



Innovative Policies for Fostering Academic Careers in Switzerland

Policy Highlights

GRC Short Grant

Motivation

Funding available to early career researchers for their own research project. With the GRC Short 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 500 and CHF 5,000. Repeated submissions for the same project are not possible. The call for GRC Short Grants is open continuously and applications are accepted on an ongoing basis. The submission date must be 3 months prior to the start of the activity. The format of eligible activities is deliberately kept open to accommodate the widest possible range of academic projects. The core objective of the GRC Short Grant is both to ensure 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 Short Grant is that the project cannot be funded through other means, we therefore rely heavily on a principle of matching-funds to incentivize other stakeholders (like collaborating groups, chairs, institutes and/or faculties) to live up to their responsibilities.

Learning

Assessing the degree to which the Short Grant scheme is used by other stakeholders to externalize costs has proven challenging and difficult to operationalize. Collecting more background information from supervisors and/or institutes through the applications might help but will have to be backed by the faculties and is not straightforwardly operationalized in a process general enough to cover all our target groups.

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