Regulations Governing the Swiss Young Academy

Adopted on 16 December 2019 by the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences' Board of Directors and based on Article 9, Section 5 of the Academies' statutes. Revised and approved on 27 June 2024 and 1 September .2026 in accordance with Article 9(7) of the Academies' articles of association in force.

Preamble

Supporting the next generation of academics is a top priority for the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences. It is important that young scholars and researchers in Switzerland are given a strong, clear voice.

The Swiss Young Academy plays a key role in expanding the scope and reach of Switzerland's academic system. It serves to promote early career researchers and increase flexibility within academic careers. Within the context of the Swiss Young Academy, early career researchers develop the ability to engage in interdisciplinary discourse early on and demonstrate their interest in transdisciplinary issues at the intersection of science and society. The Swiss Young Academy views itself as an instrumental force in science policy promoting a rational discussion between the different generations and shaping the future of academia.

As a dynamic voice representing the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences, the Swiss Young Academy is active nationally and internationally as a point of contact for Swiss academia. The Swiss Young Academy is committed to the freedom of expression and does not tolerate racist, xenophobic, or sexist statements or conduct.

Swiss Young Academy (SYA)
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Art. 1 – Purpose and name

[1] The Swiss Young Academy is an inter- and transdisciplinary platform of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences, established with the purpose of promoting early career researchers in Switzerland.

[2] The following names are to be used for the Swiss Young Academy in their respective languages:

a. Junge Akademie Schweiz (JAS),

b. Jeune Académie Suisse (JAS),

c. Giovane Accademia Svizzera (GAS),

d. Academia Giuven Svizra (AGS),

e. Swiss Young Academy (SYA).

Art. 2 – Objectives

[1] The Swiss Young Academy provides an inspiring environment for developing innovative, interdisciplinary, and transdisciplinary ideas and approaches to issues relevant to early career researchers.

[2] The Swiss Young Academy supports the careers of its members by expanding their national and international networks and enhancing their professional and personal skills.

Art. 3 – Measures

The Swiss Young Academy supports its members and pursues its objectives with the following measures in particular:

a. providing funding for joint projects, which may be applied for and then carried out by groups of between two and six members;

b. providing funding for personal projects that support individual members' academic or professional development;

c. offering a mentoring programme that supports individual members' professional, academic, and personal development;

d. supporting members' involvement in academic working groups, events, and projects at the intersection of politics and society, both within and outside of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences;

e. issuing official statements that address, in particular, concerns of and topics relevant to early career researchers.

Art. 4 – Relationship between the Swiss Young Academy and the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences

[1] The Swiss Young Academy is a platform of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences that presents itself as the Swiss Young Academy outside of the Academies.

[2] The Swiss Young Academy's Administrative Office is located at the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences.

[3] The Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences support the Swiss Young Academy as part of their efforts to promote early career researchers. The Swiss Young Academy's speaker may participate as needed in meetings held by the Academies' Board of Directors, in meetings of their Delegates' Assembly, and in séance de réflexion discussion sessions.

[4] The Swiss Young Academy has the freedom to develop its own projects within the main areas of focus set out in the Academies' strategic multi-annual programme and their performance agreement. In addition, the Swiss Young Academy is free to shape its own organisational structures while remaining subject to the oversight of the Academies' Board of Directors.

Art. 5 – Members

[1] Individuals who are interested in inter- and transdisciplinary collaboration, have a record of outstanding academic achievements, and are motivated and prepared to make a serious commitment can become members of the Swiss Young Academy. Candidates must demonstrate clear ties to education, research, and innovation within the Swiss academic context.

[2] As a general rule, members should be no older than 40 years of age when they are elected into the Swiss Young Academy. In addition, they should have completed their doctorate, specialty training (for physicians), or highest possible degree (for graduates of universities of applied sciences or universities of teacher education) no more than seven years prior to their election. Additional criteria may be applied.

[3] As a general rule, the Swiss Young Academy is limited to 30 members. Each member is elected for five years and may not be re-elected. The Swiss Young Academy strives for a membership that reflects a balanced distribution of genders, language regions, academic disciplines, and university types.

[4] As a general rule, five new members are elected annually; their term of office begins on the day of the Admission Ceremony of the Swiss Young Academy.

Art. 6 – Governing bodies

The Swiss Young Academy consists of the following governing bodies:

a. the Members' Assembly,

b. the Executive Board,

c. the Administrative Office of the Swiss Young Academy (AO SYA).

Art. 7 – Election of members

[1] Each year, the Members' Assembly elects new members to the Swiss Young Academy. Their election is subsequently confirmed by the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences' Board of Directors. Any refusal by the Board of Directors a+ must be duly justified.

[2] An Election Commission draws up a list of new member nominations to be presented to the Swiss Young Academy's Members' Assembly. The Members' Assembly elects individuals to serve on the Election Commission for one year. Any refusal by the Member's Assembly must be duly justified. Election Commission members may be re-elected once.

[3] The Election Commission consists of the following individuals:

a. four members of the Swiss Young Academy,

b. one member of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences' Management Board,

c. two members of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences' Delegates' Assembly or two members of executive bodies within the Academies' member organisations.

Art. 8 – Duties of the Members' Assembly

[1] All members of the Swiss Young Academy together comprise the Members' Assembly.

[2] The Members' Assembly

a. elects Election Commission members,

b. elects new members,

c. elects Executive Board members,

d. approves joint projects,

e. approves the budget adopted by the Executive Board for joint projects,

f. may propose the expulsion of members to the Academies of Arts and Sciences' Board of Directors,

g. approves official statements to be presented to the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences' Management Board and Board of Directors.

