



How does the SNSF support careers in research?

Marcel Kullin, November 2011



SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION



Summary

1. SNSF in brief
2. Funding opportunities for young researchers
 - Funding chain
 - Funding Instruments
 - Success rates
3. Outlook for Humanities & Social Sciences



What is important for an academic career?

Liberty  Security

Autonomy  Supervision

Stable Financing  Temporary Financing

Personal Support  Administrative Support

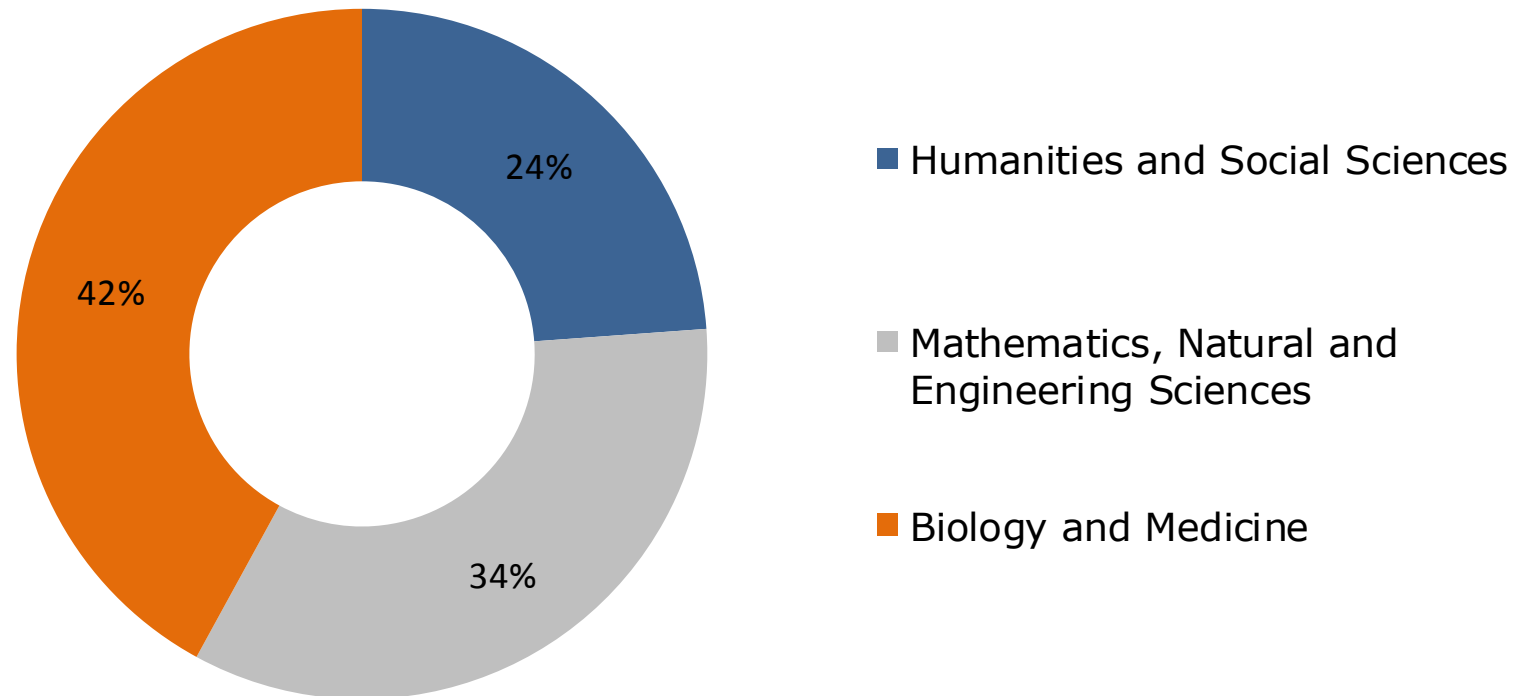
Disciplinary  Interdisciplinary

Teaching  Research

Individuality  Team

Funding by research area 2010

Distribution of the approved amounts



Total: CHF 726 million
(580 Mio. Euros)

