



Welcome to ETH Zürich

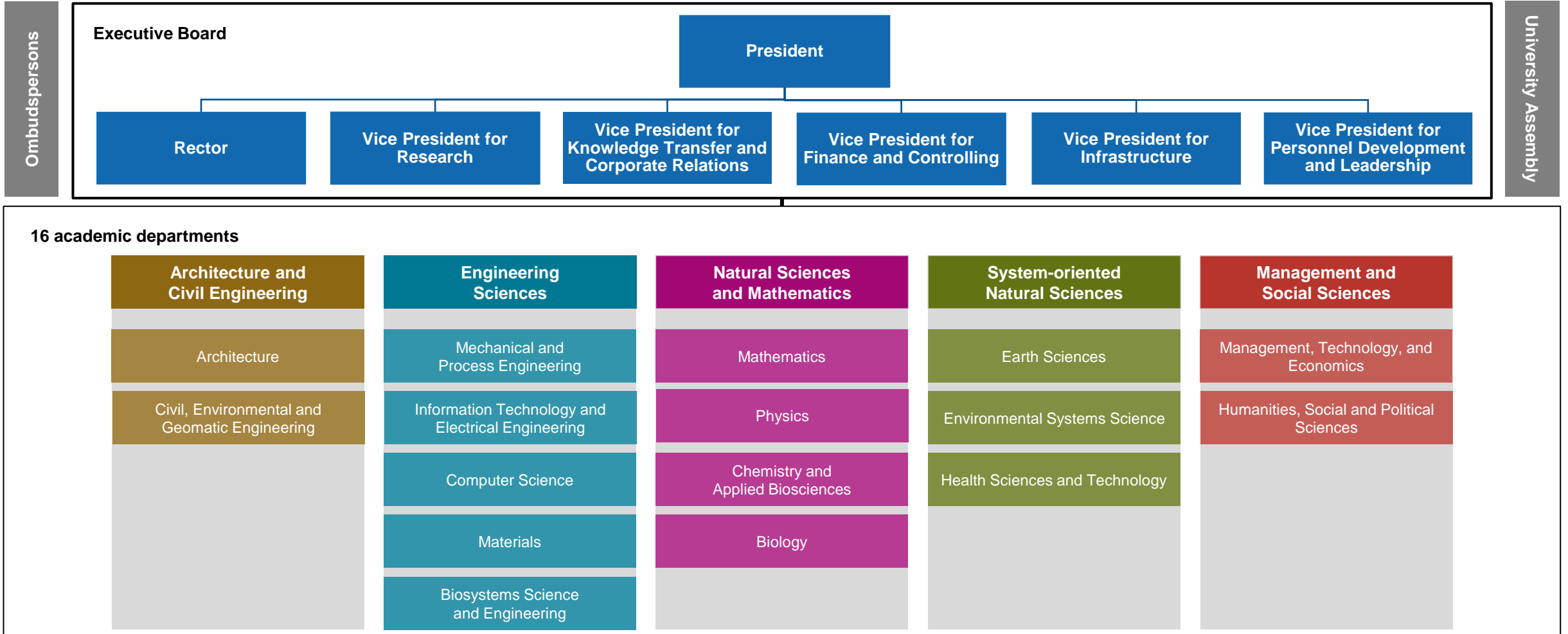
Prof. Dr. Ulrike Lohmann on behalf of the Rector
Prof. Dr. Günther Dissertori
Orientation Event for Doctoral Students
Zurich, 5 September 2024



ETH Zürich: An Engine of Innovation since 1855

- Founded a few years after the foundation of the federal state as “Federal Polytechnic School”
- Task of ETH Zürich is educating young people in technical & natural sciences mainly but not only for Switzerland

