

USI support to doctoral mobility

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Doc.Mobility: from SNSF to USI

- The SNSF “Doc.Mobility” instrument will not be continued after 2020.
The SNSF funds the mobility of doctoral students only through the “mobility grants in projects” scheme, dedicated to PhD students employed on a SNSF project.
- SNSF Postdoc.Mobility will be continued.
- USI is launching this new opportunity to support PhD students not funded by the SNSF willing to go abroad for a research stay.

USI support to Doc.Mobility

Aim

Financial support for a research stay abroad for doctoral students matriculated at USI.

Personal Requirements

- Matriculation as a doctoral student for at least 12 months.
- Swiss nationality, permanent residence, residence or cross-border commuter permit, or marriage resp. registered partnership with a Swiss.
- PhD students employed on a SNSF project are not eligible (--> SNSF mobility grants in project).
- Applicants must confirm in writing their intention to continue their doctoral studies at USI and obtain their doctorate here once the mobility has ended.

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Duration and budget

- Research stay abroad of 6-12 months.
- Financial support covers the additional costs for staying abroad, such as travel and living costs as well as fees for conferences and workshops of up to CHF 20'000 (reimbursement). Higher rates may be assigned to grantees accompanied by family members.
- It does not replace the PhD salary.

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Place of research

- Must be abroad.
- For scientific reasons, it is possible to split the stay between more than one place of research.
- Should not lie in the home country of the applicant (exceptions may be accepted for scientific reasons) and must be different from the place of education (BA and MA).
- A written invitation letter is required. It has to state clearly that the necessary infrastructure is available for the duration of the fellowship and mention start and end dates of the stay.

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Submission deadline

- In 2021 two submission deadlines are planned: 1 March and 1 September.
Start of the stay abroad at the earliest 4 months after the submission deadline.
- Submission to commissione.ricerca@usi.ch

Application documents

- Application form (available here: <https://www.usi.ch/en/node/14954>)
- Curriculum vitae (max. 2 pages)
- Publication list
- Research plan (max. 4 pages)
- Invitation letter
- Support letter from PhD supervisor (to be submitted directly by the supervisor)

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Evaluation criteria

- quality, originality and topicality of the research project to be carried out during the research stay;
- scientific track record of the applicants;
- personal aptitude of the applicants:
 - for successfully completing their doctoral studies as well as their actual chances of obtaining the doctorate following the mobility fellowship and
 - of embarking on a scientific career;
- quality of the intended research location (working conditions, possibilities for professional supervision and further education).

Writing a successful proposal

Content of the research plan (max. 4 pages)

- short description of the planned research;
- reasons of the stay and choice of the host institution;
- expected results and relation to the doctorate.

Application preparation

- Start preparing your submission in due time.
- Read and follow the regulations (formal conditions).
- Request the reference letter and the confirmation form your host institute enough in advance.
- If you have questions, do not hesitate to contact the Research and Transfer Service.

Other funding opportunities

SNSF Mobility grants in projects

- 6-12 months research stay abroad for PhD students employed on a SNSF project.
- CHF 20'000 to cover travel and living costs as well as fees for conferences.
- Submission all year round through mySNF.

SNSF Postdoc.Mobility

- 24 months research stay abroad for Postdocs.
- Submission from 9 months before PhD defense and up to 3 years after obtainment of the PhD.
- Fellowship including a grant for subsistence costs, a flat-rate for travel expenses and a possible contribution to research and conference costs.

Other funding opportunities - 2

Cotutelle de thèse (Swissuniversities)

- Financial support for joint PhDs.
- Max. CHF 10'000 to cover travel and living expenses incurred by doctoral candidate and supervisors.
- Submission deadline: 31 March 2021 (yearly).

Bridge Proof of Concept

- Supporting young researchers to apply their research results and gain the confidence needed to make a market entry.
- 12 months, max. CHF 130'000; applicant's salary and costs related to the realization of the project.
- Up to 4 calls per year. Next deadline: 8 March 2021.

Contacts and information

Research and Transfer Service

- Dafne Pedrazzoli: dafne.pedrazzoli@usi.ch
- Benedetto Lepori: benedetto.lepori@usi.ch

Research Commission

- commissione.ricerca@usi.ch
- <https://www.usi.ch/en/university/organisation/structure/commissions/research-commission>

Funding opportunities

- <https://www.usi.ch/it/universita/info/srit>