

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PHD STUDENTS

Doctoral students have several ways to finance their studies by combining the different opportunities offered at the Institute or outside the Institute.

1. Job opportunities

During their studies, PhD students may apply to become a Teaching or Research Assistant at the Graduate Institute. These opportunities can offer PhD students a good way to fund their studies, acquire professional experience in an academic environment, and to engage more closely with the Institute's academic community.

As a Teaching Assistant, PhD students also undertake a Professional Development Programme. This Programme includes several workshops on, for example, working as a professional academic, teaching skills, research skills, and academic IT skills, amongst others. Within their departments, Teaching Assistants may also gain experience with teaching a tutorial, lecturing a class, and practicing interviews.

In addition to Teaching and Research Assistantships, there are also other opportunities available to PhD students through our Career Services.

Find out more:

→ [Teaching Assistants](#)

2. Scholarships opportunities

First of all, PhD students can apply to [IHEID scholarships](#), especially to finance their first year of studies and, after the defence of their preliminary thesis dissertation, to external scholarships:

[Doc.CH](#)

The Doc.CH (HSS) is aimed at promising researchers who wish to write a doctoral thesis on a topic of their choice in the humanities and social sciences in Switzerland. It covers the beneficiary's own salary as well as the costs directly related to project implementation such as travel, field work and conference expenses.

Duration: 2-4 years

Application deadline: 10 March and 10 September

Contact: Dr Dominic Eggel (dominic.eggel@graduateinstitute.ch)

Swiss Excellence Scholarship (for students finishing their first year of studies)

First year PhD students are eligible to apply for this scholarship for their second year providing that they have arrived in Geneva less than 12 months before the start date of this scholarship (normally 1 September or in the case of second year students, 1 September of the second year of study). They must also present a full application and a support letter from their supervisor. Please check the website for more information about how to apply and the deadline for your country. If you have any further questions, please contact Ms Kasia Wasiukiewicz.

After defending their preliminary thesis dissertation, doctoral candidates have the opportunity to apply for mobility grants that will allow them to conduct research at another university:

→ [Mobility scholarships](#)

3. Training opportunities

The Doctoral Conference of Western Switzerland's Universities (CUSO) also organises a series of doctoral programmes across a broad range of disciplines and campuses (Lausanne, Geneva, Neuchâtel and Fribourg). Participants in the programmes remain enrolled in their universities and continue to receive their supervision and degrees from their home institution. The Graduate Institute is an associated member of CUSO and its students are entitled to participate in its doctoral programmes. CUSO offers both career skills courses (e.g. on scientific writing) and specialised programmes (e.g. in contemporary history, law, political science, anthropology, sociology and gender). The language of the course may be French or English.

→ [More information on CUSO doctoral programmes](#)