Governance



Five Impact Areas of ETH Zurich

The Fundamentals

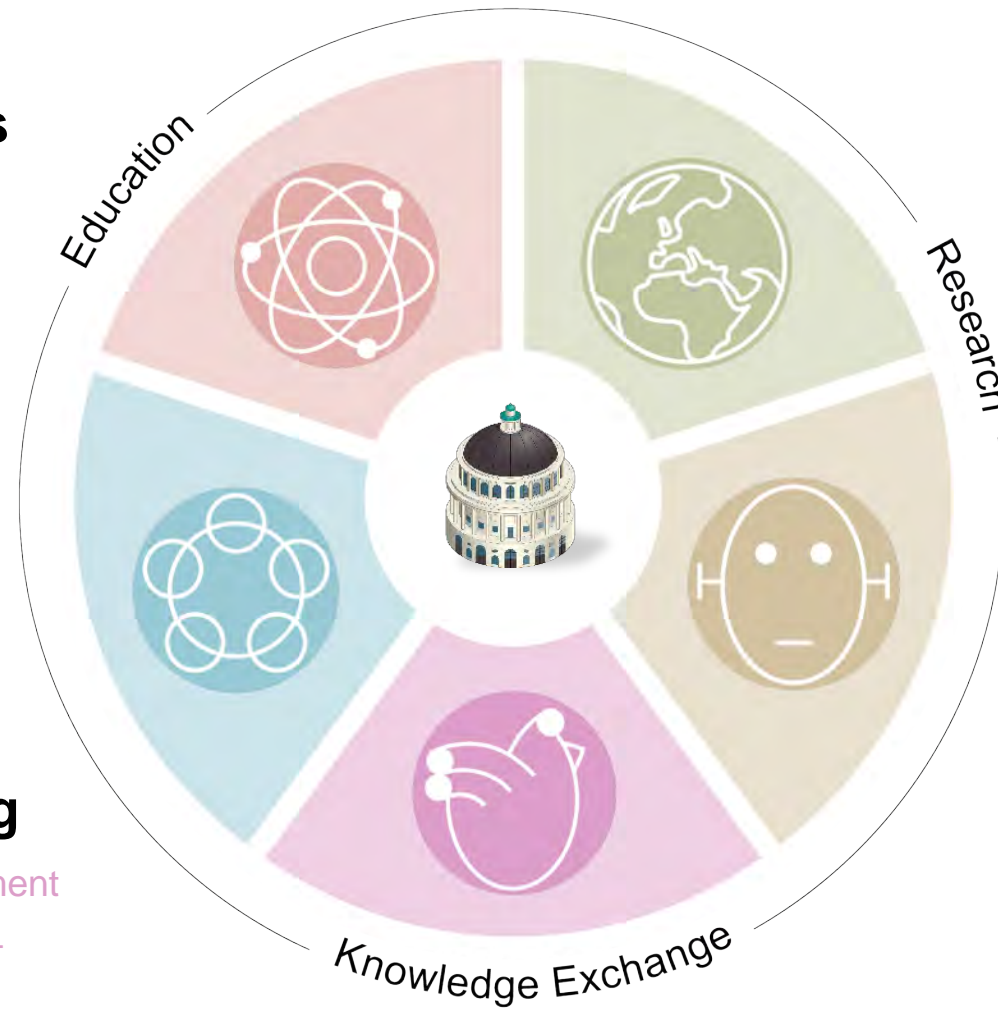
basic research – education
– organisation

Dialogue with Society

policy engagement –
industry – citizen

Health & Wellbeing

predictive medicine & treatment
– physical & mental health –
rehabilitation & life style



Global Challenges Solutions

climate & biodiversity – energy
& resources – space & mobility
– security & development

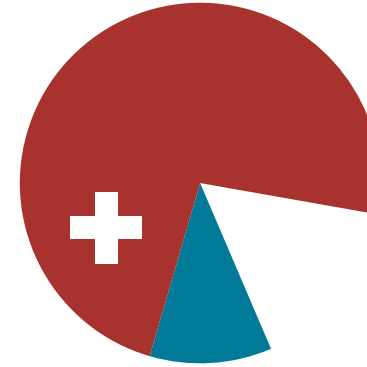
Responsible digital Transformations

big data & AI – quantum technologies –
cyber-physical systems – information
security & resilience

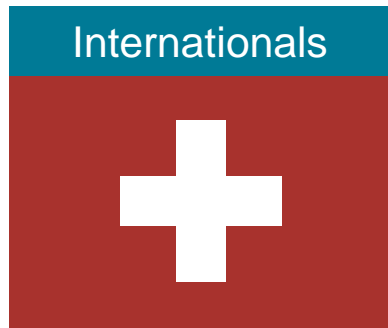
ETH Student Body: Added Value for Society and Switzerland



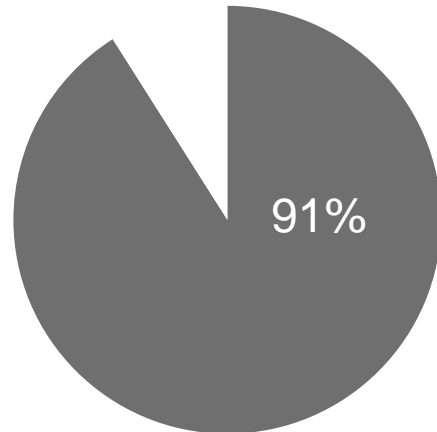
9% of graduates leaving for another university etc.



