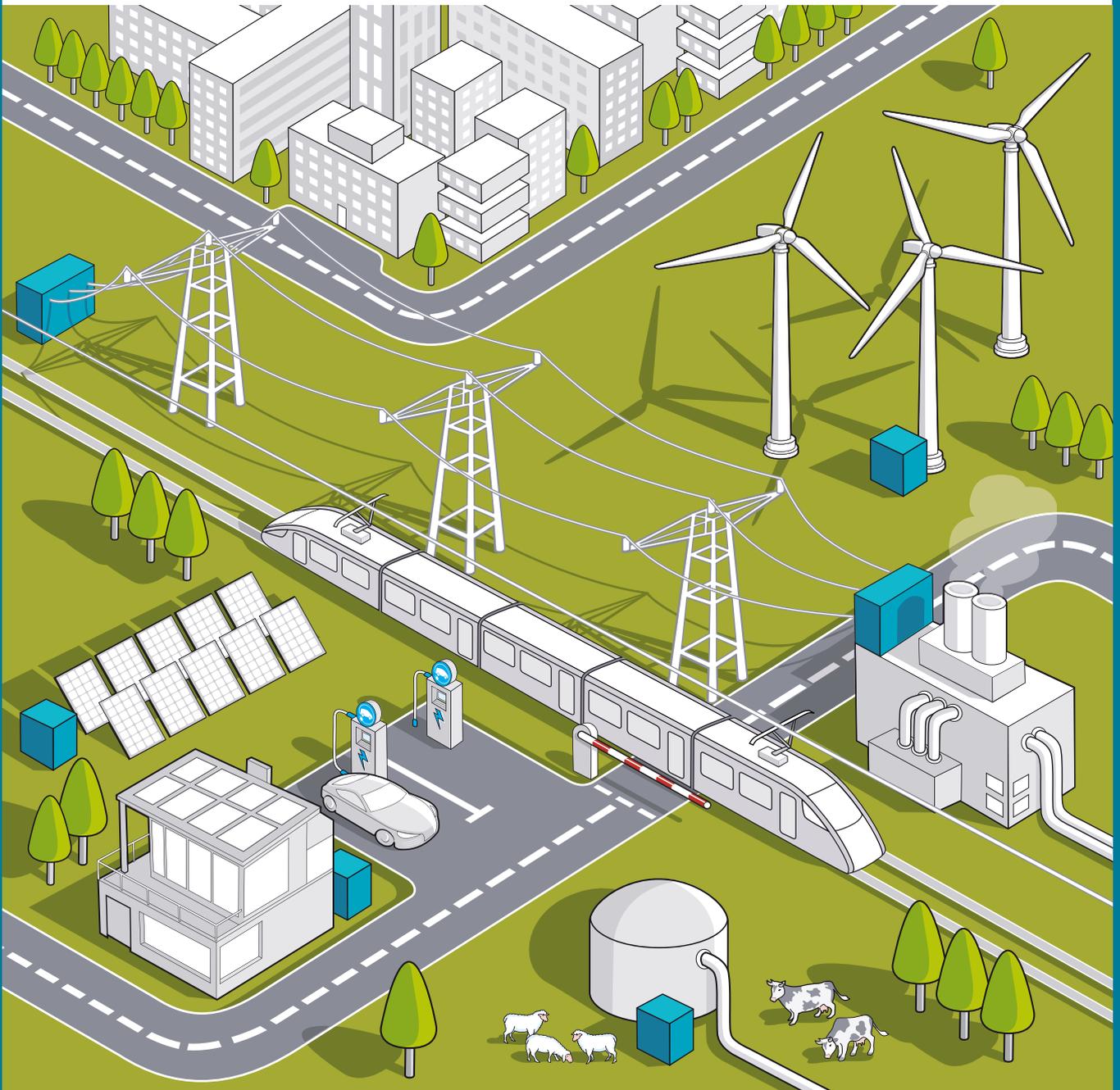


Master

Energy Science and Technology



Welcome

On behalf of the Department of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering, the Department of Mechanical and Process Engineering, the Energy Science Center and all the professors involved in the Master's degree programme in Energy Science and Technology (MEST) at ETH Zurich, I would like to thank you for your interest in our programme.

