

## ThinkSwiss Research Scholarships 2019

ThinkSwiss Research Scholarship program Asia-Pacific is funded by the swissnex Network, part of State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) and is supported by swissnex India and the Embassies of Switzerland in Singapore and in Australia. The aim of the program is to promote research opportunities in Switzerland for Indian, Australian and Singapore students and to foster the exchange between Swiss and Asia-Pacific universities & institutions.

### Eligibility Requirements

To apply for a ThinkSwiss Scholarship you must:

- Currently be enrolled at an accredited Indian, Australian or Singapore university/ institute
- Be a master student or an undergraduate student who will have completed the 2<sup>nd</sup> year by the time the research stay in Switzerland begins
- Provide a written confirmation from a professor at a Swiss university that he/ she will accept you for a research stay in his/ her group

### Application

The application and all supporting documents must be uploaded on [online application form](#) in PDF format to by **December 15, 2018**. In order to be considered for this scholarship, each application must contain:

1. A cover letter outlining your research project (e.g. an overview of the tasks and milestones of your project that you agreed on with your host professor) and explaining why you should be awarded the ThinkSwiss Research Scholarship and why you would make an excellent “student ambassador” in the future
2. A CV (no more than two pages)
3. A copy of your current university transcripts (we accept photocopies of official transcripts issued to the student)
4. A letter of acceptance from the professor and/or hosting institution in Switzerland
5. A letter of recommendation from a current professor who can attest to the applicant’s abilities

### ThinkSwiss Regulations

#### Payment of the scholarship

The ThinkSwiss Research Scholarship provides a prorated amount according to the length of your stay: a monthly scholarship of CHF 1,600 (approx. USD 1,600) for a period of two to three months (CHF 4,800 maximum). **Please note that this amount covers only a portion of the average student’s living expenses and that you will be asked to prove sufficient financial means to the Swiss Cantonal authorities before a visa can be issued** (see information on visa below). All ThinkSwiss scholarship winners will be notified by January 30, 2019 and must accept this scholarship by February 15, 2019. The whole amount of the scholarship money will be transferred to the bank account of the recipient shortly after the departure date.

#### Timeframe of your stay

The applicant is free to schedule research anytime between May 1, 2019 and December 1, 2019, with a starting date of your research internship no later than December 1, 2019. Most students choose to go abroad during the summer months as this period falls between regular university semesters. Please be aware that in Switzerland the semester break is approximately from June to mid-September and that during this time universities are less busy.

### **Additional funding**

Please note that research internships at Swiss host institutions are usually unpaid. Since ThinkSwiss does not cover all expenses (see above), we permit additional funding next to ThinkSwiss, as long as the process of acquiring additional funds does not delay the timeframe of your stay.

### **Obligations as a ThinkSwiss Awardee**

By accepting this scholarship, you agree to participate in our ThinkSwiss online platform with at least one blog post to share your experiences during your research stay in Switzerland. After your return to respective country, you also agree to carry out at least one activity as a “student ambassador” to promote Swiss research.

### **Obtaining admission to the Host University**

Please note that obtaining the scholarship does not mean that the student has acquired a specific status and, that the awardees must comply with the host university’s policies regarding admission. Each recipient is in charge of contacting the international office of his/her host university in Switzerland to finalize his/her registration and learning more about the specifics of status at the host institution. Please coordinate and stay in touch with your host professor.

### **Multiple applications**

If you are granted a ThinkSwiss research scholarship, you cannot apply a second time. However, if your first application was not successful you are allowed to apply again.

### **Limitation of the number of ThinkSwiss awardees coming from the same university**

In order to ensure diversity among our ThinkSwiss awardees, the number of available research scholarships is limited to a maximum of two spots for each university that is represented by two or more applicants. However, the number of applications per university is not limited.

## **General Information**

If you are approved for a ThinkSwiss scholarship, please check with the international department of the host university and inquire about registering with and accepting guidance from them in regard to student services available, housing possibilities and other amenities that may be offered from the host universities.

### **Visa**

Concerning visas to Switzerland, please follow the process mentioned on the Swiss Embassy (VFS Global for India) website for necessary visa and apply with sufficient time in hand. **This office cannot influence the visa process.**

Please note: The conditions for your visa approval are determined by the Canton (State) in which your research institution is placed. In the process of granting your visa, the respective Cantonal authorities will ask you to prove that you have sufficient financial means to sustain yourself during the time of your stay, and each of them varies in its regulations. The ThinkSwiss Scholarship (1600CHF/month) is generally not accepted as sufficient proof, because the amount of money deemed sufficient varies between 1500-2200CHF/month depending on the Canton.

### **Housing**

Students are responsible for their own housing, but contacting the international or housing office of the host University for Recommendations is a good place to start.

### **Insurance**

Please note that the scholarship does not provide health, accident or liability insurance. Applicants must make sure that they have insurance coverage for their stay in Switzerland, and it is the sole responsibility of the student to obtain this coverage.

### **Transportation**

It is highly recommended that you use public transportation in Switzerland since there is a very convenient public transportation system that takes you almost everywhere: you should definitely experiment with it! If you plan to travel around in Switzerland, it generally makes sense to buy a half-fare travel card. If you are younger than 25 you might also consider the Track7 travel card. Usually you need to purchase these cards for a period of one year, but often you can resell it and get a part of your money back. Please check with a salesperson at one of the SBB counters that you can find in most of the bigger train stations in Switzerland.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Are non-Indian, non-Australian or non-Singapore citizens eligible to apply for the program?**

All enrolled students at accredited Indian, Australian and Singapore universities are eligible, but ability to participate will depend on obtaining a visa, if necessary.

### **Can the scholarship also be applied to projects at public research institutions or private higher education institutions?**

The scholarship supports research at public universities and public research institutions. However, we do not support research stays at private higher education or research institutions.

### **How do I find a hosting institution and/or a professor in Switzerland?**

Finding a professor in Switzerland is part of the due diligence process that the applicant must conduct on his/her own.

### **Are there any language requirements?**

In Switzerland, undergraduate courses are usually taught in the respective region's national language (German, French or Italian) and graduate programs are often offered in English. However, for a research stay in Switzerland foreign language skills are not required, as the working language will generally be English. Knowledge of any Swiss national language would of course be helpful for daily life.

Thank you for your interest in ThinkSwiss!



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