Study Guide

Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering

03.11.2014
Introduction ......................................................................................................................... 2
1 Master’s program ............................................................................................................... 3
  1.1 Tutor System .............................................................................................................. 3
  1.2 Curriculum’s structure ............................................................................................... 5
    1.2.1 Core Courses ...................................................................................................... 5
    1.2.2 Multidisciplinary Courses .................................................................................. 6
    1.2.3 Compulsory Electives in Humanities, Social and Political Sciences ............... 6
    1.2.4 Semester Project ................................................................................................. 7
    1.2.5 Industrial Internship ........................................................................................... 8
    1.2.6 Master’s thesis .................................................................................................... 10
  1.3 Master’s degree .......................................................................................................... 11
  1.4 Duration .................................................................................................................... 13
  1.5 Language .................................................................................................................. 14
2 Administrative Application – myStudies ......................................................................... 15
3 Performance Assessment .................................................................................................. 16
  3.1 Grading System ......................................................................................................... 16
  3.2 Credit Points ............................................................................................................. 17
  3.3 Examinations ............................................................................................................ 18
4 Mobility ............................................................................................................................ 21
  4.1 Planning an Exchange Semester ................................................................................ 22
5 Program Requirements, Application and Enrollment ...................................................... 24
  5.1 Program requirements ............................................................................................... 24
  5.2 Application ............................................................................................................... 26
  5.3 Registration and Enrollment ..................................................................................... 27
  5.4 Visa and Residence Permit ....................................................................................... 27
  5.5 Scholarships ............................................................................................................. 28
6 Useful Information about ETH Zurich ............................................................................... 29
  6.1 ETH in Short .............................................................................................................. 29
  6.2 Zurich – the City ....................................................................................................... 30
  6.3 Tuition and Cost of Living ......................................................................................... 30
  6.4 Maps and Directories ............................................................................................... 31
  6.5 D-MAVT Contacts .................................................................................................. 32
  6.6 Contacts at Rectorate ............................................................................................... 33
  6.7 Further Contacts and Weblinks ................................................................................ 34
7 Annex ............................................................................................................................... 35
  7.1 Tutors ....................................................................................................................... 35
  7.2 Tutor Agreement ....................................................................................................... 37
Introduction

Engineers must be able to both creatively address the challenges of society as well as respond to its evolving demands in creative and responsible ways. These include solving the energy problem, producing better materials or recycling precious limited ones, conserving our environment, and further developing bioengineering.

Mechanical engineers have a broad education, firmly rooted in the fundamentals of natural sciences and engineering, which provides them with the ideal profile to enable them to play a key role in addressing issues such as robotics, micro and nanotechnologies, aerospace engineering, production systems, and sustainable energy systems. Mechanical engineers worldwide undertake an amazingly broad range of work, from micro and nanosystems to the macro scale of the global environment.

The Department of Mechanical and Process Engineering (D-MAVT) offers the Master’s degree program in Mechanical Engineering, which is designed to follow the ETH Bachelor in Mechanical Engineering and it is open for graduates with a Bachelor degree in Mechanical Engineering.

This Master study guide provides information relating to the Master in Mechanical Engineering, according to the “Program Regulations 2005 of the Master’s degree program in Mechanical Engineering” (regulation RSETHZ 324.1.0300.1 (in German), an English translation is available but the original German version is the legally binding document).

Zurich, November 2014
1 Master’s program

The Master’s program in Mechanical Engineering is a consecutive master, i.e. students with a Bachelor’s degree in Mechanical Engineering from ETH Zurich are admitted automatically without any additional requirements and formalities. The qualification profile is based on the academic background taught in the Bachelor’s program.

The Master’s program integrates in-depth knowledge of core areas in mechanical and process engineering with mathematics, computer science, physics, chemistry, and bioengineering. The students develop and apply a variety of tools in order to gain a deeper understanding of the underlying phenomena and processes.

The social context and broad interdependencies of mechanical engineering are reflected in courses selected from humanities, social and political sciences, economics and management. Research and innovation is stimulated by project work, in which students combine theory and practice through close contact with the cutting edge research areas of D-MAVT.

1.1 Tutor System

The Master’s program in Mechanical Engineering is tutor-driven, i.e. each student is supervised by a tutor. The tutors for the Master’s program are professors in D-MAVT or professors in other ETH departments who are allowed to supervise students in D-MAVT (affiliated professor).