This booklet will provide you with information about the MEST degree programme, including its organization, the target professional profile, ETH Zurich and life in Zurich.

The MEST degree programme is inspired by the need for solutions to tackle the challenges the world will be facing in realizing a sustainable energy system, i.e. environmentally friendly, reliable, of low risk, economically viable, socially compatible, and resilient in the face of natural risks. The many aspects involved in this task need to be addressed comprehensively, be they technical, environmental, economic, societal or political.

In this programme you can realize your own educational aim by shaping your profile and tailoring your own career in the area of energy sciences, selecting from a wide variety of courses and interacting with a highly motivated and international group of colleagues coming from various fields.

We invite you to rise to this challenge and look forward to receiving your application.

With regards,

Prof. Christian Franck
MEST Director of Studies

Curriculum Structure

A clean, affordable and reliable energy supply is crucial for the well-being of industrialized economies and the development of emerging ones. Developing future sustainable energy systems requires education in a large number of scientific disciplines.

To enable future engineers to rise to this challenge, ETH Zurich offers a Master's degree programme in Energy Science and Technology (MEST), coordinated across several departments (www.master-energy.ethz.ch).

MEST is a full-time study programme for 3 to 4 semesters. The programme consists of four core courses, several electives and multidisciplinary courses, a semester project, an internship in industry and a final Master's Thesis. All the courses and the semester project are usually completed in two semesters. The internship and the Master's Thesis usually take an additional six months (full-time) each. At least 90 credit points ECTS must be acquired (one credit point corresponds to 25-30 hours of work).

Most of the examinations take place in January/February and in August (between semesters).

Each student can shape his or her own individual curriculum by choosing from a wide variety of courses on offer at ETH Zurich. This is done in conjunction with a selected tutor (an ETH professor in the field of energy science) who must approve the course selection within four weeks of commencement of the first semester.

A list of authorized professors can be found under www.master-energy.ethz.ch/people/tutors.

Courses (at least 42+2 credit points)

With the exception of the compulsory core courses (17 credit points), topics can be selected freely, subject to approval by the tutor. The courses and their credit points are listed in the course catalogue (www.vvz.ethz.ch). Compulsory and elective core courses must account for 36 credit points. In addition 6 credit points must be obtained from multidisciplinary courses and 2 credit points from courses offered by the Department of Humanities, Social and Political Sciences (D-GESS).

Semester Project (8 credit points)

The semester project offers students hands-on research experience and the opportunity to improve their experimental, programming skills etc. The semester project should take up about half of a student's time during one semester. The projects are offered by individual laboratories of the departments involved in MEST.

Internship in Industry (8 credit points)

There is a compulsory 12 week internship in industry (inside or outside Switzerland) to be completed at any time before the beginning of the Master's Thesis. However, it is recommended that students do it as early as possible (even before the first semester).

Master's Thesis (30 credit points)

The Master's degree programme culminates in the Master's Thesis (6 months full time). All other components of the Master's degree programme should be completed before the beginning of the Master's Thesis. The theses are offered by individual laboratories of the departments involved in MEST.

'Our research is directed towards an extremely stable, efficient and reliable intelligent power system that links renewable energy sources, storage systems and loads.'

Prof. Johann W. Kolar, Power Electronic Systems Laboratory, D-ITET



Future Challenges

The transition towards a more sustainable supply and use of energy requires drastic change within the energy sector. This poses significant challenges across all aspects of integrated energy production, distribution, the economic context and the global interdependencies. The MEST programme provides you with the fundamentals needed to tackle these complex challenges.

