

Seed Grants Citizen Science Zurich

Information event call 2026

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Citizen Science Zurich – who we are

— We are a joint initiative of the University of Zurich and ETH Zurich, funded by the Mercator Foundation Switzerland. As of January 2026, we are a permanent center at the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at the University of Zurich.

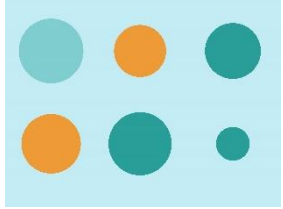


— Our vision: An open, diverse, and inclusive science in which research is conducted with and for the public, and in which citizen science is accepted as a general research approach.

— Our mission:

- to inspire and support people to engage in different forms of participatory research,
- to increase participation of citizens in academia and
- to enable an effective collaboration between science and society.

What does Citizen Science Zurich do?



Inspiration



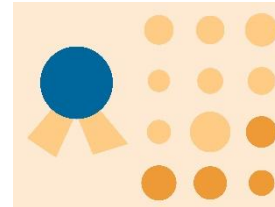
Participation opportunities



Networking



Education & Training



Project Support



Digital Tools

What is Citizen Science?

The European Citizen Science Association (ECSA) defines Citizen Science as “an ‘umbrella’ term that describes a variety of ways in which the public participates in science, with two main characteristics in common:

- (1) citizens are actively involved in research, in partnership or collaboration with scientists or professionals; and**
- (2) there is a genuine outcome, such as new scientific knowledge, conservation action or policy change.”**

Emphasis on scientific research

CS projects

- seek to **generate new scientific knowledge**
- include engagement of participants in **different steps of the research process**
- are **mutually beneficial** for **both** academic and citizen scientists*

* Different from “extractive” forms of scientific research involving the public (e.g questionnaires or interviews) where participants are passive, do not engage in research work, and are often the subject of research.



Illustration: Citizen Science Zurich

Impact logic



Source (last visited 09.01.2024):
https://www.phineo.org/uploads/Downloads/PHINEO_Social_Impact_Navigator.pdf

Seed Grants in a nutshell



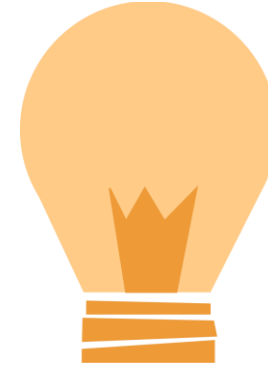
FOR WHOM

Teams of academic scientists (UZH) and citizen scientists



GRANT

max. 40'000 CHF
&
CAS "Citizen Science & Public Engagement"



ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

Access to our digital tools*
&
Community/ Networking



PURPOSE

Incentivize participatory research
&
create visibility

*To the "Project Builder" and "CS Logger": <https://lab.citizenscience.ch/en/>

Seed Grant evaluation process

Seed Grant Funding criteria

- Scientific excellence and innovation
 - Quality and appropriateness of chosen methods
 - Degree and design of participation
 - Added value of the participatory approach
 - Societal demand
 - Intended impact of the project
 - Feasibility
 - Sustainability
 - Open Science
- **IMPORTANT:** CS projects need more time, additional skills, other/ new methods and therefore more resources



