# Facts & Figures 2024

Graduate Campus

28 May 2025

**Focus on Postdocs**

GRC

At the University of Zurich (UZH), **Graduate Campus** (GRC) offers cross-faculty activities for the promotion of early career researchers (ECRs), with a focus on postdocs.

The quality and visibility in this important qualification phase is strengthened through the targeted allocation of **funding**, the **awarding** of special achievements, and the organization of transferable **skills** courses. **Individual counseling, coaching** and **events** also provide practical support for career development.

This report provides an insight into the **facts and figures for 2024**.

# Content GRC Reporting 2024

# Basis and focus

GRC addressed 6 815 doctoral and postdoctoral researchers at UZH with its target group-specific activities.
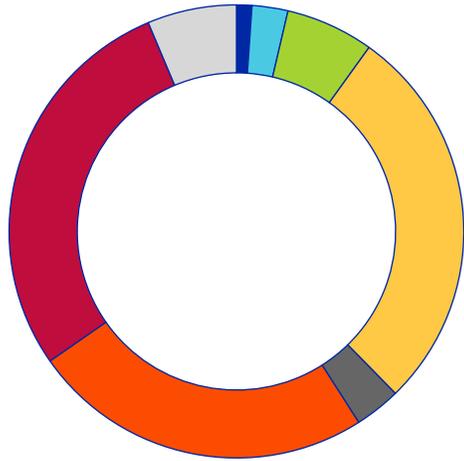
**5 443**

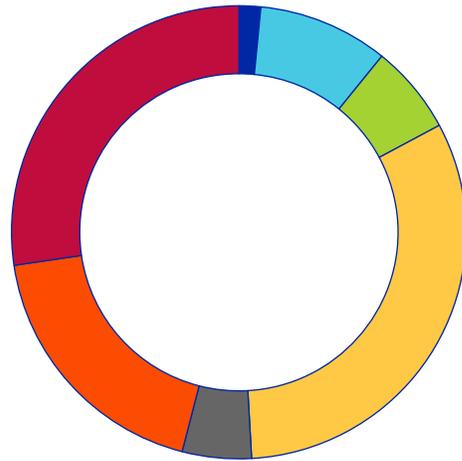**Doctoral candidates (PhDs) at UZH***

**1 372**

**Postdocs at UZH***

* Basis: UZH Controlling, UZH Annual Report as of 31.12.2024

# PhD candidates and postdocs per faculty



Postdocs: 1 372

PhDs: 5 443

| Faculty | | % ECR* | Postdocs | PhDs |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| TRF | Faculty of Theology and the Study of Religion | 1,5 % | 15 | 84 |
| RWF | Faculty of Law | 7,9 % | 35 | 504 |
| WWF | Faculty of Business, Economics and Informatics | 6,3 % | 86 | 345 |
| MeF | Faculty of Medicine | 31,0 % | 381 | 1 735 |
| VSF | Vetsuisse Faculty | 4,6 % | 45 | 267 |
| PhF | Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences | 19,9 % | 334 | 1 013 |
| MNF | Faculty of Science | 27,5 % | 389 | 1 485 |
| Div. | Strategic programs | 1,3 % | 87 | – |

*Early career researchers, total 6 815

# GRC 2024
## Transferable Skills

# Participants per faculty



Total: 728

■ Postdocs 42% (306)
■ PhDs 58% (422)

| Faculty | | Postdocs | PhDs |
|---|---|---|---|
| TRF | Faculty of Theology and the Study of Religion | 3,6 % | 3,9 % |
| RWF | Faculty of Law | 3,1 % | 2,8 % |
| WWF | Faculty of Business, Economics and Informatics | 6,2 % | 6,8 % |
| MeF | Faculty of Medicine | 25,4 % | 8,6 % |
| VSF | Vetsuisse Faculty | 5,2 % | 3,3 % |
| PhF | Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences | 24,1 % | 28,3 % |
| MNF | Faculty of Science | 32,4 % | 46,3 % |

