**Why EPFLinnovators?**

More than 30% of the PhD students only start to consider the question "what comes after my PhD?" when they have finalized their thesis.

Many do not take full advantage of the career-skills enhancing courses and training opportunities available at the EPFL: Presentation skills, Project management skills, Language skills, and Entrepreneurial or Business skills.

Only a few (≈ 4-6%) of the PhDs students start their own company.
What is EPFLinnovators?

- A program for new PhD students supported by the EC (H2020, MSC, COFUND) with €3.7 million (thanks to the excellent support of the ReO, Caroline Vandevyver)

- PhD studies with a non-academic orientation within one of our 19 doctoral programs

- Fulfilling:
  
  ✓ **All** the specific doctoral program requirements

  ✓ Secondment of 6 - 24 months in the non-academic sector

  ✓ 9 ECTS Transferable/Entrepreneurial skills courses, of which at least 4 ECTS (depending on the specific doctoral program regulations possibly more) count for the doctoral program’s ECTS requirements

  (All courses are also available for regular PhD students)
How does EPFLinnovators work?

EPFLinnovators follows as much as possible the regular doctoral program procedures for the candidate selection.

However - to fulfil specific requirements of the EC and to make sure the candidates excel in the academic and non-academic sector - there are two differences:

- an eligibility check with regard to the transnational mobility rule was introduced
- a 2nd phase was added to our regular selection procedure.
**EPFLinnovators Candidate Selection**

**Phase 1 (doctoral programs):**

The candidate applies to a doctoral program (regular application, but the candidates indicate their interest for EPFLinnovators in their statement of objectives and in the application form in IS-A)

Citizens of any nationality can apply, but must fulfil the transnational mobility rules of the MSC Actions (<12 months of the last 36 months resident in CH)

**Phase 2 (organized by the office of the programme: ReO and EDOC):**

EPFL thesis directors interested in supervising an EPFLinnovators thesis conduct interviews with the top 40 EPFLinnovators candidates considered admissible by the doctoral programs

In case of a successful match, the thesis director submits a **project proposal** to the Intersectoral Excellence Committee (IEC) who conducts the final ranking of projects
EPFLinnovators Candidate Selection

Task of the IEC

Scores and ranks 80 project proposals qualifying for 36 PhD positions split between two calls, based on: project-candidate match, educational potential, relevance of secondment in the non-academic sector, and scientific and societal relevance of the project.

Each accepted EPFLinnovators PhD comes with 1855 €/month for 4 years, the rest of the salary (regular EPFL PhD contract) is the responsibility of the thesis director.

Composition of the Intersectoral Excellence Committee (IEC)

Presided by the VP Education (or his deputy for the Doctoral School) and
- 5 members from the non-academic sector
- 3 members from the academic sector outside Switzerland
- The chair of EPFL’s Research Commission
- A representative from TTO
- 2 PhD student representatives
**EPFLinnovators Deadlines**

- **Application deadlines for candidates**
  - Call for candidacies 1: open from November 1st, 2017 to January 15th, 2018
  - Call for candidacies 2: open from February 1st, 2018 to April 16th, 2018

- **Programs provide a list of ranked admissible candidates to EDOC who transfers the names of the 80 (≈ 40 per call) highest ranked candidates to EPFL laboratories within 45 days after each call ends**

- **Project proposals by EPFL thesis directors**
  - Call for project proposals 1: open from March 1st to March 31st, 2018
  - Call for project proposals 2: open from June 1st to June 30th, 2018

- **IEC Scoring: finalized within one month after the call for project proposals ends**

- **Candidates starts at EPFL: latest on September 1st, 2018**
For more details see:

http://phd.epfl.ch/EPFLinnovators