The following areas of interest serve the students to identify the research topics of the professors and facilitate the choice of the tutor:

- Energy, Flows and Processes
- Mechanics, Materials, Structures
- Bioengineering
- Micro & Nanosystems
• Robotics, Systems and Control
• Design, Computation, Product Development & Manufacturing

Information about tutors active in the areas of interest is provided on the web page:

→ [www.master-mechanical-engineering.ethz.ch/tutors.html](http://www.master-mechanical-engineering.ethz.ch/tutors.html)

The aim of the tutor system is to facilitate the creation of an individualized curriculum for the student and provide one-to-one support, which should ensure a top-class specialized education taking into consideration the student’s talents and expectations.

During the application phase, the external candidates without ETH Bachelor’s degree in Mechanical Engineering must select an authorized faculty member working in the desired area of specialization to be their academic tutor. The tutor will be specified in the admission letter.

The students in Bachelor Mechanical Engineering select the tutor at the start of the study. The tutor approves the student in the choice of core courses and advises in the choice of the elective courses, thereby ensuring that their individual requirements and interests can be followed. Furthermore, the tutor coaches the student throughout the program, monitoring progress and if required, proposes necessary adjustments to enhance the student’s performance. Sample study plans are provided by professors on their web pages.

The agreement between the Master tutor and the student – Master Curriculum (in the following text denominated as the Tutor Agreement, Annex 7.2 and [www.master-mechanical-engineering.ethz.ch/content/dam/ethz/special-interest/mavt/department-dam/studium/master-programs/documents/Tutor_Agreement.pdf](http://www.master-mechanical-engineering.ethz.ch/content/dam/ethz/special-interest/mavt/department-dam/studium/master-programs/documents/Tutor_Agreement.pdf)) must be submitted to the D-MAVT Student Administration within 3 weeks of the start of the semester. The Tutor Agreement can be updated or changed during the study period. The updated version should be approved by the tutor and submitted to the Student Administration.
At the student’s request the Director of Studies may approve a change of tutor if cogent grounds are given. Changes are only possible at the beginning of a semester. A change does not result in an extension of the maximum allowable study duration.

1.2 Curriculum’s structure

Students must obtain 90 ECTS to qualify for a Master’s degree; at least 60 ECTS of which must be from ETH Zurich. The curriculum is structured in six categories. In each category a given number of credit points must be attained.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>ECTS</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core Courses</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>• Foundation of the Master’s program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Providing core knowledge in the area of interests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multidisciplinary Courses</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>• Deepening scientific knowledge or enlarging acquired skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Student’s choice of courses at ETH Zurich, EPFLausanne, University of Zurich and University of St. Gallen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compulsory Electives in Humanities, Social and Political Sciences</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>• General education courses in humanities, social and political sciences from the course catalogue of D-GESS ETH Zurich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester Project</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>• Initial experience in the solution of a specific engineering problem, with use of acquired technical knowledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial Internship</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>• 12-week internship in a Swiss or foreign company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master’s Thesis</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>• Independent scientific work</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Curriculum Structure

1.2.1 Core Courses

A minimum of 36 ECTS must be completed in the category “Core Courses”. This is usually equivalent to nine MAVT Master’s courses.
The Core Courses lay the foundation for the Master’s program by providing the students with core knowledge in their area of specialization. Together with the students, tutors define which courses are compulsory and which are optional for the individual study plan of the student and sign the Tutor Agreement:

→ www.master-mechanical-engineering.ethz.ch/curriculum.html

The courses listed in the Tutor Agreement can be updated or changed during the study. The updated version should be approved by the tutor and submitted to the Student Administration.

1.2.2 Multidisciplinary Courses

The courses in this category (6 ECTS) can be used either to add depth to scientific and technical knowledge related to the chosen specialization, or to add breadth to the range of skills in other disciplines, such as economics, management or the humanities.

The Multidisciplinary Courses may be selected from among the complete course catalogue of ETH Zurich, EPF Lausanne, University of Zurich and University of St. Gallen.

1.2.3 Compulsory Electives in Humanities, Social and Political Sciences

Courses in Humanities, Social and Political Sciences GESS (2 ECTS) integrate scientific and technical knowledge with the corresponding social, economic, legal, political, and cultural environment.

These courses are selected from the special course catalogue “Compulsory electives GESS” (Pflichtwahlfach GESS) of the Department of Humanities, Social and Political Sciences (D-GESS) at ETH Zurich.
→ www.ethz.ch/content/dam/ethz/common/docs/weisungssammlung/files-en/compulsory-electives-gess.pdf

1.2.4 Semester Project

The Semester project makes use of the technical knowledge acquired during the Master’s program and is aimed at training the students in the solution of specific engineering problems.

