



## Rules, rights and obligations connected to the DSI scholarship (DSI Excellence Program for PhD students)

1. **Scholarship duration:** The scholarship runs for the maximum of four years. It ends when one of the following events occurs. i) The doctoral candidate officially hands in the thesis at the designated office of their institute / faculty. ii) The doctoral candidate aborts their PhD studies or leaves UZH. iii) The candidate does not meet the performance expectations (see point 4).
2. **Scholarship type:** The DSI scholarship is a personal grant to the doctoral candidate, independent of a specific research project or supervisor.
3. **Supervision and employment implications:** A candidate who receives a full scholarship (standard SNSF salary) is given the freedom and flexibility to choose a PhD topic (that has a relation to the DSI) and to find a PhD supervisor within the first year of the scholarship. The DSI advises the candidate in this activity.
  - a. *New/Beginning doctoral candidates:* A professor related to the DSI will initially sign the confirmation of supervision, and the candidate will be employed by the DSI. Within the first year, the candidate must find a PhD supervisor, who is willing to supervise and formally employ the candidate (using the scholarship funds) and is or becomes a DSI member<sup>1</sup>. From that point on the candidate will be employed by the supervisor (or the supervisor's institute) and paid through the scholarship.
  - b. *Doctoral candidates with an existing confirmation of supervision or doctoral agreement:* As long as nothing else is agreed upon, an existing confirmation of supervision or doctoral agreement remains valid. Depending on the state of the candidate's research, the candidate can decide to change or stay with the current topic and supervisor. For the scholarship to be paid, the main employment contract of the candidate needs to be a PhD employment and run through the supervisor.
4. **Performance:** The scholarship is subject to a yearly renewal, which depends on the candidate's performance. This includes the following points.
  - a. The candidate successfully completes the DSI Excellence Program.
  - b. The candidate shows engagement in the DSI community by, e.g., exchanging and collaborating with other DSI members, participating in events and presenting their research.
  - c. The candidate can show reasonable progress (research proposal, passed courses, publications, grants, ...; No procrastination for the sake of exhausting the full scholarship money / duration). The performance will be assessed on a regular basis through progress reports. Either the DSI program coordinator is invited to (or will be informed about the outcomes of) the regular progress

report meetings between the candidate and the supervisor, or the candidate will be asked to organize such meetings.

5. **Affiliation:** The candidate will mention the UZH Digital Society Initiative as a (second) affiliation in any work published while the scholarship runs (e.g., papers, presentations, ...). Written work must include an acknowledgement of the financial support (e.g., "We thank the University of Zurich and the Digital Society Initiative for (partially) financing XY").
6. **Increase of employment:** The standard SNSF employment of the doctoral candidate receiving a DSI scholarship can be increased as long as it is in line with the employment ordinance of UZH. The increase can be financed either by financial means provided by the supervisor, or by personal third-party grants (see point 7) of the candidate. The increase of employment must be in line with the general goals of the PhD and is subject of approval by the DSI.
7. **Third-party grants:** The doctoral candidate is allowed to apply for third-party funding if it qualifies as personal grant (i.e., if the money goes directly to the candidate, e.g., Candoc), and if it is in line with the general goals of the PhD. If the addition of a third-party personal grant exceeds the allowed degree of employment, it partly replaces the DSI scholarship for the time it runs; start and end date of the DSI scholarship stay the same.  
Project grant applications by the supervisor that include a full-time position of the candidate are discouraged, as they contradict the scholarship goal of establishing a certain independence of the candidate from the supervisor.
8. **Supplementary conditions for the admission:**
  1. Applicants who additionally apply for a scholarship may already be enrolled in a UZH program.
  2. Applicants accepted into the program must enroll at UZH as PhD students (no distance learning). Enrollment is in the respective discipline in which the PhD student is writing his/her dissertation.
  3. **No admission to a fellowship** will be granted under the following circumstances:
    - a) Applicants already have an admission to doctoral studies according to the requirements of the respective faculty (e.g. enrollment in a doctoral program), which is coupled to a remunerated employment directly related to the doctorate.
    - b) If other financing options for the doctorate are approved in a simultaneous application procedure or the parallel start of an employment, the commitment for a scholarship expires.