

Creating a better future in a just and sustainable world – together!

The NCCR CLIM+ supports Switzerland in the transformation towards a climate-resilient society. Together with stakeholders, the interdisciplinary NCCR CLIM+ research community tackles unexplored solution spaces to the climate crisis and develops a blueprint for actionable climate research worldwide. NCCR CLIM+ broadly communicates and shares knowledge and trains a new generation of experts with the necessary domain and transdisciplinary knowledge.

The Wyss Academy for Nature is a Swiss foundation that co-designs and assesses innovative development pathways and conservation approaches. Our initiatives, rooted in scientific and other types of knowledge, stakeholder engagement, and the implementation of creative solutions, unfold within four Regional Stewardship Hubs. These Hubs are strategically positioned in East Africa (Kenya and Madagascar), South America (Peru), Southeast Asia (Laos and Thailand), and Europe (Switzerland). Our vision is to achieve a just and sustainable world in which nature conservation and human wellbeing reinforce each other. We are a place of innovation, where research, business, policymakers, and communities come together to create solutions to pressing, interconnected problems such as climate change, biodiversity loss, land use change, and rising inequality.

Together with the Wyss Academy for Nature at the University of Bern, the NCCR CLIM+ is now looking for a dynamic, creative and a passionate team player to join our Research Team *Environmental Governance and Global Development* as a

PhD Student on Climate Extremes and Public Opinion

Contract duration: 1 July 2026 or by agreement for a duration of 4 years (PhD)

Location: Wyss Academy for Nature (Kochergasse 4, Bern) in Switzerland

Apply by: 12 May 2026 (interviews with short-listed candidates are expected to be held between June 1 and June 5)

Contract terms: 100%

About the role

The PhD position will be hosted by the Research team *Environmental Governance and Global Development*, under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Quynh Nguyen. The team works on comprehensively analyzing levers and innovative governance arrangements for sustainable solutions to global environmental and social problems, with a focus on solutions for natural resource governance, climate change adaptation and political dynamics in sustainability transitions.

The selected candidate will be part of the NCCR CLIM+ research project, contributing to work package 4 (WP4), aiming to understand how communication about climate extremes shapes public perceptions and drives behavior change at the individual, organizational, and societal level. The role spans three core areas: mapping climate communication across media and political arenas; analyzing public and stakeholder perceptions of climate extremes; and developing and testing effective communication strategies, including countering mis- and disinformation.

The selected candidate will engage in an interdisciplinary research agenda at the intersection of political science, communication, environmental science, psychology, and economics, while actively contributing to the goals of WP4. The position offers a unique combination of rigorous empirical research and real-world impact, with findings feeding directly into the development of evidence-based communication tools and strategies for Swiss stakeholders and the broader public.

Main Tasks

- Active contribution to ongoing research projects within WP4 of NCCR CLIM+
- Conduct original research relevant to your PhD dissertation
- Dissemination of ongoing work at conferences and workshops
- Publication of work in leading academic journals
- Potential support to the professorship, including administrative support and teaching (but no formal teaching requirement)

Your Profile

We seek a doctoral researcher with a background in a relevant social sciences field and a strong interest in environmental and sustainability governance, public opinion, political behavior, comparative politics, and/or policy studies. The ideal candidate is creative, a team player, and passionate about transforming knowledge into action for climate resilience. They are comfortable working independently in a dynamic, interdisciplinary environment and demonstrate professionalism and integrity when engaging with diverse stakeholders and publics.

Qualifications in detail:

- Master's degree in a relevant social sciences discipline (e.g. political science, communication, psychology, economics, environmental studies, or a related field)
- Proficiency in quantitative and/or qualitative research methods, including survey design, experimental methods or content/media analysis
- Experience with social network analysis
- Basic programming skills in R, Python, or a comparable statistical software; experience with computational science or AI/ML-based tools is considered an asset
- Demonstrated intercultural sensitivity, with experience working or studying in diverse international contexts
- Fluency in English (written and oral). Proficiency in German and/or French is a significant asset

What We Offer

- Integration into an institution that develops, tests, and amplifies innovative solutions to the most pressing challenges of our time.
- Work in an intercultural, multidisciplinary, and highly stimulating environment.
- Employment within a foundation with salary levels aligned with the standards of the University of Bern.
- A modern workplace located in the heart of Bern's Old Town.

- Attractive employment conditions – including flexible working hours, home office options and a wide range of professional development opportunities.

For more information, please contact Prof. Dr. Quynh Nguyen at hr@wyssacademy.org. Please submit your application in English, via our online portal by **12 May 2026**, including the following:

- A cover letter specifying research interests, motivations, and specific qualifications (max. 2 pages)
- A CV containing the names of two academic references
- Transcripts of completed academic training
- A research proposal (in English, no more than 3 pages, excluding the bibliography), outlining:
 - The topic of your research and its relevance
 - A brief outline of the academic and conceptual debate(s) that informs your project
 - A research question, problem, or puzzle
 - Proposed methodology: How you intend to conduct your research
 - Possible project contributions to literature and/or policymaking

AI tools have become increasingly common in academic research. We welcome transparent and responsible use of AI and kindly ask that you declare it. Please indicate any tasks for which you used AI assistance in preparing this proposal.

Thank you for your interest and we look forward to receiving your application!

The NCCR CLIM+ and the Wyss Academy for Nature value diversity and equal opportunity. We believe that diversity of thought, background, and experience creates better research. Therefore, we welcome all applications from qualified individuals who meet the required criteria. Please note that applications submitted through employment agencies will not be considered.