Tutors determine the subject of the project, support the student in the preparation of the project plan and define the road map together with the student. They also monitor the overall execution of the project. Dates for completion of the project and the criteria for assessment are set by the tutor.

If the tutor approves it, the Semester project can be completed under the supervision of another ETH professor, with the same requirements. This must be included in the Tutor Agreement.

The project is concluded with a written report and a presentation. 8 ECTS will be awarded for successful completion.

It is necessary to include the Semester project in the registration in myStudies in order to receive the credit points in the right category.

If the student does not pass the Semester project a new topic must be defined and undertaken.
1.2.5 Industrial Internship

The main objective of the 12-week internship is to expose Master students to the industrial work environment. The Industrial Internship can be undertaken in a Swiss or a foreign company. In exceptional cases and on written request, the Director of Studies can authorize to do the internship in a research institute outside the ETH domain.

The internship must be at least 12 weeks long and can be undertaken before the student starts his Master studies or during the study, but before the student starts the Master’s thesis. The first option is preferred.

The internship cannot be split into more than two parts. Further details are set out in the D-MAVT regulations on Industrial Internships (Praxisreglement 2006 für die Werkstatt-Praxis und die Industrie-Praxis - RSETHZ 325.1, available in German only, see:

→ [www.share.ethz.ch/sites/rechtssammlung/Rechtssammlung/3%20Lehre/3.2%20Diverses/Departement%20Maschinenbau%20und%20Verfahrenstechnik%20Praxisreglement%202006%20f%C3%BCr%20Werkstatt-Praxis%20und%20Industrie-Praxis.pdf](http://www.share.ethz.ch/sites/rechtssammlung/Rechtssammlung/3%20Lehre/3.2%20Diverses/Departement%20Maschinenbau%20und%20Verfahrenstechnik%20Praxisreglement%202006%20f%C3%BCr%20Werkstatt-Praxis%20und%20Industrie-Praxis.pdf)

The aim of the internship is to apply engineering knowledge (e.g. CAD, construction, mechanics, electronics, budgeting) to practical situations.

An internship could involve:

- Product design
- Planning
- Internal research and development
- Machine and plant engineering
- Pre, post and running calculations
- Technical computations
- Construction - mechanical, electrical, mechatronic
• Organization and operational data processing
• Industrial safety, including the safety of machines and mechanisms
• Manufacturing
• Manufacturing planning
• Ecological investigation of products and procedures
• Production (only novel production procedures)

Tutors can often support their students in finding a suitable internship position. Further useful information can be found on the ETH students’ portal and IAESTE Switzerland or on the WEB page of D-MAVT.

→ www.eth-gethired.ch/
→ www.iaeste.ch/
→ www.master-mechanical-engineering.ethz.ch/administrative.html

To acquire the 8 ECTS for the internship, the student must complete the following steps:

• Obtain an internship [with or without the help of the tutor].
• Work in a company or a research institute for at least twelve weeks.
• Receive a letter of confirmation from the company.
• Write an activity report (1-3 pages) - by keeping trade secrets - with information about the company, a description of the activities and its position in the market, tasks performed and skills achieved.
• Submit [by regular mail] the documents to the D-MAVT Internship Services for their approval:

Internship Services
LEE K 208
Leonhardstrasse 21
8092 Zürich
E-Mail: praktikantendienst@mavt.ethz.ch
It is necessary to include the Industrial Internship in the registration in myStudies in order to receive the credit points.
If the student has already done an internship before starting the Master’s program and he/she did not use the credits for previous degree, may apply for recognition, by handing over the necessary documents (see above) to the D-MAVT Internship Services.

1.2.6 Master’s thesis

The Master’s thesis concludes the Master’s program. It constitutes a maximum six-month, full-time project, aimed at advancing the skills and capabilities of students to work independently and creatively toward the solution of an independent research problem, which has been agreed upon in advance.

The Master’s thesis is either closely related to the research activity of the tutor or of an ETH Zurich professor or deals with a challenging topic faced by industry. The tutor approves the subject of the Master’s thesis, defines the road map together with the student and is responsible for monitoring the structure and quality of the thesis. Dates for completion of the Master’s thesis and the criteria for assessment are set by the tutor or professor, who supervises the thesis.

In order to start the Master’s thesis, students must:

- have obtained a Bachelor’s degree;
- have fulfilled all additional requirements requested for the admission;
- have achieved 28 ECTS in the category “Core Courses”;
- have acquired the 8 credits for the Semester project;
- have acquired the 8 credit points for the Industrial Internship.