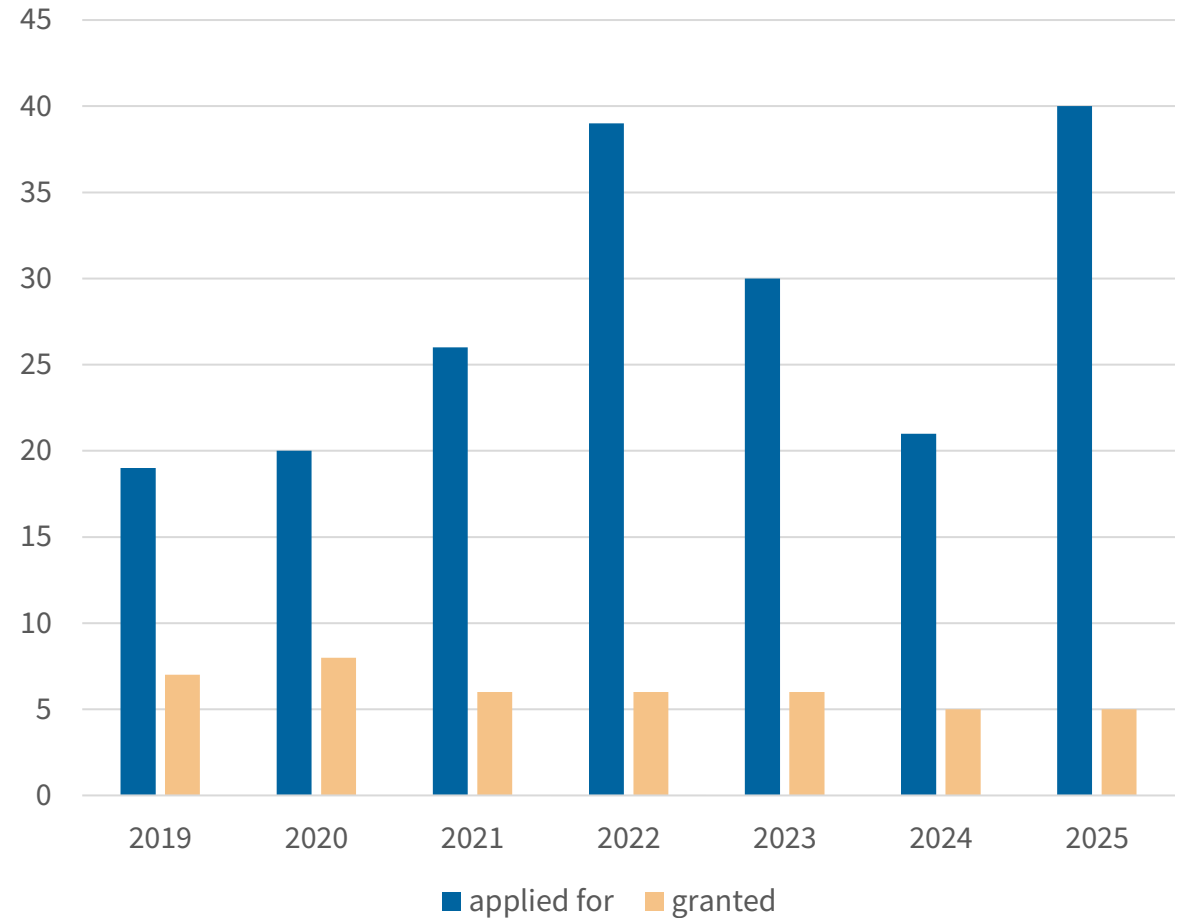
DECISION

Committee of researchers,
citizens, citizen scientists
and a representative of Mercator
Foundation Switzerland

Seed Grant facts and figures

- Yearly call, starting in 2019
- Up to 2025, we have supported
 - A total of 44 Citizen Science projects
 - With a total amount of 1'620'000 CHF Seed funding
- 8th call in 2026:
 - 200'000 in funding available
 - Max. amount of 40'000 CHF/ project
 - Deadline for application: April 30, 2026

OVERVIEW PER YEAR



Citizen Science Seed Grant projects



My Neighbourhood Flock



Evidence: Underpants



B3 – Bees, tree discs and pollination



What was known?



Long Covid Citizen Science Board



Let's talk about it! But how?



HAIR SALON Project

<https://www.citizenscience.uzh.ch/en/projects.html>

Timeline



January

SeedGrant call opens

The call opens in January. We communicate the exact date via our communication channels and on this website.

Information event

We organize two online information events – one in German and one in English. We communicate the dates via our communication channels and on this website.

End April

Seed Grant call closes

The deadline for submission is end of April. All submissions are then carefully reviewed by the Selection Committee. It consists of researchers, experts in Citizen Science, citizens and a representant of Mercator Foundation Switzerland.

July

Decision

The Selection Committee comes together, discusses the submissions and decides which projects receive funding.

Notification

We notify all projects and communicate the decision to the public.

October

Kick-Off event

The new cohort of Seed Grant projects meets at the kick-off event and receives additional information.

Individual project start

The new Seed Grant projects start individually, somewhen between summer and end of the year.

Start CAS

How to apply?

- For all the documents and the application form, please visit <https://www.citizenscience.uzh.ch/en/services/seedgrants.html>

- Link to the call: <https://www.apply.csz.uzh.ch/positiondetails/15040512>

Next Deadline: 30.04.2026, 23:59

CSZ application tool



Choose call

Choose the call you want to apply for.

Language

English



Position

Seed Grants 2024



Back

Next

Submit

CSZ application tool



Instructions

You are about to apply to the call "Seed Grants 2024" of Citizen Science Zurich at UZH and ETHZ. During the application process, you will have to submit your personal data and information about your academic or professional background.

In addition, you have to submit the following documents as separate PDF files. The PDF files must not contain any password protection or encryption.

