

Early-Career Fellowships 2026–2027

Projects and Candidates We Aim to Attract

Are you wondering if an early-career fellowship at the Collegium Helveticum is the right fit for you? If you are at a career stage where you seek independence in setting your agenda and being perceived as independent, then the Collegium might be the right place for you. If you wish to rethink your work from a fresh, interdisciplinary perspective, we encourage you to apply. We also welcome applications aimed at developing larger projects, such as those with the eventual goal of the submission of an ERC Starting Grant, SNSF Starting Grant, or a SNSF Ambizione Grant. If you are an artist seeking an opportunity to thrive in and contributes to a diverse intellectual environment as a fellow, the Collegium might be a unique environment for you. However, please note that if you are looking for funding to support a doctoral dissertation, you are not eligible for this fellowship. If you are in doubt if this fellowship is a good fit for you, we encourage you to reach out to current or former fellows. Below we provide a short list of “pluses” and “minuses” that help you determine whether you as a person and your project might be a good fit for the Collegium’s fellowship program. Please note that we are not expecting early-career fellows and their projects only to tick the pluses, but rather hope for a mix with more pluses than minuses. This is not a comprehensive list of the criteria used in the assessment process. It is intended to give an idea of what and whom the Collegium aims to support.

Pluses

- Innovative project ideas that offer multiple points of connection to other fields, disciplines, and approaches.
- Projects that benefit from exchange with other disciplines.
- Projects that, despite their evident relevance and originality, cannot easily be funded by other means, for example, because they cut across multiple fields.
- Projects that can best be carried out at the Collegium, or that would clearly benefit from being located there.
- Projects that make the applicant venture into new fields.
- Projects that open new horizons and career opportunities for the applicant.
- Projects with a clear and feasible work plan.
- Applicants with a track record demonstrating both originality and productivity relative to their career stage and resources.
- Applicants who would benefit from a multidisciplinary environment with academics and artists.
- Applicants who contribute to and benefit from diversity of perspectives and experiences.
- Applicants who wish to contribute to and help shape the community of fellows at the Collegium.

Minuses

- Projects that might be better carried out elsewhere, e.g., within a specialist research group.
- Projects that are merely continuations or completions of earlier work.
- Projects that are mainstream in their fields or remain confined to a narrow area of specialization.
- Projects that are not clearly defined and remain vague.
- Projects that are not feasible or do not promise significant progress during the tenure of the fellowship.
- Projects that are based on an unrealistic workload.
- Applicants who appear more interested in their career than in their work.

Other aspects

- We explicitly encourage applicants who tend to be more critical of themselves and their achievements. While we wish to select strong applicants, we do not want our recruitment to be biased towards those who are overly confident.
- Please avoid jargon. Selection committee members need to assess applications from a wide range of disciplines, so application materials should be written in a way that can be understood by those outside your field.
- Be concise and precise.
- Ensure that your project's aim and summary clearly convey the main idea.
- We welcome applications from all academic and artistic disciplines to avoid bias towards areas traditionally considered inter- or transdisciplinary.