Upon successful completion of the Master’s thesis, students are awarded 30 ECTS. If a Master’s thesis is not successfully completed, a new topic must be defined. Only one repetition is permitted.
It is necessary to include the Master’s thesis in the registration in myStudies in order to receive the credit points.

To carry out the Master’s thesis in the industry, the approval of the tutor is required. Any form of remuneration may not be agreed upon by students or institutions of ETH Zurich with third parties. Expenses, however, may be paid by third parties.

→ [www.ethz.ch/content/dam/ethz/common/docs/weisungssammlung/files-de/bezahlung-schriftl-arbeiten-dritte.pdf](www.ethz.ch/content/dam/ethz/common/docs/weisungssammlung/files-de/bezahlung-schriftl-arbeiten-dritte.pdf)

If secrecy between ETH Zurich and the industrial partner is required, it has to be specified in an arrangement between the responsible professor and the company. The ownership of the property laws have to be regulated for each particular case.

→ [www1.ethz.ch/rechtsabteilung/docs/immat](www1.ethz.ch/rechtsabteilung/docs/immat) (in German)

**Prevention of Plagiarism**

To ensure the intellectual property a signed Declaration of Originality is a compulsory component of every Bachelor’s/Master’s thesis, semester paper or other qualifying paper written during the course of studies.


### 1.3 Master’s degree

After gaining all required credit points in total and in each category, students can file for a diploma request.

The following prerequisites must be fulfilled:

- All credit points from the six categories have been obtained
• The list of core courses in the category Core Courses corresponds with the Tutor Agreement (Master Curriculum) signed by the tutor.
• The application takes place within three years of beginning the Master’s program.

When these prerequisites have all been completed, the Master’s degree will be conferred and the student may assume the title of:

Master of Science ETH in Mechanical Engineering  
(MSc ETH ME)

The shorter form MSc ETH may be used.

Students may have 100 ECTS recognized for the Master’s degree, of which a maximum of 4 ECTS may be earned in the category “Courses in Humanities, Social and Political Sciences”; additionally obtained credit points may be listed at the student’s request on the addendum to the final academic record (Addendum Master Degree – Academic Record Translation).

The Overall Grade Point Average of the Master’s degree is composed of the weighted grade point average of the following grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core Courses</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester Project</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master’s thesis</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The grade point average of the Core Courses is weighted according to the credit points of each course (consisting of the weighted means of all grades issued in this category; the grade’s weighting equates to the corresponding number of credit points). The Industrial
Internship, the courses of “Pflichtwahlfach GESS” and the Multidisciplinary Courses do not influence the Master’s degree grade.

To request the diploma, students have to have achieved all required credit points in total and in each category; after classifying possible additional courses into the Final Academic Record and Addendum, students must print the diploma request, sign it, and submit it to the D-MAVT Student Administration.

Students receive German and English transcripts, ranking information and a diploma supplement, in addition to an official diploma either in German, French or Italian.

Outstanding students with an overall average grade of 5.75 (or higher) will be awarded with the title “passed with distinction”. This title will be specified on the diploma and the transcript.

1.4 Duration

The Master’s program is designed as a full-time study program. The completion of 90 ECTS requires on average 3 semesters, or one and a half years of study. The Master’s degree must be obtained within three years, otherwise credits will expire and students may be disqualified from graduation.

If an applicant for the Master’s program is accepted with additional requirements, the maximum permitted duration of studies may be extended by half a year for required extra credits in the range of 21 – 30 and by one year for required extra credits in the range of 31 – 60. For fewer than 21 required extra credits no extension is granted.

The Rector may approve an extension of the study duration under special circumstances.
1.5 Language

Course units in the Master ME and the corresponding performance assessments are normally conducted in English. The language used is listed in the Course Catalogue.

→ www.course-catalogue.ethz.ch
2 Administrative Application – myStudies

The web application “myStudies” enables ETH Zurich students to execute their administrative tasks online. The myStudies application is available to all active ETH Zurich students, using the “nethz” (username) and password. The username and password will be assigned by the Rectorate once complete enrollment documents are received by ETH Zurich.

www.mystudies.ethz.ch

Essential functions in this application are:

At the semester start:
- Enroll for the coming semester or take a semester on leave of absence.
- Register for course units (lectures, colloquia, exercises, Semester projects/papers).
- The personal weekly schedule can be checked in accordance with the enrollments.

During the semester:
- Registration for examinations, withdrawal from examinations.
- Publication of the personal examination timetable.
- Access to electronic learning materials.

