

Leading House Asia at ETH Zurich 2021-2024

2024 Early-Career Grant Call

Application Guidelines

I. General Description

I-1. Background Information

The State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) has mandated ETH Zurich as Leading House for bilateral cooperation with East and Southeast Asia for the 2021–2024 funding period. The Leading House Asia (LH Asia) covers East and Southeast Asia, that is China, Hong Kong, Japan, Macau, South Korea, Taiwan and the ASEAN member states¹.

I-2. Program Aims and Research Field

The main purpose of the Early-Career Grant Call is to foster and facilitate the direct exchange between Swiss research groups and their Asian research partners and to enable the mobility of early-career researchers from Swiss Universities, public research institutes, Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS) and Universities of Teacher Education (UTEs). Research stays in countries/territories in East Asia or Southeast Asia may motivate researchers to spend part of their later scientific career abroad while they are at the same time given the chance to learn a new technique or use some infrastructure directly relevant to their current research project.

The program will fund research stays for a duration of a minimum of 3 months and up to 6 months and is open to all scientific fields including social sciences, humanities, design and the arts.

I-3. Who can apply

The LH Asia invites doctoral students (who have completed at least two years of their doctorate by the start of the research stay) currently working in a research group at an eligible Swiss institution to apply for a research stay in East or Southeast Asia. Doctoral students must return to Switzerland after their research stay to complete their doctoral studies. UAS/UTE researchers with min 2+ and max 5 years of experience by the application deadline are also eligible to apply. UAS/UTE researchers must return to Switzerland at the end of their stay to further work in a research group at a Swiss university, university of applied sciences, university of teacher's education, or a public research institute. If in doubt or in case you are not sure whether your position is eligible, please email juliette.severino@sl.ethz.ch.

The applicant must have the formal support of their Switzerland-based supervisor and a supervisor in the destination country/territory. The supervisor in the destination country/territory cannot be changed during the fellowship. The Switzerland-based supervisor will co-sign the early-career grant agreement together with the fellow.

I-4. Export control

Project activities conducted under the early-career grant may be subject to export control rules and regulations (see [State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO](#)) regarding export, re-export of goods, technology and/or information procured/obtained and that these rules and regulations may affect the research exchange. The home and/or partner institution are responsible for compliance with possible export control restrictions.

¹ ASEAN member states: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam

II. Financial Support by the Leading House Asia

The Leading House Asia will provide the following support to Switzerland-based fellows:

- Maintenance allowance: 3 monthly fellowship of CHF 2,500 (CHF 7,500)
- Return economy ticket of max CHF 2000

The fellowship funding is **only** for three months. However, the duration of the stay in the country/territory can be between 3 and 6 months, i.e. considering lower costs of living or other supplementary funds. It is up to the applicant to decide the length of the stay in the destination country/territory, bearing in mind the visa regulations, funding, and other restrictions. The **exact** starting date and the duration must be indicated in the application form.

III. Application

Switzerland-based applicants submit their application online with the following appendices **in one single pdf file** (English).

The application shall include:

- Research plan
- CV of the applicant (Switzerland-based scholar)
- Supporting letter from the Switzerland-based supervisor
- Acceptance letter from the supervisor in the destination country/territory
- Any other supporting document(s)

IV. Evaluation of Project Proposals

IV-1. Evaluation Procedure and Time Schedule

IV-2. Evaluation Criteria

- Scientific excellence of the proposed project
- Conformity with the Program Aims
- Suitability of candidate and destination country/territory host researcher for the proposed project
- Benefit of proposed exchange for cooperation between destination country/territory and Switzerland, synergies between the two involved research groups (previous contacts between the groups are considered an advantage).

IV-3. Reviewers

In the application form, the applicant must suggest three reviewers. In order to prevent any conflict of interest, the suggested reviewers should not have contributed to any work together with the applicant nor with her/his supervisor in the past, nor be affiliated at the same research institution. The reviewers are preferably located in Switzerland, in exceptional cases they can be located abroad.

IV-3. Timeline

Call launch:	1 February 2024
Deadline for submission:	1 April 2024
Evaluation and funding decision:	April - May 2024
Notification:	Early June 2024
Project start (earliest):	15 August 2024
Project start (latest):	15 October 2024

V. Immigration, health insurance coverage, etc.

The Switzerland-based applicant is responsible for their own immigration procedures should they need a visa in the destination country/territory based on their country of citizenship and/or the duration of their stay in the destination country/territory. Health insurance coverage is the sole responsibility of the Switzerland-based applicant. The Leading House Asia does not offer any administrative support in immigration, nor health insurance matters.

VI. Final Report

Maximum 30 days after completion of the research exchange, the fellows will submit a scientific **and** a financial report to the Leading House Asia that will be available on the Leading House Asia website.

Contact for inquiries of Switzerland-based applicants:

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