
Science Policy News

Switzerland: The Annual Report for 1989 of the Swiss National Science Foundation

(For a detailed description of the organization of the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) and the different types of funding it provides, see EXPERIENTIA Vol. 45, p. 404, 1989).

In 1989 the SNSF had at its disposal SFr 244.5 million (1988: 226.5). Of this amount SFr. 233.5 million were appropriated by the Swiss Confederation, SFr. 11 million came from unused grants, repayments, donations and capital interest.

Grants were allocated to the three divisions of the SNSF as follows: Division I (Humanities and Social Sciences): SFr. 44.9 million (18.9%); Division II (Physical and Engineering Sciences): SFr. 95.1 million (40.1%); Division III (Biology and Medicine): SFr. 97.4 million (41.0%).

Research grants. In 1989, 1147 applications for research grants were examined (5.9% more than in 1988), requesting SFr. 309.3 million (12% more than in 1988). 916 grants totalling SFr. 184.5 million were made. 748 grants were made for a reduced amount, 168 applications received the full amount, 231 applications were either rejected or withdrawn. 73.2% of the allotted resources were used for salaries. In Division I (Humanities and Social Sciences), of 294 applications 221 were approved (SFr. 27.8 million). In Division II (Physical and Engineering Sciences), of 344 applications 317 were approved (SFr. 76.6 million). In Division III (Biology and Medicine), of 509 applications 378 were approved (SFr. 80.1 million).

Publication grants: The SNSF received 82 requests for contribution to the cost of scientific publication. 66 requests (SFr. 2.1 million) were approved. Of this amount, SFr. 1.92 million (91%) went to publications in the humanities and social sciences.

Personal grants (long-term research grants): In 1989, 19 personal grants (SFr. 2.85 million) were awarded (1988: 20 grants, SFr. 2.9 million).

Postgraduate scholarship program: In 1989, SFr. 18.7 million (1988: 18.9 million) were allocated to scholarship applicants under 35 years of age. 323 postgraduate study programs (lower level) were supported with SFr. 10.3 million (1988: 311 programs, 9.6 million). Most of this amount was awarded to scholarship holders of the various Research Committees of the SNSF. Furthermore, this sum includes the exchange scholarships offered by the SNSF to British postgraduates in the framework of the exchange program with the Royal Society. 128 grants were awarded to postgraduates at an advanced level, including 23 international postdoctoral exchange scholarships (SFr. 7.3 million).

For further information:

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Science Foundation (SNSF),
Wildhainweg 20, P.O. Box 8232,
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Belgium: The 61st Annual Report of the National Fund for Scientific Research (French-speaking Section: Fonds National de la Recherche Scientifique [FNRS]; Dutch-speaking Section: Nationaal Fonds voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek [NFWO]) for the period 1988–1989.

Grants and awards are made on the basis of the academic year, 1 September to 31 August. They are made separately for the French-speaking Section (FNRS) and the Dutch-speaking Section (NFWO). In this report, grants and awards for the academic year 1988–1989 are listed. In 1988–1989, the FNRS provided salaries for 226 *Research Assistants (Aspirants)* and the NFWO for 337 (1987–88: 190 and 303, respectively). ‘Aspirants’ are postgraduate or postdoctoral scientists up to 26 (medical doctors up to 29) years of age without previous research experience. The ‘Aspirant’ may use his or her grant to

prepare a doctoral thesis. These grants are limited to two years and may be prolonged once for the same period. *Senior Research Assistants (Chargés de Recherche)* must have a doctoral degree and not be more than 30 (medical doctors: 33) years of age at the beginning of their grant work. These grants are limited to two years and are not renewable. For 1988–1989 the FNRS awarded 26 and the NFWO 20 new grants. Altogether, there were 48 Senior Research Assistants in the FNRS and 62 in the NFWO (1987)–88: 56 and 54, respectively).

Four *Special Doctoral Grants* of the FNRS and five of the NFWO were awarded to graduate students preparing a doctoral thesis (compared to six and eight grants respectively for the 1987–88 academic year).

Exchange Grants with other European scientific support institutions: As a result of agreements under the European Science Exchange Program the NFWO-FNRS are in a position to award grants for work in other European countries. These grants are for a maximum of 12 months. Candidates must provide a written invitation from the institution they wish to work in.

Research Grants: These are awarded for specific research programs, which must be submitted in full detail with the grant request. For 1988–1989, the FNRS awarded 139 and the NFWO 142 Research Grants (1987–88: 153 and 122, respectively).

Short visits of up to two months' duration at laboratories in Europe or overseas, intended for learning new techniques or for extended exchange of information, were

also supported by the FNRS (135 grants) and the NFWO (344 grants) (1987–88: 113 and 295, respectively).

Extracts from the Financial Statement of the FNRS as of 30 September 1988: Government support: BF 494 million; other income: BF 2 million; total income: BF 496 million (1987: 508 million). Salaries: BF 322 million (1987: 378 million), Research Grants: BF 70 million (1987: 118 million).

Extracts from the Financial Statement of the NFWO as of 30 September 1988: Government support: BF 642 million; other income: BF 10 million; total income: BF 652 million (1987: 656 million). Salaries BF 416 million (1987: 378 million), Research Grants BF 117 million (1987: 118 million).

Further information can be obtained from:

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