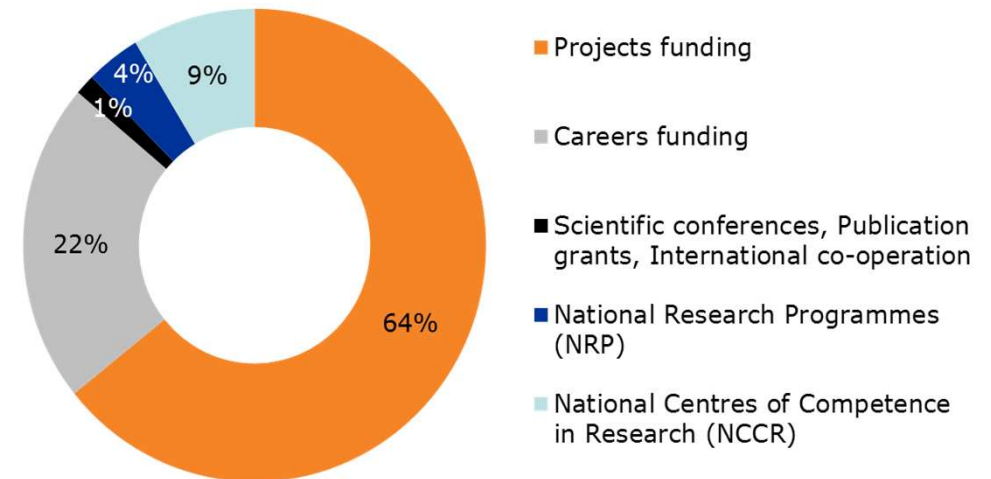
Funding of research careers through several channels

Project Funding (Div. I-III)

- **70-75% of budget is used to finance salaries of:**

Postdocs:	2300
PhD students	3600
Technicians:	460
Auxiliary personnel:	280

Distribution of the approved amounts



Specific Career Instruments

Instruments to advance the career of young and promising scientists according to specific needs



Career funding

Who can apply?

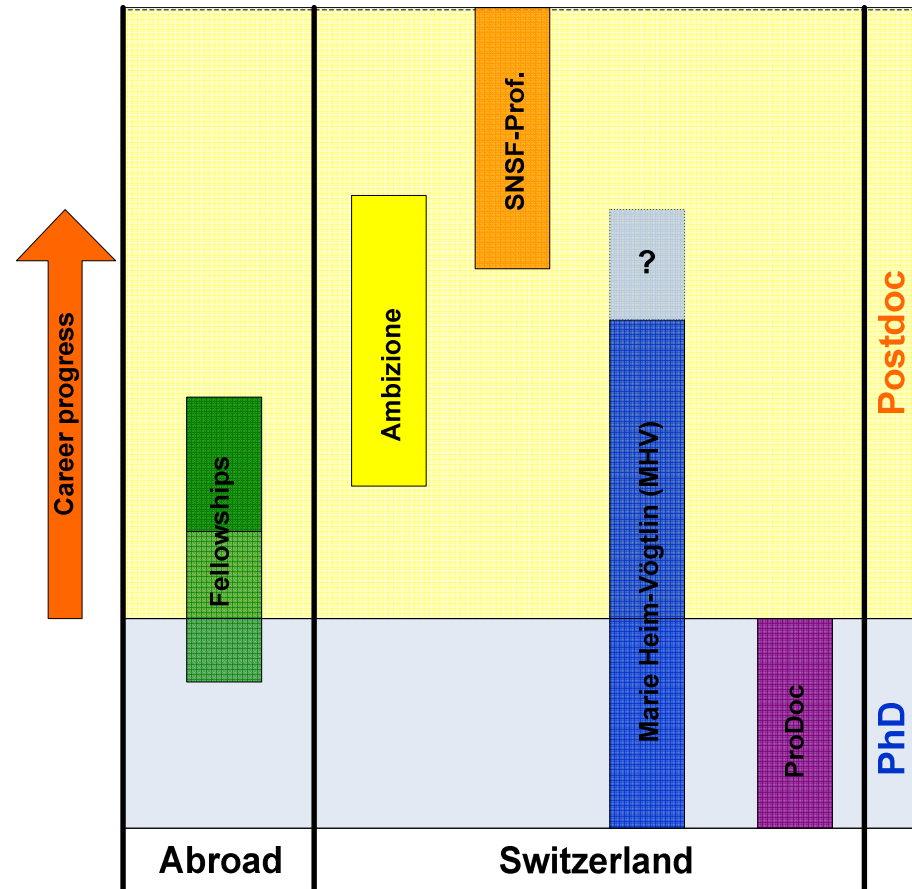
- Individuals looking to finance their own salary
- Researchers between the levels of PhD and professorship

What are major purposes of career instruments?