# Participants per target group



| Year | Postdocs | PhDs |
|------|----------|------|
| 2024* | 42 % | 58 % |
| 2023 | 27 % | 73 % |
| 2022 | 21 % | 79 % |
| 2021 | 18 % | 82 % |
| 2020 | 22 % | 78 % |
| 2019 | 20 % | 80 % |

*23 % of all postdocs at UZH and 7.7 % of all PhDs at UZH were reached with the transferable skills courses

# Overview

| 63 courses & workshops | | Postdocs | PhDs |
|---|---|---|---|
| Auftrittskompetenz und Körpersprache | 2x/year | X | X |
| Berufungstraining für Postdocs | 2x/year | X | |
| Collaborating with emotional intelligence | 2x/year | X | X |
| NEU \| Dealing confidently with adversity | 1x/year | X | |
| Design your data management plan for the SNSF | 2x/year | X | |
| NEU \| Entrepreneurial skills: Collaborative Innovation | 1x/year | X | |
| Ethics training for researchers | 1x/year | X | X |
| Exploring AI for Science Communication | 3x/year | X | X |
| Fit für die Karriere | 2x/year | | X |

| | | Postdocs | PhDs |
|---|---|---|---|
| Good research practice | 2x/year | X | X |
| Grant writing workshop | 4x/year | X | X |
| How to give a presentation effectively and persuasively | 2x/year | | X |
| Improvisation skills for researchers | 2x/year | X | X |
| Leadership skills for doctoral candidates | 2x/year | | X |
| Leadership skills for postdocs | 2x/year | X | |
| Managing conflicts | 1x/year | | X |
| NEU \| Mental clarity & decision-making | 1x/year | X | |
| Mindfulness & meditation | 2x/year | X | X |

# Overview (part 2)

| | Postdocs | PhDs |
|---|---|---|
| Narration and storytelling for persuasive academic presentations | 2x/year | X | X |
| Negotiating successfully to a win-win | 2x/year | X | X |
| Project management for PhDs | 2x/year | | X |
| Project management for postdocs | 2x/year | X | |
| Publish or perish: Designing research for publication | 2x/year | | X |
| Resilience and well-being in academia | 2x/year | X | X |
| Resource-focused stress management | 2x/year | X | X |
| Scientific poster design | 2x/year | | X |
| Scientific writing and publishing | 1x/year | | X |

| | Postdocs | PhDs |
|---|---|---|
| Storytelling skills for science communication | 2x/year | X | X |
| NEU \| Strategic Communication | 1x/year | X | |
| Supervision training for postdocs | 2x/year | X | |
| Verhandlungs- und Moderationstechniken | 2x/year | | X |
| Voice training and public speaking skills | 2x/year | X | X |
| Wirtschafts-Know-how | 2x/year | | X |
| NEU \| Writing career grants: from postdoc to group leader | 1x/year | X | |

