Research and Innovation in Switzerland

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Embassy of Switzerland
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WE ARE SWITZERLAND

8,419,600 inhabitants

>1/4 Switzerland is one of Europe’s nations with the highest proportion of foreign residents – currently 2.1 million.

TOP 5 Foreign nationals by country of origin:

- Italy: 15.2%
- Germany: 14.7%
- Portugal: 13.1%
- France: 6.0%
- Kosovo: 5.2%

Foreign nationals 25%

Swiss nationals 75%

83.4 YEARS Switzerland has the second highest life expectancy, after Japan, of all countries in the world.

Life expectancy:
- women: 85.3 years
- men: 81.5 years

×2 The Swiss population has more than doubled since the start of the 20th century.

Most people live in urban areas.

© FDFA, PRS 2017 / Sources: Federal Statistical Office (FSO), OECD / For more, visit aboutswitzerland.org
Switzerland is an innovation leader...

The World Competitiveness Scoreboard 2019

Union Innovation Scoreboard 2019

Global Innovation Index 2019

WEF Global Competitiveness Report 2019

First
- Singapore
- Denmark
- United States
- Switzerland

Second
- Switzerland
- Sweden
- Norway
- Finland

Third
- United States
- Denmark
- Singapore
- Sweden

Fourth
- Singapore
- Switzerland
- Denmark
- Norway
Amongst the highest investments in R&D

- Israel: 4.3%
- South Korea: 4.2%
- Japan: 3.5%
- Switzerland: 3.4%
- Sweden: 3.3%
- Austria: 3.1%
- Denmark: 3.0%
- Finland: 2.9%
- Germany: 2.9%
- OCDE: 2.4%
- France: 2.2%

2012-2015, in % of GDP. Source: Federal Statistical Office 2017
Swiss Universities – World-class performance

Shanghai Ranking 2019
5 Swiss HEI in the top 100

QS Ranking 2020
3 Swiss HEI in the top 100
ETHZ ranks 6th!

Times Ranking 2020
4 Swiss HEI in the top 100

Leiden Ranking 2019
5 Swiss HEI in the top 100

Over 50% of Swiss students are enrolled in one of the top 200 universities
Excellence of Swiss research papers

**Productivity**
Scientific articles per million inhabitants (2009–2013)

- Switzerland: 3,892
- Iceland: 3,483
- Finland: 3,463
- Denmark: 3,423
- Netherlands: 3,407
- Norway: 3,318
- Sweden: 3,242
- Australia: 3,095
- Canada: 2,685
- Singapore: 2,299

**Impact**
Relative citation indicator from scientific articles (2009–2013)

- USA: 120
- Netherlands: 118
- Switzerland: 117
- UK: 116
- Belgium: 110
- Denmark: 109
- Canada: 108
- Germany: 106
- France: 105
- Sweden: 105
Open for International Talent and Brain Circulation

- 25% international students
- 67% of PhD students and academic staff
- 50% of university professors
- >70% of publications result from international cooperation
- 80% of Swiss researchers have a professional experience abroad

→ Substantial increase over the past 25 years

**THE ranking – most international universities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>International Rank 2019</th>
<th>World University Rank 2020</th>
<th>University</th>
<th>Country/Region</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>-38</td>
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<td>Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
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<td>-48</td>
<td>Nanyang Technological University, Singapore</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Switzerland is well connected in the global research landscape

- Member of many international research institutions including the European Space Agency (ESA) and the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN)
- Associated country to the EU’s Horizon 2020
A Great Variety of Study Options

7 Universities of Applied Sciences
14 Universities of Teacher Training
10 Cantonal Universities
2 Federal Institutes of Technology
Meet Swiss Universities

ETH Zurich  
University of Bern  
University of St. Gallen

EPFL  
University of Basel  
University of Neuchâtel

University of Zurich  
University of Lausanne  
Università della Svizzera italiana

University of Geneva  
University of Fribourg  
University of Lucerne
Opportunities in Switzerland

The Swiss National Science Foundation:

• is Switzerland’s foremost research funding agency
• invests each year ca. USD 1 billion in over 3200 projects, involving 14,600 researchers
• invests in young researchers
• promotes gender equality
• Find out more: www.snf.ch/en
SNSF Individual Mobility

- Enables researchers in Switzerland to organize scientific conferences and workshops, as well as visits by Swiss researchers to other countries or visits by researchers from abroad to Switzerland.
- Duration: 2-5 days / 1-6 months.
- Covers the travel expenses and room and board costs of researchers taking part in the events or of visiting researchers.
SNSF Sinergia

• Promotes collaborative and interdisciplinary research that has the potential to shift paradigms (breakthrough)
• 2-4 applicants and their groups collaborate closely in a network
• If at least 2 groups are in Switzerland, a group from abroad can be included (2+1, 3+1)
• Grants for 4 years and up to CHF 3.2 million
SNSF Ambizione

• Research in Switzerland («returning» or «incoming»)

• Ambizione grant: own salary, project funding, personnel, possibly doctoral student

• Ambizione project grant: project funding, personnel, possibly doctoral student

• Duration: 4 years (no extension)
SNSF SPIRIT

• Swiss Programme for the International Research Investigation Teams: **2-4 research teams across borders**

• At least 1 applicant engaged in research in Switzerland and 1 in research in a partner country

• Eligible costs: at least 30% of budget used for research in Switzerland, 30% in partner countries

• Deadline: at least 14 months before project starts
Fulbright / Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships

• Monthly stipend and airfare
• Open for research or PhD degree programs in all disciplines & for master’s degree programs in the Arts
• Up to 10 grants available each year
• Grant period: Up to 12 months
Think Swiss: For Students

- **Summer School Travel Grant** for specific summer schools

- **Research Scholarship**: 1600$ a month for a research internship of 2-3 months at a public institution in Switzerland

**Eligibility:**

- Completed their sophomore year when the stay begins

- Enrolled in a US or Canadian University

- Read the blog of past awardees: ThinkSwiss.com
Thank you!

More information:
www.snf.ch/en
www.thinkswiss.org
www.sbfi.admin.ch/sbfi/en/home.html

Contact: washington.science@eda.admin.ch