

MS Society Research Grants Guidelines

The Swiss MS Society supports MS research in Switzerland with considerable financial resources. The Scientific Grant Committee (SGC) is an independent, neutral body. It reviews incoming project applications together with external experts and makes a funding recommendation to the Board of the MS Society. This ensures independent and transparent funding of Swiss research projects.

1. Aims

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.

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: July 1st, 2021
- 3.3. Estimated beginning of funding: November 1st, 2021
- 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

The requested amount may not exceed the maximum for the 2-year funding period (see www.multiplesklerose.ch: «Grant Applications»).

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.** Additional documents
If necessary, you may add further documents as pdf.
- 3.11.8.** 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 the Scientific Grant Committee.

Based on these evaluations, the Scientific Grant Committee submits their funding proposal to the Board of the MS Society which makes the final decision.

5. Agreement

If the grant application has been approved by the MS Society Board, an agreement will be signed between the MS Society and the PI.

6. Payment

50% of the allocated amount will be issued immediately after signing the agreement. 25% will be issued after an intermediate report has been acknowledged by the Scientific Grant 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.

7. Report

A report must be submitted electronically in English by October 1st of each year until the project is completed, using the form on www.multiplesklerose.ch. Please add all publications arising in the context of the supported project. The reports are reviewed by the Scientific Grant Committee.

7.1. Contents of the Report

- 7.1.1. Scientific report, including intermediate results or the conclusion of the project and resulting publications (5 to 10 pages).
- 7.1.2. 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
- 7.1.3. A short video highlighting the progress or the results of the project (1-2 minutes, in German, French or Italian)
- 7.1.4. Detailed financial report on how the grant was used (approved by the responsible administration of the PI's institution).

8. 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. Presentations and Webinars

- 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 the «MS State of the Art Symposium» (held annually in January). Summaries of these presentations must be submitted to the MS Society in electronic form for use in the media of the MS Society.
- 9.2. Webinars
Upon request by the MS Society, grant recipients conduct webinars for persons with MS.

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: «Research Grant No. xxx, funded by the Swiss Multiple Sclerosis Society».

11. Contact

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Research Grant Administration
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These Guidelines and the application / report forms are available on
www.multiplesklerose.ch: «[Grant Applications](#)».

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