

ThinkSwiss Research Scholarships

Eligibility requirements

To apply for a ThinkSwiss Scholarship you must:

- Currently be enrolled at an accredited US or Canadian university/college
- Be a graduate student or an undergraduate student who will have completed the sophomore year by the time the research stay in Switzerland begins
- Provide a written confirmation from a professor at a Swiss university that he/she will accept you for a research stay in his/her group

Application

The application and all supporting documents must be sent in PDF format to was.science@eda.admin.ch by **January 31, 2015**. In order to be considered for this scholarship, each application must contain:

1. An introduction page with:
 - your first name and last name as it appears on your travel documents
 - the accredited university in the U.S. or in Canada at which you are currently enrolled
 - the name of your host university in Switzerland, including the involved institute and the name of your host professor
 - the dates and the length of stay, at least two, but up to three months in total
 - your field of research
 - your email address (one that is valid for a longer period of time and that you check on a regular basis!)
2. A cover letter outlining your research project and explaining why you should be awarded the ThinkSwiss Research Scholarship and why you would make an excellent student “ambassador” in the future
3. A CV (no more than two pages)
4. A copy of your current university transcripts (it can be a photocopy of official transcripts issued to the student)
5. A letter of acceptance from the professor and/or hosting institution in Switzerland
6. A letter of recommendation from a current professor who can attest to the applicant’s abilities

The last three requirements (points 4-6) indicated above can be sent separately to was.science@eda.admin.ch by universities and references themselves. However, all requested documents (points 1-6) must be sent by **January 31, 2015** which is the final deadline for the completion of the application process.

General Information

Limitation of the number of ThinkSwiss awardees coming from the same university

The number of available research scholarships is limited to a maximum of three spots for each university that is represented by several applicants in order to ensure a certain diversity among out ThinkSwiss awardees. The number of applications per university, however, is not limited.

Payment of the Scholarship

The ThinkSwiss Research Scholarship provides a prorated amount according to the length of your stay: a monthly scholarship of CHF 1,050 (approx. USD 1,100) for a period of two to three months (CHF 3,150 maximum), which covers only a portion of the average student’s living expenses. The whole amount of the scholarship money will be transferred to the U.S. bank account of the recipient shortly before the departure date.

Visas

If you are approved for a ThinkSwiss scholarship, please check with the international department of the host university and enquire about registering with and accepting guidance from them in regard to student services available, housing possibilities and other amenities that may be offered from the host universities. Concerning visas to Switzerland, please inquire through the [Swiss Consulate Generals/Embassy](#) in the district area where you live about the necessary visa.

This office cannot influence the visa process. All other citizens must also check the visa requirements for their countries of citizenship and this can be done by checking with the [Schengen Visa Information](#) and if necessary, apply for a visa.

Housing

Students are responsible for their own housing, but contacting the international or housing office of the host university for recommendations is a good place to start.

Insurance

Please note that the scholarship does not provide health, accident or liability insurance. Applicants must make sure that they have insurance coverage for their stay in Switzerland, and it is the sole responsibility of the student to obtain this coverage.

Transportation

It is highly recommended that you use public transportation in Switzerland since there is a very convenient public transportation system that takes you almost everywhere: you should definitely experiment with it! If you plan to travel around in Switzerland, it generally makes sense to buy a [half-fare travel card](#). If you are younger than 25 you might also consider the [Track7 travel card](#). Usually you need to purchase these cards for a period of one year, but often you can resell it and get a part of your money back. Please check with a salesperson at one of the [SBB counters](#) that you can find in most of the bigger train stations in Switzerland.

Obtaining Admission to the Host University

Please note that obtaining the scholarship does not mean that the student has acquired a specific status and, that the awardees must comply with the host university's policies regarding admission. Each recipient is in charge of contacting the international office of his/her host university in Switzerland to finalize his/her registration and learning more about the specifics of status at the host institution. Please coordinate and stay in touch with your host professor.

Obligations as a ThinkSwiss Awardee

By accepting this scholarship, you agree to participate in our Brainstorm Blog with at least one blog post to share your experiences during your research stay in Switzerland. After your return to the U.S., or Canada respectively, you also agree to carry out at least one activity as a "student ambassador" to promote Swiss research.

Partners

Frequently Asked Questions

Are non-U.S. or non-Canadian citizens eligible to apply for the program?

All enrolled students at accredited U.S. or Canadian universities are eligible, but ability to participate will depend on obtaining a visa, if necessary.

Can the scholarship also be applied to projects at public research institutions or private higher education institutions?

The scholarship supports research at public universities and public research institutions. However, we do not support research stays at private higher education or research institutions.

How do I find a hosting institution and/or a professor in Switzerland?

Finding a professor in Switzerland is part of the due diligence process that the applicant must conduct on his/her own. You can find some helpful links on our website thinkswiss.tumblr.com/SwissHigherEducation.

Is there a particular time of the year for going to Switzerland or can it be anytime?

The applicant is free to schedule research anytime between May 1, 2015 and January 31, 2016, at which time all students will be expected to have completed their research. Most people go during the summer as this period falls between regular university semesters.

This program is only open to students who have completed their sophomore year by the beginning of their research stay in Switzerland. What are my options as a freshman?

Besides the research scholarships, we also offer travel grants to summer schools in Switzerland for which freshmen may also be eligible. Please have a look on the ThinkSwiss summer schools section at thinkswiss.tumblr.com/About.

When will I be notified that I won?

All scholarship winners will be notified by February 28, 2015 and must accept this scholarship by March 31, 2015.

Are there any language requirements?

In Switzerland, undergraduate courses are usually taught in the respective region's national language (German, French or Italian) and graduate programs are often offered in English. However, for a research stay in Switzerland foreign language skills are not required, as the working language will generally be English. Knowledge of any Swiss national language would of course be helpful for daily life.

Can I apply several times for the ThinkSwiss program?

Once you were able to get a ThinkSwiss research scholarship you cannot apply a second time. However, if your first application was not successful you are allowed to apply again. The same applies for ThinkSwiss summer school travel grants.

Additionally, students can only receive either a ThinkSwiss research scholarship OR a ThinkSwiss summer school grant, but not both.

Thank you for your interest in ThinkSwiss!