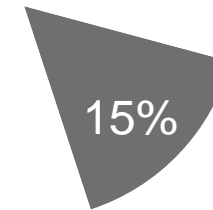
85% of graduates leaving for work etc.



Bachelor



Master



Doctorate



Our values:

- Responsibility
- Ingenuity
- Openness
- Respect
- Inclusion
- Empowerment

Spirit of ETH and personal responsibility



- **Role of ETH:** to define the overall strategies and guidelines, to provide resources and support.
- **Your responsibility:** to look for information and ask for the resources and support to pursue your projects and ideas.
- **Non-negotiable principles for everyday ETH life:**
 - Scientific integrity (cf. **Compliance guide**)
 - Respectful behaviour (cf. **Code of conduct**)

Rights and responsibilities

The “Master your doctorate” workshops for new doctoral students cover not only onboarding, but also a wide range of other success factors...

- Managing expectations
 - of doctoral student
 - of supervisor
- Communication
 - of needs
 - of feedback
- Execution of research, teaching and thesis
- Getting the help you need

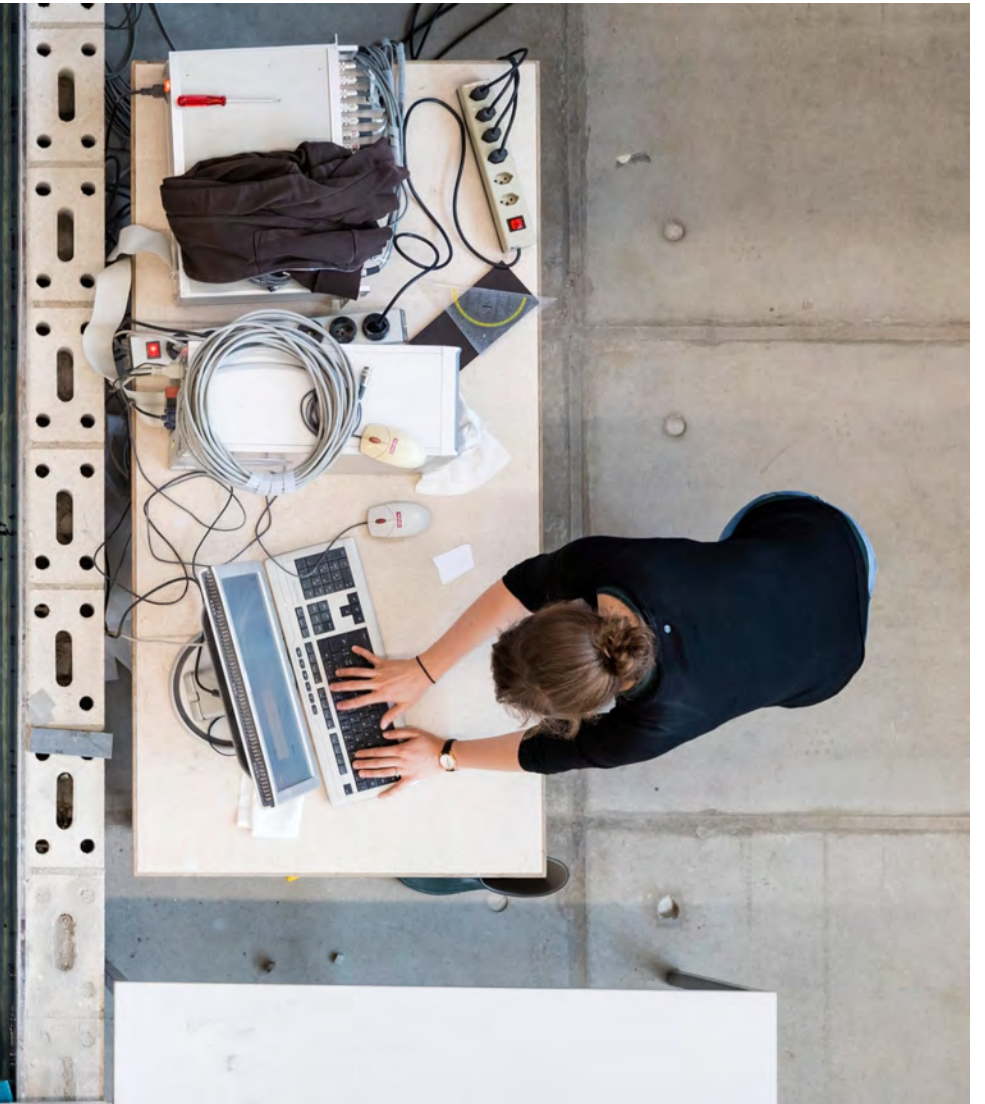
What we offer you

- Top-notch Education / Supervision
- Top-notch Research
- Top-notch Infrastructure
- Fantastic Possibilities



