



Digital Society Initiative

The DSI Excellence Program for PhD Students

Apply
now!

Digitalization is fundamentally changing science and society. Since 2020 the Digital Society Initiative (DSI) at the University of Zurich (UZH) offers a complementary Excellence Program for doctoral students interested in digital transformation. For outstanding students, the Digital Society Initiative offers various scholarships.

What exactly is the DSI Excellence Program for PhD students?

The DSI Excellence Program is a complementary PhD program. It features interdisciplinary courses about digital skills and technical knowledge, interdisciplinary thinking and problem-solving, and critical reflection on all aspects of a digital society, including ethical, legal and societal aspects of digital change. Students accepted to the DSI program take part in a PhD program in their respective discipline at UZH and in addition participate in the Excellence Program studies. The Excellence Program is completed within two years and consists of compulsory and elective courses. All courses focus on providing the fundamentals of digitalization and interdisciplinary studies. Examples include skills in data handling and analytics, data visualization, legal and ethical aspects of data management, and research methods in various disciplines. Upon completion of the PhD in their

research discipline, participants will additionally receive a DSI Excellence Program certificate provided they complete all the requirements. To receive the certificate, students must obtain 12 ECTS in the DSI Excellence Program.

Who is this for and who can apply?

We invite all PhD candidates interested in the digital transformation of society who expect that digitalization will have a significant impact on their PhD research to apply for the DSI Excellence Program. The applicants are prospective PhD students at UZH or doctoral students already enrolled at the University of Zurich, but at the very beginning of their PhD. Applicants are expected to have an MSc or MA degree with a very good academic track record. A good command of English is a prerequisite.

Interested in a scholarship?

Outstanding applicants are welcome to apply for a scholarship. The student salary is comparable to the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) doctoral student salary for up to four years, contingent on performance. Please check the DSI website for more information if you want to [apply for a scholarship](#).

How do I apply and when will the program start?

The DSI Excellence Program starts each Fall Semester. The application deadline for the 2022 Fall Semester is 15 January 2022. You can apply for participation in the:

- DSI Excellence Program
 - DSI Excellence Program+scholarship
- Please find all further details on the [two different application processes](#) on our website.

Where will the Program take place?

At the Digital Society Initiative at the University of Zurich. The Digital Society Initiative is a center of competence for critically reflecting on, studying and improving all aspects of the digital society, including the future of communications, democracy, health, mobility, ethics, work and many more topics. Interdisciplinary by nature, it involves members from all UZH faculties.

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More information
on the [DSI program](#).

