

Regulations concerning awards of scholarships and loans at ETH Zurich

(Scholarship regulations ETH Zurich)

16 December 2008 (Version: 22 August 2017)

This is an English translation only. 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 Fee Ordinance of the ETH Domain 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 subject to the provisions of the corresponding fund regulations.

Art. 2 Jurisdiction

¹ The Rector has jurisdiction over the awarding of scholarships and loans. They are administered by the Student Services Financial Aid Office.

² The Financial Aid 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

³ 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 Financial Aid Office. The Financial Aid 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 distinction is made between citizens/resident aliens and non-resident aliens.

² Citizens/resident aliens are:

- a. Persons who hold 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.

² 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 expiry of the regular duration of studies as set out in the respective Programme Regulations, plus two semesters (in relation to the entire duration of studies). In cases of hardship the scholarship may be extended.³

³ No scholarships are awarded for semesters off.

Art. 9 Criteria for extension⁴

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: a1. For the first four semesters citizens /resident aliens are subject to no additional academic progress requirements.

a2. 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)

a3. 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: b1. 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.

b2. 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 additional requirements for entry to the Master's degree course).

² If progress in the degree programme does not meet the requirements stipulated in Para. 1, the scholarship application or extension application will be refused. A new application is, at the earliest, only possible following the semester when the requirements are again fulfilled.

³ Pursuant to the Executive Board decision of 22.8.2017, in force since 1.9.2017

⁴ Pursuant to the Executive Board decision of 24.6.2014; in force since 1.8.2014

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

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

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

² 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.

³ The scholarship amounts to a maximum of two thirds of the lowest gross doctoral student first-year salary⁸ (100% employment). Its maximum duration is normally 3 months.

⁴ 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.

2.3 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 amount¹⁰

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 CHF 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 CHF 12,000. Its purpose is to relieve verified, limited 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.

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

² The repayment conditions for long-term loans are set out in the individual loan contract. A guide would be payment in instalments of CHF 2000 per year following graduation.¹¹

³ *Rescinded.*¹²

Art. 17 Further provisions

Further provisions stipulated in the Regulations Concerning the ETH Zurich Loan and Scholarship Fund of 29 January 2008¹³ (see 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 (see 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 If yearly expenditure repeatedly exceeds 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 Financial Aid 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

¹¹ Pursuant to the Executive Board decision of 24.6.2014; in force since 1.8.2014

¹² Pursuant to the Executive Board decision of 24.6.2014; in force since 1.8.2014

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.¹⁴

Art. 21 Entry into force

¹ These Regulations entered into force on 1 September 2017.

² They apply to

- a. first-time applications involving Autumn Semester 2017 and later;
- b. applications for scholarship extension to Spring Semester 2018 by students with an approved scholarship or fee waiver for academic year 2016/2017.

Zurich, 22 August 2017

On behalf of the ETH Executive Board:

President: Guzzella

Secretary General: Poiger

¹⁴ Pursuant to the Executive Board decision of 24.6.2014; in force since 1.8.2014