The doctorate

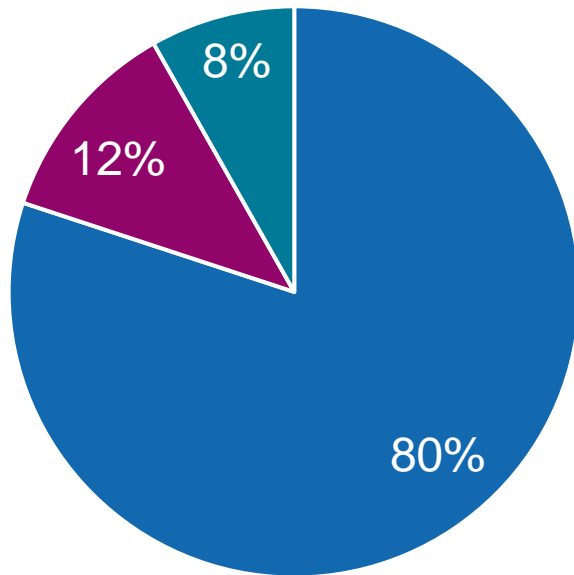
- Highest academic degree
- Prerequisite for an academic career (few exemptions)
- High degree of internationalisation (of the scientific community)
- Doctorate: Further education and research, core of which is the dissertation
- Dissertation: Independent research work (protected time)



Doctorate at ETH Zurich – some facts:

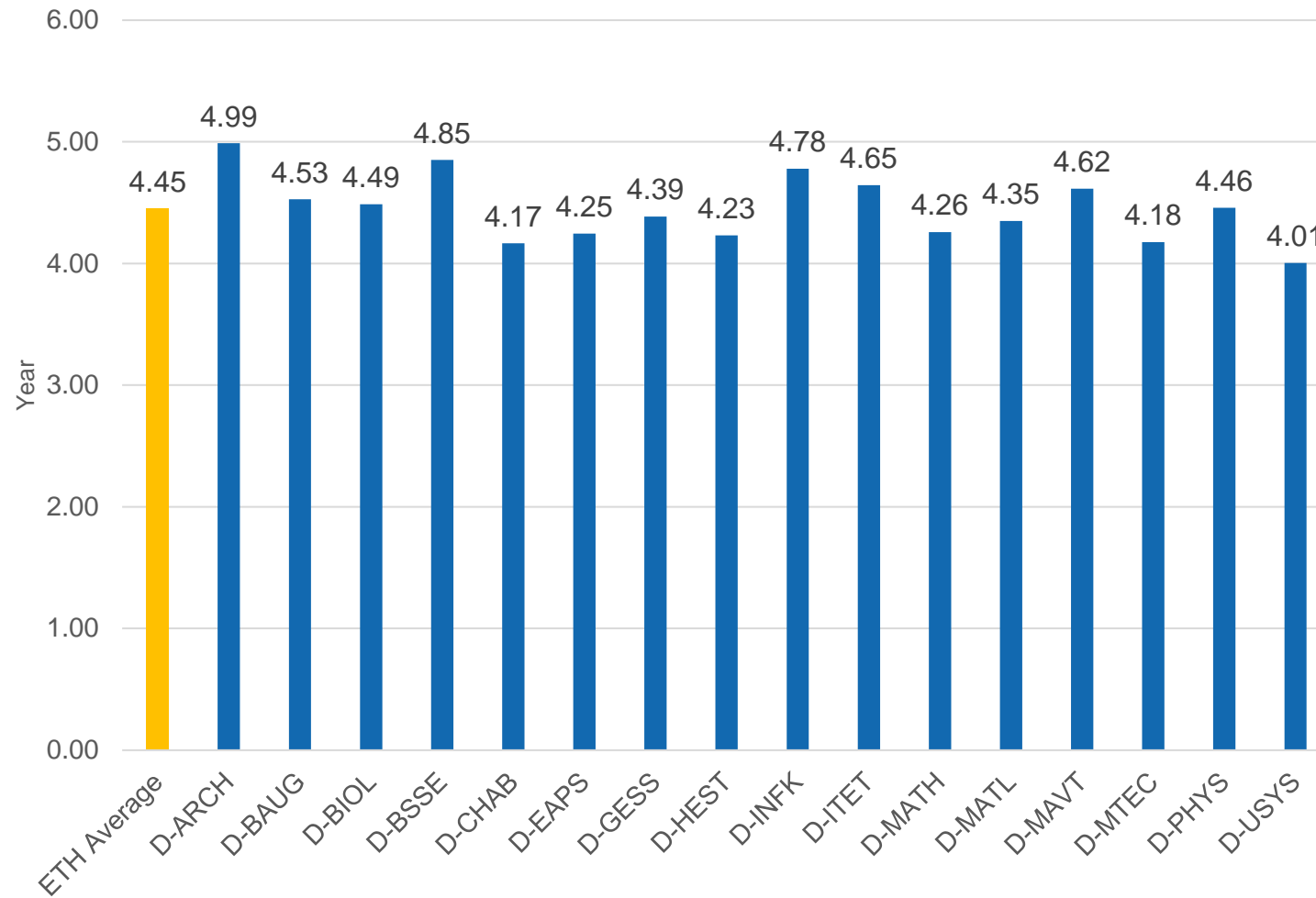
4537 active doctoral students as of today (27 August 2024)

