krebsforschung schweiz
recherche suisse contre le cancer
ricerca svizzera contro il cancro
swiss cancer research

krebsliga schweiz
ligue suisse contre le cancer
lega svizzera contro il cancro

Information Sheet
on submitting applications for fellowships

1 Aim

The intention of the fellowship programme is to secure high-level **clinical cancer research** in Switzerland by offering young **medical doctors** the possibility to visit a leading research centre abroad to acquire and return with advanced training and further education.

Researchers with a pure basic research focus are excluded from this programme and are encouraged to apply to a more suitable funding institution.

2 General Information:

The Grant Application Portal (GAP) is a web platform designed for the online interaction between applicants, reviewers and the Scientific Office of the Swiss Cancer League (SCL) and the Swiss Cancer Research foundation (SCR). **Only those funding requests submitted via this platform will be considered for funding.**

3 Deadlines

Twice a year - **31 January and 31 July 12:00 noon** (Central European Time).

Principal applicants will be informed on the outcome by e-mail the end of June or mid-December respectively.

Information on the outcome will not be given over the telephone.

4 Conditions on applying

- Fellowship applicants of Swiss nationality or non-Swiss applicants currently employed by a Swiss research institution. SCL/SCR only supports industry-independent projects.
- The application must be written in **English**.
- The applicant must hold a medical degree and must have previous experience in cancer research or treatment.
- Attachments such as the detailed research plan with reasons for the choice of location and project leader, CV, list of publications, letters of reference, confirmation from the supporting institute and career plan are to be uploaded.

5 Amount of fellowship

The amount of the fellowship is governed by the rules established by the Swiss National Science Foundation. Fellowships are contributions to the living costs while abroad and travel expenses for the outward and return journey. Additional expenses may be provided in well-documented cases.

6 Duration

Fellowships are awarded for a maximum period of two years. The financial requirement for each year must be shown separately and in detail. A third year of postdoc (fellowship) time will not be supported, even if the two years prior were financed by another source.

7 Review process

After the fellowship application is submitted and recorded by the Scientific Office, it is sent to two members the Scientific Committee who are experts in the relevant specialist field.
The two Scientific Committee members evaluate the proposal and give grades according to the four criteria (see below).
The fellowship is discussed at the bi-annual meeting of the Scientific Committee.
After the meeting, the Scientific Office writes up detailed minutes and creates a list of all proposals ranked according to the scores.

The ranking list is presented to the Boards of the Swiss Cancer Research foundation and the Swiss Cancer League, which decide which proposals will be funded based on the recommendations as well as the available funds.
The Scientific Office notifies the applicant of the decision. The reviews are made available to the applicant in an anonymous form.

8 Criteria

The quality of the research grant application is evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. Past achievements (publications, thesis)
2. Quality and feasibility of the project by the applicant
3. Quality of the receiving laboratory (training appropriateness, research performances)
4. Quality of the letter of references and career plan

The four criteria are scored. The final score is the addition of the scores of the two Scientific Committee members.
The final and most important criterion is the cancer relevance. Only projects with immediate cancer relevance will be funded. The expected results of the proposed project should contribute important new observations or knowledge on the causes, prevention or treatment of cancer.
The Committee members may also make suggestions on the budget allocation.

9 Open access

The SCL/SCR support the principle of open electronic access to scientific knowledge. They require that you provide open access to research results obtained with the help of a SCL/SCR grant. You are free to choose between the Green or the Gold Road, the Hybrid Road is not supported. The SCL/SCR follows the SNF guidelines on open access to publications.

In short, the Green Road, the self-archiving in an institutional repository: publications resulting from SCL/SCR funded research should be freely accessible in a discipline-specific or institutional repository no later than six months after publication.

The Gold Road, the publication in a purely Open Access journal: the costs due to publication in a peer-reviewed open access journal related to a SCL/SCR grant may be claimed from the agreed project funding up to a limit of CHF 3 000 per publication. For new applications, the costs of open access publication should be listed under expenses. For active grants, the costs of open access publication may be claimed as long as the available funds are sufficient.

10 Obligations of the recipient of the fellowship

You agree to use the fellowship awarded to you for the stated purpose, to adhere to the research plan and the budget, and to carry out the research work with due diligence and in accordance with the ethical rules of science. Recipients of fellowships must inform SCL/SCR immediately of any circumstances which alter the conditions under which the fellowship was granted.

11 Reporting and accounting

At the end of the funding period, the recipient of the fellowship shall submit a scientific report. This report will be examined by the relevant body. The Scientific Office will inform recipients of fellowships whether their report has been approved.

12 Publications

If you are funded by us, you must list the funding organization – either Swiss Cancer Research foundation or Swiss Cancer League and your funding award number in all your research publications related to the fellowship. This enables us to monitor and evaluate the outputs of the research we fund.

Example:
x.y. was supported by a fellowship from the **Swiss Cancer Research foundation** [**KFS**-XXXXXX-MM-YYYY BIL].
x.y. was supported by a fellowship from the **Swiss Cancer League** [**KLS**-XXXXXX-MM-YYYY BIL].

Publications must be submitted to the Scientific Office via the Grant Application Portal (GAP) as soon as the publication has been published. For further information on how to report publications, please refer to the information sheet on Reporting.

13 Patents, copyright

The recipient is obliged to inform SCL/SCR if he acquires protected rights in conjunction with work funded by us (such as patent rights to a discovery or a copyright for a publication, audio-visual media, a computer programme or other similar item).
If the results of research funded in full or in part by SCL/SCR are exploited commercially, the recipient of the funding is obliged to notify SCL/SCR of this.

14 Misuse, failure to observe these conditions

If a fellowship is misused or if the recipient fails to observe the conditions stated here, SCL/SCR shall be entitled to freeze bank accounts, revoke its pledge to provide a fellowship, demand repayment of funds that have already been paid out and take any further measures that it deems necessary.

15 Miscellaneous

If your application for funding is granted, we may require further information on the project. Fellowships will be forfeited if they are not claimed within one year of their stated starting date of the funding. The granting of a fellowship implies no obligation on the part of the subsidiary bodies of SCL/SCR to continue providing assistance.