

Call for Projects 2011

The Swiss Network for International Studies (SNIS) launches its fourth Call for Projects

The SNIS offers project research grants in the order of 100'000 to 300'000 Swiss Francs for a two-year period. In order to be eligible for SNIS funding the submitted projects must qualify as:

- **International studies:** projects must be comparative, addressing cross-border issues, i.e. the research question must bear on at least two different nations (i.e. how do transnational corporate social responsibility standards shape labor conditions in China and Taiwan)
- **Pluri-disciplinary:** projects teams must be composed of experts from different scientific backgrounds. The project must be elaborated jointly by all applicants

The SNIS considers that International Studies deal not only with the analysis of international relations, but also with political, economic, social, environmental, legal, health, scientific and development issues. It welcomes proposals from both the social and natural sciences and combinations thereof. For an overview of SNIS supported projects and disciplines please refer to the 'Projects' section on the webpage.

Thematically, submissions can be made in one of these two sections

- **General call:** In any area of International Studies as defined above
- **Special theme 2011:** Appraising the Millenium Development Goals: Agenda setting, implementation, capacity building and alternatives

NEW: The SNIS encourages post-docs to submit and coordinate projects

Deadline for the reception of the proposals

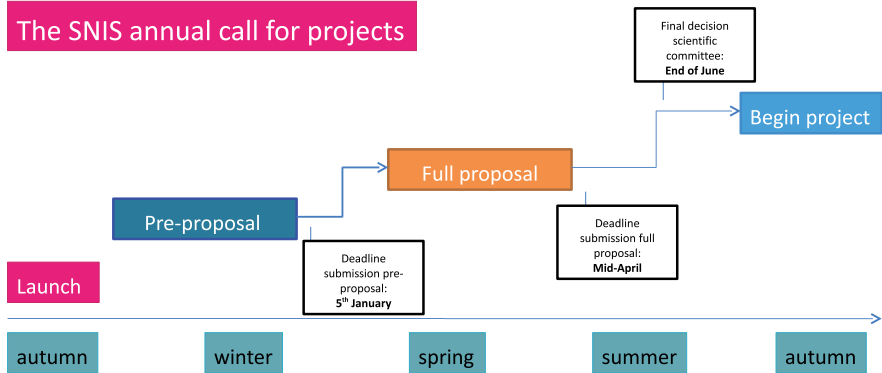
5th January 2011 12:00 (Swiss Time - GMT +1)

For further information on the call and to submit your project electronically please refer to www.snis.ch



The Call for Projects is structured as a two-step process

The SNIS annual call for projects



In the first phase research teams submit a pre-proposal that contains the description of the project (600 - 1000 words) as well as information on the submitting research team (for details, see Appendix 1). The SNIS Scientific Committee decides which applicants are invited to submit a full proposal. No feedback will be given for rejected pre-proposals.

In the second phase teams receiving an affirmative response to their pre-proposal are invited to submit a full proposal. Details of this second step are announced in spring.

Criteria for the Selection of Projects

Please note that **all formal criteria and all primary evaluation criteria have to be met**. Meeting one or more of the additional evaluation criteria is not strictly necessary, but considered as important assets.

Formal criteria:

- At least one Swiss university or other Swiss institution of tertiary education or research must be involved as the leading institution in the project (for qualifying institutions see <http://www.snis.ch/content/annual-call-projects>)
- The project coordinator can be :
 - a full-time professor or post-doctoral academic staff member employed on a multiple-year contract. In this case the SNIS will not fund the salary of the coordinator, but the coordinator's contribution is considered as 'in kind' financing by the hosting institution

OR (the coordinator can be)

- a post-doctoral scientist employed at least 40% by an eligible Swiss academic institution for the duration of the project (two years). In that case, 60% of the post-doctorate salary could be funded by the SNIS;
- The coordinator of the project shall not be working as a coordinator or as one of the main researchers of an unfinished SNIS project at the moment of submission

Primary Evaluation Criteria

CROSS-BORDER

- Projects must be comparative, addressing cross-border issues, i.e. the research question must bear on at least two different nations (i.e. how do transnational corporate social responsibility standards shape labor conditions in China and Taiwan). Projects where a Swiss research team investigates a research question in a single foreign country without at least comparing these insights with data collected (on the same question) in Switzerland are considered «local abroad» and will not be funded.