- 36% female
- 25% Swiss citizens

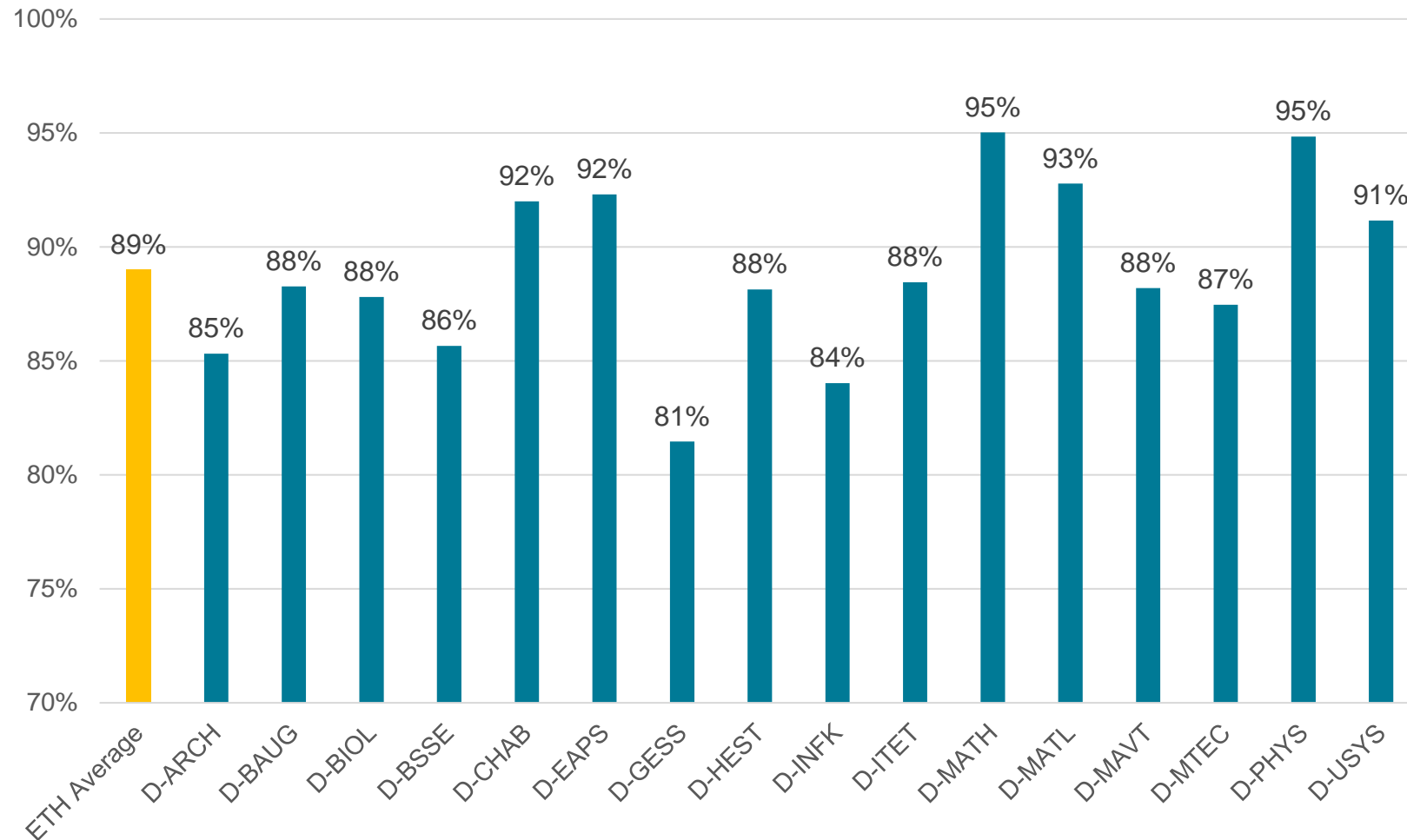


- 80% at ETH
- 12% in ETH research institutions (Empa, PSI, EAWAG, SEC, WSL, CERN, joint doctorates)
- 8% external doctoral students (IBM, USZ, MPI, BMW, Agroscope, other Universities)

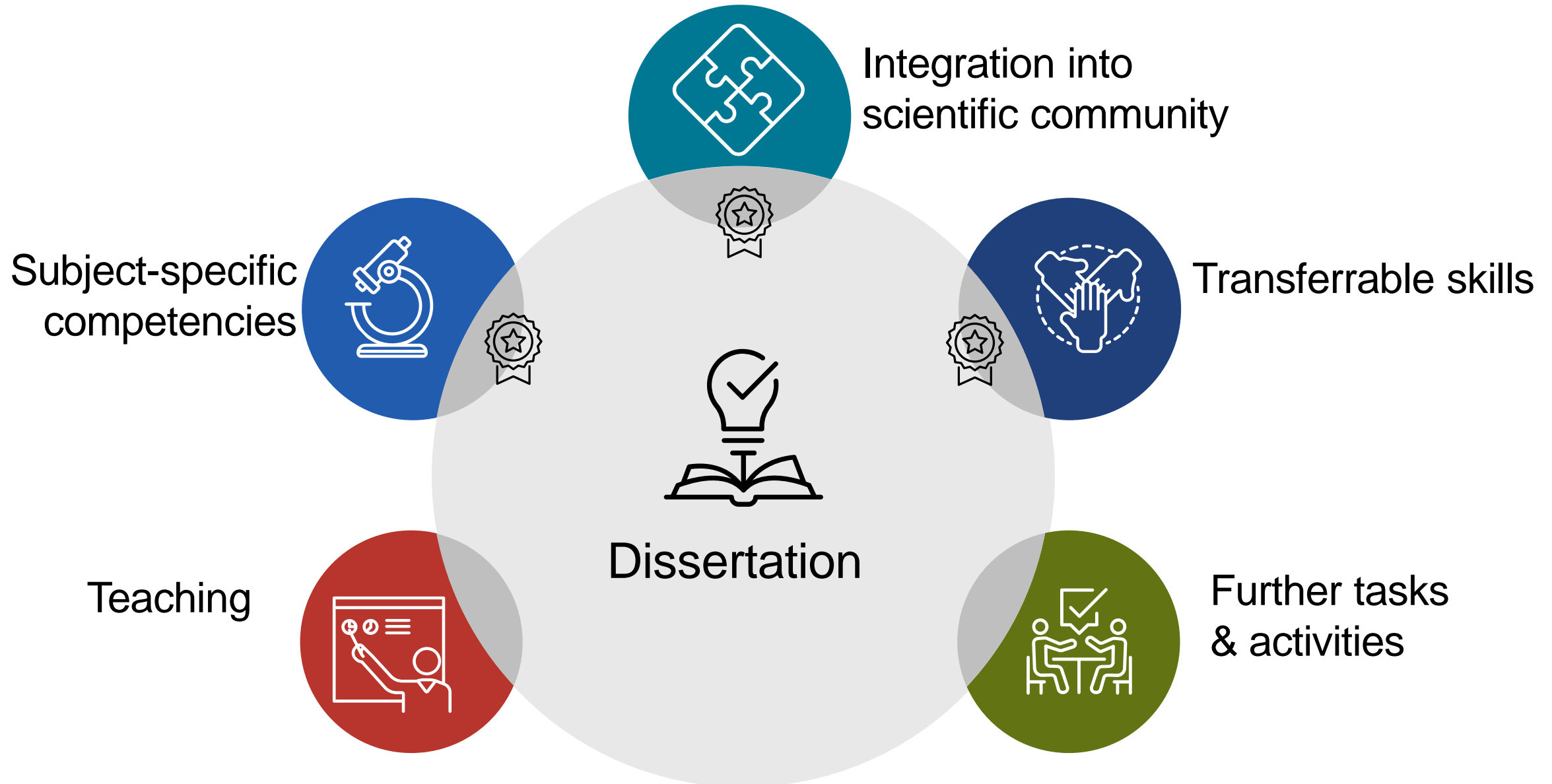
Duration of a doctorate at ETH Zurich



Successful completions of doctoral studies



What encompasses doctoral studies at ETH?