**63 courses: 15 for postdocs | 18 for PhDs | 30 for both (priority registration for postdocs)**
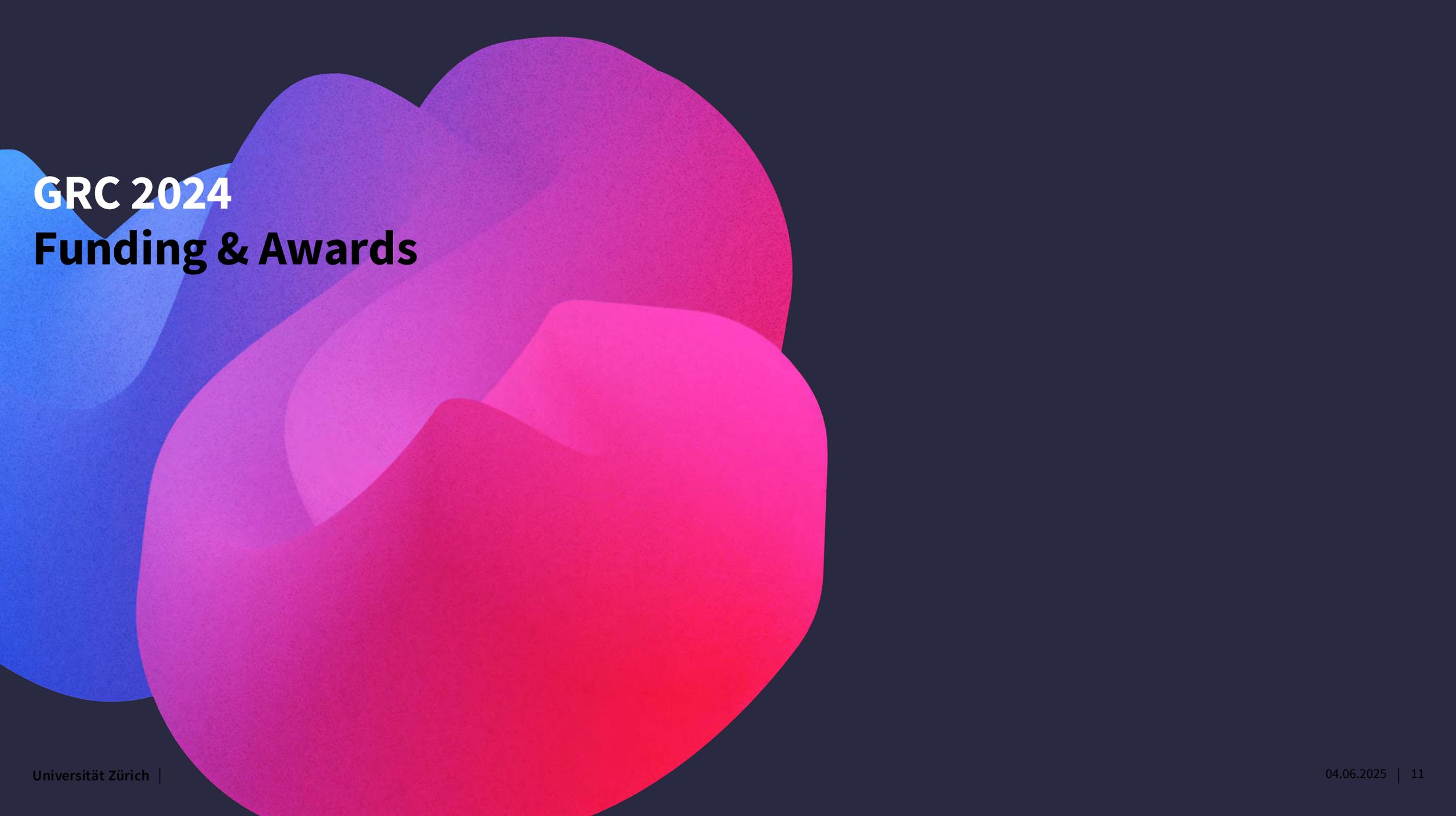
# GRC 2024
# Funding & Awards

# Award overview

| Overview 2024 | Allocation | Funding volume | Funding approved |
|---|:---:|:---:|---:|
| **Career Grants** Individual applications | 2x per year | CHF 4 000 – 15 000 | **CHF 200 906** |
| **Short Grants** Individual applications | continuous | up to max. CHF 5 000 | **CHF 183 426** |
| **Travel Grants** Short research stays / travel | 2x per year | up to max. CHF 4 900 | **CHF 234 250** |
| **FAN\* Awards** In the fields of humanities and social sciences ｜law and economics｜medicine and natural sciences | 1x per year | each CHF 5 000 | **CHF 15 000** |

