



Spark

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Aims

- Fund rapid testing or development of new scientific ideas
- Projects with **unconventional** thinking, unique approach
- High **originality**, only basic (if any) preliminary data
- Taking risk welcome



Spark grants

- Open to **all disciplines**
- Duration: 6 months to one year
- Maximum grant amount: 100'000 CHF (min 50'000 CHF)
- The grant may cover the applicants salary
- The project must start 3 months after the decision date

Applicants

- Must have a PhD or equivalent qualification (at least 3 years of research work)
- 2 or more applicants possible, if needed for the project
- Employment at a Swiss institution (no minimal %)
OR
- Commitment letter from a host institution
- May also receive other SNSF grants



Restrictions

- Only 1 Spark project at a time
- Max. 1 Spark application / 12 months
- No parallel submissions of the same project to other funding schemes
- No PhD students employed on a Spark project.

Application process - mySNF

- Basic administrative data (personal data, employment/hosting confirmation)
- **Anonymised** research plan, **max. 5 pages**
 - idea, including relevance and potential impact
 - relevant state of the art, with links to the most important work
 - outlined approach (no milestones)
- Short statement on **capability to successfully lead the project** (matching education, experience, skills, available infrastructure)
- **Disclaimers:**
 - main authors of the proposal
 - not submitted elsewhere
 - Not overlapping with current project
 - research plan fully anonymised



Evaluation process

Evaluation criteria:

- originality/novelty of the idea
 - scientific quality of the project
 - potential impact (scientific, societal, economic, cultural,...)
 - unconventionality
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- **Double-blinded** evaluation
 - International pool of experts

FAQ

- Submissions on mySNF will open on 5th June 2019, submission deadline is 17 Jul 2019 (17:00 Swiss time)
- 2 further calls in 2020
- No difference between corresponding applicant and co-applicant
- PhD equivalent: only if previous experience is comparable to a PhD
- Anonymisation of research plan: identity, institute and career level cannot be revealed.



Submission deadline

17. July 2019

Contact

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