- Supporting mobility
- Increasing early independence
- Improving success for an academic career

Funding chain

- Fellowship grants
 - prospective researchers
 - advanced researchers
- Ambizione
- SNSF Professorships
- Marie Heim-Vögtlin
- ProDoc (doctoral schools)





General evaluation criteria

Proposed project

- Scientific relevance, topicality and originality
- Suitability of methods and feasibility

Applicants

- Scientific track record
- Professional expertise with regard to the project (in project funding)

Career funding

- Mobility (past and future)
- Host institution
- Qualification/potential for scientific/academic career



SNF Fellowships



- _ Research stay abroad (mobility)
- _ Free choice of research subject
- _ All scientific disciplines
- _ Swiss nationality, residence or settlement permit, or cross-border commuter permit
- _ Relation to Swiss research (min. 2 years at a Swiss academic institution)

- _ 2 categories of fellowships:
 - _ Fellowships for **prospective** researchers
 - _ Fellowships for **advanced** researchers

SNF Fellowships for prospective researchers



- _ Duration: **postdoc:** 12 – 36 months
candoc: 6 – 24 months (at the end of the thesis)

- _ Up to 3 years after obtaining a doctorate

- _ Selection by local Research Commission

- > 450 per year

- _ Percentage women: 40%

- _ Amount: CHF 42'000.– / 54'500.–
travelling costs, congress costs (max. CHF 2'000.–
p.a.), child allowance (CHF 9'000.– /child/year),
etc.



SNF Fellowships for advanced researchers



- _ Duration: postdoc only: 12 – 36 months
- _ At least one year postdoctoral experience (submission deadline)
- _ Up to 5 years after obtaining a doctorate
- _ Submission deadlines: 1 February and 1 August
- _ 120 per year
- _ Percentage women: 40%
- _ Amount: CHF 47'000.– / 59'500.–
travelling costs, congress costs (max. CHF 2'000.–
p.a.), child allowance (CHF 9'000.– /child/year), etc.

Ambizione – goal and requirements



Idea

- Create conditions for starting an independent career in Switzerland (returning and incoming scientists)

Requirements

- Doctorate / PhD / MD, Publications at a high level
- Application submitted no more than 5 years after doctorate/PHD
- Postdoctoral research activities of at least 12 months at a different university from that of the dissertation, generally conducted abroad
- Confirmation from host institute
 - Integration, workplace, access to infrastructure
 - Scientific independence of the applicant
 - Adequate support in the funding of research expenses (e.g. material, equipment, personnel, travel, etc.)
- **Deadline: 15 February**

Ambizione – goal and requirements



Requirements for medical researchers

At the time of the submission deadline (medical researchers)

- At least 3 years of postgraduate clinical activity
(a certificate as a specialist FMH is an advantage)
- Submission no more than 9 years after the state examination

Medical researchers doing clinical work*

- As a rule 80 – 90% devoted to the project and training related to the project
- Minimum of 10% must be devoted to clinical work

*) Ambizione-PROSPER: Prog. for social and preventive medicine, epidemiological, bioethics and nursing research

*) Ambizione-SCORE: Swiss clinicians opting for research

Ambizione – submission of application and evaluation



Phase 1

- Submission of application (mid-February)
 - Project description (max. 10 pages)
 - Career plan (max. 1 page)
 - CV with photo
 - List of publications / publications
 - Copy Dr / PhD / MD certificate
 - Confirmation from host institute
 - Two external statements
 - List of experts (5 – 8 addresses)
 - Budget
- Evaluation
 - National Research Council of the SNSF
- Decision (around mid- / end of May)
 - Invitation to Phase 2 / Rejection

