

Meeting of the ETH Board of 5 July 2018

Moderate increase in tuition fees

Tuition fees at ETH Zurich and EPFL will only be increased by CHF 300 p.a. rather than by CHF 500 as initially planned. This was decided by the ETH Board after a hearing in the ETH Domain, an office consultation procedure, internal deliberations concerning cushioning measures and discussions with political parties. The increase will be made step by step over two years from autumn 2019. The tuition fees at both Federal Institutes of Technology will cost CHF 1,460 p.a. from 2020 and will continue to be among the lowest in Switzerland.

Berne, 5 July 2018 – At its meeting of 5 July 2018, the ETH Board decided to increase tuition fees by CHF 300 per year. Thus it reduced the annual rise of CHF 500 which had originally been planned. The fees are scheduled to be increased step by step over two years from autumn 2019, in individual increments of CHF 150. This means that studies at one of the two Federal Institutes of Technology will cost CHF 1,460 p.a. from autumn semester 2020. The decision was preceded by a hearing in the ETH Domain, an exchange with students of both Federal Institutes of Technology, an office consultation procedure and discussions with representatives of politics. In addition, the ETH Board conducted internal deliberations concerning cushioning measures.

The ETH Board is convinced that the moderate and socially compatible adjustment of tuition fees for studies at ETH Zurich and EPFL in Lausanne is appropriate. Students are provided with a high-quality education at low cost and have the best career opportunities. According to internal calculations, there are adequate funding options for students who require financial support.

Studies remain affordable at both Federal Institutes of Technology

With annual tuition fees of CHF 1,460 from autumn semester 2020, studies at the two Federal Institutes of Technology continue to be among the most favourably priced degree courses in Switzerland. The fees of the two Federal Institutes of Technology are thus lower than those of the Università della Svizzera Italiana (CHF 4,000 p.a.), the University of St. Gallen (CHF 2,852) and the Universities of Basel (CHF 1,700), Fribourg (CHF 1,670), Lucerne (CHF 1,620), Berne (CHF 1,568) and Zurich (CHF 1,548). Also, most degree courses at the universities of applied science are significantly more expensive. The last increase in tuition fees in 2004 was a mere adjustment in line with inflation.

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The ETH Board is the strategic management and supervisory body of the ETH Domain. The ETH Domain is made up of the two Federal Institutes of Technology, i.e. ETH Zurich and EPFL, as well as the four federal research institutes PSI, WSL, Empa and Eawag. The members of the ETH Board are appointed by the Swiss Federal Council. The ETH Board supervises the development plans of the institutions, is responsible for strategic management accounting and ensures coordination. It draws up the budget and the financial statements of the ETH Domain and coordinates the value maintenance and continued functionality of the properties. It is the authority responsible for appointments and represents the ETH Domain before the federal authorities. A staff assists the ETH Board in the preparation and implementation of its business.

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