Mandatory Documents:

- 📄 Curriculum vitae (max 5 MB)
- 📄 Project proposal (max 5 MB)
- 📄 Budget plan (max 5 MB)

Optional Documents:

- 📄 Publication list (max 5 MB)
- 📄 Reference letter(s) (max 5 MB)
- 📄 Other documents (one single PDF only) (max 5 MB)

Please make sure that you have the required documents (one file per requested document), your personal information and the information on your academic or professional background ready before you continue this application process.

Attention: The application process cannot be saved and continued at a later time. Upon leaving the application process, all data previously entered will be lost.

Once you reviewed and submitted your application in the last step, the application process is completed and you will no longer have the possibility to modify the submitted data. Please contact alessandro.rearte@uzh.ch in case you would like to modify your application.

CSZ application tool



To be filled in by the applicant / contact person.

General details

titel*, gender*, first and Last name*, date of birth*, nationality*

Contact details

phone*, email*

Current Affiliation

organization*, department, current position

Correspondence address

business or private* address

CSZ application tool



To be filled in by the applicant / contact person.

Highest degree

type / year*, institution*

Optional details about

academic age, dissertation, habilitation

CSZ application tool



Mandatory documents

curriculum vitae*, project proposal*, budget plan*

Optional

publication list, reference letters, other documents

CSZ application tool



General

project title*, disciplines*, planned start date*, abstract

Funding

total project budget*, total of matching funds (university plus practice partner)*, total funding requested from CSZ *

Support for project planning



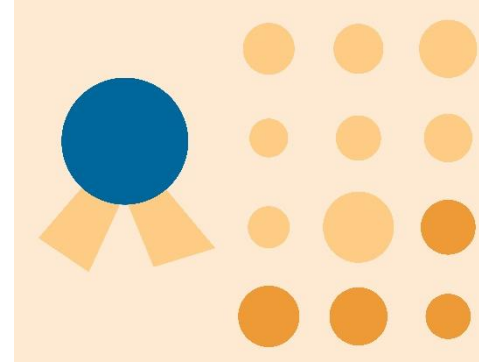
Not sure what Citizen Science is?

Try our e-learning course "Discover Citizen Science" (*currently only in German*)



Have you thought of everything?

Use our CS Checklist to get valuable tips and insights for project planning and critical reflection!



Would you like to quickly discuss whether your idea is feasible and reasonable?

Reach out to us!



Do you want to collect or analyze data together with citizens?

Take a look at our digital tools for data collection and analysis!

FAQs

TEAMS

— **Who counts as a researcher?**

Researchers are scientists (doctoral students, postdocs, professors) for whom research is one of their main activities. At least one researcher from UZH must be involved.

— **Who counts as a citizen?**

Persons who do not hold a scientific position at UZH or another research institution.

BUDGET

— **What can the funds be used for?**

The use of the money is quite free: It can be used for salaries (researchers as well as citizens), events, workshops, travel etc...! We ask you to prepare a budget overview. Adjustments can still be made later after consultation with the CSZ team, but you should give the reviewers an idea of what you plan to do with the funds.

— **In what period of time do the funds have to be used?**

Approximately within the course of twelve months.

— **Should in-kind contributions be mentioned?**

You can - but do not have to - state what contributions you bring in yourself. This can be working time, infrastructure or similar. It always helps reviewers to get an idea of how much you and your project partners bring into the project. Depending on the project idea, what you contribute can vary greatly.

FAQs

APPENDIX

— **Whose CV's do we have to include with the application?**

We only ask you to upload the CV of the main applicant(s). You are welcome to upload the CVs of the entire project team, but you do not have to. In the application form, however, we ask you to provide a brief description of the role of the different members of the project team.

— **What can be added as an appendix?**

Please enclose CVs or other documents that you consider important in order to evaluate the application, such as letters of recommendation, in the appendix. Of course, the appendix should not be overloaded.

OTHER

— **My current project is coming to an end and I need follow-up funding - can I apply for a Seed Grant?**

The intention of the Seed Grant is to initiate new partnerships and new ideas. If the application follows up from an existing project, it must be clear how the new project differs from the existing one and which new participatory elements are being promoted.

— **I do research abroad. Is it possible to get a Seed Grant for a project outside of Switzerland?**

There is no geographical limitation. However, we would like the public in Switzerland to be able to participate in the projects in some way. Also, we would like to see some sort of impact in Switzerland. You should therefore demonstrate how this is possible.

— **For our project, we must obtain an ethics vote. It takes about three months until we receive a decision. Is that a problem?**

No - please simply describe what documents you need to obtain and what the timeframe is.

Do you have further questions?



Information and Contact

You can find all information here:

<https://www.citizen science.uzh.ch/en/services/seedgrants.html>

Contact:

— olivia.hoehener@uzh.ch

— ursina.roffler@uzh.ch