Phase 2

- External scientific evaluation
- Interview (mid-June)
 - Presentation
 - Discussion
- Evaluation
 - National Research Council of the SNSF
- Decision (end of August)
 - Grant / Rejection



Ambizione – contribution



Duration

- 3 years (extension by a maximum of 2 years possible)

Includes

- Own salary (research associate level)
- Project funding (equipment, consumables, travel, etc.)
- Personnel (usually supporting staff, possibly technical personnel, postdoc)
- Candidates with sufficient experience may apply for a PhD student

Contribution

- Max. CHF 600,000 for 3 years
- Applicant is also the beneficiary of the contribution

Number of grants

- 40 – 50 grants per year



SNSF professorships – goal and requirements



Idea

Create conditions for a successful academic career for the best young scientists in Switzerland (adapted conditions for clinicians)

Requirements

- Doctorate / PhD
- Excellent track record
(Publications in peer reviewed journals, etc.)
- At the time of the submission deadline
 - Postdoc research experience of at least 24 months with proven mobility (at least 24 months at a different university from that of the dissertation and at least 12 months abroad)
 - max. of 9 years after PhD
 - Swiss University as host institution

Deadline: beginning of May



SNSF professorships – goal and requirements



Requirements for medical researchers

At the time of the submission deadline (medical researchers)

- proof of postgraduate clinical and research activity
(a certificate as a specialist FMH is an advantage)
- Submission no more than 9 years after the doctorate

Medical researchers doing clinical work

- At least 50% has to be devoted to the project and training related to the project
- a clear-cut time schedule about clinical and research activity has to be established before the start of the grant
- a contact person nominated at the grantee's host institution monitors the activity



SNSF professorships – submission of application and evaluation



Phase 1

- Submission of application (May)
 - Project plan (max. 5 pages)
 - Career plan
 - CV
 - List of publications
 - Confirmation from host institute
- Decision
 - Invitation to Phase 2 / Rejection (end of August)

Phase 2

- Submission of application
 - Research plan (max. 20 pages)
 - Career plan
 - CV
 - List of publications / publications
 - Confirmation from host institute
 - Confirmation from Rector/President of ETHs
 - List of experts (max. 3 addresses)
- External scientific reviewing
- Interview
 - Presentation and discussion
- Decision (end of February)
 - Grant / Rejection



SNSF professorships – contribution



Duration

- 4 years (extension by a maximum of 2 years possible)

Includes

- Own salary (assistant professor level)
- Research allowance for a team and equipment
- Contribution to the infrastructure of the host institution

Contribution

- Max. CHF 1,600,000 for 4 years
- Applicant is also the beneficiary of the contribution

Number of grants

- Approx. 40 grants per year

Marie Heim-Vögtlin grants - goal and requirements



Idea

- Re-integrate and avoid drop out of qualified female researchers with a delay or interruption in their scientific career due to their familial situation (child care or professional career of their partner)
- Open to [doctoral](#) and [postdoctoral](#) candidates who would not have a realistic chance of support through a standard funding scheme

Requirements

- Licentiate, diploma, master or doctorate
- Good scientific qualifications
- [Confirmation from a host institution](#)
- Work-time percentage: at least 50%

