



Innovative Policies for Fostering Academic Careers in Switzerland

Policy Highlights

GRC Travel Grant

Motivation

Through the GRC Travel Grants, UZH Graduate Campus supports postdocs and doctoral researchers of UZH in situations where academic mobility can make a decisive contribution to a promising academic career. The support is explicitly intended as a supplement to the existing measures of UZH. The core aim of the GRC Travel Grants is both an added value of the activity for the individual academic career of the grantee and ecologically and socially sustainable project planning.

Action

The possible time frame of the funded activities is between 1 and 180 days. GRC Travel Grants are announced twice a year. The list of activities supported includes field study / data collection; research; academic meetings / conferences; Summer / Winter schools; research stay; research exchange with industry.

Learning

Due to overwhelming demand, the submission window had to be limited to 100 applications and closes automatically after the count of 100 submissions is reached. As a process, this is not optimal as it puts a premium on being fast instead of being thorough. Ultimately, this is an effect of the trade-off between basing decisions on collecting substantial information through the applications on the one hand and the high volume of travelling in current academic careers on the other. The small differences in quality between applications near the budget line, which separates accepted from rejected projects, suggest the idea of using a lottery for decision-making instead of relying on detailed evaluations.

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