

FUTURE FOOD

A SWISS RESEARCH INITIATIVE

Future Food Fellowship

Call 2020

The Future Food Fellowship is a postdoctoral programme for exceptionally qualified young researchers who propose projects targeting future food issues such as nutrition, production, packaging and digital health. The fellowship provides personal research funds for three years, enabling fellows to work on their projects and collaborate with Swiss industry partners.

ETH Zurich and EPFL have launched Future Food – A Swiss Research Initiative (“Future Food Initiative”) together with Swiss food industry leaders Bühler, Givaudan and Nestlé as the first partners on board, with the possibility for additional partners to join in the near future. The goal of the initiative is to expand research and education in the area of food and nutrition sciences; the fellowship program within the initiative aims at bringing together competences from academic and industrial research in this field.

The overarching goal is to develop solutions that address grand challenges, including sustainable packaging (for example the elimination of plastics) and affordable nutrition (for example combatting deficiencies and starvation globally). A successful fellow must demonstrate the willingness to engage with scientific or economic issues across the frontiers of food and nutrition sciences. In short, the research project must meet the following criteria:

- Over a time horizon in the order of ten years, the project will be able to significantly impact the research fields of food and nutrition and/or has significant potential for societal or industrial impact, for example by affecting a large segment of the consumer market, leading to new industrial processes, solving ecologically important issues, or improving the quality of human life or health.

- It brings together, in a collaborative effort, Swiss companies participating in this programme with one or several laboratories in at least one of the two Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology (ETH Zurich or EPFL).
- It is led and managed by the fellowship recipient, who is embedded in a hosting laboratory or in hosting laboratories at ETH Zurich or EPFL.
- The project has an annual budget equal to the fellow’s salary according to standard conditions of the host institution plus a yearly contribution of 20’000 Swiss Francs for travel and consumables. (for project costs directly related to the approved project?)

The programme is structured around annual calls for proposals for research projects at the postdoctoral level. The fellowship provides personal research funds for three years that enable fellows to work on their projects in a research laboratory with a host professor at ETH Zurich or EPFL and, in certain instances, in industry (under conditions to be agreed upon).

Although the call is open to any outstanding proposal, following topics are prioritized in 2020:

- Plant based proteins
- Digital technologies for food design
- Sustainable packaging
- Microbiome

Eligibility

The following eligibility criteria must be fulfilled:

- Citizens of any nationality may apply; there are no restrictions concerning age.
- Applicants must hold a doctorate (PhD) and must have obtained their doctoral degree at maximum three years before the submission deadline. The granting date of the certificate is the relevant date. The latest possible date for a successful defence of the PhD is 30 September succeeding the interview date.
- Applicants must not have been affiliated for studies, research, employment or other activities (with or without payment) at either ETH Zurich or EPFL during the 12 months that immediately precede the submission deadline.
- Applications will not be forwarded for evaluation if applicants already hold or have held a faculty-equivalent position (e.g. assistant professor) in a higher education institution in Switzerland or abroad.
- Applications and supporting documentation must be written in English.
- The prospective research project must also comply with the applicable ethics regulations and adhere to the principles of research integrity valid at the host institution (ETH Zurich or EPFL). Relevant ethical, legal and social considerations should be included in the proposal.

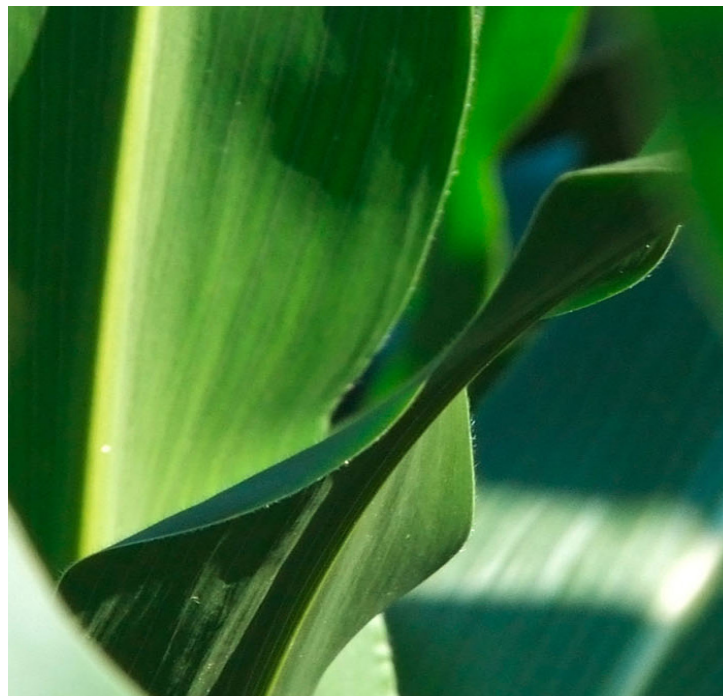


Duration

The fellowship is awarded in the form of a three-year research contract. At the end of the second year, a review is conducted

to evaluate the project, its continued originality and the productivity of the fellow.

During the three years, fellows are encouraged to seek faculty or industry positions. Success in doing so will not necessarily result in termination of the fellowship – the decision will be made by the Decision Board on the recommendation of the Evaluation Board.



Funding

The programme aims to award ten fellowships each year. However, available funds will only be exhausted if the quality standards of the programme are fulfilled. The maximum duration of funding for each postdoctoral fellowship is three years. The funding will be granted to cover the fellow's salary in accordance with **the host institution's standard conditions plus 20,000 Swiss Francs for travel and consumables**. Upon project approval, funds will be allocated at the start of the project for the entire duration of the project to the hosting laboratory, which will manage its usage in conformity with the rules of the hosting institution.

Deadline

The final deadline for the submission of applications via the online form is:

31 March 2020, 23.59 CET.

For further information visit: www.futurefoodtalents.org