

Regulations for the funding program «Advanced Physician Scientists Grants»

15 September 2026

1. Aims

The Gottfried and Julia Bangerter-Rhyner Foundation (hereinafter the «Bangerter Foundation») and the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences (SAMS) launch together the funding program «Advanced Physician Scientists Grants».

The aim of the program is to support physician scientists trained in Switzerland, with a specialist title and a strong scientific track record, to devote 50% of their time to a high-quality research project for 2 years, in parallel to a position as senior resident (Oberarzt/-ärztin, Chef. ff. e de clinique) or attending physician (Leitende Ärztin/Leitender Arzt, Médecin adjoint.e) at a university hospital or cantonal hospital in Switzerland. The research can be fundamental or clinical.

By increasing the number of research positions for top clinicians at an intermediate career stage, the program intends to facilitate their access to a stable academic position.

The overarching goal of the program is to encourage more talented physicians trained in Switzerland to pursue a career combining research and clinics, contributing to advance patient care and to strengthen Switzerland's leading position in research and innovation.

To this end, the Bangerter Foundation is making up to CHF 1.7 million available each year as of 2027.

2. Funding, grant duration and work quota

To fulfil the aims of the program, beneficiaries are supported through Advanced Physician Scientists Grants.

Grant duration:

The grant is awarded for 2 years.

Eligible costs:

- The grant supports 50% of the grantee's salary as protected research time, with a fixed amount of CHF 70'000 per year. A possible difference with the corresponding position's salary has to be covered by the host institution.
The host institution is responsible for covering the share of the salary dedicated to clinical work, which should not exceed 50% working time.
- In addition to the applicant's salary dedicated to research, up to CHF 50'000 per year can be requested to fund early-career researchers (e.g. MD students) working under the supervision of the grantee. The goal is to provide more young people with the opportunity to embark on a career in research.

3. Participation requirements

Applicants for an Advanced Physician Scientists Grant must fulfil the following requirements:

- hold a state examination in medicine from a Swiss university and a doctorate (MD or MD-PhD);

- have completed their clinical training and obtained a specialist title;
- be employed or formally affiliated with a Swiss university hospital, university or research institution and have a position as senior resident (Oberarzt/-ärztin, chef. ff. e de Clinique) or attending physician (Leitende Ärztin/Leitender Arzt/Médecin adjoint.e) in a Swiss university hospital or cantonal hospital during the grant period;
- be generally under 45 years;
- have the equivalent of at least 1 year of full-time research experience in Switzerland and have generally spent 1 year at a university hospital or research institution abroad. As an alternative, one additional year of full-time research experience equivalent in Switzerland is possible.
- have a strong scientific track record relative to their career stage;
- Applicants with a medical degree obtained abroad must have been employed for at least two years at a Swiss university hospital or cantonal hospital by the submission deadline.

4. Submission of applications

The funding program «Advanced Physician Scientists Grants» is advertised through the information channels of the SAMS and of the Bangerter Foundation. Detailed information about the program and the submission requirements are available on the SAMS website at sams.ch/advanced-physician-scientists.

There is one annual call for applications. The submission deadline is relevant for assessing the eligibility of the applicants.

Applications must be submitted electronically according to the requirements defined by the SAMS and must contain all the necessary information and documents.

5. Evaluation criteria and evaluation procedure

Applications that meet the formal requirements are evaluated according to the following evaluation criteria.

- Applicant's achievements and academic track record relative to her/his career stage (publications, prizes, third-party funding, patents, collaborations, etc.)
- Applicant's academic career plan
- Applicant's scientific independence
- Quality of the proposed /ongoing research project
- Guarantee of support by the host institution during and after the grant

Evaluation procedure

The evaluation procedure comprises two stages. First, each application that meets the formal requirements is evaluated in writing by two members of the Evaluation Committee (referee and co-referee). The Committee selects the best applications based on the evaluation criteria listed above and retains them for the second evaluation stage. Applicants who are not selected are informed in writing about the rejection of their application by the SAMS.

Applications retained for the second evaluation stage may be assessed by external experts (peer reviewers). Preselected candidates are invited to an interview with the Evaluation Committee to present their research project, career plan and answer questions. At the end of

the evaluation procedure, the Committee selects the applications best fitting the aims of the program and recommends them for funding to the Board of the Bangerter Foundation. The final funding decision is made by the Bangerter Foundation, in accordance with the terms of its agreement with the SAMS.

All applicants are informed in writing by the SAMS about the final decision regarding their application for a grant.

