

USI Equal Opportunities Service

Gender and academic careers

Shadowing grant for junior and senior female researchers at USI

Call for applications 2026

1. Grant

The Università della Svizzera italiana, through its Equal Opportunities Service and based on available resources, is offering one shadowing grant for female doctoral students and post-doctoral researchers enrolled in the university's "Gender and Academic Careers" mentoring programme. The programme is open to women and all persons who are marginalised on the basis of their gender identity. The recipient of the scholarship will spend a month at a university or research institution outside Switzerland, benefiting from a reduction in their normal work activities in order to devote themselves exclusively to research activities that will make their profile more competitive in the academic job market. The Shadowing Grant amounts to a total of CHF 7,000, including the normal monthly salary and other expenses incurred (e.g. board and lodging, travel, etc.). The main affiliation institution of the person awarded the grant is responsible for any internal replacement.

2. Application requirements

To be eligible for the Shadowing grant, the person must:

- have a collaboration contract with USI;
- be enrolled in the Academic Mentoring Programme;
- have the approval of their line manager;
- be engaged, during the Shadowing programme, in strategic and qualifying activities for your research and/or academic career;
- indicate the host university or institution and obtain confirmation of acceptance;
- complete the month of shadowing by 31st December 2026; For valid reasons, such as family care responsibilities, the month of shadowing may be taken in non-consecutive weeks.
- submit a report on the activities carried out at the end of the Shadowing period.

3. Required documentation

The application dossier must include:

- the duly completed application form (downloadable from www.usi.ch/it/universita/info/pari-opportunita/promozione-carriere) co-signed by your line manager, explaining your reasons for applying for the Shadowing grant and the feasibility of your replacement during the period indicated;
- an official letter of acceptance from the host university/research institution.

4. Selection of applications

Applications are examined by a committee composed of representatives from the Equal Opportunities Service, the Equal Opportunities Delegation and the Personnel Administration Service, who award the Shadowing grant on the basis of the following criteria:

- level of clarity and detail of the research activities planned for the scholarship month;
- progress of the candidate's research work;
- potential impact of the shadowing period on the candidate's research work and professional development.

In the event of multiple equally deserving candidates, priority will be given to candidates who:

- have been enrolled in the academic mentoring programme for longer.
- Carry out their research activities in a field characterised by gender imbalance.
- They address issues related to diversity and equal opportunities in their theses and/or research projects.

5. Deadline

The call for applications is open from **Monday 15 December 2025** to **Friday 30 January 2026**.

The necessary documentation must be sent in digital format to equality@usi.ch

For further information: Equal
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