



PSC-Syngenta Research Fellowship Program: Call for proposals 2021

To all members of the Zurich-Basel Plant Science Center

The PSC launches a new call for proposals under the **PSC-Syngenta Research Fellowship Program**. Proposals for PhD or Post doc fellowships can be submitted until 1st of November 2021.

This funding scheme promotes bottom-up and innovative research in plant sciences focusing on the following challenge area: **Climate change: challenges and opportunities in agriculture (or crop production)**.

Topics may include:

- Develop knowledge & tools to better predict the effects of climate change on agriculture systems (at different spatial and temporal scales).
- Advance on fundamental & applied plant science to mitigate adverse climatic events and secure crop protection and crop production.
- Unearth new discoveries and inventions to feed the innovation process in sustainable crop protection/production.

The advisory committee selects only proposals which are aligned with the challenge area mentioned above.

Evaluation criteria:

- Alignment to the challenge area: climate change
- Quality and intellectual merit of the proposed research
- Potential of discovery
- Potential for interdisciplinary collaborations

The submitted projects will undergo external evaluation and will be discussed by the advisory committee composed of Thomas Boller (University of Basel), Johan Six (ETH Zurich), Bernhard Schmid (University of Zurich) and three senior scientific experts from Syngenta Crop Protection AG in Stein. Acceptance of the project includes a financial support of CHF 225'000 for a PhD student (with an expected 4-years PhD duration) and CHF 175'000 for a Post doc (max. 24 months). Research costs / consumables need to be co-funded by the applicants. A maximum of CHF 450'000 funding will be available for this call. Please take into consideration that the applicants of approved projects will have to accept the terms and conditions of the agreement between the three universities and Syngenta.

Indicative time plan for project selection:

1 st of Nov 2021	Deadline for proposal submission
1 st of March 2022	Announcement of funded research projects
from March 2022	Project start

It has to be considered that applications for a PhD position have to be accompanied by a support letter of a faculty member to confirm that the student will be advised during the full time of his/her PhD term in Switzerland. Members of the PSC Syngenta Advisory Board are allowed to be co-applicants but not main applicants while serving on the board.

For more information on the PSC-Syngenta Research Fellowship Program please visit <http://www.plantsciences.ch/research/fellowships/syngenta.html>

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