



Ph.D. Program PEF

Ph.D. Program in Economics and Finance

Financial Support

Apart from low application and tuition fees, studying in Switzerland is very cheap thanks to generous funding of Swiss universities by the government. Living costs in Switzerland, however, are among the highest in Europe. There are four typical possibilities to finance your Ph.D. studies in the PEF program:

1. Research Assistant Positions

Most PEF students are employed as Research Assistants at the University of St. Gallen. Positions offered are typically between 35 and 70 percent of a full-time position. This corresponds to a gross salary of around 30 to 60k Swiss Francs per year which should cover most of your living costs (although inevitably individual circumstances vary). Ph.D. students often apply first to one of these positions and then apply for their enrollment to the PEF program. Open positions can be found through the [Job Portal](#) of the University of St. Gallen. However, students are encouraged to apply to the PEF program first if no appropriate positions are currently available. Research Assistant positions can then be filled as soon as they become available (there is no guarantee, however, of such a position). In exceptional cases, PEF students have Research Assistant positions at universities other than the University of St. Gallen.

2. ZEW Doctoral Studies Network

The ZEW launched a new pathway for PhD students: [ZEW DocNet](#). ZEW DocNet is an international network that links ZEW with the University of St. Gallen. Those who choose the ZEW DocNet pathway have to apply first for admission to the PEF. Admitted students are invited to apply as early as possible for a research position in one of ZEW's research units. Please inform us on your interest in your application already. The time most fitting seems to be, at the latest, the end of the first or the beginning of the second year. PhD students may then pursue their project work either in part or entirely at ZEW.

3. Scholarships

Depending on which country you come from and what your research interests are, there are several organisations that offer scholarships. In particular, PEF applicants might consider the following funding sources:

– *Swiss Government Scholarships for Foreign Students*

The Swiss Government awards a range of scholarships to foreign students through the [Federal Commission for Scholarships for Foreign Students](#) (FCS). These scholarships provide graduates from all fields with the opportunity to pursue postgraduate studies or research in Switzerland at a public funded university, such as the University of St. Gallen.

– *oikos Ph.D. Fellowship*

The [oikos Ph.D. Fellowship Programme](#) aims to advance entrepreneurial-driven research in the areas of sustainable management and economics. To meet this objective, the programme supports outstanding international students to pursue a Ph.D. at the University of St. Gallen. oikos Fellows receive a grant for three years to complete the Ph.D. courses, conduct their research, finalize their doctoral thesis and contribute to concrete sustainability projects related to oikos activities.

– *Fulbright Program (for U.S. citizens)*

The [U.S. Fulbright - Swiss Scholarship Program](#) is a prestigious program that has been active for many years, providing scholarships for Swiss students to study in the United States and for U.S. students to study in Switzerland.

– *DAAD Doctoral Scholarship (for German citizens)*

The [German Academic Exchange Service](#) (DAAD) offers a considerable number of scholarships for German students, including a scholarship for Ph.D. students to finance their studies abroad for up to one year. For Switzerland, it requires that your research can be better realized here than at any German university.

Have a look at the university's [Stipendien-Datenbank](#) (in German) for a additional scholarship opportunities. We highly encourage you to apply for a scholarship to finance your studies in the PEF!

3. Teaching Assistant Positions

A good share of PEF students gives tutorials in undergraduate Microeconomics or Macroeconomics. In total, there are about fifty such tutorial group slots each semester plus some tutorial group slots in Mathematics and Statistics. Leading a tutorial means teaching exercises to about 25 students and in some cases to supervise seminar papers. Most of the tutorials have to be given in German, but there are some English groups each semester as well. (The number of English language tutorial posts is set to grow over time.) These positions might cover a good share of your living costs in St. Gallen. Slots are preferably assigned to qualified PEF students. Please indicate your interest in such tutorial slots in your PEF application in case you do not have any other funding opportunities and couldn't attend the program otherwise.

4. External Positions

Some PEF students are or have been employed at the [Swiss National Bank](#) during their studies. The Swiss National Bank pays special attention to continual education and advanced training of her employees. Also other public or private organizations in Switzerland might be willing to support a Ph.D. in the PEF program. Please clarify this individually.