



Fact Sheet

FCS Scholarship Holders (Employment as PhD Candidates)

Background

On 19 January 2021, at the request of the President and the International Relations Office and after consulting with the deans of the faculties, the Executive Board of the University decided to increase the university's contributions to FCS scholarships¹ in accordance with the pay rates for PhD candidates at UZH effective as of the next possible date. Additional funding for PhD candidates on an FCS scholarship thus becomes a prerequisite for their supervision. This step removes any previous unequal treatment of FCS scholarship holders compared to PhD candidates at UZH and FCS scholarship holders at ETH Zurich.

The Executive Board of the University instructed the International Relations Office and the Human Resources (HR) Department to determine the additional payment amounts for this based on the scholarship payment and SNSF pay rates, and to develop a consistent process to implement this increase.

Considering the already ongoing FCS scholarships, the faculties and/or institutes/departments are requested to implement the additional payments according to the following procedure and calculations/guidelines:

- All supervisors who have already committed to FCS scholarship holders up to and including HS 2021 are highly encouraged to ensure additional funding with immediate effect.
- From HS 2022 onwards, additional funding is mandatory for all upcoming supervisors who have not yet (status by spring semester 2021) committed to an FCS scholarship holder.

Remuneration/Differential Payments

FCS scholarship holders receive a scholarship of CHF 1,920 per month (23,040 per year) over a maximum period of 36 months. This amount is paid directly to the scholarship holders. Taking into account additional fringe benefits², the following payments result.

SNSF pay rates for PhD candidates are as follows (as in 2023, based on employment level of 60%):

1st year	CHF 48,686.40 (= CHF 4,057.20 per month)
2nd year	CHF 50,238.90 (= CHF 4,186.60 per month)
3rd year onward	CHF 51,791.40 (= CHF 4,315.95 per month)

Differential payment amounts are thus as follows³:

1st year	CHF 22,560 (= CHF 1,880 per month, of which CHF 144.00 as monthly share for the 13th month salary)
2nd year	CHF 24,000 (= CHF 2,000 per month, of which CHF 153.00 as monthly share for the 13th month salary)
3rd year onward	CHF 25,860 (= CHF 2,155 per month, of which CHF 165.00 as monthly share for the 13th month salary)

¹ PhD candidates on a scholarship from the Federal Commission for Scholarships for Foreign Students (FCS).

² Allowances, admission and tuition fee(s), ½-fare travelcard and no withholding tax on scholarships.

³ Amounts rounded.



Salary Costs incl. Employer Benefits⁴

1st year	(incl. 17.20% employer benefits) per month	CHF 2,200
2nd year	(incl. 17.20% employer benefits) per month	CHF 2,350
3rd year onward	(incl. 17.20% employer benefits) per month	CHF 2,525

These amounts as well as the differential payments are paid out in 13 equal installments.

Employment at UZH / Assignment to Pay Category

For the relevant differential payments to be made, scholarship holders must be employed at UZH. The costs for the differential payments are charged to the respective cost center of the department, institute or clinic.

Scholarship holders will be employed as teaching and research assistants and assigned to pay category 17/03, with their employment level reduced accordingly⁵:

Employment level in 1st year	= 24 %
Employment level in 2nd year	= 25.5 %
Employment level from 3rd year	= 27.5 %

Please note that for amounts exceeding the SNSF guidelines the Federal Commission for Scholarships (FCS) will reduce the Federal Scholarship accordingly.

Employment must be initiated through eHR. Employment classification on the employment decision must be given as teaching and research assistant, and the function as FCS PhD candidate (the employment decision must state clearly that the employee is an FCS PhD candidate/"ESKAS-Doktorand*in").

The HR Department must be notified of any changes into the 2nd or 3rd year of employment (increase in employment level via eHR).

Work and Residence Permit

The HR Department will apply for a work and residence permit once all the required documents have been submitted to the HR Department (the documents have to be obtained from FCS PhD candidates by the relevant department, institute or clinic). The work and residence permit must be issued before PhD candidates take up employment. Employment may not begin without these permits. In addition to the above documents (according to eHR), the "Junior Academic Positions Form" ("Beiblatt Qualifikationsstelle") must also be included/uploaded. This form must state that the PhD candidate holds a Swiss Government Excellence Scholarship and (in the comments field) include the fact that the PhD candidate will also be employed as a teaching and research assistant with an employment level of XY% to ensure equal treatment. Furthermore, the HR Department also requires confirmation of the Swiss federal government's scholarship decision (official notification).

⁴ As in 2023 (any changes in the pay rates will be adjusted accordingly).

⁵ As in 2023 / amounts rounded. Employment on xx,5% is possible.