Call for Visiting Fellows

Spring Term 2024
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 low or middle-income country 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 3,500, 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 their stay, and present their research at an NCCR event.

Candidates should identify in their application one of the following research teams – Module or Individual Project (IP) – they may be interested in joining and being hosted by in Spring 2024:

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

IP39: The Impact of Crises on the Global Governance of Migration: Boost or Blow

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

IP45: Dealing with Crises and Liminal Situations: The Agency of Ukrainian and Syrian Forced Migrants in Three National Contexts

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

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.
nccr —> on the move

Eligibility

Applying Senior Fellows need to fulfill the following requirements:

– have completed doctoral training;
– provide the names of two referees (upon request from inviting Modules or Projects, candidates may be asked to submit recommendation letters);
– choose and indicate one Module or Project as a potential host (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 or Project they would like to be hosted by;
– not have a permanent affiliation and/or a permanent residence in Switzerland at the time of application.

Applying Junior Fellows need to fulfill the following requirements:

– 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 (upon request from inviting Modules or Projects, candidates may be asked to submit recommendation letters);
– indicate one Module or Project as a potential host (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 or Project they would like to be hosted by;
– not have a permanent affiliation and/or a permanent residence in Switzerland at the time of application.

Application Procedure

Applicants have to register through this link and upload the following documents:

– curriculum vitae;
– name and contact 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 Module or Project as potential host (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 or Project they would like to be hosted by, and the expected output (e.g., publications, a workshop, joint project submission, etc.).

Deadline for applications is 15 October 2023.

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.

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

The decision regarding the final selection will be based on the following criteria:

- all formal requirements are met (see conditions under eligibility);
- the research team chosen by the applicant is willing to receive the Visiting Fellow;
- quality of the proposed research plan;
- synergies with respect to the nccr – on the move research agenda;
- academic potential of the applicant and benefits of the proposed cooperation for the nccr – on the move (publications, project submissions, etc.);
- 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 final decision on the Fellowships will be made by mid-December 2023. The Fellowships will officially begin in February, March or April 2024, as agreed between the Fellow and the research team hosting them.

For any questions, please contact Robin Stünzi, Education, Careers and Equal Opportunities Officer of the nccr – on the move, (robin.stunzi@nccr-onthemove.ch).