SCHOLARS AT RISK
SWITZERLAND SECTION

Information for prospective SAR scholars in Switzerland

You are an at-threat scholar and consider Switzerland as place to pursue your academic career in safety? The country guide and study guide provide basics on the Swiss higher education landscape.

Scholars at Risk SAR: global network and Swiss section

The New York-based organisation Scholars at Risk supports at-threat scholars (usually PhDs) by arranging placements in its global network of over 580 higher education institutions in over 40 countries. Obtaining SAR support requires a successful outcome of your application in New York (SAR website). A key element in the application is a suitable hosting arrangement. For that purpose, the SAR Switzerland member institutions with the relevant contact persons are indicated below.

SAR Switzerland members (higher education institutions) and contact persons

Institute for Advanced Studies

Collegium Helveticum: Mario Wimmer, Managing Director

ETH domain

- **EPF Lausanne**: Flavie Robert, Deputy to AVP Research & Gillian Oliveri, Deputy Director of International Affairs
- **ETH Zurich**: Juliette Severino, Manager International Affairs & Anouk de Bast, Head of International Affairs
- **EAWAG** Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology, Christian Stamm, Deputy Director
- **Empa** Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology: Nicole Wettstein, Responsible for research funding and scientific reporting, Research & Strategy Support
- **PSI** Paul Scherrer Institute: Michèle Erat, Scientific Affairs Advisor, Staff of Directorate
- **WSL** Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research: Susanne Jost, Head of Human Resources & Josaine Dingler, Scientific Controlling

Universities

- **Basel**: Julia Wyss, Research Manager, Grants Office
- **Bern**: Annie Cottier, Collaborator UniBE International
- **Fribourg**: Aurélie Cascio, Graduate Administrative Officer, International Relations Office
- **Geneva**: Marianne Halle, Integration Delegate
- **Lausanne**: Matthias Buess, Coordinator International Relations
- **Lucerne**: Catrin Scheiber, Head International Relations Office
- **Neuchâtel**: Audrey Muslimani, Academic Services
- **St Gallen**: Stefan Graf, Grants Advisor Grants Office
- **Svizzera italiana**: Maurizia Ruinelli, Collaborator International Relations and Study Abroad Service
- **Zurich**: Chantal Marquart, Team Lead Global Welcome, Global Affairs
- **Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies** IHEID: Kristina Arseneau, Research Grants Coordinator, Research Office
- **Franklin**: Johanna Fassl, Professor in Art History and Co-Director of Scholarships Without Borders programme & Caroline Wiedmer, Professor in Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies

Universities of applied sciences & arts

- **Bern** BFH: Francesco Bee , Scientific Collaborator Global Engagement Office
- **Grisons** FHGR: Florian Berner, Head of Research Office
- **Lucerne** HSLU: Sandra Sommer, Head of International Office
- **Northwestern Switzerland** FHNW: Mirjam Schmitz, Coordinator International Relations
- **Eastern Switzerland** University of Applied Sciences OST: Stella Nicolaci, International Relations Manager
- **Southern Switzerland** SUPSI: Maria Freti, International Office Collaborator & Diana Quadri, International Office Collaborator
- **Western Switzerland** HES-SO: Nawal Kinany, Head of programmes R&I emerging countries, Division Research and Innovation
- **Zurich** ZHAW: Sandra Nonella, Co-Head of International Office & Selma Crosby, Project officer International Office

- **Zurich** ZHdK: Florence Balthasar, Head of International Affairs

Universities of teacher education

- **Berne, Jura, Neuchâtel** BEJUNE: Philippe Inversin, Deputy Head of Primary Education
- **Grisons** PHGR: Dinesh Rajakaruna, Head of Finance and Services
- **Lucerne** PHLU: Stefanie Rinaldi, Professor, Institute for Education in Science and Social Studies
- **Thurgau** PHTG: Pascal Luder, Leiter Geschäftsstelle
- **Vaud** HEP Vaud: Barbara Lingel, Head of International Relations and Mobility
- **St.Gallen** PHSG: Barabara Wolfer, Head of the Centre for Internationalisation, Mobility and External Relations
- **Zug** PH Zug: Carola Mantel, Head of the Institute for International Cooperation in Education
- **Zurich** PHZH: Raquel Delgado Moreira, Responsible research funding, R&D Office
- **Special Needs** HfH: Peter Klaver, Head of Research and Development Centre

Annie Cottier and Florence Balthasar, Co-Chairs SAR Switzerland, 1 September 2026