

Directive concerning the awarding of study grants and excellence fellowships by the Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL)

LEX 2.10.2

23rd October 2006, status as at 25th January 2021

The Direction of the Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne,

based on the *ordonnance du CEPEF sur les bourses et les prêts accordés par les écoles polytechniques fédérales* (RS 414.154),
based on Art. 25 of the *ordonnance du CEPEF sur les écoles polytechniques fédérales de Zurich et de Lausanne* (RS 414.110.37),

hereby adopts the following:

Preamble

The present directive specifies the criteria and order of priority for the allocation of study grants by EPFL¹.

Article 1 Definitions

EPFL allocates the following two types of grants:

- EPFL social grants defined by the federal ordinance² and hereinafter referred to as “grants”,
- grants known as *EPFL Excellence Fellowships*³ as defined by the present directive.

Article 2 Financing of EPFL grants

¹ EPFL, and the EPFL Students' Foundation (FEE)⁴, make available an annual amount for the payment of grants.

² These grants are paid on a subsidiary basis to other sources of finance, particularly parental participation and cantonal study assistance.

Article 3 Beneficiaries of EPFL grants

¹ EPFL grants may be awarded to Bachelor or Master students, and exceptionally CMS students, at EPFL.

² EPFL grants are primarily intended for students whose upkeep is the legal responsibility of a person who pays taxes in Switzerland.

³ These grants are then awarded in order of priority to:

1. students from developing countries (according to OECD list),
2. students from third countries.

¹ The general principles concerning the allocation of grants are stated in the [Ordonnance du 14 septembre 1995 sur les bourses et les prêts accordés par les Ecoles polytechniques fédérales \(Ordonnance sur les bourses EPF\)](#) (RS 414.154).

² [Ordonnance du 14 septembre 1995 sur les bourses et les prêts accordés par les Ecoles polytechniques fédérales \(Ordonnance sur les bourses EPF\)](#) (RS 414.154).

³ Amendment of 17th October 2011.

⁴ In application of the [Ordonnance du conseil des EPF du 31 mai 1995 sur les taxes perçues dans le domaine des Ecoles polytechniques fédérales \(Ordonnance sur les taxes du domaine des EPF\)](#) (RS 414.131.7) Art. 10 par. 1 letter f.

Article 4 Financial and academic conditions

¹ The necessity for financial assistance is, generally speaking, acknowledged when the income subject to Direct Federal Tax (IFD) of the person responsible for the student's upkeep does not exceed an annual amount of CHF 55,000.- (or a situation considered similar in the case of foreign students).

² The Social Committee makes a decision on a case by case basis, having obtained the preliminary opinion of the Student Affairs Service and examined the student's file. It also takes any other relevant financial factors into account.

³ In the case of foreign students, it must also verify the existence of:

- a high level of success in previous studies, and
- any deterioration in the financial position of the person responsible for covering their expenses in Switzerland.

Article 5 Payment of EPFL grants

¹ EPFL grants are paid during a maximum period of 10 months per academic year.

² They may be renewed from year to year providing that the grant holder pursues their studies in a regular and conscientious manner.

³ In accordance with the competence conferred on EPFL by Art. 8 of the ordinance on fees charged in the EPF domain⁵, neither holders of an EPFL grant, cantonal grant and, by extension, federal grant (Federal Commission for Scholarships for Foreign Students), nor other students with insufficient resources at their disposal are exempt from the payment of tuition fees or other user taxes. EPFL grants take this financial obligation into account. In exceptional cases and on a subsidiary basis, any student who has insufficient resources at their disposal for the payment of tuition fees and other user taxes may request a supplementary EPFL grant.

Article 6 EPFL Excellence Fellowships⁶

¹ The aim of EPFL Excellence Fellowships is to promote EPFL Master studies among students who have obtained excellent results in their Bachelor studies (or equivalent) in another institution (referred to as external students) or at EPFL (referred to as internal students). They are awarded for EPFL Master studies, with a deduction being made for remunerated internship and holiday periods. They may be suspended if the holder falls behind with their studies.

² In the case of external students, the fellowship may be awarded in response to a duly justified request submitted by candidates when they apply for admission to the Master. It consists of a sum of CHF 16,000.- per academic year, payable in several instalments. It cannot be allocated concurrently with other study grants obtained by the candidate.

³ In the case of internal students, the fellowship may be awarded in response to a duly justified request submitted by candidates during the 6th study semester. It consists of a certificate of excellence and a total sum of CHF 10,000.-, payable in two instalments.

⁴ The number of Excellence Fellowships is limited.

⁵ A selection committee, chaired by the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Outreach, composed of a student representative, an representative from the Education outreach department, a Student Affairs Service representative and a professor from each School and the College of Management, validates the candidatures selected by the Section Directors.

⁵ [*Ordonnance du conseil des EPF du 31 mai 1995 sur les taxes perçues dans le domaine des Ecoles polytechniques fédérales \(Ordonnance sur les taxes du domaine des EPF\)*](#) (RS 414.131.7) Art. 8.

⁶ Amendment of 17th October 2011.

⁶ Its decisions are not subject to appeal.

⁷ The Student Affairs Service manages the payment of Excellence Fellowships.

Article 7 Coming into force⁷

¹ The present directive of 23rd October 2006 was revised on 25th January 2021 (version 3.2).

² The amendment of 17th October 2011 is applicable to EPFL Master study candidates as from the start of the academic year 2012.

On behalf of the EPFL Direction:

President:
Martin Vetterli

Director of Legal Affairs:
Françoise Charonnens

⁷ Amendment of 17th October 2011.