Integrated Energy Production and Distribution

Traditionally for many years, power generation simply followed load demand. Storage units were used mainly for techno-economic optimization, allowing large base-load power plants such as nuclear or coal-fired power plants to operate at a constant and full-load operation point despite the fluctuating pattern of load demand. The remaining variations between scheduled generation and actual real-time load demand, caused by stochastic effects on both generation- and demand-side, were balanced via reserve capacities.

In recent years, this is changing due to a number of reasons:

1. The widespread deployment of variable Renewable Energy Sources (RES) (solar, wind, thermal, biomass) in many countries has led to a significant share of highly fluctuating power generation that is not easily controllable.
2. The growing energy market activity on the increasingly integrated national and transnational energy markets has led to more frequent changes in the operating set-point schedules of power plants.
3. The emergence of smart grids as a driver for change in power system operation at all grid levels.

Collectively, these developments constitute a major paradigm shift in the management of energy generation and load portfolios: in the future load demand will increasingly have to follow the fluctuating power generation of RES.

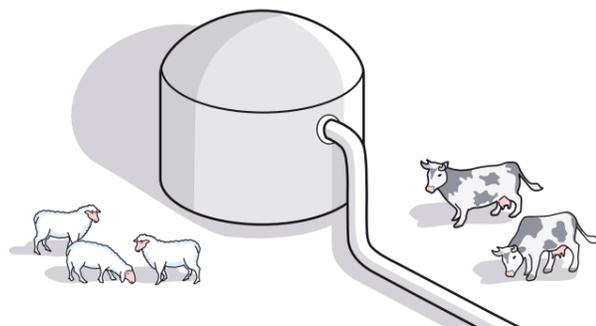
Economic Implications

As this transition will require drastic changes in the energy sector, it is critical to understand, evaluate and quantify the micro- and macro-economic implications of such a transition. Effective and robust energy policies in today's market economies have to recognize the role of economic incentives in determining the energy supply and demand decisions of firms and households in various sectors of the economy, as well as in international markets.

Future market environments should be designed to ensure adequate investment incentives for electricity generation and transmission capacity and to guarantee sufficient temporal and spatial flexibility of power generation in light of fluctuating renewable energy sources. The dynamic aspect of the energy transition further entails considering the macroeconomic drivers and mechanisms for economic growth and their inter-relationship with specific aspects of the energy sector such as, for example, technological innovations, resource costs, capital intensity and market structures.

Global Dependencies

In addition to these regional challenges, the supply of energy is becoming increasingly dependent on global interdependencies. For instance, the discovery and exploration of shale gas in the U.S. has an influence on the price of globally traded and transported coal, which in turn influences the price of electricity produced in coal-fired power stations in Europe. Understanding the energy challenges of tomorrow means understanding these interactions between different energy producers and carriers in different spatial and temporal dimensions.



Professional Life



Andreas Ulbig, PhD Student

Energy technology and energy economics has become a highly interesting study field for students in recent years. The urge to learn about the energy transition and the challenges involved, notably the effective integration of renewable energy sources into our electricity and energy systems, is attracting more and more students with diverse educational and also international backgrounds to study at ETH. As a researcher and teaching assistant I have the opportunity to supervise and collaborate with highly talented, bright MEST students.



Eirini Gerovasili, MEST Alumna

I am currently doing an industrial PhD at Robert Bosch GmbH near Stuttgart under the supervision of RWTH Aachen University. My research topic is the analysis of high-temperature batteries as energy storage in households with photovoltaic systems. As a MEST student, I was able to specialize in my field of interest – namely renewable energy, storage systems and economics – and gain state-of-the-art scientific knowledge, which now serves as the basis of my PhD. The professors at ETH Zurich were approachable, respected their students' opinions and offered ample support and advice.



Farid Comaty, MEST Student

I opted for this Master's because the world's energy sector is evolving rapidly as it faces up to global warming and with a choice of courses covering the technology, environment, economics and policies of the energy sector, ETH Zurich equips you with excellent knowledge to go out there and impress your future boss or go it alone in your own start-up. The course is challenging and fascinating. My career plan is to gain European expertise in a power system technology consultancy firm before returning home to Lebanon to help restructure our energy infrastructure.



