

## Net academic age: explanatory notes and examples

Since your dissertation or state medical examination, how long have you actually been able to work in research, after deducting interruptions and non-scientific work? This time span between your graduation and the submission of the funding application is your net academic age, calculated in full-time equivalents (FTE). In the CV accompanying your funding application, you should state this in years and months. We evaluate your track record of achievements in relation to your net academic age, allowing us to make a fair comparison with other applicants.

If at the time of submitting your application, you have not yet completed your doctorate or state medical examination, your academic age will be 0. This is possible in the case of, inter alia, Postdoc.Mobility. Some funding schemes, such as Doc.CH and BRIDGE, do not require applicants to have a doctorate or state medical examination; in these cases, no academic age will be calculated.

You can make deductions for:

- maternity
- paternity
- adoption
- parental leave
- care duties
- inability to work due to illness or accident
- services that benefit the general public, particularly military or civilian service
- continuing education
- non-scientific activities
- clinical activities
- part-time work
- unemployment

Mothers have the option of deducting the actual duration of maternity leave or a voluntary lump sum of up to 18 months per child in the calculation, depending on which deduction reflects the personal situation. A lump sum takes into account the fact that maternity often implies restrictions on research work beyond the effective maternity leave (possible restrictions during pregnancy and breastfeeding, etc.). If the maternity leave demonstrably lasted longer than 18 months, this time is fully credited. Fathers can deduct the time effectively used for paternity leave.

In principle, a non-academic activity should not be assigned to more than one category. For example, if the workload was reduced from 100% to 80% for one year due to care duties, indicate either part-time work or care duties (12 months, 20% workload reduction).

The type and duration of the deductions are visible only to employees of the SNSF Administrative Offices, who check the plausibility of the deductions. For the reviewers and the evaluation body, only the net academic age – stated by you in years and months in your CV – is relevant.

Here are three examples showing you how to calculate the academic age:

### Example 1

Dissertation defended	September 2012
Deadline for submission of funding application	October 2022
<b>Gross academic age</b>	<b>10 yr 2 mth</b>
Deductions:	
– maternity	18 mth: 100% interruption      1 yr 6 mth deducted
– part-time work	4 yr: 80% of full time            10 mth deducted
– continuing education	4 mth: 50% interruption          2 mth deducted
Total deductions	2 yr 6 mth
<b>Net academic age</b>	<b>7 yr 8 mth</b>

### Example 2

State medical examination	October 2017
Deadline for submission of funding application	February 2023
<b>Gross academic age</b>	<b>5 yr 5 mth</b>
Deductions:	
– care of dependants	2 yr: 10% of full time            4 mth deducted
– clinical activities	3 yr: 80% clinical work          2 yr 7 mth deducted
Total deductions	2 yr 7 mth
<b>Net academic age</b>	<b>2 yr 10 mth</b>

### Example 3

Dissertation defended	April 2002
Deadline for submission of funding application	October 2022
<b>Gross academic age</b>	<b>20 yr 7 mth</b>
Deductions:	
– n/a	n/a                                    0
Total deductions	0
<b>Net academic age</b>	<b>20 yr 7 mth</b>