Deadline: 2 August

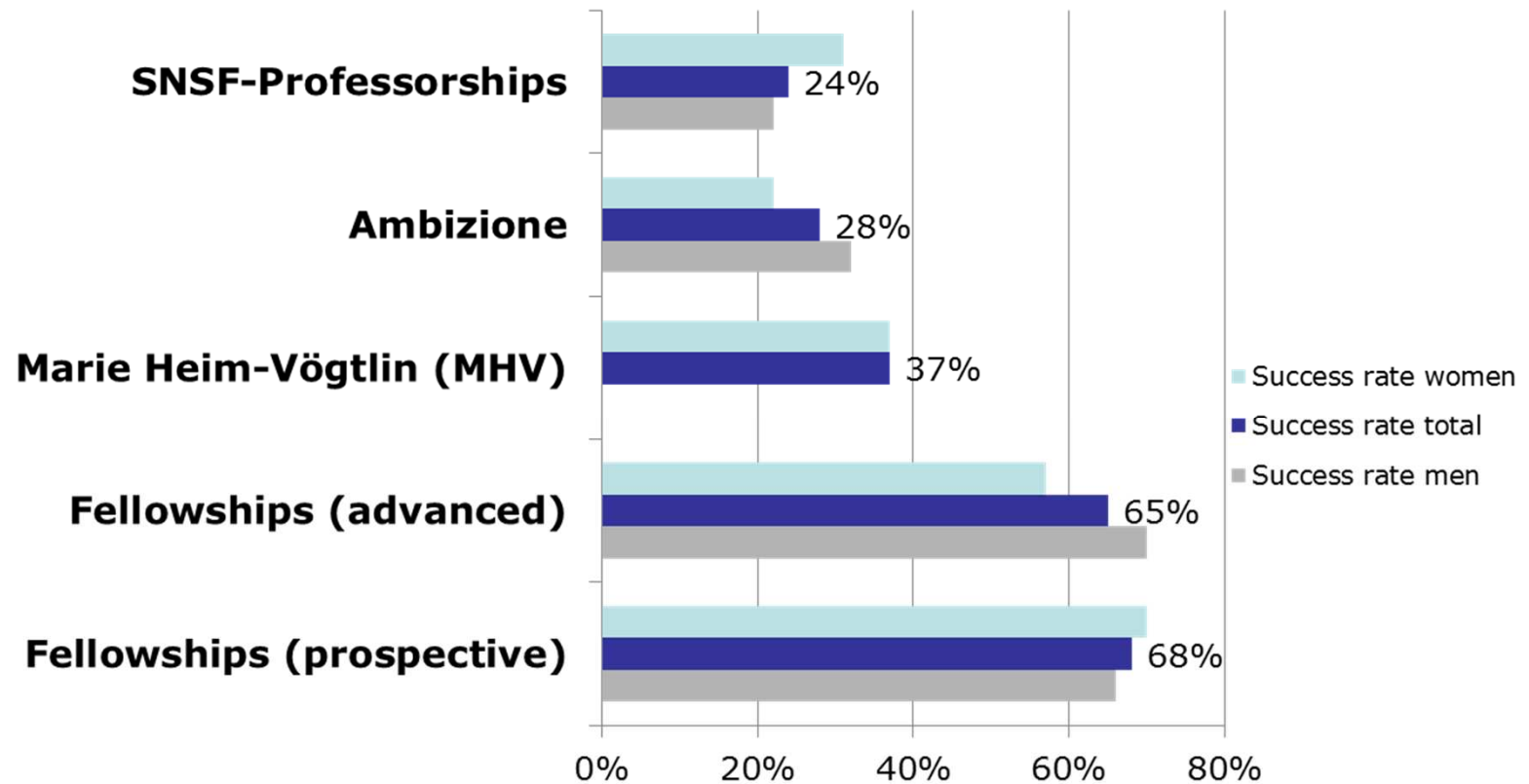
Marie Heim-Vögtlin grants - evaluation



Evaluation criteria

- “MHV profile”, Scientific qualifications of the candidate
- Perspective for a scientific or academic career
- Research project: quality, originality, timeliness and feasibility
- Confirmation from host institute
 - Integration, workplace, access to infrastructure
 - Adequate scientific, personal and financial support
 - Support after the MHV grant expires
- Duration 2 years (extension by a maximum of 1 year possible)
- Grant: own salary, Contribution to research costs (max. CHF 12,000/year), Conference costs, Child care (max. CHF 12,000/year & child)
- ca. 35 grants per year

Success rates according to instrument (2010)





Outlook for Humanities & Social Sciences

Doc.CH (Budget CHF 8 Mio.)

- Evaluation of fellowship programme in 2010
- Overall positive result -> proposal for improvement (better separation, measures for PhD students in H&S)
- Start 2013

Project Funding

- Increase of budget



Thank you very much!

www.snf.ch



Further information

General information: www.snsf.ch > Funding > Careers



SNSF professorships

Inés de la Cuadra



Ambizione

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MHV programme

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Fellowship grants / ProDoc

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Fellowship grants / ProDoc

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