



[OFFER 2025] Academic Residency at Swissnex in San Francisco

San Francisco

Program Overview

The **Academic Residency** at Swissnex San Francisco offers Swiss researchers, professors, and lecturers an immersive experience in one of the world's most innovative ecosystems. Participants can join individually or as part of a cohort centered on a shared academic topic, combining independent exploration with collaborative learning.

Key Details

- **Location:** Swissnex in San Francisco, California, USA
- **Dates:** Available throughout 2025
- **Duration:** From 2 to 8 weeks, depending on individual's schedule
- **Eligibility:** Researchers, Professors, and Lecturers from Swiss Universities

Why Join?

- **Expand Research Perspectives:** Explore new angles and broaden the scope of your work.
- **Build a Strong Network:** Connect with key stakeholders, mentors, and experts in your field.
- **Engage with Innovation:** Position yourself within a dynamic, forward-thinking ecosystem.

What You Gain

- **Strategic Connections and alliances:** Meaningful relationships with local innovators, researchers, and entrepreneurs.
- **New Insights:** Practical knowledge to advance ongoing or future projects.
- **Cross-Disciplinary Collaboration:** Exposure to different fields fostering impact and inclusivity.

Relevant Disciplines in the San Francisco Bay Area

The program is open to participants from all disciplines, offering opportunities to explore strategic topics across various fields, including:

- **Engineering & Computer Science**
- **Social Sciences**
- **Business, Innovation & Management**
- **Arts, Design & Creative Industries**



- **Smart and Sustainable Cities, Mobility (e.g. Autonomous Driving)**

2025 Swissnex Focus Topics

In 2025, Swissnex will focus on the following key topics:

- **Robotics**
- **Climate Change & Sustainability**
- **Artificial Intelligence**
- **Health & Life Sciences**

Swissnex welcomes applications from all fields, particularly those fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and building on the Bay Area's innovation ecosystem.

Program Structure & Experience

The residency emphasizes **individualized coaching**, **targeted networking**, and, where relevant, integration into ongoing Swissnex programs.

What to Expect

- **Training & Workshops:** Gain insights into Silicon Valley's innovation culture and build skills on how to best navigate it.
- **Networking Access:** Connect with Swissnex's vast network of researchers, labs, entrepreneurs, and cultural leaders to drive your own project forward.
- **On-Site Workspace:** A dedicated desk at Swissnex's **Pier 17** office with high-speed Wi-Fi and shared facilities.
- **Visibility Opportunities:** Exposure to an extensive Bay Area audience through Swissnex's social media, events, and publications.



Residency Packages, Services and Pricing

We offer a range of residency packages designed to support participants with workspace access, coaching, networking, and visibility in the Bay Area ecosystem. Participants must secure funding through their institutions or third-party sources.

Package	Services Include	Cost for the Package (in CHF)
Basic (2 weeks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dedicated workspace at Swissnex with high-speed Wi-Fi and shared facilities• Access to Swissnex events and meeting spaces• Community perks (Swiss coffee, chocolate, networking opportunities)	500
Classic (2-4 weeks)	<p>Includes all Basic services, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pre-Travel Preparation: SMART goal-setting sessions, networking tips, program alignment• On-Site Coaching: Bi-weekly individual check-ins, coaching in storytelling, networking, and growth mindset• Visibility & Networking:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Tailored introductions to a minimum of four key contacts in the Bay Area ecosystem○ Social media and website features during and after the residency○ Optional:<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Event at Pier 17 (fireside discussion, etc.) with a curated audience■ Visits to relevant organizations (e.g., UCSF, Stanford, UC Berkeley)	5'000 (2 weeks) If 4 weeks w/ support: 6'500 If 2 weeks w/ support and 2 week desk: 5'500
Comprehensive (4-8 weeks)	<p>Includes all Classic services, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continued Coaching: Ongoing support from Swissnex staff for project development and brainstorming• Additional Networking: More tailored introductions beyond the initial 4+ contacts• Expanded Visibility: Opportunities to present projects via articles, talks, and podcasts	8'000



Customization & Additional Costs

- Additional weeks: **CHF 500 per 2-week increment**
- Custom pricing available for stays beyond 8 weeks or for network-wide agreements

For more details or to discuss custom options, please contact us.

Ready to Apply?

Join an inspiring community of Swiss innovators exploring new ideas in 2025. For more details or to discuss funding and logistics, contact us at Sarah Burckhardt .

Application form: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1rqVjEUEflmj9TUI1Cj61DrU3qWbJ-t8B2BnCDxEIPrk/edit>

Participant Testimonials

"My short-term sabbatical with Swissnex in San Francisco was truly inspiring, intense and valuable. I learned so much, not only about the culture, the Bay Area, and student mobility, but also about myself. I met so many great people, made connections and friendships with people who are working in the same field as I do and it helped me to broaden my horizons. I came back with a backpack full of new ideas, impressions and connections"

— [Jennifer Steffen](#), Zurich University of Applied Sciences

"The Swissnex team helped me connect with brilliant minds and unlock valuable collaborations in Silicon Valley."

— [Dr. Sandro Graf](#), Zurich University of Applied Sciences



“My experience at Swissnex in San Francisco was transformative. The program offered unparalleled insights into the Silicon Valley culture, providing a perfect environment for creativity, learning, and networking. I left with new skills, meaningful connections, and a refreshed perspective on how to approach innovation in my field. I wholeheartedly recommend this opportunity to my colleagues.”

— [Prof. Peter Schwendner](#), Zurich University of Applied Sciences

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— [Manuel Arias Chao](#), Senior Lecturer, Zurich University of Applied Sciences