to set up and strengthen international networks
- to host scientific events (eg conferences) or conduct research visits (applicant visits researchers abroad or hosts guests), 6 months max
- between CHF 2'500 and CHF 25'000

#### Agora:

- public science communication projects
- related to own research
- to foster dialogue between science and society
- between CHF 5k and CHF 200K for 3 years max

### Some tips

- Science first!
- Urban legends be aware that they exist and find out for yourself
- Read carefully through the instructions: deadlines, check your eligibility, if in doubt contact the managing offices
- Plan ahead eligibility windows might close
- Start early you also need reference letters, confirmation of host institutions, etc.
- Talk to people who have won a fellowship (e.g. p3 research database)
- Get informed about the evaluation committee
- SNSF instruments:
  - Information events at/by SNSF: Advanced researchers' days, Research days at universities
  - Ask SNSF staff they know best

#### Thank you for your attention!

Further information: Office of Research

ethfellows@sl.ethz.ch snf\_fellows@sl.ethz.ch

Elisabeth Mitter elisabeth.mitter@sl.ethz.ch

## **Grant applications**

Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich

#### Lavinia Heisenberg (ETH-ITP) Institute for Theoretical Physics, Zürich Lavinia.Heisenberg@phys.ethz.ch

15th April 2019, ETH-Zürich, Switzerland

erc

## **Grant Applications**

## ERC

### **Treated as Assistant Prof**

## PRIMA

## **Treated as Senior Scientist**

## As competitive as SNF Excellenza!

## **Grant Applications**

## PRIMA

Application as involved as in SNF Excellenza
 Big group (1PhD+2Postdocs)
 Equal amount of money (1.3-1.5 Mio CHF)
 Competitive as SNF Excellenza (8%)

BUT they treat you as senior scientist!

## **Independent researcher**





### You have to show your independence (your own idea)

**Previous Fellowships very useful for that!** 

## **Two evaluations**



Competent, independent, efficient, successful?

**Previous accomplishments ?** 

Supervision and teaching experience?

## Proposal

# THE PERFECT Proposal

Everything you need to craft effective, winning proposals

Novel, innovative, huge impact?

Why will make your project a breakthrough?

## Preparation

Take your time for writing the proposal (1-2 months)

Send your proposal to colleagues/professors/supervisors

**Use the services of EU GrantsAccess** 

Take your time for the preparation of the interview (1 month)

**Practice** a lot your own presentation (5-15 minutes)

**Use the services of EURESEARCH** 

## Preparation

- Write in the "I" form rather than "We"
- If you use "We", specify who is meant by "We".
- **Go** "beyond yourself" concerning your expertise but not too much (1WP or 2 max)
- Give more hints on your excellence.
- **Risk/Gain balance? Backup plans?**

The preparation takes a lot of time BUT useful for later!

## Interview

- One slide on PI (your CV)
- **One slide on the State of Art (background information)**
- The Main Goal of your project (its substructure)
- Novelty, Innovation and Impact

Inform yourself about the committee members!