Main steps towards your doctorate

- (Probationary period report, after 8-10 weeks)
- Choice of (at least one) **second advisor**
- Writing the **doctoral plan**
- **Aptitude colloquium** (12 months after start date of your doctorate)
- Gathering **ECTS** points
- Likely involvement in teaching activities
- **Annual progress reports** and status conversations
(once a year after the aptitude colloquium has been passed)
- Doctoral exam / handing in of deposit copies of thesis / doctoral awards ceremony

Doctorate at ETH Zurich: Employment and salary

- Most doctoral students are ETH employees
- Important: employment and enrolment are distinct administrative aspects: all matters concerning your working contract have to be discussed with human resources.
- A doctorate at ETH is based on scientific merit, not on the number of hours you spend in the office/laboratory or the numbers of years you have been a doctoral student
- A doctorate is an investment in your own career

Yearly milestones

First year:

- **Doctoral plan** needs to be approved by your doctoral thesis supervisor and second advisor
- Presentation of your first results and doctoral plan at the **aptitude colloquium** (after 12 months)
- Passing the aptitude colloquium is the end of your probation period, afterwards you are a “real” doctoral student

Subsequent years:

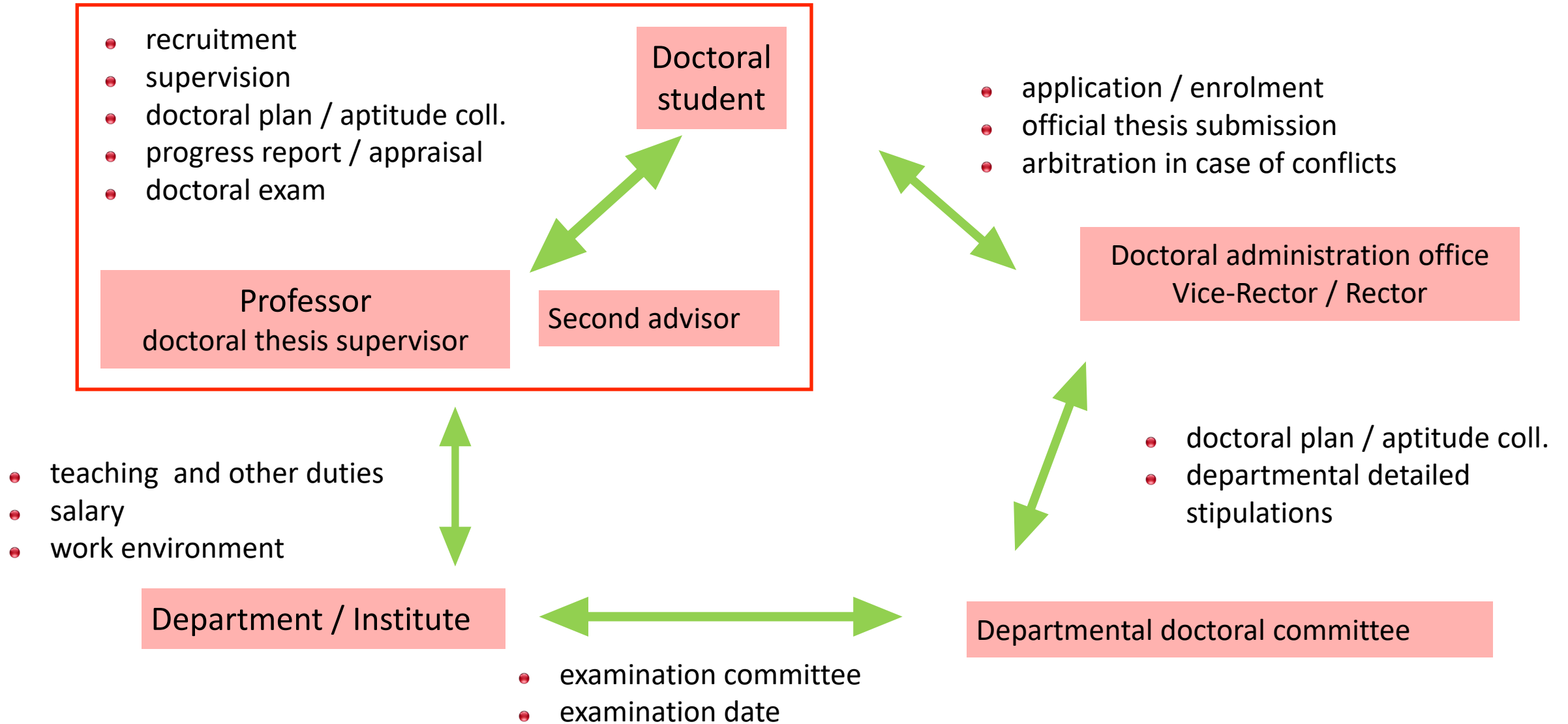
- Report annually to your supervisor and co-advisor(s) on your progress in the **annual status conversations**
- Obtain written feedback by the supervisor and co-advisor(s) and decide on the achievements for the coming year

