

Regulations governing the Swiss Young Academy

Adopted on 16 December 2019 by the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences' board of directors and based on Art. 9 of the Academies' statutes



Preamble

Supporting the next generation of academics is a top priority for the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences. It is important that young scholars and researchers in Switzerland are given a voice. Currently, no institutionalised approach to supporting these academics that is informed by the principles of inter- and transdisciplinary discourse exists in the country. In response, the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences have set significant objectives in their multi-annual programme for 2017–2020 aimed at supporting young academics. In addition to outlining key measures focused on implementing the Federal Council's 2014 report on supporting young academics (entitled *Massnahmen zur Förderung des wissenschaftlichen Nachwuchses in der Schweiz*), the programme also includes measures aimed at creating better conditions for advancing the careers of women and proposes the establishment of a national academy for young academics.

The Swiss Young Academy (SYA) plays an important role in opening up Switzerland's academic system. It represents a connective hinge between different generations and supports young academics in increasing flexibility and mobility within their academic careers. Moreover, the SYA provides an institutional setting within which young academics can develop the ability to engage in interdisciplinary discourse and pursue a specific interest in transdisciplinary issues at the intersection of science and society early on in their careers. This engagement results in an independent force in science policy that will be instrumental in promoting a rational intergenerational discussion about the future of academia. The SYA is active nationally and internationally on the behalf of young scholars, both as a partner and point of contact for Swiss academia, and it gives voice to the younger generation within the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences.

The Swiss Young Academy is committed to the freedom of expression and does not tolerate racist, xenophobic, or sexist statements or conduct.

Swiss Young Academy (SYA)

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Art. 1 - Name, Purpose, and Objectives

¹ The following names are to be used for the Swiss Young Academy in their respective languages:

- a. Junge Akademie Schweiz;
- b. Jeune Académie Suisse;
- c. Giovane Accademia Svizzera;
- d. Academia Giuven Svizra;
- e. Swiss Young Academy (SYA).

² The Swiss Young Academy is a platform of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences, established with the purpose of supporting young academics.

³ The Swiss Young Academy pursues its objectives of enhancing young scholars' skills and expanding their academic networks with the following measures:

- a. providing a networking platform focused on dialogue, current issues, and questions related to science policy;
- b. encouraging inter- and transdisciplinary collaboration by supporting joint projects carried out by young researchers that, as a general rule, are focused on topics related to the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences' main areas of focus;
- c. providing mentoring and development programmes for young academics that, among other benefits, strengthen participants' national and international networks and complement existing development initiatives;
- d. promoting equal opportunities and creating an awareness for issues related to society, academia, and dialogue.

⁴ This trans- and interdisciplinary academy has been established in order to pursue the following objectives:

- a. to enhance young researchers' skills and thus further their careers by providing them access to a strong network both within the association of academies and beyond;
- b. to encourage young academics to assume more responsibility by fostering dialogue on science policy between stakeholders from society, politics, and academia and by promoting inter- and transdisciplinary collaboration in areas where different disciplines of academic research intersect;
- c. to represent the Academies' younger generation of researchers in the areas of education, research, and innovation as well as at the national and international levels;
- d. to involve young staff in the Academies' activities.

Art. 2 - Relationship between the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences and the Swiss Young Academy

- ¹ The Swiss Young Academy is a platform of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences that presents itself as the Swiss Young Academy outside of the Academies. The SYA's head office is located in the House of Academies in Bern.
- ² By establishing and supporting the Swiss Young Academy, the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences are advocating for the advancement of young academics. Collaboration is encouraged between the SYA and the individual institutions within the Academies' association. A representative from the SYA may participate in important meetings held by the Academies (board of directors meeting, delegates assembly, discussion sessions (séance de réflexion), etc.).
- ³ The Swiss Young Academy has the freedom to develop its own programmes within the thematic areas of focus set in the Academies' multi-annual programme and performance agreement. In addition, the SYA is free to shape its own organisational structures while remaining subject to the overriding authority of the Academies' board of directors. The SYA is subject to the oversight of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences.

Art. 3 - Members

- ¹ Individuals who are interested in inter- and transdisciplinary collaboration, have a record of outstanding achievements at the level of higher education, and, above all, are motivated and prepared to make a serious commitment can become members of the Swiss Young Academy. Candidates must demonstrate clear ties to education, research, and innovation in Switzerland.
- ² Candidates should be no older than 40 years of age. Exceptions may be made if they are justified. As a general rule, members should have completed their speciality training (for physicians) or their doctorate (for all other academics) no more than seven years prior to being elected into the Swiss Young Academy. Candidates who graduated from universities of applied sciences or universities of teacher education should have obtained the highest possible degree no more than seven years prior to being elected into the SYA. Additional criteria are listed on the application form.
- ³ As a general rule, the Swiss Young Academy is limited to 25 members. Members are elected for five years and may not be re-elected. The SYA strives for a membership that reflects a balanced distribution of genders, language regions, academic disciplines, and university types.

Art. 4 - Governing Bodies

¹ The Swiss Young Academy consists of the following governing bodies:

- a. the general assembly,
- b. the executive board,
- c. the advisory council,
- d. the administrative office.

Art. 5 - Election of Members and Duties of the General Assembly

¹ The general assembly appoints an election commission, which is responsible for electing members into the Swiss Young Academy every two years. The SYA's members and its advisory council are entitled to nominate potential members. In the alternate years, the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences' board of directors is responsible for electing new members. Applications are accepted.

² All members together comprise the general assembly.