Tony Kaiser, Energy Consultant

The present challenge in the energy sector is to satisfy the growing energy demand of the world's population in a reliable and economic manner whilst reducing global CO2 emissions. Energy engineers require a thorough understanding of the physical and chemical basics of energy-related matters, coupled with a sound understanding of energy systems and technology combinations, thereby enabling greater efficiency overall and a reduction of emissions compared to single technology optimizations.



Prospective Students

Who can apply?

MEST strives to accept students from diverse backgrounds, but it is mainly those students holding a Bachelor degree in engineering or natural sciences with a strong academic performance from a nationally- or internationally-reputed university who have a good chance of being admitted to the course. To be considered, the candidate's Bachelor degree should comprise the following courses (although a deviation of up to 6 ECTS credit points is allowed):

- > **Mathematics:** an equivalent of 26 credit points or more
- > **Physics:** an equivalent of 10 credit points or more
- > **Chemistry:** an equivalent of 3 credit points or more
- > **Engineering sciences:** an equivalent of 24 credit points or more (mechanical/electrical engineering, informatics, systems/control etc.)
- > **Economics:** an equivalent of 3 credit points or more

How to apply?

All candidates must submit an application online. All applications will be subject to individual evaluation. For successful applicants additional courses may be required (up to 60 credit points). Please refer to the Admissions Office (www.admission.ethz.ch) for details on the required documents, the online application process and the deadlines for submitting your application.

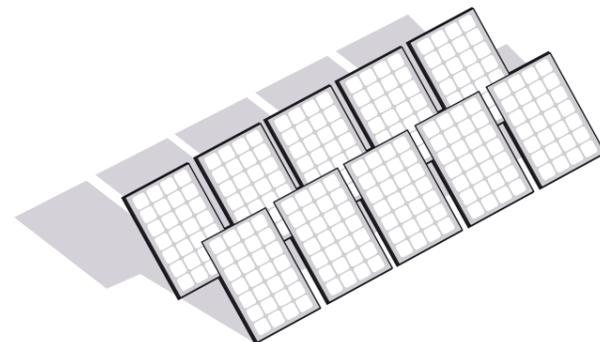
Tuition and Cost of Living

The tuition fee is only 580 Swiss Francs per semester. However, students need to budget about 20'000 Swiss Francs (14'000 Euro) per year for living in Zurich (accommodation, subsistence, health insurance, etc.). A very limited number of scholarships are available for applicants with outstanding academic records. For more detail see www.ethz.ch/en/studies/financial.

Continuing with Doctoral Studies?

Good Master students may consider continuing their studies towards a PhD degree. PhD students are generally well paid.

Applications should be made directly to a professor.



ETH Zurich

ETH Zurich is one of the leading international universities for technology and the natural sciences. It is well-known for its excellent education, ground-breaking fundamental research and for implementing its results directly into practice. To researchers, it offers an inspiring working environment, to students, a comprehensive education.

Founded in 1855, ETH Zurich today has more than 18'000 students from over 110 countries, including 3'900 doctoral students. About 500 professors currently teach and conduct research in engineering, architecture, mathematics, natural sciences, system-oriented sciences, and management and social sciences. ETH Zurich regularly appears at the top of international rankings as one of the best universities in the world. 21 Nobel Laureates have studied, taught or conducted research at ETH Zurich, underlining the excellent reputation of the university.

Student Life

Zurich enjoys an excellent reputation as one of the best places in the world to live in. The city is situated on beautiful Lake Zurich with the mountains less than an hour away. Zurich is clean and safe and has an excellent public transportation system and high standard of living. The city has an international flair, a wealth of cultural activities and a vibrant nightlife. Most Swiss are multilingual and English is often the language of choice.



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