



Regulations governing the award of the national ORD Prize

3. Version

*Based on Art. 9 of the Statutes of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences,
adopted by the Board of Directors on 30.05.2025.*

Art. 1 - Enactment and scope of application

The Board of Directors enacts the present Regulations, based on Article 9 paragraph 7 of the Statutes of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences. They shall apply to the preparation and implementation of the National ORD Prize (Open Research Data Prize).

Art. 2 - Purpose

¹The purpose of the National ORD Prize is to reward innovative ORD practices and thus to drive the shift to open research practices. The aim is to promote the field of open research data and its applications for the entire research community, including young scientists and academics.¹ In the process, the prize helps to make outstanding research achievements in using open data publicly visible and thus to establish them as part of good research practice.

²Open research data include digital and analogue data, both unprocessed and processed data, as well as accompanying metadata, numerical evaluations, text documents, images and sounds, protocols, analysis code and workflows that can be openly used, re-used, stored and re-distributed. Open research data are available in a contemporary, user-friendly, human- and machine-readable and usable format and are in line with the principles of good data management and maintenance, in particular with the FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable).²

³These regulations define the responsibilities, application criteria, funding and composition of the jury as well as the selection process, communication and prize money.

Art. 3 - Responsibilities

¹The ORD Prize Jury is responsible for the selection process and the award of the ORD Prize.

²The ORD Unit of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences is in charge of planning the processes, organization and implementation of the award.

³When judging the entries, attention shall be paid to the discipline-specific competency of the jury members. Each entry shall be judged by at least two jury members. The prize-winners shall be selected by the entire jury.

Art. 4 – Call for entries

¹The call for entries for the ORD Prize shall be published online on the ORD website and on that of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences. Furthermore, the members of the Swiss Academies shall draw attention to the call for entries on their online portals and other social media channels.

¹ Cf. ORD Action plan, page 28, 2021.

https://www.swissuniversities.ch/fileadmin/swissuniversities/Dokumente/Hochschulpolitik/ORD/ActionPlanV1.0_December_2021_def.pdf

² Cf. UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science, 9-10, 2021.

² The period for submitting entries shall be announced with the call for entries. Entries received after the set time-limit cannot be taken into account.

Art. 5 ORD Prize

¹ The ORD Prize shall be awarded to scientists/academics who have distinguished themselves through innovative practices in the field of “Open Research Data”. Entries for research areas in which ORD practices are not yet well-established are particularly desirable.

² The prize jury shall determine a thematic focus with precise criteria for the call for entries.

³ The following general criteria shall be taken into consideration when submitting entries:

- a. Entries must be part of a research project at a Swiss research institution.
- b. ³
- c. Entries must comply with the definition of open research data in accordance with Article 2, paragraph 2 and be in line with the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science.
- d. Each candidate or team may submit one entry per call for entries. Nominations are allowed.
- e. Entries must be submitted in the English language.
- f. Winners shall be selected by the constituted ORD prize jury and be awarded the “ORD Prize”.
- g. After receiving an award, award-winners may apply again each year with a different project.
- h. No correspondence shall be entered into and no recourse to legal action shall be permitted.

Art. 6 – Prize jury

¹ The Prize Jury shall be composed of the elected members of the Sounding Board of Researchers (SB R). The term of office shall be two years and may be extended. The jury shall appoint a chairperson.

² The Prize management office shall be provided by the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences.

Art. 7 – ORD Unit

The ORD Unit, in cooperation with the a+ Management Office, shall be in charge of the organization, call for entries and communication of the ORD Prize.

Art. 8 – Prize money and awards

¹ The Swiss Academies may award monetary rewards or other honours. The sum of the prizes is to be determined in accordance with the funds available and is to be published in the call for applications.

² The jury reserves the right to award further projects as so-called “honoured projects.”

Art. 9 – Award

¹ The ORD Prize shall be awarded annually at a prize-giving ceremony.

² The organization of the prize-giving ceremony shall be handled by the ORD Unit of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences.

Art. 10 - Review

A review may be initiated by the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences. It requires the approval of the Board of Directors of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences.

Art. 11 - Entry into force

¹ These regulations shall come into force on 2 June 2025, after approval by the Board of Directors of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences.

² Only the original German-language version of the text shall be authoritative for matters of interpretation.

³ Repealed on the 30.05.2025.

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