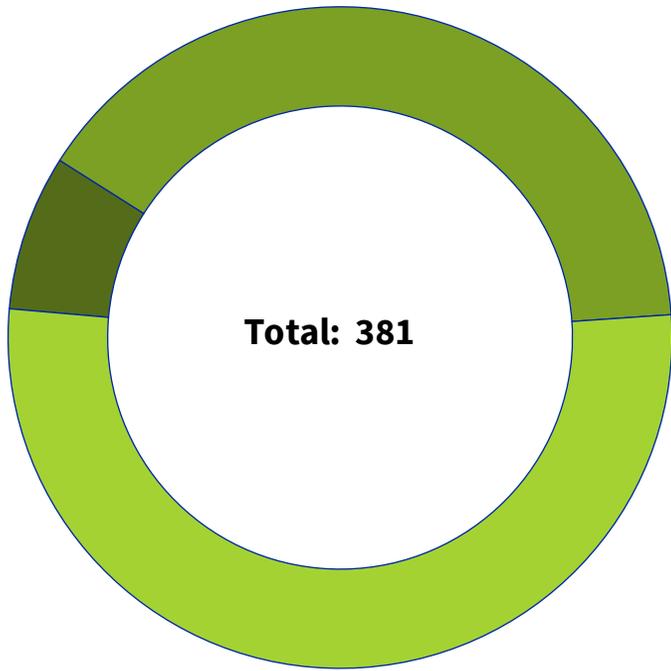\* «Fonds zur Förderung des akademischen Nachwuchses» of UZH Alumni

