



Swiss Leading House
Economics of Education • Firm Behaviour • Training Policies

Application Applicants with an excellent academic record and a Master or a very good Bachelor Degree (in a Fast-Track Doctoral Programme) are welcome. A good command of quantitative methods is helpful. The language of the core programme is English. A good command of English is a prerequisite.

Applications should be sent as pdf to backes-gellner@business.uzh.ch (upon admission, applicants will have to provide original documents by regular mail). They should include a CV, a short statement of purpose (ca. two pages, in English) and recent grade transcripts. Also, the application requires a letter of recommendation to be sent to the address below directly by the professor providing the reference.

Fees No fee is charged for the courses. However, participants have to cover travel costs and living expenses by themselves. For candidates undergoing financial hardship (e.g. from transition states) a small number of modest travel grants is available (detailed explanation and documents have to be provided with an application).

Application deadline is

May 15, 2015

Candidates will be notified by

June 30, 2015

For more information contact

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4th Course Programme for Doctoral Students in Economics of Education

For more information see: www.economics-of-education.ch

The Swiss Leading House on "Economics of Education, Firm Behaviour and Training Policies"
A Research Programme of the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation
Programme Directors: Prof. Dr. Uschi Backes-Gellner, Prof. Dr. Stefan C. Wolter

In cooperation with the Center on the Economics and Management of Education and Training Systems (CEMETS), A Research Center of KOF at ETH Zurich
Programme Directors: Prof. Dr. Ursula Renold, Prof. Dr. Marko Koethenbuegger



The Swiss Leading House on “Economics of Education, Firm Behaviour and Training Policies”, located at the University of Zurich, offers a training programme for beginning doctoral students in Economics of Education. The programme is similar to the first part of a PhD-programme of a top university in the US.

The Leading House is funded by the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI). It is directed by Prof. Dr. Uschi Backes-Gellner (University of Zurich) and Prof. Dr. Stefan C. Wolter (University of Bern).

The course programme for doctoral students consists of four core courses and a variety of electives. The courses are usually taught as one week intensive course to make it possible for doctoral students from other universities

to participate in the programme. The courses are taught by distinguished faculty members of leading research universities. The core programme should be completed within one year, electives within two years. Participants who pass all core courses (the full course programme) receive a document certifying participation in the basic (full) Economics of Education-Programme. Participation in only one or a selected sample of core or elective courses is possible upon request. For single courses students earn 3 ECTS per course but no Economics of Education certificate will be issued. All courses include mandatory exams and/or presentations.

Target Group We aim at beginning doctoral students in Economics of Education who hold a university degree in economics, business economics or related fields and are enrolled in a doctoral programme of a Swiss university

or – pending vacant positions – of a European research university. The programme is intended to bring together an international group of students with a joint interest in Economics of Education. Participants of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Programme came from more than 40 European research institutions. For more information see: www.educationeconomics.uzh.ch/alumni

Programme Details The Programme starts in fall 2015 with two core courses: “Microeconomic Foundations of Economics of Education“ (Oct. 5 – 9 2015, Prof. Woessmann, University of Munich) and “Econometric Analyses in Economics of Education“ (Nov. 16 – 20 2015, Prof. Winkelmann, University of Zurich). In 2016 two more core courses follow: “Vocational Training: Institutions and Markets“ (Prof. Ryan, King’s College Cambridge) and “Personnel and Labor Economics for Education Economists“ (Prof. Westergaard-Nielsen, Copenhagen

Business School; Prof. Eriksson, Aarhus University). Courses include formal lectures of six hours per day. The remaining time should be reserved for reading and exercises. Classes are taught in English.

Electives are offered every semester either at the University of Zurich or the University of Bern (en bloc or weekly). Examples of Electives drawn from the previous programmes are: “Randomized Experiments in Economics of Education“ (Prof. Bettinger, Stanford University), “Personality Traits, Non-cognitive Skills and Education“ (Prof. Dohmen, University of Bonn), “Natural Experiments for Causality Analysis in Economics of Education“ (Prof. Webbink, Erasmus University) and “Paper Workshop in Personnel Economics and Economics of Education“ (Prof. Lazear, Stanford University). For more information see: www.educationeconomics.uzh.ch/Lehre/Courses_en.html