The “KITE Award” (Award for Key Innovation in Teaching at ETH) conferred by the Lecturers’ Conference (KdL) at ETH Zurich

Description

1. Goal
The KdL aims to increase the status of teaching at ETH Zurich and its visibility outside the institution; to honour innovative approaches to teaching which improve the learning success of students, thereby visibly demonstrating that development of teaching and learning methods substantially increases the quality of education; to motivate teachers to take part actively in this development; to make successful teaching approaches known and available across disciplinary boundaries.

With this aim in mind it has introduced the KITE Award, which is announced and conferred every two years.

2. Target group
Potential KITE Award winners are all ETH Zurich teaching staff (lecturers, Assistants) who are responsible for or have contributed significantly to innovative methods (projects) in teaching or the design of curricula. The award may be conferred on individuals or teams.

3. Award and conferral
The award comprises a symbolic distinction, a certificate and a cash sum of CHF 10,000.00. It is conferred by the Rector at a dignified, attractive special KdL ceremony which is highly regarded both inside and outside ETH.

4. Nomination and selection
a) Nomination
Candidates (individuals or teams) are nominated by any of the following three bodies:

- The ETH Teaching Commission
- The Departments’ Teaching Commission
- Department Heads

The persons responsible for the projects nominated are invited by the KdL to describe their projects or courses according to a preordained format.

b) Selection committee
The KdL deploys a subcommittee as per Art. 14 of its bylaws, which acts as a selection committee. It is composed of four members of KdL: the President of the ETH Teaching Commission; the holder of the ETH Chair of Learning Sciences; one representative each of VSETH and AVETH; and an external member. One of the KdL members takes the chair and has the deciding vote if there is a tie.

c) Shortlist
The selection committee ranks the nominated candidates’ projects and proposes a minimum of three and a maximum of five persons or teams for the shortlist. Assessment then proceeds on the basis of the criteria “Innovativeness”, “Effectiveness” and “Sustainability” (described in more detail in the Appendix).
For its decision the selection committee may gather further information or expert opinions.

d) Presentation and final selection
The shortlisted projects are presented in a plenary KdL session by the nominated persons or representatives of the corresponding teams. After this the KdL holds a secret ballot to select the prizewinner. Here KdL also orients itself towards the criteria named in (c).
Selection committee members who are not members of KdL are invited to attend the KdL meeting as guests (without voting rights).

5. Deadlines
The KITE Award is announced in uneven years and conferred in the respective following year. Exact dates are announced by the KdL and published on its website.

6. Project committee
A KdL project committee deals with administrative matters. Project leadership lies with the Rectorate.

7. Financing
The award, announcement, selection procedure and award ceremony are financed through Lecturers’ Conference funds.

Adopted by the KdL on 29 May 2015, amended in March 2017
Appendix

Criteria for assessing submitted projects

Innovativeness

Innovative teaching is understood as teaching that is unique or new in the ETH context. This teaching may deploy new didactic approaches, methods, structures or progressions and create new possibilities for learning and teaching. This includes teaching materials and digital learning environments that have been developed to foster effective learning. Course units that use known teaching methods to achieve novel learning objectives may also be regarded as innovative.

Effectiveness

Teaching is regarded as effective when it conveys and consolidates knowledge and competences sustainably. Students are deeply engaged, inspired to apply new approaches and will reflect critically.

Sustainability

Projects are judged sustainable according to the extent that they can be transposed to other subjects and disciplines and whether, for example, they are also suitable for large student numbers and therefore scalable. An assessment of how far projects will have a lasting effect on teaching at ETH and whether they can influence the curriculum is also beneficial.