

Call for Applications for Research Funding from the Research Talent Development Fund / Fonds zur Förderung des akademischen Nachwuchses (FAN)

The Research Talent Development Fund (Fonds zur Förderung des akademischen Nachwuchses, FAN) at the University of Zurich promotes outstanding, original-thinking young research talent. We are on hand so that junior researchers are able to decide at an early stage to pursue an academic career and to follow it with determination and focus. Different forms of support are available depending on their field and their research plans.

Postdocs, habilitation candidates, candidates for equivalent academic qualifications, and heads of research groups, may apply for direct financial support for their research project, i.e. for a fellowship. By means of grants the FAN encourages international mobility at an early stage, and also helps to manage difficult transitions between the doctoral thesis and habilitation, more smoothly.

Who Can Apply for What?

Applicants must be either employed at or associated with UZH through their planned research project. Applications are open to young research talent from all faculties. The following criteria apply:

Type of Support	Support	Entitlement
Fellowships	<p>Support for the applicants' research projects primarily covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • salary of the applicants or • salary of participating doctoral candidates, postdocs or research associates. <p>One-off amounts up to CHF 100,000 in total are granted. These figures also include the employer's social insurance contributions.</p>	<p>The following individuals may apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • postdocs, habilitation candidates and candidates for equivalent academic qualifications, as well as • heads of research groups who are not yet a member of a faculty <p>Applications from the Faculties of Medicine and Science and from the Vetsuisse Faculty may generally be submitted from the third postdoc year of research onwards.</p>
Grants	<p>Support covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stays abroad which result in substantial progress with a research project • difficult transitional phases between dissertation and habilitation or an equivalent academic qualification <p>One-off amounts up to CHF 40,000 in total are granted. These figures also include the employer's social insurance contributions.</p>	<p>The following individuals may apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for stays abroad: advanced doctoral candidates and postdocs • for difficult transitional phases: doctoral students who complete their dissertation (doctoral examination) in the year of the call may submit an application for the period immediately following the doctoral examination

The FAN coordinates its fellowship and grant support with UZH's own academic career development program. Candidates may apply to both for support, although a note to this effect must be included where multiple submissions are made. If funding has already been granted by another institution, a copy of the letter informing you of that award must be enclosed.

When and Where Can I Apply?

The FAN calls for applications once a year. The next **submission deadline is 31 January 2023**. Project funding for fellowships is generally awarded for one year, for grants 3 - 6 months. The earliest a project can begin is 1 July 2023, the support ends on 31 December 2024 at the latest. Applications must be submitted in pdf format (one pdf for the budget and one pdf for all other documents) by e-mail to: fan@alumnioffice.uzh.ch; professors are requested to send the reference letters directly to the same e-mail-address.

What Should the Application Contain?

- A brief outline of the research project (no more than 2,500 characters, including spaces);
- A detailed description of the project (no more than 25,000 characters, including spaces, excluding the bibliography);
- A CV (in view of the target group of the FAN, this must also state the applicant's year of birth), with a list of publications;
- The applicant's licentiate, Master's or doctoral degree diploma; in the case of applications for difficult transitions, an official confirmation of the date of the doctoral examination;
- A project plan (both with regard to matter and time, including start and end of the funding period)
- A budget (salary, including the employer's social insurance contributions; material expenses, travel and conference costs may also be covered where justified and to a limited extent only), according to budget form;
- A letter of recommendation from two professors, one of whom must be at the University of Zurich. The second recommendation (or any optional third one) should preferably come from a professor at a different university. The letters of recommendation must indicate in particular whether the applicants are among the best in their discipline, and whether they have both the academic and personal qualities to pursue a successful career in research and teaching at the university level;
- If experiments involving humans or animals requiring authorization are planned, copies of the authorizations granted by the relevant ethics commission or the cantonal veterinary office (without applications). If authorization is still pending, a copy of the applications should initially be provided, and copies of the authorization must be provided before the project begins.

Applicants who have already been supported by the FAN may not apply a second time. Applications must be written in German or English.

Who Reviews the Applications?

The FAN advisory board reviews the applications and decides on awards, taking the available resources into account. The key decision-making criteria are academic qualifications and the applicant's suitability for an academic career, as well as excellence and originality in their research work. Applicants will be notified of the board's decision by the end of April 2023 at the latest. No reasons will be given.

Where Can I Find Further Information?

Dr. Sibylle Ambühl, President and Managing Director
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