# Grants – Development of demand and awards
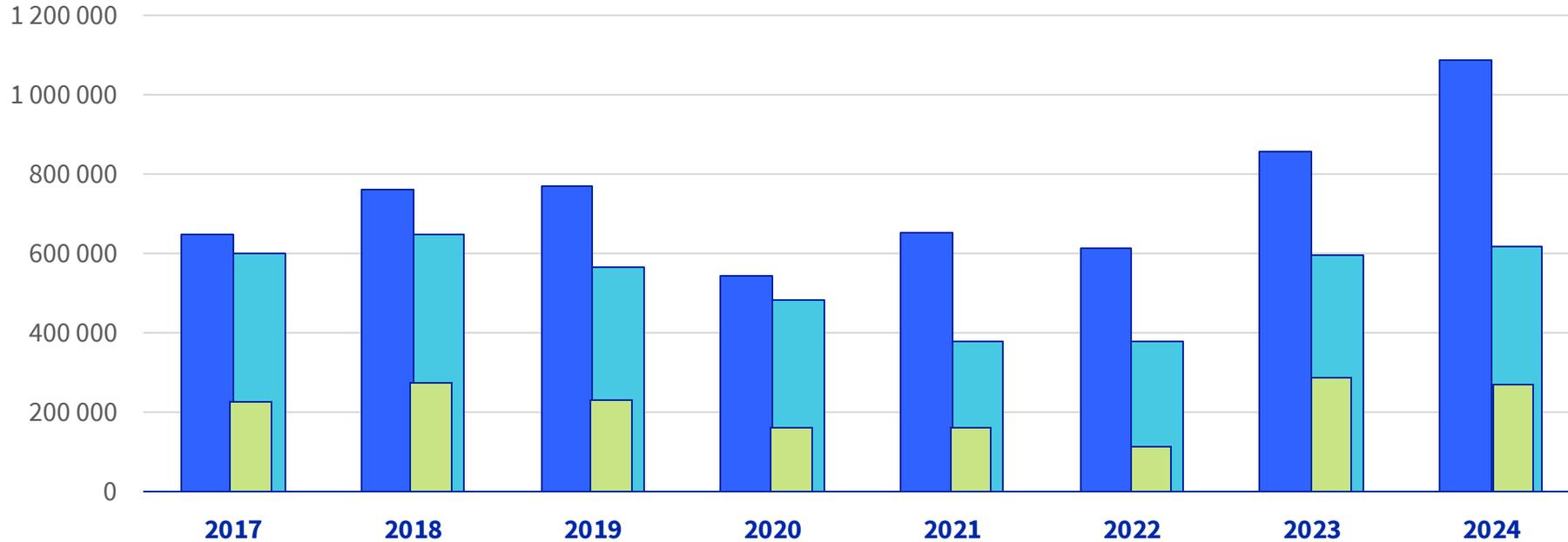


| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Applied funding** in CHF | 648 790 | 760 788 | 770 823 | 540 805 | 649 233 | 610 436 | 854 203 | 1 086 648 |
| **Approved funding** in CHF | 600 416 | 648 080 | 565 678 | 482 347 | 379 016 | 375 227 | 594 816 | 618 582 |
| Proportion **Travel Grants** | 182 040 | 237 378 | 203 000 | 176 900 | 162 000 | 145 271 | 251 190 | 234 250 |

Despite the number of early career researchers remaining the same, the demand for Graduate Campus funding is steadily increasing
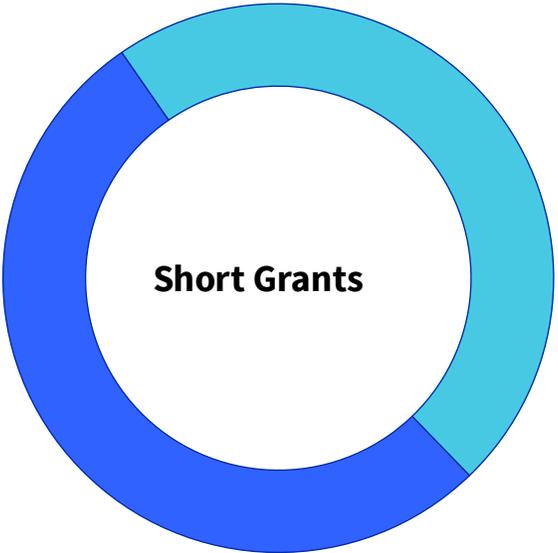
# Grants – Demand per faculty



Total: 381

Career Grants: 29
Short Grants: 152
Travel Grants: 200

| Percentage of total applications | | Career Grants | Short Grants | Travel Grants |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| TRF | Faculty of Theology and the Study of Religion | 0 % | 2,6 % | 0,5 % |
| RWF | Faculty of Law | 0 % | 4,6 % | 4,0 % |
| WWF | Faculty of Business, Economics and Informatics | 3,4 % | 9,2 % | 11,0 % |
| MeF | Faculty of Medicine | 34,5 % | 20,4 % | 13,0 % |
| VSF | Vetsuisse Faculty | 10,3 % | 2,0 % | 4,0 % |
| PhF | Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences | 17,2 % | 38,8 % | 40,5 % |
| MNF | Faculty of Science | 34,5 % | 22,4 % | 27,5 % |

**Funding**

# Grants – Applications by funding line and target group

**Career Grants**

**Short Grants**

**Travel Grants**

**Total applicants**

**381**

- Postdocs 90% (26)
- PhDs 10% (3)

- Postdocs 53% (81)
- PhDs 47% (71)

- Postdocs 35% (70)
- PhDs 65% (130)

# Applications – Total overview

## Career Grants

| | |
|---|---:|
| Individual applications | **29** |
| Approved applications | **15** |
| Approved funds | **CHF 200 906** |
| Success rate for applications | **51,7 %** |

## Short Grants

| | |
|---|---:|
| Individual applications | **152** |
| Approved applications | **106** |
| Approved funds | **CHF 183 426** |
| Success rate for applications | **69,7 %** |

## Travel Grants

| | |
|---|---:|
| Individual applications | **200** |
| Approved applications | **121** |
| Approved funds | **CHF 234 250** |
| Success rate for applications | **60,5 %** |

Due to system-related limitations, only part of the actual demand can be covered by applications

