Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships 2027–2028

Switzerland – Research Fellowships, PhD and Master's in Arts (administered via GO ESKAS)

1. Overview

The Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships 2027–2028 provide government-funded opportunities for international early-career researchers and, for selected nationalities, students pursuing a first master's degree in the arts. The program is administered by the Swiss Confederation, with recipients selected by the Federal Commission for Scholarships for Foreign Students (FCS/ESKAS). It aims to encourage international research cooperation and support promising researchers at Swiss higher education institutions.

Unlike general undergraduate or taught master's funding, these awards primarily support research and doctoral projects. Research and PhD applicants must arrange academic supervision in Switzerland **before** submitting their applications. Funding is competitive and does not automatically guarantee university admission.

Important notice: each country has its own deadline and available scholarship types. Check the official country list before applying. The application is free.

Country	Switzerland
Academic year	2027–2028
Categories	Research fellowship, PhD, and selected arts master's
Monthly stipend	CHF 2,450
Applications opened	20 August 2026
Deadline	Varies by country
Application fee	Free
Study start	1 September 2027

Host institutions include Swiss cantonal universities, universities of applied sciences, the federal institutes of technology and recognised research institutions, subject to program requirements.

2. Scholarship Categories

Program	Duration	Purpose
Research Fellowship	6–12 months	Research stay in Switzerland
PhD Scholarship	Up to 36 months, subject to renewal	Doctoral research
Master's in Arts	Up to 21 months, subject to extension	First master's in an artistic field

Research fellowships do not normally lead directly to a new degree. Possible host institutions include the University of Zurich, University of Geneva, University of Bern, ETH Zurich and EPFL, among others. Being on the official institutional list does not mean every professor or department has an available scholarship position.

3. Eligibility Criteria

Research and PhD eligibility

- A master's degree or equivalent must be completed by **31 July 2027** (for ETH Zurich: **30 June 2027**).
- Applicants must have been born **after 31 December 1991**.
- A detailed research proposal with clear objectives and a timeline is required.
- A Swiss academic supervisor must support the proposed research.
- Applicants must meet any additional requirements of their host institution.

Research fellowship applicants are generally researchers already pursuing doctoral studies outside Switzerland. PhD scholarship applicants seek to do doctoral research at a Swiss institution.

Master's in Arts eligibility

- A bachelor's degree or equivalent obtained by **31 July 2027**.
- Born after 31 December 1991.
- No previously completed master's degree at the scholarship start.
- Evidence of admission or application to an eligible Swiss arts institution.
- Nationality from a country included in the arts scholarship category.

Arts scholarships are not available to applicants from every country; verify the relevant country list.

IELTS and language requirements

There is no universal IELTS waiver or rule. Language requirements depend on the Swiss host university, research supervisor, program or arts institution. Confirm the accepted evidence of language proficiency before applying.

4. Funding and Benefits

Monthly allowance: **CHF 2,450**, for the basic living expenses of one person.

Benefit	Details
Monthly funding	CHF 2,450 for living expenses
Health insurance	Compulsory premiums covered for scholarship holders from non-EU/EFTA countries
Rental deposit assistance	One-time CHF 600 contribution
Transport	Half-Fare Travelcard for Swiss public transport
Return travel	Return-flight allowance for eligible non-EU/EFTA scholars
Scholar activities	Access to organised excursions and events

Does it cover tuition fees?

Not automatically. The scholarship does not pay tuition or semester fees. Depending on the institution, scholars may need to pay approximately **CHF 600–2,000 per semester** or other charges. The allowance is not a salary. Conference participation, fieldwork and accompanying family expenses are also not automatically financed. Prepare a realistic budget.

5. Required Documents

Requirements vary by category; the official application system provides the instructions and forms.

General documents

- Updated academic and professional CV
- Motivation letter, maximum two pages
- Academic certificates and transcripts
- Valid passport copy
- Contact email addresses of two professors who can provide academic recommendations
- Certified translations where required
- Swiss residence documentation if already residing in Switzerland

Additional research and PhD documents

- Research proposal on the official FCS/ESKAS form, maximum five pages
- Letter of support from an eligible Swiss academic supervisor
- Supervisor’s short CV, maximum two pages
- Home university supervisor’s CV for research fellowships
- Graduate-school admission confirmation where required

Additional arts documents

- Portfolio or recordings appropriate to the artistic discipline
- Evidence of admission or application to a Swiss arts institution
- Other documents specified by the institution and application system

Referees are contacted through the online recommendation process. Provide accurate email addresses and inform your professors in advance.

6. How to Apply

Applications are completed online through **GO ESKAS**. Email and paper applications are not accepted. The official system may require Switch edu-ID and eIAM authentication.

1. **Check country eligibility:** review the official country list for available categories and your nationality’s deadline.

2. **Choose the correct scholarship type:** research fellowship, PhD scholarship or first master’s in arts.

3. **Secure academic supervision:** research and PhD applicants must contact a suitable Swiss professor and obtain a support letter for the proposed project.

4. **Register for GO ESKAS:** complete the eligibility check and create the required authenticated electronic identity.

5. **Upload your documents:** complete the forms, upload materials and provide referees' email addresses.

6. **Submit the application** before the country-specific deadline.

7. Deadlines

The deadline is country-specific; use the official A–Z country list rather than deadlines quoted for other nationalities. Applications opened 20 August 2026 and the scholarship starts 1 September 2027.

For Pakistani applicants: the 2027–2028 Pakistan deadline is listed as **31 October 2026**. Research and PhD categories are available for Pakistan; the arts master's category is not listed. Pakistani students can apply for research/PhD if they meet the academic, age and supervision requirements.

Note: the Pakistan deadline (31 October 2026) has already passed as of 18 November 2026. Please check the official website for confirmation.

8. Important Instructions

- Use only the official Swiss Government scholarship website and the GO ESKAS portal.
- Contact supervisors whose research interests match your proposed project.
- Write a specific research proposal with realistic methods and milestones.
- Check whether separate admission to a doctoral program is necessary.
- Do not submit multiple applications in violation of official restrictions.
- Confirm language requirements directly with the host institution.
- Plan for semester fees and costs not covered by the living allowance.
- Do not pay agents who promise guaranteed selection. The Swiss government warns against fraudulent messages asking for payments for visas, insurance or processing; genuine applications are free.

9. Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Are the 2027–2028 scholarships open?

The campaign opened on 20 August 2026. Whether applications are still accepted depends on your country's deadline.

Q. Can bachelor's students apply?

Research and PhD categories require a master's qualification. Bachelor's graduates may qualify for the first Master's in Arts only if their nationality and artistic program are eligible.

Q. How much is the stipend?

CHF 2,450 per month.

Q. Is IELTS required?

No universal rule; language evidence is decided by the program, institution or supervisor.

Q. Do PhD applicants need a Swiss professor?

Yes. A support letter from a suitable Swiss academic supervisor is required.

Q. Does it cover tuition?

Not automatically; some institutions charge fees that recipients must pay.

Q. Can Pakistani students apply?

Yes, for the research and PhD categories listed for Pakistan, if they satisfy academic, age and supervision requirements.

Q. Is there an application fee?

No. The application and GO ESKAS registration are free.

Source: gsscholarships.com – "Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships 2027–2028: Complete Guide" (published October 20, 2026; page saved November 18, 2026). Verify details, categories and country deadlines on the official Swiss Government scholarship website and GO ESKAS portal.