ECTS credits for doctoral students

- All doctoral students must complete a regular doctoral studies program of 12 ECTS credits in courses and conferences.
- There is one mandatory course on ethics and good scientific practice: 1 ECTS.
- Admission to the doctorate may be subject to the requirement of an extended doctoral studies program. When evaluating your dossier for admission, the department may request an additional course program of up to 30 ECTS credits to fill any gaps in your knowledge or if it considers that your qualifications are not equivalent to an ETH Master's degree.

Doctoral thesis and examination/defense

- Monographic or cumulative style of your doctoral thesis (discussion with supervisor)
 - e.g. 2-3 scientific papers
- Closed or public examination/defense (depending on department) of minimum our hour



Onboarding for new doctoral students

<https://ethz.ch/students/en/doctorate/master-your-doctorate.html>



Master your doctorate

HS 2024

Onboarding for doctoral students



Orientation event with welcome talks and information fair

[Information and registration](#)

- Welcome speeches from Prof. Dr. G. Dissertori, ETH rector, Prof. Dr. U. Lohmann, vice rector for doctoral studies, representatives of AVETH and Human Resources.
 - Information fair with an overview of the services available at ETH for doctoral students.
- 5 September 2024, 15:00 – 17:30, [CHN](#) C14, Universitätstrasse 16, 8092 Zurich

New in Zurich Tour

[Information and registration](#)

Discover the Zurich old town and learn what is important when living in Zurich. In collaboration with [AVETH](#).
5 September 2024, 17:40 – 20:00, entrance of [CHN](#), Universitätstrasse 16, 8092 Zurich

Online workshop *Writing reader-friendly publications in English*

Improve your written communication in academic English with Dr. K. Lewis (Language Center UZH ETH)!
4 September 2024, 9:30 – 12:00 [Information and registration](#)

Online workshop *The seven secrets of highly successful doctoral students*

Learn the secrets of doctoral success from expert H. Kearns (Flinders University).
11 September 2024, 9:30 – 12:00 [Information and registration](#)

Workshop *Writing a successful doctoral plan*

[Information and registration](#)

Guidelines and strategies for drafting your doctoral plan. With Dr. C. Welte (ETH Library) and Dr. G. Zandomeneghi.
Two dates available: 18 September 2024, 16:00 – 18:30 [SPH Zentrum](#); 11 December 2024, 15:30 – 18:00 [HIT](#) E 51

Webinar *Get your writing project started, prevent plagiarism and publish*

Explore ETH library resources, tools, and services for a smooth research journey and doctoral success.
1 October 2024, 16:00 – 17:15 [Information and registration](#)

Workshop *Design your perfect class: an introduction for TAs*

Get ready for your teaching at ETH! With Dr. V. Bondar (EPT-hub ETH).
28 October 2024, 16:30 – 17:30, [HG](#) F 33.5 [Information and registration](#)

Online workshop *Be the master of your time!*

Dr. V. Bondar (EPT-hub ETH) presents practical approaches to boost your personal and time-management skills.
4 November 2024, 10:00 – 11:00 [Information and registration](#)

Online workshop *Get the supervision you need!*

Discover strategies to foster a positive relationship with your supervisor. With Dr. G. Zandomeneghi (ETH Doctoral Administration) and P. Dorthe (ETH VPPL).
7 November 2024, 16:00 – 17:30 [Information and registration](#)

Q&A webinar *Administrative and academic aspects of the doctorate at ETH*

With the vice rector for doctoral studies and representatives of Doctoral Administration and Human Resources.
13 November 2024, 16:00 – 17:00 [Information and registration](#)

Be a vital part of our community

- “Mind Body Soul”: ASVZ
- Music: Orchestra, Bands, etc.
- Parties, Cinemas
- Scientifica
- International Environment
- Departmental Associations (AVETH)





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Wishing you a good start at ETH
Zürich and all the success!