# International networking

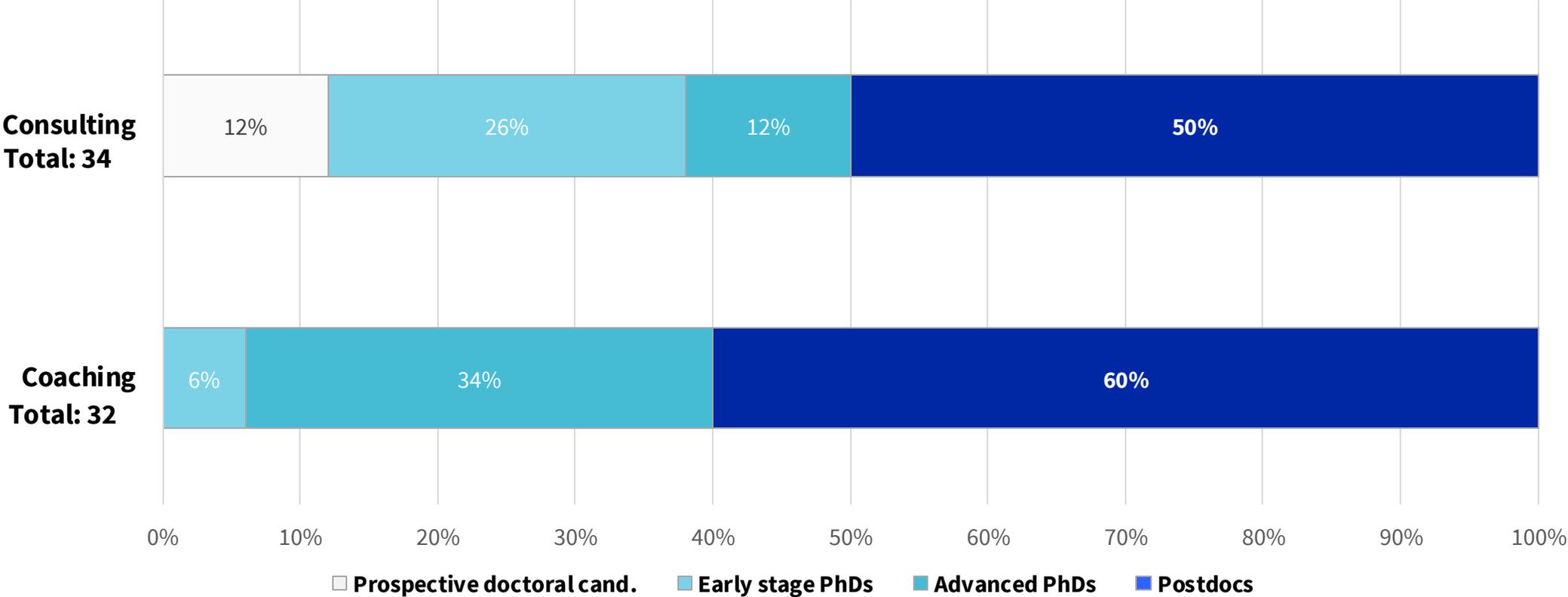| Overview 2024 | Allocation persons | Funding share per person | Funding total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Una Europa One Health Summer School 2024 for Doctoral Researchers | 3 PhDs | CHF 750 | **CHF 2 250** |
| International Geneva Study Trip: Environmental Governance | 2 Postdocs | CHF 900 | **CHF 1 800** |

