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on the move

National Center of Competence in Research–
The Migration-Mobility Nexus

nccr-onthemove.ch

Call for Visiting Fellows

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Fall Term 2023

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Université de Neuchâtel

The National Center of Competence in Research nccr – on the move aims to enhance the understanding of contemporary phenomena related to migration and mobility in Switzerland and beyond. Connecting disciplines, the NCCR brings together eleven research projects from the social sciences, economics and law. Managed from the University of Neuchâtel, the network comprises eight universities in Switzerland.

Incoming Short-Term Visiting Fellowships

To enhance international exchange and cooperation, the nccr – on the move offers short-term incoming Visiting Fellowships. The Fellowship Scheme can be used to host senior (PostDoc) and junior (doctoral students and Master's degree holders) researchers from abroad, who wish to collaborate with the nccr – on the move for a duration of two to three months (shorter or longer stays are possible, if justified). Applications from researchers coming from or based in a country of the "Global South" are particularly encouraged.

Based on the approved length of stay, the NCCR determines a lump sum for each Fellowship to cover living and travel expenses. The lump sum is calculated on the basis of a monthly stipend of CHF 3'000 for applicants from developed countries and CHF 3'500 for applicants from developing countries, plus expenses for one roundtrip from the place of residence to the host university and the travel expenses to nccr – on the move events within Switzerland.

During the visit, the Fellows pursue a small joint research project in collaboration with the research team hosting them. Such projects can include, but are not limited to, cooperative small-scale research, the elaboration of a joint research proposal, the preparation and/or realization of a workshop, or a joint publication. The Fellows are also expected to participate in the nccr – on the move activities during the Fall term, and present their research at an NCCR event.

Candidates should identify in their application one to two of the following research team(s) – Modules or Individual Projects (IPs) – they may be interested in joining and be hosted by:

Module I:
Migration-Mobility Governance and Crisis Narratives Across Time and Space: Regional, National, and International Perspectives

Module III:
Evolving Regimes of (Im)Mobility in Times of Crisis

Projects

IP40: Narratives of Crisis and Their Influence in Shaping Discourses and Policies of Migration and Mobility

IP41: A European Desert? The Territorial Economics and Politics of Emigration in Crisis Regions

IP44: Monitoring Ethnic and Immigrant Discrimination in Hiring Decisions in Times of Crisis

IP46: Data Politics and New Regimes of Mobility and Control During and After the COVID-19 Pandemic

IP47: Societal Crises and Personal Sense-Making: Transitions, Mobility, and Imagination Across the Lifecourse

IP48: Towards a Novel Mobility Regime? The Legacies of the COVID-19 Pandemic Regarding the Governance of Human Movement

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More information on the nccr – on the move, the focus of the research, the Modules and the Projects can be found on our website. Only the research teams listed above will consider applications for this call.

Please note that the Fellowship is not a salary, and that it is only meant to cover the living and travel costs linked to the stay in Switzerland. Please also note that obtaining a travel visa is subject to acceptance by Swiss authorities.

Eligibility

Applicants will go through a two-stage process. Each stage has its own eligibility criteria.

Applying Senior Fellows need to fulfill the following requirements:

The first stage:

– have completed doctoral training;
– provide the names of two referees;
– choose and indicate one to two Module(s) and/or Project(s) listed above as potential hosts (depending on affinities with their research);
– present a research plan that illustrates potential synergies and collaborations with the work undertaken in the nccr – on the move and with members of the NCCR, in particular with the Module(s) and/or Project(s) they would like to be hosted by.

The second stage (if pre-selected in the first stage):

– secure a formal invitation by one (of the two) nccr – on the move Modules and/or Projects indicated during the first stage. The letter should be issued by the Module Representative or the Project Leader willing to host them in Switzerland. Please note that pre-selected candidates are not entitled to receive an invitation letter, it is up to the Module/Project to select the Fellows they are interested in hosting;
– adapt their research plan in collaboration with the Module and/or Project willing to host them;

– provide a letter of recommendation (upon request from the inviting Module/Project);
– have a valid health insurance coverage that is recognized in Switzerland (upon award of the fellowship).

