

# Evaluation and Funding of Research in Switzerland

The Scientists' Perspective in Biomedicine

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# DZHW

Deutsches Zentrum für  
Hochschul- und Wissenschaftsforschung

# The growth of science: Implications for the evaluation and funding of research in Switzerland

Policy analysis and recommendations  
by the Swiss Science Council SSC

Empirical analysis by B. Hendriks, M. Reinhart,  
and C. Schendzielorz, German Centre for  
Higher Education Research and Science  
Studies (DZHW), Berlin



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
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**Schweizerischer Wissenschaftsrat**  
**Conseil suisse de la science**  
**Consiglio svizzero della scienza**  
**Swiss Science Council**



# Interviews

- qualitative questionnaire, by phone, 60-90 minutes
- biomedicine, across universities, across career stages

| Statusgruppe   | Full-Professor | Assistant-Professor | Postdoc |             |
|----------------|----------------|---------------------|---------|-------------|
| Hochschultyp   |                |                     |         |             |
| eidgenössisch  | 5 (2w/3m)      | –                   | 2 (m)   | 7 (2w/5m)   |
| kantonal       | 5 (3w/2m)      | 2 (w)               | –       | 7 (5w/2m)   |
| Fachhochschule | 4 (1w/3m)      | 3 (1w/2m)           | 1(m)    | 8 (2w/6m)   |
|                | 14 (6w/8m)     | 5 (3w/2m)           | 3 (m)   | 22 (9w/13m) |

# Results – Funding

- national and international funding programmes ensure diversity and freedom of research
- ratio of institutional and competitive funding is key for
  - using third-party funding for more risky research
  - ensuring continuity and sustainability
- universities of applied sciences rely (too) heavily on third-party funding
- large or collaborative funding instruments (e.g. NCCRs, SystemsX.ch) are innovative
  - however, size has diminishing marginal utility

# Results – Evaluation

- opportunities for younger researchers and peer review by SNSF are seen favorably
- researchers are well-informed and opinionated on issues around research evaluation
  - publications as sole criterion are inadequate
  - metrics are controversial
  - need for more diverse and qualitative criteria
  - need for more dialogic forms of evaluation
- high burden on applicants for collaborative projects

# Results – Universities (of Applied Sciences)

- notable differences between tier-one universities and universities of applied sciences
  - overlap and competition in research
  - principles of recognition and output expectations differ between the "two spheres" of research and business
    - publications vs. patents, spin-offs, prototypes
  - individual careers are exclusive
    - industry experience as crucial for UAS
  - third-party funding is essential for research in UAS
    - limited institutional funding as disadvantage (in competition and for continuity)

# Unresolved Issues

- innovation through
  - more independent and flexible cooperation initiatives
  - interdisciplinarity with reasonable output expectations
  - integration of entrepreneurial elements
- existing evaluation systems limit diversity (they produce, what they measure)
- tipping point
  - ratio of institutional and competitive funding unsustainable?
  - focus on research excellence at the expense of a "middle-class"?

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