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PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SECRETARIAT

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Mr Henry Puna  
Secretary General  
Pacific Islands Forum  
Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat  
Ratu Sukuna Road  
Suva, Fiji

Our reference: 661.7-09  
Contact person: Sébastien Monnet  
Phone: +61 2 6250 5600  
E-Mail: [sebastien-joel.monnet@eda.admin.ch](mailto:sebastien-joel.monnet@eda.admin.ch)  
**Canberra, 03.08.2022**

Dear Secretary General,

It was a pleasure to make your acquaintance recently at the PIF in Suva. I thank you for the interesting and fruitful conversation and I am looking forward to future collaborations.

Convinced of the potential to further develop the links between Switzerland and Pacific Islands nations through closer interactions and cooperation in science and research, I am writing today to inform you that each year, Switzerland awards Excellence Scholarships to promote international exchange and research cooperation with over 180 countries including all PIF member countries.

The Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships are aimed at young researchers who have already completed a master's degree or doctoral studies. More information on the different types of scholarships are available on the following website:

<https://www.sbf.admin.ch/sbf/en/home/education/scholarships-and-grants/swiss-government-excellence-scholarships.html>

The call for applications opened on 02 August 2022 and will close on 30 November 2022. The country of residence is irrelevant, the scholarships are attributed on a merit base only.

Nationals of Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu should direct their Scholarship applications or queries to the Embassy of Switzerland in Canberra ([canberra@eda.admin.ch](mailto:canberra@eda.admin.ch)).

Nationals of the Republic of Fiji, the Cook Islands, Samoa, the Kingdom of Tonga and Tuvalu should address their applications or queries to the Embassy of Switzerland in Wellington, New Zealand ([wellington@eda.admin.ch](mailto:wellington@eda.admin.ch)).

Nationals of Marshall Islands, Micronesia and Palau should address their applications or queries to the Embassy of Switzerland in Manila, Philippines ([manila@eda.admin.ch](mailto:manila@eda.admin.ch)).

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that PIF member countries nationals who are currently finishing their degree abroad, or who have finished a degree abroad recently, are also eligible to apply.

Embassy of Switzerland in Australia  
7 Melbourne Avenue  
FORREST ACT 2603  
Australia

The support of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat in increasing awareness of this great opportunity through the PIF channels and by reaching out to young researchers of all Pacific Islands countries, would be greatly appreciated. We're looking forward to assisting any young academic from the Pacific Islands Region, irrelevant of their current research location, in forging stronger international ties in their field of expertise.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'E. Bichet', written in a cursive style.

Emmanuel Bichet

Special Envoy of Switzerland for the Pacific Region

Enclosure(s)

- Swiss Government Excellence Scholarship e-flyer
- Information sheet for PhD excellence scholarships, postdoctoral scholarships and Research fellowships