

Mileva Maric Scheme

by Prof. Dr. Kevin Heng, CSH Director
(16th February 2018)

Following the cancellation of the Marie Heim-Voegtlin scheme by the Swiss National Science Foundation in 2016, the Center for Space and Habitability (CSH) made the decision to revive it on the Bernese level. The Mileva Maric Scheme is a program to help postdoctoral researchers whose careers were interrupted, for example, by parenthood, or impacted in other ways. It is named after the former wife of Albert Einstein and recognizes the role of “invisible women” in scientific history. We primarily aim to support women, but will also consider applications from men under similar circumstances and on a case-by-case basis.

Application instructions are as follows:

- The application package should be a **maximum of 5 pages** in length. This includes a **1-page cover letter**, **1-page CV**, a **1-page publication list** and a **research proposal (2 pages maximum)** describing what the applicant hopes to achieve at the CSH and why the CSH would be an ideal host for the applicant. **The cover letter should explain why and how the career of the applicant was interrupted or impacted.** The proposed research should fit broadly within the scope of the CSH. If possible, the applicant should identify CSH researchers to interact with.
- Disciplines currently covered within the CSH: astronomy/astrophysics, cosmochemistry, geology/geophysics, planetary science, philosophy of science.
- Applicants may ask for any fraction of FTE (full-time employee) up to 100% and are free to specify the days and times of the week they intend to work. The maximum amount of salary funding awarded per applicant is 2 years of 100% FTE. Part-time employment (<100% FTE) is allowed.
- Successful applicants will additionally receive 2000 CHF of individual research funding per calendar year, which may be used for work travel and publications.
- Successful applicants are normally hosted in a shared office in the Gesellschaftsstrasse 6 building on the University of Bern campus. However, if the applicant identifies other institutes or departments on campus that are more suitable for hosting their research, this should be explained as part of the research proposal. If the applicant requires special equipment, then the appropriate host institute should be identified; we will contact the institute director on the applicant’s behalf.

The application **deadlines** are **1st March** and **1st September** of every year. Due to the finite amount of funding available, we expect to only name a maximum of 4 recipients of the Mileva Maric Scheme per year.

Applications (and inquiries) should be sent directly to the CSH Director (kevin.heng@csh.unibe.ch). The selection of applicants will be made by a hiring committee consisting of members of the CSH and the Office of Gender Equality at the University of Bern.