



University of National and World Economy

PAMPHLET

**Scientific Exchanges between Bulgaria and
Switzerland (SCIEX) 2025**

**International Cooperation and Projects
Division**

WEBSITE: <https://www.unwe.bg/en/structure/render/679>

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Scientific Exchange between Bulgaria and Switzerland (SCIEX)

**General Information**

SCIEX is aimed at **early career researchers**, i.e. **PhD (doctoral) students** and **postdoctoral researchers** of any nationality, are permanent residents in Bulgaria and would like to undertake a research secondment in a non-commercial Swiss research institute. The main objectives of SCIEX are a) to further scientific knowledge and development, b) to improve and deepen the grantees' scientific skills, and c) to foster research collaborations and strengthen scientific networks. This document outlines the specific conditions and procedures for submitting a proposal to the SCIEX Fellowships Call 2025.

**Eligibility for Bulgaria**

- The scheme is open to all research disciplines and topics.
- Applicants are PhD students, who have been matriculated as doctoral students for at least 6 months at a Bulgarian institute, or postdoctoral researchers, who have a PhD degree, less than 8 years of postdoctoral experience and are affiliated with a Bulgarian institute.

Doctoral students:

- At the time of the submission deadline, applicants have been matriculated as PhD students (also applies to MD-PhD candidates) at a Bulgarian institute¹ for at least six months.
- Applicants have any nationality and must be permanent residents in Bulgaria, at the time of the submission deadline.

Postdoctoral researchers

- At the time of the submission deadline, applicants must hold a doctoral degree (PhD)², or have at least three years of experience as a researcher after obtaining their higher education degree (equivalent qualification to a doctorate) and be affiliated with a Bulgarian institute¹ as a researcher.
- Applicants must have obtained their relevant degree, i.e. the doctoral degree (PhD)³, within 8 years of the submission deadline. The relevant date is that of the examination or thesis defence.
- Applicants who have defended their doctoral thesis before the submission deadline but have not yet been formally awarded the doctoral degree or will defend their thesis within the next 6 months, by the time of the submission deadline, will be also considered postdoctoral researchers and are eligible. An official document confirming that they have successfully passed or will complete their doctorate within the following 6 months respectively, is required.

**Deadlines**

- Opening Date: **01.11.2024**
- Closing Date: **13.03.2025, 17.00.00h (Swiss local time)**
- The applicants will be informed of the final decisions in **July 2025**.
- The earliest start of the grants is in **September 2025**.

**Funding Modalities for Bulgaria**

- **The available budget for SCIEX is CHF 2 million**
- It is covered by funds of the second Swiss Contribution and the Bulgarian Ministry of Science and Education. The SNSF may set an upper limit for the salary.
- Project funds, including research costs directly linked to the implementation of the project, costs for Open Research Data, training and networking contributions, as well as conferences and travel costs are covered.

**Description**

- Applicants are supervised by a senior researcher in Switzerland, together with the PhD or postdoc supervisor in Bulgaria.
- Reciprocal short-term research visits (STV) for both the Bulgarian, and the Swiss supervisors are possible.

- For the duration of the fellowship (6-24 months for PhD students and 6-18 months for postdoctoral researchers), the applicants are employed at a non-commercial institution in Switzerland.
- The grant includes the grantees' salary with social security contributions, financial contributions to research and conference costs. STVs are eligible costs.
- A SCIEX Fellowship is awarded for a minimum of six months and a maximum of twenty four months for doctoral students.

**More Info**

- Administrative Offices of the SNSF (email: sciex@snf.ch)
- Website: <https://www.snf.ch/en/FKhU9kAtfXx7w9AI/page/home>
- The applications must be submitted to www.mysnf.ch.