³ The general assembly performs the following duties:

- a. approving the list of new member nominations;
- b. approving joint projects;
- c. electing the executive board;
- d. electing the speaker;
- e. appointing the election commission;
- f. approving the budget adopted by the executive board and the annual financial statement;
- g. approving the annual report adopted by the executive board;
- h. terminating memberships;
- i. submitting requests for amendments to the SYA's regulations to the Academies' board of directors.

Art. 6 - Election and Duties of the Executive Board

¹ The general assembly elects the five members of the executive board for one year and elects one of the board members to be the speaker. The speaker heads the executive board and has guest status on the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences' board of directors, thus giving him or her the right to submit motions and the right to be heard by the board of directors. In addition, the speaker represents the Swiss Young Academy within the Academies and externally. The SYA's administrative office is represented on the executive board in an advisory capacity and also has the right to submit motions.

- ² The executive board performs the following duties:
- a. preparing the list of new member nominations to be presented to the general assembly;
 - b. making suggestions regarding the approval of joint projects to be presented to the general assembly;
 - c. adopting the budget and annual financial statement to be presented to the general assembly;
 - d. adopting the annual report to be presented to the general assembly;
 - e. proposing the termination of memberships to be presented to the general assembly;
 - f. submitting requests for amendments to the SYA's regulations to the Academies' board of directors.
- ³ At least three members of the executive board must be present to constitute a quorum. Votes may be taken electronically provided that no one objects.

Art. 7 - Election and Duties of the Advisory Council

- ¹ The advisory council interacts with the individual academies and centres of excellence within the association of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences. It consists of eight to fourteen council members, who are elected for four years by the Academies' board of directors. Each academy and each centre of excellence in the association has one representative on the council. Additional members are elected from various institutions involved with young academics. The SYA strives for an advisory council that reflects a balanced distribution of ages, genders, language regions, academic disciplines, and university types. Members may be re-elected once. Young academics should be adequately represented.
- ² The Swiss Young Academy's advisory council performs the following duties:
- a. advising and supporting members of the SYA on matters related to their personal interests and joint projects;
 - b. actively working to improve the conditions for the SYA both at the national and international levels;
 - c. building up a mentoring network;
 - d. preparing the list of new SYA member nominations every other year to be presented to the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences' board of directors.
- ³ The advisory council elects its president, who chairs its meetings and prepares the agenda. The president is elected for four years and may be re-elected once.
- ⁴ The advisory council and general assembly convene together at least once each year.

Art. 8 - Administrative Office

¹ The Swiss Young Academy's administrative office is located at the head office of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences.

² The administrative office performs the following duties in particular:

- a. preparing and following up meetings and workshops;
- b. attending general assembly meetings and executive board meetings in an advisory capacity and with the right to submit motions;
- c. organising events;
- d. coordinating various activities;
- e. familiarising new members with the SYA and providing them with support;
- f. cultivating contacts with the organisations within the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences, with other academies for young academics, and with other organisations active in the areas of education, research, and innovation;
- g. handling communication and preparing the SYA's annual report within the context of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences;
- h. receiving applications and assessing their compliance with all application requirements;
- i. approving reporting on implemented projects.

Art. 9 - Project Support

¹ The SYA provides funding for the following types of projects:

- a. Joint Projects: Groups of between two and six members of the Swiss Young Academy may request funding for a joint project whose focus lies within one of the thematic areas set by the Academies.
- b. Personal Projects: An individual member may request funding for a project that supports his or her academic development or addresses one of the Academies' thematic areas.

² Based on suggestions from its members, the Swiss Young Academy's general assembly creates working groups to facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration. Projects are approved at the general assembly.

Art. 10 - Funding

¹ Subject to the approval of the federal authorities, each member is allocated a personal budget of CHF 5,000 for the entire term of his or her membership. A member may also apply these budgeted funds to joint projects. As a general rule, a member may request CHF 1,000 of these budgeted funds each year. In exceptional and duly justified situations, the funds may be distributed differently over an individual's five years of membership.

- ² Subject to the approval of the federal authorities, each year CHF 150,000 are allocated to joint projects aimed at fulfilling the objectives and duties of the Swiss Young Academy outlined in Article 1. Use of these funds is subject to the approval of the executive board and the administrative oversight of the SYA's administrative office. Rules of recusal must be observed.
- ³ The regulations of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences apply to acquiring external funding.

Art. 11 - Termination of Membership

- ¹ Membership in the Swiss Young Academy ends after five years, on the day the SYA's annual membership ceremony takes place.
- ² Each member is free to resign from the Swiss Young Academy before his or her membership is due to end. A member must inform the administrative office of his or her resignation and must provide the SYA's speaker with a written explanation. Any entitlement to further support ends upon resignation.
- ³ Membership may be revoked if a member engages in academic misconduct (whether or not it is related to his or her work with the SYA) or if a member violates the legal principles of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences or the Swiss Young Academy. Upon request and after consulting with the individual involved, the general assembly determines whether such misconduct has occurred.

Art. 12 - Audit

- ¹ The Swiss Young Academy or the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences may take steps to initiate an audit. An audit must be authorised by the Academies' board of directors.

Art. 13 - Entry into Force

- ¹ The Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences are the author of these regulations. They enter into force upon being approved by the Academies' board of directors.

Art. 14 - Transitional Provisions

The Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences' board of directors elects members to the Swiss Young Academy in the year it is established. The SYA's advisory council draws up the list of nominations. In the following year, the SYA's election commission is responsible for electing members. The first twenty-five members are chosen following an open call for members.

Bern, 15 January 2020

Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences



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