



## PhD Scholarship, Full PhD Degree-Program (up to max. 36 months)

### 1. Prerequisites:

- Master degree or equivalent university degree recognised by the host institution
- Not older than 35 years old
- Letter of commitment (email accepted) by a Professor of the host institution to supervise the PhD thesis **OR**
- Copy of the confirmation e-mail received upon registration **in the case of a structured doctoral program at UZH**
- Research proposal with time-frame
- Applicants living in Switzerland for more than a year at the beginning of the scholarship are not eligible to apply

### 2. Obligation for supervisor to provide additional funding for doctoral students with a PhD scholarship

Supervisors of doctoral students with a Swiss Government Excellence Scholarship are required to top up the scholarship with a part-time job appointment.

**The difference between the FCS fellowship and the minimum salary for SNF doctoral students is to be funded by the supervisor/institute.**

Detailed information on the amount of the differential payment and on the employment of doctoral students with a federal scholarship can be found in the fact sheet "[FCS Scholarship Holders](#)" (accessible to UZH members).

### 3. Scholarship Application and Admission Application – Two Independent Processes

The application for a PhD scholarship also requires the application for PhD at UZH. **Please note** that the scholarship application and the PhD application at UZH are different and individual procedures. **Please further note that the above-mentioned letter of commitment** has to be issued by a professor with the right to award doctorates. In his/her letter the willingness to supervise you during your entire doctoral studies at UZH has to be clearly stated. **The scholarship will only be granted after having been successfully admitted to UZH.**

- Offers for a scholarship application are published each year in early August on the website of the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation [SERI](#)
- The scholarship begins the following year on 1 September
- Application packages are available through [Swiss representations](#) worldwide
- Types of scholarships as well as application deadlines differ depending on the country. Detailed information, procedures and the address for submission can be found here:
  - [Please select your continent](#)



#### 4. Selection and Assessment of a Scholarship

A preliminary selection will be conducted by national authorities and/or by the Swiss diplomatic representation. In a second step, professors from all Swiss public universities examine the applications for three criteria:

- The candidate's academic profile and research capacity
- Quality, originality and methodological soundness of the research project
- Synergies and potential for future research cooperation

The final selection and scholarship award by the Federal Commission for Scholarships takes place between April and May each year. 1 September marks the beginning of the scholarship year.

#### 5. Finding Research Supervision

One of the preconditions for a successful scholarship application of each type\* is a commitment by a professor to scientifically supervise study and project during your stay at UZH.

Finding a professor eligible and willing to act as scientific advisor as well as initiating the necessary contact lies within your personal responsibility. Administrative offices at UZH cannot be of assistance. Please browse the UZH website to find a professor whose field matches your project. (Please also see links to UZH faculties and UZH research below).

Please directly contact the professor with the following documents (all in PDF):

- CV
- Detailed study plan
- Letter of sound motivation
- Copies of certificates and diplomas
- FCS-flyer "Will you be my supervisor" (optional, but recommended)

**\*Exception:** application for a doctorate within a PhD program or at a graduate school. **Instead of the requested letter of commitment** by a supervising professor (for the scholarship application), you must attach a **copy of the confirmation e-mail** which you will receive upon your registration. The first step of this application is without costs. Information on requirements and application material as well as the registration deadlines are published on the website of the faculty or institute in question. The institute itself will decide on admission to its program.

**A simultaneous processing with the scholarship application is highly recommended** as dates for interviews differ from program to program.

**The scholarship will only be granted after having been successfully admitted to UZH.**

#### 6. PhD at UZH

Information on first steps to a PhD as well as an overview of doctoral programs and graduate schools at UZH can be found [here](#).

Please note the different application procedures for the individual doctorate and the PhD programs / graduate schools:

##### **Application Procedure Individual Doctorate - Doctoral Programs and Graduate Schools**

For an **individual PhD** the contact with a UZH professor entitled and willing to supervise your doctoral project is a precondition for the application.



In certain fields only **structured doctoral programs** are offered. Application processes differ and the necessary steps to be taken for the application are explained on the website of each program. Please find details on application and admissions to doctoral studies [here](#).

Links

- UZH Faculties <https://www.uzh.ch/en/about/faculties.html>
- UZH Research <https://www.research.uzh.ch/en.html>