PLURI-DISCIPLINARY

- Research questions and teams must be at least pluri-disciplinary. The applicants must demonstrate the value added of the pluri-disciplinary approach and the team must be composed of experts from different academic backgrounds. It does not suffice that one person claims proficiency in many disciplines.

ACADEMIC ORIGINALITY AND RIGOR

- The project must demonstrate its originality and value added against the corpus of established literature;
- The proposal needs to show that the team has the necessary skills and experience to answer the research question;
- Applicants must demonstrate that they have the infrastructure and equipment for carrying out the project.

Additional Criteria

- Cooperation/joint research with international organisations and/or NGOs
- Policy relevance
- Involvement of two or more universities in Switzerland
- Involvement of researchers from abroad
- Interdisciplinary approach (which goes further than the required pluri-/multi-disciplinarity)
- Co-funding from other sources
- Involvement of PhD students and post-docs
- Involvement of local partners/researchers for case/field studies

Use of SNIS Funds

Salaries

- Doctoral students can be funded with SNIS funds up to an employment level of 50%. If this is not possible due to specific rules of the employing institution, the employment level with SNIS funds can be increased up to a maximum of 60%. Other funding sources can be added for additional working time.
- Salaries of doctoral students paid with SNIS funds should correspond to the scales of the SNSF: http://www.snf.ch/SiteCollectionDocuments/allg_doktorierende_f.pdf. If not possible due to specific salary scales and rules of the employing institution, scales and rules of the employing institution can be used. In this case, the team has to provide a full explanation of the reasons.
- For other positions than doctoral students, scales and rules of the university where the person will be employed apply.

In general, an employment level of less than 50% is allowed with SNIS funds only if other funding sources make possible a total employment level of at least 50%. Scales and rules of the institution where the person will be employed apply for the part of employment paid with SNIS funds.

Travel expenses

- Rules of the institution that manages SNIS funds apply for these expenses.

Infrastructure and equipment

- The SNIS does not fund infrastructure and/or equipment.

Publications

- The SNIS does not fund publications.

Administrative costs (overheads)

- The SNIS does not fund any administrative activities and overheads.

Appendix 1: Content of Project Description

The mainstay of the application in the first round consists of a concise project description which should include the following points:

- Literature review
- Demonstration of the research gap
- Research question / hypothesis
- Methodology
- Research tasks, milestones
- Expected results and their relevance to scientific and practical advancements
- Bibliography

In addition to the project description the coordinator must indicate details on participating members.

Appendix 2: Roles of Team Members and Potential SNIS Funding

Please note that all project members that are mentioned in the project proposal must have been personally contacted and they must have given their consent for participating in the project.

Role	Function in project	Employment status	SNIS funding
Coordinator	the coordinator manages the project, he/she is the primary contact for the SNIS and responsible for the successful conclusion of the project	professor with full time contract:	no SNIS funding ¹
		post-doc with at least 40% contract	SNIS will fund up to 60% of salary
Co-coordinator ²	Deputy coordinator, acts as primary contact for SNIS in case of absence of the coordinator	Professor with full time contract	no SNIS funding
		Post-doc with at least 40% contract	SNIS will fund up to 60% of salary
Principal member	Principal research persons, e.g. PhD students ³	PhD students	Salary paid by SNIS (max 60%)
Associated member	Research persons involved in the project, whose salaries are accounted for by external funding e.g. members of IOs, NGOs	-	No SNIS funding

¹ The contribution of a full time professor can be counted as 'in kind' contribution to the project by the employing institution.

² Every project needs at least one co-coordinator. If the coordinator is a post doc then at least one co-coordinator(s) must be from the same hosting institution and be a professor or a post-doc with a full time contract

³ Can include members from other institutions of higher education and research different from hosting institution (in this case the hosting university is responsible to conclude a contract with the principal members' institution to regulate the payments of salaries)