

ETH4D Doctoral Mentorship Programme

1. Goals of the ETH4D Doctoral Mentorship Programme

The mentorship entails remote support of doctoral students in low- and lower-middle-income countries as well as a research stay of 1-3 months at ETH Zurich (see point 3). The goals of the programme are:

- to strengthen collaborations between ETH groups and universities or research institutes in low- and lower-middle-income countries
- to support doctoral candidate at universities in low- and lower-middle-income countries with mentorship and technical knowhow and at the same time to provide research groups at ETH with additional perspectives and insight
- to expand the academic network of the doctoral candidates to become successful researchers and leaders inside and outside of academia.

2. Eligibility for the ETH4D Doctoral Mentorship Programme

Eligible are doctoral candidates who are registered at a university or research institute in any country listed in the DAC-list of the OECD¹ except from upper-middle-income countries.

3. Activities and Deliverables

The mentorship is a one-year appointment and comprises the following components:

- Mentorship from one ETH professor, senior scientist or post doc over a period of one year of the mentee's doctoral studies. For this, monthly meetings need to be held. We suggest to clearly define goals of the project, e.g., presentation at a conference, joint publication. ETH mentors are free to serve on the doctoral committee of the ETH4D mentee, but this is not a requirement.
 - The applicant must be an ETH professor, regardless of the position of the mentor.
- Research stay at the mentor's research group (ETH Zurich, Switzerland) for 1-3 months during the mentorship period.
- The mentee can attend an academic conference and/or receive research material for up to 6 kCHF.

¹ <https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/DAC-List-of-ODA-Recipients-for-reporting-2024-25-flows.pdf>

4. Finances and Budget

The grant covers expenses up to a **maximum of 15'000 CHF** and includes the following:

- Economy roundtrip ticket (max. 2 kCHF) to and from Switzerland for the research stay
- Visa fees
- Travel allowance to attend an academic conference and research material (e.g., lab equipment) (max 6 kCHF in total).
- Fees for health insurance
- Local Transport ticket
- Accommodation
- Living allowance for the duration of the research stay at ETH Zurich to cover food and other personal costs that is paid in cash: 850 CHF per month

ETH4D will transfer the grant after the completion of the mentorship against a technical and financial report, as well as copies of all receipts.

5. Application and Deadline

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and the call remains open throughout the year. Submissions will be reviewed after the deadlines of 30 March and 15 October every year. **The application must be submitted by the ETH professor** hosting the doctoral student. Applications submitted directly by the student will NOT be considered.

Please complete the [electronic application form](#) and upload all required documents.

Please structure the project description and objectives (6'000 characters) as follows:

- Summarize your doctoral project briefly
- Describe your planned mentorship activities
- Describe how your planned activities align with the mentorship objectives
- Describe the added value of the mentorship for your career development

Application documents for an ETH4D Mentorship entail:

- Completed electronic application form

- Motivation letter of the doctoral candidate (3'000 characters excl. space characters, using Arial/ size 11/ line pitch 1.15)
- Project description (6'000 characters excl. space characters, using Arial/ size 11/ line pitch 1.15)
- Work plan and timeframe of the mentorship including planned activities
- Most recent university transcripts
- CV of doctoral candidate (max. 2 pages) incl. publications
- Two academic reference letters
- Doctoral project proposal (if available)
- Support letter of the hosting ETH professor, including any financial and in-kind contributions