

What we are looking for in early-career fellows and their projects

Are you wondering if an early-career fellowship at the Collegium Helveticum would be a good 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 want to rethink your work from a fresh and interdisciplinary perspective, consider applying. If you are seeking an opportunity as a fellow from the arts who thrives in and contributes to a diverse intellectual environment, the Collegium might be a unique environment for you. However, if you aim to find funding to support a doctoral dissertation, then you are not eligible.

Below we provide a short list of “pluses” and “minuses” that can help you determine whether you as a person and your project might be a good fit for the Collegium Helveticum’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 wants to support.

Pluses

- Innovative project ideas that offer many 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 be easily funded by other means, for example because they cut across multiple fields.
- Projects that can best be carried out at the Collegium Helveticum or at least clearly benefit from being located at the Collegium.
- Projects which 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 that demonstrates both originality and productivity relative to their stage of career.
- Applicants who benefit from a multidisciplinary environment with academics and artists.
- Applicants who contribute to and benefit from diversity.
- Applicants who want to contribute to and shape the community of fellows at the Collegium.



Minuses

- Projects that might better be carried out elsewhere, e.g., in 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 deem not feasible or do not promise significant progress during the tenure of the fellowship.
- Projects that are based on an unrealistic workload.

Other aspects

- Please avoid jargon. We need to assess applications from different disciplines. The application materials should be written in a way that outsiders to your field can understand.
- Be concise and precise.
- Ensure that your project's aim and summary clearly convey the main idea.
- 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 to bias our recruitment towards those overly confident.
- We encourage applications from all academic and artistic disciplines to avoid bias towards areas traditionally considered inter- or transdisciplinary.

