Regulations concerning awards of scholarships and loans at ETH Zurich
(Scholarship regulations ETH Zurich)

16 December 2008 (Version: 1 August 2014)

This English translation serves information purposes only and has no legal force. The original German version is the legally binding document.

The ETH Zurich Executive Board,
pursuant to Art. 25, Para. 3 of the ETH Zurich / EPF Lausanne Ordinance of 13 November 2003\(^1\), and Art. 8 of the ETH domain Fee Ordinance of 31 May 1995\(^2\), hereby decrees:

**Section 1: General**

**Art. 1 Scope**

\(^1\) These regulations apply to the awarding of scholarships and loans from ETH funds to students who are in difficult financial circumstances.

\(^2\) These regulations do not apply to scholarships awarded solely for achievement or in connection with student exchange.

\(^3\) The awarding of scholarships and loans from ETH institutional funds is subsidiary to the provisions of the corresponding fund regulations.

**Art. 2 Jurisdiction**

\(^1\) The Rector has jurisdiction over the awarding of scholarships and loans. Their administration is carried out by the Scholarship Office of the Rectorate.

\(^2\) The Scholarship Office provides information regarding scholarships and loans in an appropriate form.

**Art. 3 Basic tenets**

\(^1\) Scholarships and loans from ETH Zurich may be awarded to both Swiss and foreign students, with the exception of visiting students.

\(^2\) There is no legal entitlement to a scholarship or loan.

\(^1\) SR 414.110.37
\(^2\) SR 414.131.7
A scholarship or loan from ETH Zurich is always subsidiary to the following financial sources:

a. Scholarships from the canton or country where the student’s parents reside
b. Support from parents or third parties
c. The student’s own funds

Art. 4 Application

1. Applications for scholarships and loans are submitted to the Scholarship Office. The Scholarship Office sets the corresponding deadlines and time limits, and specifies the supporting documents required.

2. A component of the application comprises details of the financial circumstances of the student and his/her parents.

Section 2: Scholarships

2.1 Scholarships during Bachelor’s and Master’s degree studies

Art. 5 General criteria for award

Scholarships may be awarded to students in both first- and second-career education. However, no scholarships are awarded for second degree programmes. A second degree programme is defined as a second course of studies on the same level as the first programme completed.

Art. 6 Eligibility

1. In determining scholarship eligibility a differentiation is made between citizens/resident aliens and non-resident aliens.

2. Citizens/resident aliens are:
   a. Persons holding Swiss citizenship
   b. Persons holding foreign citizenship who hold permanent residency or who have had a legal residence in Switzerland for at least 5 years and have a residence permit
   c. Persons whose refugee or stateless status is recognized by Switzerland

3. Non-resident aliens are persons not listed under Para. 2.

Art. 7 Scholarship commencement

1. Pursuant to Art. 6, Para. 2, citizens/resident aliens may apply for scholarships from the first semester of their Bachelor’s or Master’s degree studies.
Pursuant to Art. 6, Para. 3, newly arrived non-resident aliens may at the earliest apply for scholarships after passing the first-year examinations of the Bachelor’s degree programme or from the 3rd semester of the Master’s degree programme.

Art. 8 Scholarship duration

1 Scholarships during Bachelor’s and Master’s degree programmes are normally awarded for one year or until the projected completion of the degree. An extension requires a new application.

2 Scholarships may be awarded until the maximum permitted duration of studies as given in the respective programme regulations has been reached.

3 No scholarships are awarded for semesters off.

Art. 9 Criteria for extension

1 Continued entitlement to a scholarship is subject to additional proof of appropriate academic progress, as follows. The stipulations for non-resident aliens are in extension to Art. 7, Para. 2:

a. Bachelor’s degree studies:
   1) For the first four semesters citizens/resident aliens are subject to no additional academic progress requirements.
   2) After four semesters a scholarship may only continue if the student has passed the first-year examinations (independent of whether he/she has changed degree programmes).
   3) From the 5th semester after the first-year examination has been passed a scholarship may only continue if the student has acquired 120 credits.

b. Master’s degree studies:
   1) For the first two semesters citizens/resident aliens and non-resident aliens who hold a Bachelor’s degree from ETH Zurich are subject to no additional academic progress requirements.
   2) From the 3rd semester the scholarship may only be awarded or continued if the student has acquired at least 40 credits; said credits may stem from courses of the Master’s degree curriculum itself or from other academic achievements (including credits earned as prerequisites for entry to the Master’s degree course).

2 Should progress in the degree programme not meet the requirements stipulated in Para. 1, the scholarship application or extension application will be refused. A new application is at the earliest possible after the semester in which the requirements have been fulfilled.

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3 Pursuant to the Executive Board decision of 24.6.2014; in force since 1.8.2014
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Art. 10    Assessment criteria

1 The Rector defines criteria for the assessment of scholarship applications which are
aligned with those of the Canton of Zurich for scholarships at the tertiary level.

2 The assessment criteria are based on personal education and living costs, including tuition
fees and additional education costs (books, software, excursions, lab material etc.)\(^5\), and on
income, separately calculated for each student.

3 The assessment criteria are periodically checked against prevailing average education and
living costs, and if necessary adjusted. In this matter the Rector consults with VSETH [Union
of Students at ETH Zurich] and AVETH [Academic Association of Scientific Staff at ETH
Zurich].