# GRC 2024
## Consulting & Coaching

# Users by target group



■ **Postdocs** ☐ **PhD candidates**

*Consulting and coaching activities since July 2019
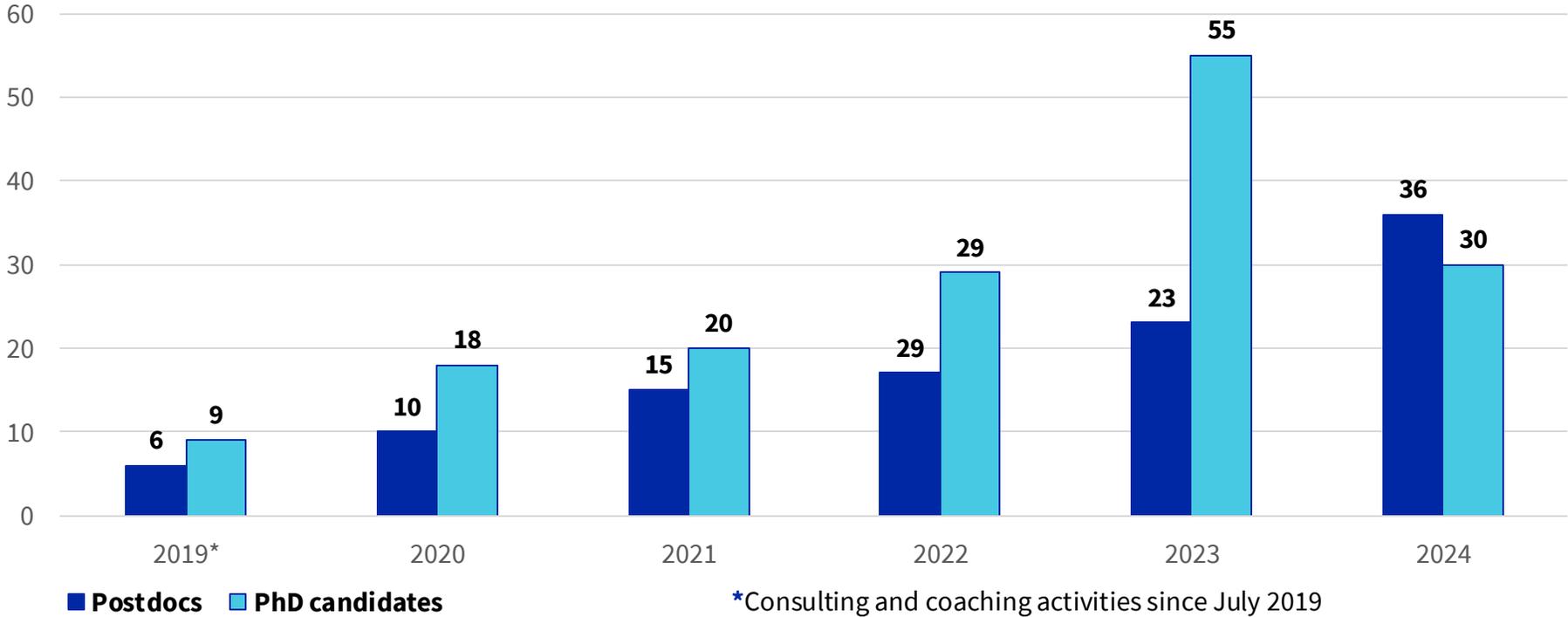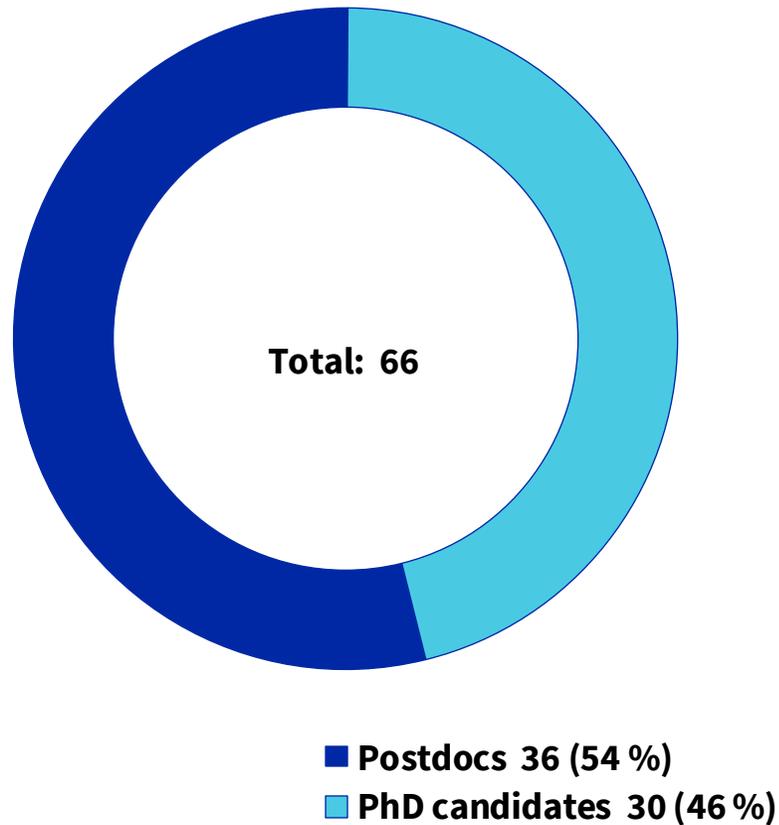
The focus of appointments for consulting & coaching was placed on postdocs in 2024

