

Welcome Apéro 2020

Vice-Rectorate Research

The Vice-Rectorate Research (VRF) supports the outstanding professional achievement of researchers at the University of Bern with a variety of programmes.

The Vice-Rectorate Research:

- plans and finances programmes designed to provide researchers optimum support
- launches and coordinates initiatives and projects that support the work of early career researchers across faculties
- provides both publicly available and privileged information on acquiring third-party funding for projects or individuals
- conducts quantitative surveys of the university's research output.

Also part of the Vice-Rectorate Research is the Grants Office. This is the port of call for all enquiries concerning national or international research funding (see separate factsheet).

With the **Coordination Point for the Promotion of Early Career Researchers**, the Vice-Rectorate Research laid the groundwork for additional concrete programmes targeted to specific audiences (e.g., postdocs), advice regarding the academic career and a comprehensive range of information (see the university website under Research > Promotion of Early Career Researchers) that complement its ongoing strategic efforts on behalf of research and researchers.

Among other initiatives, the **Fund for the Promotion of Young Researchers** will hold semi-annual open application periods in

April and October. Its grantmaking process is conducted in cooperation with the university's **Intermediate Staff Association** (see separate factsheet). Grants of up to 5,000 CHF support innovative projects initiated by young researchers that foster networking and raise professional profiles.

The **UniBE Initiator Grants** represent a new form of financial support for post-doctoral grant writing. Those applying for major grants, whether for projects or individuals, can request Initiator Grants of up to 30,000 CHF. Rules for implementation of the funding are flexible. There is one call per year.

More detailed information concerning specific offers of support can be found on the **university website**, along with a wide range of information concerning doctoral and post-doctoral students (in the menu under Research > Promotion of Early Career Researchers).

The Vice-Rectorate also organizes the new 120%-Care-Grants for Postdocs with care duties, the support for interdisciplinary projects (ID-Grants) the Seal of Excellence Fund (SELF) and the sitem-insel support funds (SISF). There are also many research prizes available. It is important that researchers take advantage of these programmes specifically designed to support them at the University of Bern!

An **e-mail newsletter** sent to all university researchers keeps them up to date on research promotion topics (see www.newsresearch.unibe.ch).

The career support provided by the **Swiss National Fund** is important for young researchers (www.snf.ch > Funding > Careers) The SNF Research Commission functions as a link between the University of Bern and local sources of financial support (www.fk.unibe.ch).

The VRF offers access to two databases to assist researchers in finding funding sources:

- Research Professional, a database for external funding acquisition accessible through the university intranet
- Directories of foundations including one maintained by the university (login within the university network)

The University of Bern strives to provide **fair and attractive working conditions** for its researchers. It supports implementation of the **Charter & Code**, the European Commission's "European Charter for Researchers" and "Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers." Further information can be found on the university website under Research > Good Scientific Practice > Charter & Code.