



BRIDGE for FinTech Founders

Switzerland's thriving FinTech ecosystem is attracting academic talent and entrepreneurs from around the world. But navigating the complex landscape of support programs and funding opportunities can be challenging. That's why FIND sheds light on the top funding opportunities tailored for FinTech academic talent and future founders in Switzerland. The list offers a one-stop shop for students and PhD fellows looking to further develop and grow their research in financial innovation.

For 14 years in a row, Switzerland is the world champion in innovation – because of you!

Audience

The highlighted BRIDGE offerings support academic researchers to turn their findings into practicable and scalable market solutions.



R & D



Pre-Seed



Seed



Early



Growth



Expansion



Exit

72

academic researchers supported
(38 Proof of Concept, 34 Discovery)

51

projects supported (2024)

25.8m

BRIDGE funding (CHF committed, 2024)

Bridge

BRIDGE is a funding program jointly launched by Innosuisse and the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), supporting projects at the intersection of scientific research and innovation. It provides early-stage funding to accelerate the transition from academic research to market application.



Why BRIDGE support is attractive for you

- Grants are non-dilutive and do generally not have to be paid back
- Allows you to transfer your research into practice
- Lets you devote your talent and time on true innovation for economic and societal impact

Successful BRIDGE grant recipient

The DaDFiR3 project is developing a digital infrastructure for banks and financial supervisors to enable automated real-time verification. We **address systemic risk** and deploy an ICT infrastructure for forward-looking financial simulation and analysis with the ACTUS standard for digital representation of financial contracts.

Prof. Henriette Elise Breymann, ZAHW
Prof. Tim Weingärtner, HSLU
Prof. Walter Farkas, University of Zurich
DaDFiR3 Project



BRIDGE in a Nutshell

BRIDGE fosters science-based innovation in Switzerland, supports young and experienced researchers/innovators in transforming research findings into practical solutions. It strengthens the Swiss economy and competitiveness through applied research and practicable innovative solutions. BRIDGE offers two types of funding, the “Proof of Concept” and the “Discovery” grants:

	PROOF OF CONCEPT	DISCOVERY
Target Group	Researchers with Swiss recognized bachelor/master or PhD degree (obtained in the last four years or PhD degree expected in next 6 months), who work 80-100% on the project	Experienced researchers, with a minimum employment of 50% at a Swiss research institution in the sense of Federal Act on Promotion of Research and Innovation (RIPA) and demonstrated ability to lead a research project
Purpose of the Grant	To develop own research into a validated prototype or business case	To further explore and implement the innovative potential of research results
Type and Amount of Support	Max. CHF 130k to cover own salary and project-related costs 10 coaching hours and easy access to all Innosuisse start-up trainings Additional 15% overhead paid directly to Swiss research institution	Max. CHF 850k (per applicant, max. 3 applicants, if project has 4 years length, otherwise pro rata reduction) to cover salary of project employees and project-related costs In addition, applicants of universities of applied sciences, universities of teacher education or the Centre Suisse d'Electronique et de Microtechnique (CSEM) may apply for a complement of their own salary Additional 15% overhead paid directly to Swiss research institution
Duration	Up to 12 months	Up to 4 years
Application	4–5 submission deadlines per year Project description on max. 6 pages, excl. summary and bibliography, with milestones and deliverables Decision on grant usually within 3 months	Submission once a year (Q1) Consortium applications possible with max. 3 applicants Project description on max. 20 pages, excl. summary and bibliography, with milestones and deliverables Decision on grant usually within 6 months
Conditions	Must demonstrate innovation and application potential Special focus on go-to-market strategy (e.g. unique selling point, market analysis and access, competitive environment, IP rights) ESG projects enjoy priority Swiss research institution support is required for the project's duration	Must demonstrate innovation and application potential Applicants present a scientifically excellent project with a convincing and realistic implementation plan (incl. envisioned cooperation with implementation partners, founding a company or a non-profit organization) ESG projects enjoy priority Collaboration with industry partners is encouraged
Success Rate	~20–30% depending on competition	~10–20% depending on competition

Getting started? Here are your next steps.



Check out the application forms on BRIDGE website
→ bridge.ch



Open a user account latest one week before submission deadline
→ BRIDGE mySNF platform



Get supercharged by BRIDGE and bring that research of yours to action!

BRIDGE

The Swiss Financial Innovation Desk FIND is the catalyst for all matters relating to financial innovation in Switzerland. As such, it brings together innovation projects, research, investors and authorities at national and international level and facilitates dialogue between the various players.

Concierging Financial Innovation. find.swiss