# Users by career stage



| | Prospective doctoral cand. | Early stage PhDs | Advanced PhDs | Postdocs |

Consulting Total: 34 — 12% | 26% | 12% | 50%

Coaching Total: 32 — 6% | 34% | 60%

# Users per faculty



**Total: 66**

- ■ **Postdocs** 36 (54 %)
- ■ **PhD candidates** 30 (46 %)

**Faculty**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **TRF** | Faculty of Theology and the Study of Religion | **0 %** |
| **RWF** | Faculty of Law | **2 %** |
| **WWF** | Faculty of Business, Economics and Informatics | **9 %** |
| **MeF** | Faculty of Medicine | **12 %** |
| **VSF** | Vetsuisse Faculty | **3 %** |
| **PhF** | Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences | **42 %** |
| **MNF** | Faculty of Science | **32 %** |

# GRC 2024
# Events

Focus on Postdocs

# Overview

| Thematic events | Participants |
|---|---|
| 3MT Swiss Competition, 19 presenters | **45** |
| Postdoc Onboarding (1x event) | **30** |
| Postdoc Jobworld (2x events) | **73** |

**Cooperations / Participation**

Sparkling Research – An occasion to honor award winners on behalf of the Office of the Vice President Research, 180 participants

Professionals in Doctoral Education (Pride) Network @UZH, 136 participants

UZH Welcome Day (3x per year)

# GRC 2024
# Head Office and Awards Committee

# GRC Team

May 2025



**Claudine Leysinger**
Head of Division, strategic projects



**Maja Fischer**
Deputy Head of Division, strategic projects



**Eric Alms**
Transferable Skills



**Jeannette Bours**
Communication



**Antje Derksen**
Team assistant - personnel and finances



**Nina Handler**
Team assistant – courses and events



**Gwendolin Krämer**
Student employee – events



**Lilian Leupold**
Assistant grants and action plan academic career development



**Marco Toscano**
Grants



**Claudia Voheyer**
Quality assurance and counseling

The Graduate Campus team comprises 5.1 full-time equivalent with additional resources allocated on a project-specific or temporary basis

# Awards Committee

**Representatives of early career researchers from all faculties, for the awarding of grants & awards**

| | |
|---|---|
| Andreas Michael Baumer | MeF | Fall 2024 |
| Maike Carmen Brandt | WWF | Spring & Fall 2024 |
| Daniel Fuchs | VSF | Spring & Fall 2024 |
| Florence Gantenbein | TRF | Spring 2024 |
| Michael Jost | TRF | Spring 2024 |
| Anatol Jonas Heller | PhF | Fall 2024 |
| Ana Lupu | PhF | Spring 2024 |
| Svenja Luisa Nopper | MNF | Spring & Fall 2024 |
| Luana Nyirö | MeF | Spring 2024 |
| David Bertrand Roth | RWF | Spring & Fall 2024 |

# Focus on Postdocs

GRC

grc.uzh.ch