

Willy Bretscher Fellowships: call for applications 2026/2027

Research fellowships at the Zentralbibliothek Zürich

The Zentralbibliothek Zürich is one of largest libraries in Switzerland. Its special collections (rare books; prints, drawings and photo archive; manuscripts; maps and panoramas; music; Turicensia) constitute a unique – and increasingly digital – source for research in the fields of humanities and the social sciences. The ZB Lab combines digital resources with future-forward research services, taking an experimental approach to the development of innovative services that address both the potential of its digital collections and the needs of user groups.

Through the Willy Bretscher Fellowships, which include a monthly stipend of CHF 4,000, the Zentralbibliothek Zürich supports researchers working on projects in the fields of the digital humanities, focusing on the 20th century and using the library's holdings or data. The fellowships cover the period from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027 and can last from 3 to 12 months.

Fellows are expected to relocate their research activities to Zurich, spend the most of their time engaged in these endeavours and present their findings to the public.

Applications include the following documentation:

- a) Description of the planned project (project outline in accordance with guidelines)
- b) Indication of the period to be covered by the fellowship
- c) List of the metadata and digital copies to be provided by the Zentralbibliothek Zürich to enable the project to be successfully completed
- d) Proposal for the public presentation of the project
- e) Academic CV (incl. degree certificates and list of publications)
- f) *Doctoral candidates only*: letter of recommendation

are to be sent in digital form (one PDF, max. 10 MB) to bretscher-fellowship@zb.uzh.ch no later than 30 September 2025.

Further information:

- Willy Bretscher Fellowship: [Website](#) and [guidelines in German](#)
- You can address your questions to bretscher-fellowship@zb.uzh.ch any time