



Innovative Policies for Fostering Academic Careers in Switzerland

Policy Highlights

GRC Career Grant

Motivation

Funding available to early career researchers for their own research project. With the GRC Career Grant we support postdocs and advanced doctoral researchers in situations where unforeseen costs or structural obstacles complicate a promising academic career.

Action

Projects can be applied for individually or as a group. The application volume is between CHF 5,000 and CHF 15,000. One repetition for the same project is possible in principle, but first-time applications are given priority. The call for applications for the GRC Career Grants is made twice a year. The format of eligible activities is deliberately kept open to accommodate the widest possible range of academic projects. The core objective of the GRC Career Grant is to ensure both an added value of the activity for the individual academic career of the grantee and ecologically and socially sustainable project planning. A necessary condition for funding through a GRC Career Grant is that the project cannot be funded through other means. In the award process, it is therefore checked whether other funding options are available.

Learning

A prerequisite for the submission of an application is a completed counseling interview with a Graduate Campus officer. This was implemented for two reasons: First, we use it as an artificial bottleneck to manage the applicants' demand and expectations and to save resources on both sides. Second, it seemed to be necessary to be able to properly test eligibility and actual needs. The mechanism proved to be successful, yet it is time-intensive and cannot be automatized.

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