

Berne, 30.09.2016

Steering Committee TP3

Call for proposals: "Swiss Universities of Applied Sciences/Universities of Teacher Education and Foreign Higher Education Institutions Partnership"

swissuniversities

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www.swissuniversities.ch

Call for proposals

Partnership between Swiss universities of applied sciences/universities of teacher education and foreign higher education institutions at doctorate level

Guidelines for submitting applications

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1. Purpose of the programme

The programme provides support for collaborative doctoral research projects between on the one hand, Swiss universities of applied sciences (UAS) and universities of teacher education (UTE) and on the other hand, foreign higher education institutions (HEI). The cooperation projects receiving support will be aimed at fields and disciplines not represented at Swiss universities. Doctoral degrees will be awarded by the foreign partner HEI.

2. Programme guidelines

Definitions

In order to ensure that there is a mutual understanding of what is meant by "doctoral degree" and the various elements associated with this term, a number of important concepts relating to this programme have been clarified.

A doctoral degree is defined as the sum of three components:

Dissertation or thesis	Personal and original research work carried out by a doctoral candidate supervised by an experienced researcher. The work carried out within the framework of this relationship should form the basis for the content of the thesis (dissertation).
Doctoral studies (two types)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Individual: non-structured studies including lectures, seminars, conferences, etc. chosen by the doctoral candidate in conjunction with his/her doctoral supervisor.2. Structured, also known as a <i>doctoral programme</i>. The doctoral programme aims to achieve the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- the acquisition of cross-functional skills- the induction of doctoral candidates into a national and/or international scientific community- a deeper knowledge of a particular discipline <p><i>NB:</i> Decisions regarding the grading structure (ECTS credits, compulsory or voluntary participation, etc.) will be made independently by the relevant partner institutions responsible for the doctoral programmes where doctoral candidates are enrolled. A doctoral degree is not granted as the result of the doctoral programme, it is awarded by the university where the doctoral candidate is enrolled. The dissertation or thesis (research work) remains the basis for the doctoral degree.</p>
Awarding of doctoral degree	In the framework of this programme, doctoral degrees are awarded by the foreign Institutions of Higher Education. The award may make reference to persons and institutions involved in the drafting of the dissertation/thesis.

Financing arrangements

A threshold of CHF 125,000 per year (federal funding) per collaborative project: any allocated funding equal to the minimum amount requested should be added to this amount.

The financing period lasts until 31 December 2020. By then the financial contribution, that has not been used, has to be returned to the Confederation. According to the results of the first call for proposals the steering committee might decide to launch a second call for proposals in autumn 2017. However, the financing period would not be extended.

Please note that the entire programme has a budget of CHF 2 million.

Funding for the programme covers

Programme coordination or inclusion in an existing programme - supervision of doctoral candidates by the UAS (share of salary costs) - joint scientific activities - staff - acquisition of cross-functional skills - expenses (travel, accommodation).

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Funding for the programme does not cover

Doctoral candidates' salaries, research projects as well as the cost of any gateways enabling students to be admitted as doctoral candidates are not financed as part of this programme.

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3. CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Timetable

October 2016	Launch of call for proposals
30 December 2016	Deadline for submission
Spring 2017	Decisions and notification by the Board of swissuniversities
From Summer 2017	Start of collaborative projects

Formal requirements

Size	The application should contain a maximum of ten pages (without attachments).
Format	The application should be sent by email in the form of two PDF documents: the first should contain the application and the other should include the attachments.
Language	The application has to be made in English.
Content	The application should contain the following chapters: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Summary (addressing the selection criteria) – max. 1 page2. Contact details of the collaborative project supervisor(s) (contact person clearly indicated)3. Description of activities – max.2 pages4. Detailed budget5. Responses to the selection criteria (see below)
Address for submissions	Applications should be sent by email to anne.crausaz@swissuniversities.ch by Friday, 30 December 2016

Selection procedure

Evaluation	Applications are assessed by an evaluation committee appointed by the Steering Committee whose members are appointed by the Board of swissuniversities. On the basis of the evaluation results, the Steering Committee makes recommendations to the Board of swissuniversities as regards which projects should be financed.
Decision	The Board of swissuniversities decides which projects are to be financed.
Notification	The project supervisors are informed of the outcome of their application. No correspondence nor information will be disclosed in relation to the final decision. Applications will not be reviewed or reconsidered.

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Steering committee

Thomas D. Meier	Rector, Swiss University of the Arts (ZHdK)
Chairman	
Patrick Furrer	Vice-Rector of Research, University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland (HES-SO)
Heinz Rhyn	Rector, University of Teacher Education Zurich (PHZH)
N.N.	

4. Selection criteria

The application should show that the proposed collaborative project meets at least the requirements set out below:

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1. The collaborative project establishes a partnership between foreign HEI offering doctoral programmes and Swiss UAS/UTE at 3rd cycle/doctoral level. This partnership must be evidenced through the meaningful participation of professors from each partner institution and by the application of their respective fields of expertise.
 2. The partnership is associated with research work in a discipline/field represented at Swiss UAS/UTE but not at Swiss university; such a partnership can therefore not be concluded within Switzerland and there is no existing doctoral level qualification in a Swiss university.
 3. The majority of the doctoral work is carried out at a Swiss UAS/UTE and includes the specific characteristics of the institution's own research methodology.
 4. Members of the teaching staff from the two partner institutions (foreign HEI and Swiss UAS/UTE) must be officially involved in the supervision of the doctoral thesis/dissertation.
 5. The legal security is ensured for the doctoral candidates over the term of the programme. The application contains a post-2020 financing plan.
 6. The collaborative project must be designed to include between 5 and 20 doctoral candidates.
 7. Partner institutions must respect the principles of the European Charter and Code for Researchers¹.
 8. The application contains a detailed budget including:
 - a breakdown of the costs per year;
 - a breakdown of the various expenses covered by the partner institutions²;
 - a 50% guarantee of the partner institution's own funds made up of half real money and half virtual money in accordance with the requirements laid down by Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI)³.
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¹ <http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index.cfm/rights/europeanCharter>

² The expenses cover by the foreign Higher Education Institutions can not be taken into account as matching funds.

³ **Real money:** refers to the financial resources made available for the project by the Swiss UAS/UTE. This covers the funding for internal and external staff taking part in the project as well as any purchases made for the purpose of the project. The expenses referred to relate directly to the project.

Virtual money: represents the value of the existing infrastructure used and any services provided by the staff of the Swiss UAS/UTE (who collaborated on the project but were not remunerated within the framework of the project). It also refers to services provided by staff which were financed by national funding programmes (e.g. Swiss National Science Foundation SNSF).

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9. The application specifies the regulations that govern the awarding of the doctoral degree.
 10. The application contains the signatures of the rectors/directors of the relevant partner institutions.
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Contact

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