Applying Junior Fellows need to fulfill the following requirements:

The first stage:

– be enrolled in a doctoral training program in a university abroad, or be in possession of a Master's degree;
– provide the names of two referees;
– indicate one to two Module(s) and/or Project(s) listed above as potential hosts (depending on affinities with their research);
– present a research plan that illustrates potential synergies and collaborations with the work undertaken in the nccr –on the move and with members of the NCCR, in particular with the Module(s) and/or Project(s) they would like to be hosted by.

The second stage (if pre-selected in the first stage):

– secure a formal invitation by one (of the two) nccr – on the move Modules and/or Projects indicated during the first stage. The letter should be issued by the Module Representative or the Project Leader willing to host them in Switzerland. Please note that pre-selected candidates are not entitled to receive an invitation letter, it is up to the Module/Project to select the Fellows they are interested in hosting;
– adapt their research plan in collaboration with the Module and/or Project willing to host them;
– provide a letter of recommendation (upon request from the inviting Module/Project);
– have a valid health insurance coverage that is recognized in Switzerland (upon award of the Fellowship).

The nccr – on the move Modules or Projects wanting to host a Junior or a Senior Visiting Fellow need to meet the following requirements:

– issue a formal invitation/support letter to the interested applicant by the Module Representative or the Project Leader with a confirmation to provide a desk and other infrastructure to the guest;
– permission of their Head of Department;
– settle details concerning the stay of the Fellow with the cantonal employment office and support the invited person concerning the organization of the stay (depending on the host canton, the duration of the stay and/or their nationality numerous administrative details need to be settled.

Application Procedure

The application process will happen in two stages.

In the first stage, applicants have to submit the following documents as a single PDF file:

– curriculum vitae;
– the names of two referees;
– confirmation that they have a Master's or a PhD degree, or that they are enrolled in doctoral training;
– list of publications (if applicable);
– motivation letter (one page) explaining why the applicant wants to join the nccr – on the move and the partner institution(s) and indicating one to two Module(s) and/or Project(s) listed above as potential hosts (depending on affinities with their research);
– research plan (two pages) describing the planned research and its relevance for the nccr – on the move, the nature of the planned cooperation within NCCR members, and in particular with the Module(s) and/or Project(s) they would like to be hosted by, and the expected output (e.g., publications, a workshop, joint project submission, etc.).

Please send your application to Lucas Oesch, Deputy Scientific Officer of the nccr – on the move, (lucas.oesch@nccr-onthemove.ch).

Deadline for application is 31 March 2023.

Applicants will be informed on their pre-selection by early April 2023.

In the second stage (if pre-selected during the first stage), applicants will have to submit by **30 April 2023** the following additional documents:

– invitation letter by one of the nccr – on the move Modules or Projects they indicated during the first stage, issued by the Module Representative or Project Leader confirming that the demanded resources will be made available by the nccr – on the move partner university. Please note that pre-selected candidates are not entitled to receive an invitation letter, it is up to the Module/Project to select the Fellows they are interested in hosting.

– updated research plan, revised in discussion with the Module or Project supporting their application;

– a letter of recommendation (if requested by the inviting Module/Project).

Upon the award of the Fellowship, and prior to their travel to Switzerland, the Fellow will have to provide a proof of valid health insurance (e.g., European Health Insurance Card or "Schengen Insurance").

Selection Procedure

Based on the following criteria, the NCCR Network Office will evaluate and select the applications for the first stage, while the NCCR Scientific Committee will make the decision regarding the final selection during the second stage:

First stage:

– All formal requirements are met (see conditions under eligibility);
– quality of the proposed research plan;
– synergies with respect to the nccr – on the move research agenda;
– the research teams mentioned by the applicant are willing to receive Visiting Fellows.

Second stage:

– Academic potential of the applicant and benefits of the proposed cooperation for the
– nccr – on the move (publications, project submissions, etc.);
– fair distribution of Fellowships among the NCCR Projects;
– scientific track-record of the applicant;
– in case of applications meeting all the previous criteria and of equal quality, priority will be given to:
  · scholars who are based or coming from countries listed under categories B and C identified by the International Sociological Association (ISA).
  · early career researchers or scholars without a fixed-term position.

The Committee will take the final decision on the Fellowships by mid-June 2023. The Fellowships will officially begin in September, October, or November 2023, as agreed between the Fellow and the research team hosting them.