Universität Basel

Swiss Nanoscience Institute

Swiss Nanoscience Institute
Center of Excellence supported by the University of Basel and the Canton of Aargau

SNI PhD School Call for Project Proposals

The Swiss Nanoscience Institute (SNI) launches its 15th call for PhD projects. A successful project becomes part of the **SNI PhD program in nanoscience** initiated in 2012. The selected PhD candidates become junior members of the SNI and benefit from the SNI network, personal support, a strongly interdisciplinary social environment, exclusive soft skill trainings and many internal SNI events. The **doctoral students must enroll at the University of Basel** on the next possible date and for the entire duration of their studies. A list of currently supported projects and more information can be found at **phd.nanoscience.ch**.

Funding: The funding covers the salary for one PhD student plus operating expenses for a maximum of four years (basis: SNF salaries). A lump sum of 60'000 CHF per year for a theoretical project and 65'000 CHF per year for an experimental project will be granted.

Scope: The proposed work should be academically excellent and address novel and potentially daring topics in nanoscience and nanotechnology, beyond standard research, with roots in disciplines such as physics, chemistry, biology, medicine, material sciences, environmental sciences, or engineering.

Proposers: The proposers should be experts in the proposed field and necessarily are **principal investigators** (PIs) at one of the academic institutions in Northwestern Switzerland (University of Basel, PSI, CSEM Allschwil, FHNW Muttenz, FHNW Windisch, or D-BSSE of ETHZ Basel). Each project requires two proposers constituting the PhD committee: the main proposer ("Doktorvater") and the co-proposer. At least one of the proposers must be a professor in "Gruppierung I" at the University of Basel and member of the Faculty of Science ("faculty responsible"). Both proposers must be employed on a permanent contract of at least 50% at one of the above institutions. If successful, both proposers become senior members of the SNI. **Any researcher is allowed to act as main-PI for a maximum of 2 funded SNI PhD students at any time. The same rule applies independently for the role as co-PI**. N.b.: PhD students beyond their 4th year and no longer funded by the SNI do not count towards this limit.

Project evaluation: The proposals will be evaluated by several reviewers based on 1) the scientific quality, 2) the relevance for nanoscience or nanotechnology, with a preference for interdisciplinary projects, and 3) collaborations between different research groups in the SNI network, possibly at different institutions, sharing different expertise or equipment that actively benefits the proposed work.

Selection of PhD candidates: For all granted projects the SNI will launch a worldwide search for candidates. The hiring decision is taken by the proposers.

Submission:

Please submit your proposal as a single pdf file by ***26 April 2026*** *to Claudia.Wirth@unibas.ch*

On the first page, please start with the project title and names of the PIs, including affiliations and email addresses, and **indicate the main- and co-PI and the faculty responsible, as well as to which of the three evaluation categories your project fits best (Physics/Engineering, Chemistry/Environment, or Biology/Medicine)**. The proposal of **two A4 pages** maximum length can be formatted individually. A **CV of one page per PI** should be merged with the proposal into a single pdf file (max. four A4 pages). Use the name of the main proposer as the file name.

Timeline

9 April 2026	Optional information event (see separate email for details)
26 April 2026	**Deadline for project proposals**
May - June	Review process
End of June	Information about acceptance
July – Dec.	Advertisement and search for candidates, online application tool continuously open
1 Jan. 2027	Earliest project start
1 July 2027	Latest project start

More Information

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Contact	*Andreas.Baumgartner@unibas.ch*