Evaluation Committee members must disclose any actual, potential or apparent conflict of interest and recuse themselves from the evaluation, discussion and recommendation of the affected application.

6. Organization of the program

SAMS

The SAMS is responsible for the administrative and scientific management of the program. It fulfils these duties in close cooperation with the Bangerter Foundation's Scientific Committee.

The SAMS prepares and publishes the calls for applications and organizes the evaluation procedure. It is the point of contact for applicants, it checks applications for formal eligibility and completeness, and prepares the documents for the Evaluation Committee. The SAMS communicates final decisions to applicants and is responsible for the management of awarded grants, for the evaluation of scientific and financial reports and for requesting the payment of annual instalments to grantees by the Bangerter Foundation.

Evaluation Committee

The Evaluation Committee is responsible for the assessment of applications. It makes funding recommendations to be approved by the Bangerter Foundation Board. The Evaluation Committee is led by a co-presidency, with one chairperson chosen by the SAMS Senate and one by the Bangerter Foundation Board. The Committee is composed of the members of the Bangerter Foundation's Scientific Committee, extended by experts from various disciplines. External experts are elected ad personam. They are proposed by the SAMS Executive Board, after consultation of the Evaluation Committee's co-presidency, to the Bangerter Foundation Board who confirms their election.

The SAMS supports a fair representation of research institutions across Switzerland and fosters diversity of the Committee members.

Bangerter Foundation

The Bangerter Foundation Board is responsible for approving funding. It decides which of the proposals recommended for funding by the Evaluation Committee will receive support. The Bangerter Foundation pays the annual instalments of approved grants.

7. Grant administration, annual instalments, and reporting duties

Start of funding, release of funds

Following the award of a grant, the corresponding grantee must request the opening of the grant in accordance with the requirements defined by the SAMS and with the conditions set out in the decision letter. The earliest possible start date is announced in the call. The grant must start on the first day of a month and can be postponed for up to 12 months counting from the date of the decision letter.

Funding is paid in annual instalments by the Bangerter Foundation to the institution where the grantee is employed. Funding cannot be awarded retrospectively.

Scientific and financial reports

The grantee is responsible for the management of the grant vis-à-vis the SAMS. The grantee must submit intermediate financial and scientific reports to the SAMS at intervals defined in the decision letter. Within six weeks of completion of the grant, she/he must also submit a final scientific and financial report which covers the entire grant period. Financial reports must provide an account of the use of the funding. They must be compiled by the grant administration office of the institution where the grantee is employed. Scientific reports must provide information on the progress in the project and in the grantee's career, on the results obtained, on a possible deviation from the original research plan, on the output from the project, and on next steps planned.

Obligations of grantees

All grantees are obliged to use the grant in accordance with the conditions set out in the decision letter and to comply with the stipulations in the present regulations and all other rules applicable to the grant. Significant changes in the approved research work must be notified immediately to the SAMS by the corresponding grantee. Such changes require explicit approval by the SAMS and by the Bangerter Foundation. Funds which were received but not used must be returned to the funder. In the event of premature termination of the grant, the remaining amount must be returned pro rata temporis to the Bangerter Foundation. In case of non-compliance with the present regulations, part of or the entire grant amount can be reclaimed. Scientific misconduct may result in appropriate sanctions, including suspension or termination of the grant, in accordance with applicable rules.

Grant recipients are expected to mention the support received by the SAMS and the Bangerter Foundation in all publications, posters, and presentations resulting from the grant.

8. Ethics, research integrity, and open access

Research activities and methods that have ethical implications or may raise questions regarding ethical assessment must be declared in the application, in conformity with the Swiss laws and ethical standards. If applicable, a copy of the ethics committee's decision and all other necessary authorisations must be submitted to the SAMS at the latest when requesting the opening of the grant. Furthermore, the rules of scientific integrity must be respected¹.

Grantees are expected to ensure open access to all peer-reviewed scientific publications of their results.

All personal data processed in connection with the program shall be handled in accordance with the Swiss Federal Act on Data Protection (FADP; SR 235.1) and other applicable data-protection law.

¹ See: Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences (2021) : Code of conduct for scientific integrity.

9. Changes to the regulations

These regulations may be changed or adapted at any time by the Bangerter Foundation and the SAMS by mutual agreement. Changes shall not apply retroactively to grants already awarded, unless otherwise agreed with the relevant grantee.

These regulations have been approved by the SAMS Executive Board on 31.08.2026 and by the Board of the Gottfried and Julia Bangerter-Rhyner Foundation on 15.09.2026.