Art. 11    Maximum scholarship amount

1 The maximum scholarship amount awarded by ETH Zurich is:
   a. For citizens/resident aliens, pursuant to Art. 6, Para. 2: 60%\(^6\) of personal education
      and living costs
   b. For non-resident aliens, pursuant to Art. 6, Para. 3: 40%\(^7\) of personal education and
      living costs

2 Scholarships which would cover less than 5% of personal education and living costs are
not provided.

Art. 12    Suspension and reclaim

1 If after receiving a scholarship the student fails to pursue or only partially pursues his/her
studies without cogent grounds, the scholarship will be suspended or wholly or partially
called in.

2 Should the award of a scholarship be found to rest upon a falsified declaration of the
financial circumstances the scholarship will be wholly or partially called in. If the falsification
was deliberate, ETH Zurich will decide whether to take disciplinary steps or press criminal
charges.

2.2 Scholarships for doctoral studies

Art. 13

1 Doctoral students in difficult financial circumstances who hold no position of employment
may be awarded a scholarship.

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\(^5\) Pursuant to the Executive Board decision of 24.6.2014; in force since 1.8.2014
\(^6\) Pursuant to the Executive Board decision of 24.6.2014; in force since 1.8.2014
\(^7\) Pursuant to the Executive Board decision of 24.6.2014; in force since 1.8.2014
The prerequisite for a doctoral student scholarship is a written testimonial from the doctoral supervisor which sets out the prospects for successful completion of the dissertation and the reasons why the doctoral student is not employed or why funding cannot be deployed for the duration in question.

The scholarship amounts to a maximum of two thirds of the lowest gross doctoral student first-year salary\(^8\) (100% employment). Its maximum duration is normally 3 months.

Any income on the part of the doctoral student, his/her personal funds or any support from third parties are taken into account when the scholarship application is assessed.

2.4 Scholarships for academic continuing education

Art. 14

Normally no scholarships are awarded for participation in academic continuing education programmes.\(^9\) Exceptions are possible if special funds are available for this purpose.

Section 3: Loans

Art. 15 Policy and amount\(^10\)

1 ETH Zurich can provide either short-term or long-term loans. These loans are interest-free.

2 The short-term loan amounts to a maximum of Sfr. 2,000. Its purpose is to bridge a short-term financial gap which threatens the further continuation of studies.

3 The long-term loan amounts to a maximum of Sfr. 12,000. Its purpose is to relieve verified financial need during the period of studies. Normally it is complementary to a scholarship. Long-term loans are available to

   a. Bachelor’s degree students who have passed their first-year examinations
   b. Citizens/resident aliens attending a Master’s or doctoral degree programme
   c. Non-resident aliens attending a Master’s or doctoral degree programme who hold a Bachelor’s degree from ETH Zurich

Art. 16 Repayment

1 Short-term loans must be repaid within 12 months.

2 The repayment conditions for long-term loans are set out in the individual loan contract. A guide would be payment in instalments of Sfr. 2000 per year after completion of studies.\(^11\)

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\(^8\) Pursuant to the Executive Board decision of 24.6.2014; in force since 1.8.2014
\(^9\) These include, e.g., Master’s, Diploma and academic continuing education certificate programmes (MAS, MBA, DAS, CAS)
\(^10\) Pursuant to the Executive Board decision of 24.6.2014; in force since 1.8.2014
\(^11\) Pursuant to the Executive Board decision of 24.6.2014; in force since 1.8.2014
Art. 17  Further provisions

Further provisions stipulated in the Regulations Concerning the ETH Zurich Loan and Scholarship Fund of 29 January 2008\textsuperscript{13} (vgl. Art. 18, Para. 3) (document in German only) apply.

Section 4:  Funding of scholarships and loans

Art. 18

1 Scholarships are primarily financed via third-party funds, in particular special funds.

2 Scholarships of citizens/resident aliens (vgl. Art. 6, Para. 2) may also be financed via budget funds.

3 Loans are financed out of the ETH Zurich loan and scholarship fund (special fund) only.

4 Should yearly expenditure repeatedly exceed the means available, either an adjustment of the assessment criteria (see Art. 10) or of these Regulations must be considered.

Section 5:  Reporting

Art. 19

In the annual ETH Zurich Report the Scholarship Office makes public the following data:

a. The number of scholarships awarded to students, according to the categories citizens/resident aliens, non-resident aliens, male vs. female, and level of studies

b. The number of scholarships awarded to doctoral students, according to the categories citizens/resident aliens, non-resident aliens, and male vs. female

c. The number of loans provided, according to the categories citizens/resident aliens, non-resident aliens, and male vs. female

d. The sum total of scholarships awarded, listed according to source: budget funds, third-party funds and special funds

e. The sum total of loans granted

\textsuperscript{12} Pursuant to the Executive Board decision of 24.6.2014; in force since 1.8.2014

\textsuperscript{13} RSETH 211.810.012
Section 6: Final clauses

Art. 20 Extraordinary cases and cases of hardship

1 Any cases not covered by or insufficiently covered by these Regulations are decided by the Rector.

2 The Rector may, in particular, grant extraordinary supporting contributions in cases of hardship where no regular funding can be awarded and the continuation of studies is threatened.\footnote{Pursuant to the Executive Board decision of 24.6.2014; in force since 1.8.2014}

Art. 21 Entry into force

1 These Regulations entered into force on 1 February 2009.

2 They are valid
   a. for first-time applicants: Spring Semester 2009 and later
   b. for students with an approved scholarship or a fee waiver for the academic year 2008/2009: only for applications for extension to Autumn Semester 2009

Zurich, 16 December 2008, for the ETH Executive Board:

President: [Eichler]

General Secretary: [Bretscher]