

Criteria and procedures for E4D Scholarships

1. Objective

The Engineering for Development (E4D) doctoral scholarships promote doctoral research for the benefit of underprivileged people in low-income countries. The doctoral projects have to be innovative and develop a method or product adapted to the local context, which is directly relevant for improving the livelihoods of underprivileged people in low-income countries.

2. Eligibility

The eligibility requirements are as follows:

The candidate

- The general entrance requirements for doctoral studies at the ETH Zurich and at the particular department must be fulfilled.
- Experience in the selected research area is required.
- Maximum age: 40 years.
- Preference will be given to citizens of Least Developed Countries and Lower Middle Income Countries according to the OECD DAC-list classification¹.

The supervisor

- The supervisor confirms his/her commitment to the project by a letter of support, indicating his/her contribution to the project in cash and/or kind.
- If the concept note is selected for the elaboration into a full proposal, the supervisor invites the candidate for a lab visit and an interview at the expense of his/her chair. This does not apply to candidates who know the supervisor already.

¹ http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/DAC_List_ODA_Recipients2018to2020_flows_En.pdf

The research project

- The proposal is a new doctoral project. Complementary funding to an on-going research project is not granted.
- The proposal is of high scientific quality.
- The research topic is innovative and relevant for improving the livelihoods of underprivileged people in low-income countries.
- The ecological, socio-economic and cultural context is taken into account.
- The research project is realistic and reasonable results can be expected.
- The expected impact of the research is high for the intended target group.

The partnership

- Projects involving research partners from a low-income country, have to build their partnership on the KFPE principles².
- All partners are involved in project formulation and development.
- All partners make a substantial in-kind or cash commitment.
- The project is integrated in the general activities of the involved institutions.
- Preference will be given to projects with partners in Least Developed Countries and Lower Middle Income Countries according to the OECD DAC-list classification.

² https://naturalsciences.ch/uuid/564b67b9-c39d-5184-9a94-e0b129244761?r=20180809175703_1527110075_3898d31d-7a25-55d7-8208-d9cbeada1d05

3. Application procedure

The application procedure consists of two steps.

First step

The applicant submits a **concept note** to ETH Global (Patricia Heuberger, patricia.heuberger@sl.ethz.ch). The deadline for submitting concept notes is **15 October 2018**. Only concept notes fulfilling the indicated requirements will be considered. The E4D committee selects promising concept notes and invites the applicant to develop a full proposal.

Second step

Applicants whose concept note is selected are invited to develop a **full proposal** together with the professor who agreed to supervise the project. If the candidate and the professor do not know each other, they must set up a meeting to discuss the full proposal development. This meeting is either a face-to-face meeting or a skype meeting.

The full proposal has to be submitted to ETH Global by the supervising ETH professor.

Deadline is 15 January 2019.

Concept note

- Subject of the proposed research is the development of methods, technologies, tools or products, which are directly relevant for improving the livelihoods of underprivileged people in low-income countries.
- The research topic is within the thematic scope of ETH Zurich.
- The outline of the research project must not exceed 3000 characters (including spaces).
- The candidate identifies a professor at ETH Zurich who agrees to supervise the project, if selected. The professor confirms his or her commitment to the project by a letter of support.
- CV of the candidate, including two references.
- Graduation certificate and transcripts with grades.
- Relevant own publications or documentation of relevant activities relating to the project.

Full proposal

Per proposal a **scholarship of CHF 175'000** can be granted for a period of three years (salary of doctoral student plus limited operational costs). The application **in electronic format** is submitted by the professor of ETH Zurich who has agreed to supervise the candidate. The proposal of maximum 15 pages has to include the following elements:

Full Proposal

- Cover page including executive summary.
- Clearly defined and justified objectives.
- Problem definition, state of research (own and others) and references (to be included into appendix).
- Project description, hypotheses, novelty of the research, research approach and methodology (including logical framework matrix).
- Description of the institutional framework and partnership, explaining the contribution of all involved partners.
- Supervision and guidance.
- Work plan with milestones.
- Critical assessment of chances and risks.
- Expected results and strategy for their implementation (method or product to be developed and its relevance to end users).
- Detailed budget for each year of the scholarship, differentiating all funding sources including those of the ETH chair and partner contributions (financial or in-kind).

Appendix

- Scientific references.
- Letters of support from all involved partner institutions.
- Motivation letter with career intentions of the candidate.
- CV of the candidate with three personal references.
- List of 5 independent reviewers.
- Graduation certificates and transcripts.

4. Selection procedure and notification

- The full proposals are reviewed by independent scientific reviewers of the relevant field of research and eventually evaluated and selected by the E4D committee in March 2019.
- The successful applicants and their supervisors will be informed about the contractual requirements and reporting procedures shortly after the selection meeting by the end of March 2019.

5. Supervision and monitoring

- The terms and conditions between ETH Global and the supervising chair will be defined in a project agreement (Memorandum of Understanding).
- After arrival of the candidate at ETH Zurich, Patricia Heuberger, the E4D Programme Manager, will meet him or her and the supervising professor for a briefing.
- During this meeting the supervisor informs Patricia Heuberger about the plan for the first year.
- The supervisor and the candidate sign a document of their mutual understanding that the scholarship may be terminated within the first year, if there is clear evidence that the expectations of the doctorate will not be met.
- The doctoral research plan, which will be submitted to the doctoral administration, has to be submitted to ETH Global as well.
- ETH Global offers regular meetings with E4D candidates.