



Washington, D.C., September 2019

ThinkSwiss Summer Schools *Call for Proposals*

ThinkSwiss is a scholarship program managed by the Office of Science, Technology, and Higher Education (OSTHE) at the Embassy of Switzerland in Washington, D.C. with the purpose of supporting students from the United States and Canada who would like to go to Switzerland to study or to conduct research¹. It is a joint program of the Embassies of Switzerland in the United States and in Canada and of the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI).

The ThinkSwiss program provides financial assistance to summer schools at Swiss universities, which allows them to allocate travel grants to participants from Canada and the United States. To find out more about the experiences of former ThinkSwiss awardees, please have a look at our ThinkSwiss Brainstorm Blog on www.thinkswiss.tumblr.com.

For 2020, the OSTHE once again launches an **open, competitive application process to select the 2020 summer schools**. Those with the most convincing application will receive ThinkSwiss travel grants which allow them to support summer school applicants from U.S. and/or Canadian universities. (Please note that the OSTHE reserves the right to limit the maximum number of students who can receive a ThinkSwiss travel grant. In this case, summer schools are advised to choose the awardees based on excellence qualifications.)

To apply for ThinkSwiss support, please include the following information in a dossier:

- 1) A description of the summer school course, including its goals and (if available) a more detailed program, covering facts such as the exact topics, the involved lecturers or other program items, like excursions (if applicable).
- 2) The date and length of the summer school course.
- 3) The expected number of applicants and the number of ThinkSwiss grants you plan to allocate to participants from American and/or Canadian universities.
- 4) A short description of how you plan to promote your summer school (e.g. website, flyers, contacts to other universities etc.).

The application should be sent to washington.science@eda.admin.ch until **January 15, 2020**. The decision about the outcome of the selection process will be communicated by the end of March 2020.

¹ ThinkSwiss supports students who are enrolled at a U.S. or Canadian university. These students do not need to be U.S. or Canadian citizens.

Frequently Asked Questions

If our summer school is awarded, will ThinkSwiss allocate the travel grants directly to the selected students?

No, the Swiss summer schools that have been awarded by ThinkSwiss will be allocated the grants, which they are then compelled to pass on to students.

How should the student application and selection process be carried out?

The organization of an application call for available ThinkSwiss travel grants as well as the final selection of students from U.S. and/or Canadian universities is left to the respective summer schools.

How are the ThinkSwiss travel grants calculated?

The formula for calculating travel grants is as follows: (number of U.S./Canadian participants to be recruited * CHF 1000) + (CHF 20 * number of days * number of U.S./Canadian participants). In other words, each of the selected students will receive a flat rate of CHF 1000 plus CHF20 for each day during the period of the summer school program.

How many students are likely to receive ThinkSwiss grants for attending our summer school?

Depending on the length and size of your summer school, a number between 2 and 5 students is realistic to receive funding. We reserve the right to limit the maximum number of students who can receive a ThinkSwiss travel grant.

Thank you for your interest in ThinkSwiss!



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In partnership with: Embassy of Switzerland in Canada