Regulations Governing Centers of Competence at the University of Zurich


§ 1 Definition

1 Centers of Competence at the University of Zurich are scholarly networks in which University of Zurich researchers and research groups coordinate their work in line with strategic objectives.

2 Collaboration may take place with researchers and research groups from other faculties, universities, and research institutions, as well as with cultural and private sector institutions.

§ 2 Recognition

1 A Center of Competence is granted recognition by the Executive Board of the University in consultation with the main faculties involved. This recognition requires the further approval of the Board of the University.

2 Recognition is conditional upon submission of rules of procedure as well as a development plan outlining the existing academic resources, the collaboration between the researchers and research groups involved, and the academic prospects and strategic objectives of the collaboration.

3 The application for recognition must be submitted via a faculty to the Vice President responsible.

4 Recognition is granted for a limited period, in general for four years.

5 A Center of Competence may apply to the Executive Board of the University for renewal of recognition. Applications to renew recognition must be supported by a report on the Center’s accomplishments and objectives achieved to date, and by a development plan highlighting its further academic prospects and strategic objectives. The Executive Board of the University may obtain expert opinions from external specialists.
§ 3 Allocation

1 A Center of Competence is allocated to a specific faculty for administrative purposes.

2 The Division of Research and Academic Career Development is responsible for the university-wide coordination of Centers of Competence.

§ 4 Organization

Centers of Competence draft rules of procedure to define their organization; these must receive approval from the Executive Board of the University.

§ 5 Funding

1 The Center’s scholarly activities are conducted, and the costs funded, by the researchers and research groups involved.

2 A Center of Competence must endeavor to acquire third-party funding.

3 The Executive Board of the University may make rooms and additional infrastructure available.

4 The Executive Board of the University may contribute seed funding for coordination work carried out by the Center of Competence. To cover any subsequent costs of coordination work, the Center of Competence must obtain outside funding or apply to the faculty for funding.

§ 6 Budgeting

1 Should a Center of Competence wish to submit an application for special funds for coordination work, it must do so during the regular budget procedure, to the attention of the dean’s office of the faculty to which it has been allocated.

2 Applications to receive faculty funding are decided by the faculty body responsible, in accordance with its financial authority levels.

3 The dean’s office forwards applications to receive funding from the Executive Board to the Vice President responsible for the relevant faculty.
§ 7  Contracts

The authority levels and responsibilities pertaining to contracts with financial consequences are governed by the Finance Handbook of the University of Zurich dated 31 January 2013. All other contracts are governed by the regulations for signing contracts with no financial consequences of the University of Zurich dated 23 May 2013.

§ 8  Entry into Force

These regulations enter into force upon approval by the Board of the University.

Approved by the Board of the University on 29 June 2015.