[3] Resolutions are passed at meetings of the Members' Assembly by the majority of the members who are either physically present or attend online. Resolutions may be passed and votes may be taken electronically provided that no one objects.

Art. 9 – Election and duties of the Executive Board

[1] The Members' Assembly elects at least three members to the Executive Board for one year. The Executive Board constitutes itself.

[2] The Executive Board

a. makes suggestions regarding the approval of joint projects to be presented to the Members' Assembly,

b. approves the budget for joint projects to be presented to the Members' Assembly,

c. sets strategic goals and, in order to achieve them, may use up to a total of CHF 20,000 per term of office from the funds remaining pursuant to Art. 13 let. b. The amount of the remaining funds is determined following the funding decisions on the joint projects. The Administrative Office of the Swiss Young Academy verifies the formal correctness of the planned use of funds;

d. approves the annual report to be presented to the Academies of Arts and Sciences' Management Board and Board of Directors,

e. elects the Swiss Young Academy's speaker.

[3] To constitute a quorum at its meetings, a majority of the Executive Board's members must be present in person or online. Resolutions may be voted on electronically provided that no one objects. In the event of a tied vote, the speaker casts the deciding vote.

[4] During their term of office, members of the Executive Board shall not submit applications for new joint projects.

Art. 10 – Election and duties of the speaker

[1] A member of the Executive Board is elected to be speaker. The speaker

a. chairs meetings of the Executive Board,

b. co-chairs meetings of the Members' Assembly together with the head of the Swiss Young Academy's Administrative Office,

c. represents the Swiss Young Academy within the Academies and externally.

[2] The speaker has guest status on the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences' Board of Directors. Therefore, he or she has the right to submit motions and be heard during board meetings and may also otherwise participate in board meetings.

Art. 11 – Sounding Board

[1] The Sounding Board acts as an advisory body and is not qualified to vote; it supports members of the Swiss Young Academy with their joint projects. Once a year, the Sounding Board is invited to the Swiss Young Academy's Executive Board meeting in which joint projects are discussed. In addition, project groups may consult with members of the Sounding Board during the course of their projects.

[2] The Sounding Board consists of 6–12 experienced individuals from the academic environment and/or the Academies as well as experts from outside of academia. They are nominated by the Swiss Young Academy's Administrative Office and are elected to serve four years by the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences' Board of Directors. Sounding Board members may be re-elected once. An individual may at any time step down from the Sounding Board before his or her term ends and must inform the Swiss Young Academy's Administrative Office of this in writing.

Art. 12 – Administrative Office of the Swiss Young Academy

[1] The Swiss Young Academy's Administrative Office is integrated into the Head Office of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences.

[2] The Swiss Young Academy's Administrative Office

a. supports and advises members and implements their resolutions;
b. oversees and coordinates the Swiss Young Academy's finances;
c. attends meetings of the Members' Assembly and of the Executive Board in an advisory capacity and with the right to submit motions;
d. cultivates contacts with the organisations within the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences, with other academies for early career researchers, and with other organisations active in the areas of education, research, and innovation;
e. prepares the annual report to be presented to the Swiss Young Academy's Executive Board;
f. receives project applications and assesses their compliance with all application requirements;
g. approves reporting on implemented projects;
h. organises the Sounding Board;
i. organises the Election Commission for new members.

Art. 13 – Funding

The following allocation of funds is subject to the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences' Board of Directors' approval of budget resolutions, the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation's (SERI's) commitment to provide funding, and Parliament's decisions regarding the ERI credit:

a. Each member is allocated a personal budget of CHF 5,000 for the entire term of his or her membership. These funds may also be used towards joint projects. As a general rule, a member may request CHF 1,000 of these funds each year. In exceptional and duly justified situations, the funds may be distributed differently over an individual's five years of membership.

b. The Members' Assembly is allocated CHF 150,000 for joint projects aimed at fulfilling the objectives and implementing the measures of the Swiss Young Academy set forth in Articles 2 and 3 of these regulations. Use of these funds is subject to the approval of the Executive Board and the administrative oversight of the Swiss Young Academy's Administrative Office.

Art. 14 – Termination of membership

[1] Membership in the Swiss Young Academy ends after five years, on the day of the Members' Assembly meeting in spring.

[2] Membership may be terminated before it is due to end, effective on the day of the Members' Assembly meeting in spring. A member must inform the Swiss Young Academy's Administrative Office and its speaker of his or her resignation in writing at least one month prior to the Members' Assembly meeting. Any entitlement to funding from the Swiss Young Academy ends upon resignation. If, at the time of resignation, a member has received financial contributions of more than CHF 1,000 per year for personal projects, he or she must repay these contributions.

[3] A member may be expelled from the Swiss Young Academy if he or she ceases to fulfil the conditions for membership or damages or jeopardises the interests, endeavours, or reputation of the Swiss Young Academy. Upon request and after consulting with the individual involved, the Members' Assembly determines whether such a situation exists.

Art. 15 – Revision

The Swiss Young Academy's Members' Assembly or the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences may take steps to initiate a revision of these regulations. A revision must be approved by the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences' Board of Directors.

Art. 16 – Dissolution

The Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences may decide through their Board of Directors to dissolve the Swiss Young Academy. Dissolution requires an absolute majority of all members of the Board of Directors.

Art. 17 – Entry into force

These regulations enter into force upon their approval by the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences' Board of Directors on 1 September 2026 and replace the regulations of 27 June 2024.

Bern, 1 September 2026

Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences



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