

Research Grants 2019/2020 Guidelines

1. Aims

- 1.1. In accordance with its statutes, the Swiss Multiple Sclerosis Society supports research in the field of MS in order to improve understanding of the causes and development of the disease, to further develop treatment options, and to improve quality of life for people with MS and their families.
- 1.2. The intention of the research grants is to encourage research that makes a difference to the lives of people with MS. In 2018, the MS Society launched a survey among its members. Its results outline the topical foci of the 2019/2020 anniversary funding period:
 - Understanding MS:
Causes of MS, Genetics in MS, Environmental Factors, Disease Progression
 - Living with MS:
Symptom Management, Quality of Life, Complementary Treatment Options

2. Exclusion

MS Research Grants are funded through donations by the general public and foundations. They are only possible through intense fundraising campaigns by the Swiss MS Society.

Therefore, if an institution engages in competing fundraising activities, it will not be possible to consider applications from this institution.

3. Application procedure

Applications must be submitted by completing the online application form and uploading the requested pdf documents on www.multiplesklerose.ch («Grant Applications»).

Applications with incomplete content and/or incorrect format will not be considered.

- 3.1. One application per principal investigator (PI)
- 3.2. Deadline: September 1st, 2019
- 3.3. Estimated beginning of funding: January 1st 2020
- 3.4. Timeframe of funding: 2 years
- 3.5. Applications of previously funded researchers will only be considered if the reporting for their projects has been completed and acknowledged.

4. Contents of the application

Applications must be submitted in English except for the lay summary (German, French or Italian).

- 3.1. Principal Investigator (PI)
- 3.2. Co-investigator(s)
Up to 3 co-investigators are allowed. As PI you may not be listed as co-investigator in any other grant application.
- 3.3. Title of your project
- 3.4. Main category of your project
- 3.5. Collaborations
Institutions or persons you collaborate with on this project.
- 3.6. Requested amount
Up to CHF 200'000 for the 2-year funding period 2019/2020.
- 3.7. Additional funding sources
Received or pending additional funding sources for this project.
- 3.8. Approvals:
Ethics approval and/or animal experimentation permit
- 3.9. Have you received a MS Society grant before?
Years of funding (up to 3 years back)
- 3.10. Keywords
Up to 4 keywords that best describe your project.
- 3.11. Enclosures
Please add the following documents to your application as PDF:
 - 3.11.1. Lay summary (template)
In German, French or Italian. Intended for the Board of the MS Society and the lay public – if the project is funded this will be published in the media of the MS Society.

3.11.2. Scientific part (template)

The scientific part should not exceed 10 pages. Please follow this structure:

- Summary (1 page)
- Background (2 pages)
- Rationale, hypothesis and specific aims (1 page)
- Experimental plans including own previous results and methodology (3 pages)
- Significance for persons with MS (1 page)
- References (1 page)

3.11.3. Financial plan (template)

Detailed overview of how the requested funds will be used.

3.11.4. Fundraising declaration (template)

Dated and signed confirmation of the principal investigator's institution that it does not engage in fundraising activities competing with the Swiss MS Society.

3.11.5. Ethics approvals and/or animal experimentation permits

Attach the requested documents if applicable.

3.11.6. Curriculum vitae & list of the PI's most relevant publications

Publication list: most relevant publications to the project (max. 10)

3.11.7. Recommendation letter

If the principal investigator is part of a research group: a letter of the supervisor to confirm full support to the PI to have his/her own research group in the future.

3.11.8. Link to video

Please send us a short video describing the key aims of your research project and its significance for people with MS.

The video should be 1-2 minutes long and in German, French or Italian.

3.11.9. Youtube link to your video or a personal link to a download platform (e.g. Dropbox, WeTransfer)

3.11.10. Additional documents

If necessary, you may add further documents as pdf.

3.11.11. Acknowledgement

Confirmation that you have filled out the application truthfully and agree to comply with these guidelines.

4. Evaluation

Each application is evaluated by two external experts and given a score from 3 – 6. In addition, the applications are evaluated by an internal committee.

Based on these evaluations, the internal committee submits their proposal to the Board of the MS Society which makes the final decision.

5. Payment

If the grant application has been approved by the MS Society Board, 50% of the allocated amount will be issued immediately. 25% will be issued after an intermediate report has been acknowledged by the internal committee and the final 25% after submission of a final report, including resulting publication(s).

For all payments the MS Society needs an invoice by the PI's institution.

6. Report

An (intermediate) report must be submitted electronically in English by Jan 1st 2021 using the form on www.multiplesklerose.ch («Grant Applications»). The report will be reviewed by the internal committee.

6.1. Contents of the Report

- Scientific report, including intermediate results or the conclusion of the project and resulting publication (5 to 10 pages).
- Lay summary of the (intermediate) results, complete with the email address of the PI and reference list. Attractive lay summaries are essential to communicate to the public the outcome of the funded projects and to emphasize the importance of MS research. Please use the form on www.multiplesklerose.ch
- A short video highlighting the progress or the results of the project (1-2 minutes, in German, French or Italian)
- Detailed financial report on how the grant was used (approved by the responsible administration of the PI's institution).

7. Open Access

The MS Society follows the guidelines on open access publications for results obtained with a research grant from the MS Society according to the regulations of the Swiss National Science Foundation: www.snf.ch/en/theSNSF/research-policies/open-access

9. Swiss MS Society General Assembly and «State of the Art» Symposium

The presence of MS researchers at the annual MS Society General Assembly aims to create more interactions between MS researchers and people with MS and is a networking opportunity among researchers.

The State of the Art Symposium is the most important MS symposium in Switzerland.

9.1. Oral / Poster presentations

Grant recipients are requested to present relevant results in short oral presentations or posters at the MS Society General Assembly (held annually in June) and State of the Art Symposium (held annually in January).

9.2. Summary

Summaries of these presentations must be submitted to the MS Society in electronic form for use in the media of the MS Society.

10. Mention of the Swiss MS Society

The Swiss Multiple Sclerosis Society must be mentioned in all publications and presentations related to the granted research project. A Logo and claim will be provided.

11. Contact

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Research Grant Administration
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These Guidelines are also available on www.multiplesklerose.ch

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