

Entry into force:	1 January 2022 <i>(applies to scholarships awarded from academic year 2022 onwards)</i>
Version:	14 February 2022
Further information:	D-ERDW Study Programme Coordination

DIRECTIVE

Scholarships at Master's degree level: The Earth Science Excellence MSc Scholarship (EASE) at the Department of Earth Sciences

The Rector,

pursuant to Art. 9, Para. 2 of the ETH Zurich Organisational Ordinance of 16 December 2003¹,
has issued the following directive:

1. Objective

The Department of Earth Sciences (D-ERDW) offers EASE scholarships to enable outstanding students, especially those in financial need, to pursue a Master's degree at D-ERDW. The EASE scholarship covers both academic and living costs.

2. Prerequisites for applying

Excellent students (with very good performance in the respective Bachelor's degree programme) who have completed a Bachelor's degree programme at a Swiss or foreign university which qualifies them to enter the Master's degree programme in Earth Sciences or the specialised Master's degree programme in Atmospheric and Climate Science may apply for an EASE scholarship.

3. Application procedure

Students should apply for an EASE scholarship as follows:

- a. They apply for the Master's degree programme in Earth Sciences or the Master's degree programme in Atmospheric and Climate Science during the first application window.
- b. They simultaneously submit an ESOP² application, where they include the following documents:
 - (1) Certification of very good performance during Bachelor's degree studies
 - (2) A letter of motivation
 - (3) A Master's thesis project proposal³
 - (4) Two letters of recommendation from professors

¹ RSETHZ 201.021

² [Excellence Scholarship & Opportunity Programme – Student portal | ETH Zurich](#). Applications for ESOP scholarships are simultaneously considered for EASE scholarships. The application should always be for an ESOP scholarship.

³ See also the information sheet [Guidelines Preproposal.pdf \(ethz.ch\)](#).

4. Selection, and information on awarding of the scholarship

The Financial Aid Office passes all relevant applications to the D-ERDW Master's programme admissions committee, which evaluates them according to the following criteria:

- a. The candidate's potential and talent
- b. The candidate's motivation
- c. The quality and originality of the Master's thesis project proposal
- d. What sets this candidate apart from other candidates?
- e. The candidate's particular qualities

The D-ERDW Master's programme admissions committee selects the best candidates as scholarship holders. The Director of Studies informs candidates whether their scholarship applications have been accepted or rejected, and informs the Financial Aid Office about accepted applications.

If a candidate withdraws, further nominations may be submitted until 31 July.

5. Disbursement

EASE scholarships are paid out each semester. Disbursement is subject to normal matriculation or semester enrolment. Payments are made by the ETH Zurich Office of Finance and Controlling to the Swiss bank account indicated by the respective scholarship holder.

6. Number, amount and duration of EASE scholarships

A maximum of two EASE scholarships per year are available. The concrete number of EASE scholarships awarded depends on the financial means available and the quality of applications.

The EASE scholarship amount⁴ has been set at CHF°10,500.00 per semester (CHF°21,000.00 per year).

The EASE scholarship cannot be combined with another scholarship.

The EASE scholarship is paid for the normal duration of studies of the respective Master's degree programme (Earth Sciences or Atmospheric and Climate Science), i.e. for a maximum of four semesters. If admission to the respective degree programme depends on fulfilment of additional requirements, the individually agreed Learning Agreement drawn up at the beginning of the Master's degree programme will ensure that the Master's programme can be completed within the normal duration of studies.

Payment of the EASE scholarship is suspended for the duration of any exchange programme or semester off. If the student conducts a paid internship (e.g. in industry), the EASE scholarship will, if necessary, be used to top up the internship payment such that the EASE scholarship amount is reached.

⁴ The amount is based upon the foreign student scholarship sum stipulated by the Migration Office. It may therefore be subject to adjustment.

7. Mentoring

Every scholarship holder has a designated mentor. At the beginning of the Master's degree programme this person is the student advisor. During the Master's degree project the main Master's thesis supervisor assumes the role of mentor.

8. Simultaneous appointment as a Student Employee

The scholarship holder may hold a simultaneous appointment as a Student Employee at D-ERDW and be remunerated in the normal way on top of the EASE scholarship. The Student Employee workload may not lead to an extension of the duration of studies. Working as a Student Employee during the Master's thesis project is not recommended.

9. Termination of the scholarship if studies are abandoned or academic performance is insufficient

The EASE scholarship will be terminated immediately if studies are abandoned.

The Director of Studies may terminate the EASE scholarship if academic performance is insufficient.

10. Financing

D-ERDW itself finances EASE scholarships through external funding received.

11. Further information

For further information on the EASE scholarship see the D-ERDW website⁵.

12. Entry into force

This directive enters into force on 1 January 2022.

⁵ <https://erdw.ethz.ch/en/studies/master/prospective-students/scholarships.html>