At the end of the semester:
- Check if all requirements for the examination admission are fulfilled and print the study overview.

After the performance assessment session:
- The results of performance assessments decreed can be checked in the transcript of records and relocated if necessary.
- Submit the request to issue the degree.
3 Performance Assessment

A performance assessment is required for all courses of the program. The type of assessment is defined by the lecturer. For example, assessments can be made through exercises, projects, presentations or tests. Details may be found in the Course Catalogue of ETH Zurich.

→ www.course-catalogue.ethz.ch

Credit points are only issued if the assessment is graded with at least a 4.0 (out of a 6.0) or a “pass”. The Core Courses, the Semester project and the Master’s thesis must be assessed with a grade. In the case of unsatisfactory performance, the performance assessment may be repeated once, whereas the Semester project and the Master’s thesis need to be on a new subject.

3.1 Grading System

Courses can be assessed with “pass/fail” or with a grade. A course is passed if the grade is 4.0 or higher. In Switzerland the following general grading scale is used:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.0–5.75</td>
<td>excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.5–5.25</td>
<td>very good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.0–4.75</td>
<td>good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.5–4.25</td>
<td>satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>fail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>very poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>extremely poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>not measurable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading scale

The grading scale at ETH Zurich ranges in courses with quarter grade steps (0.25). ETH Zurich does not use the ECTS Grading Scheme.
3.2 Credit Points

The credit system of ETH Zurich is based on the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). Credits are assigned to each learning unit according to the expected student workload. The ECTS is based on the workload of a student. 60 ECTS-credits are equivalent to one year of full-time study (about 1800 hours). Therefore, 1 ECTS corresponds to a 30 hour workload.

Courses at D-MAVT are indicated with credit points as well as weekly hours. In general 4 ECTS are equal to 3 hours contact time (lecture + exercises).

Credit points are awarded for successfully completed assessments. Partial awarding of credit points is not allowed. Students must file for the Master’s degree within the stipulated time frame or credits will expire.

A summary of the student’s credit points can be found at:

www.mystudies.ethz.ch
→ Functions → Transcript of records

Credits acquired via courses which are offered in ETH Bachelor’s and Master’s degree programs may be recognized towards the Master’s degree if these credits have not already been counted towards the Bachelor’s degree.

It is not possible to recognize ECTS credits obtained from previous studies outside ETH Zurich.
3.3 Examinations

Information on the examination mode for every course can be found in the Course Catalogue in the category “Performance assessment information”:

→ www.course-catalogue.ethz.ch

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ECTS credits</th>
<th>Number of ECTS received after successfully completing examination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Examiners</td>
<td>Name of the lecturer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Session examination or end-of-semester examination, graded or ungraded semester performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language of examination</td>
<td>German / English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course attendance confirmation required</td>
<td>[Yes / No] not required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repetition</td>
<td>Repetition only possible after re-enrolling for the course unit / repetition possible without re-enrolling for the course unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional information on mode of examination</td>
<td>Any additional information about the exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mode of examination</td>
<td>Oral / Written, duration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written aids</td>
<td>Pocket calculator, compendium, etc. ...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Information about examinations in the Course Catalogue

If a change in specification affects the ongoing semester, students will be informed.

Master examinations are always single and conducted individually.

At ETH Zurich different types of examination are possible:

Session examinations: This form of performance assessment is carried out during the examination sessions, which are held twice a year (once in the winter session [January/February] and once in the summer session [August]). Students must register for
session examinations during the registration period. These examinations are planned by the Examinations Office and are listed in the student’s personal examination schedule, which is shown in myStudies. Not all session examinations are offered each session. There are performance assessments which are only offered in the session immediately after the course. These examinations are identified in the Course Catalogue by the following label: “Repetition only possible after re-enrolling for the course unit”.

End-of-semester examinations: This form of performance assessment is carried out during the last two weeks of a semester and during the first two weeks after the end of the semester. Registration during the prescribed period is also necessary for performance assessments. The examination dates are announced by the lecturer offering the course. These examinations are thus not shown in the examination schedule in the online enrollment. If it is possible to repeat a performance assessment without re-enrolling in a course, a repetition date, generally at the start of the following semester, is offered. The lecturers offering the course also announce these dates. Students must register for a repetition date using the online enrollment; this is only possible once the Administration Office has officially published the results.

Semester performance: This usually takes the form of integrated performance assessments during the semester or performance assessments which take place outside of the normal semester schedule (e.g. block courses). Semester performances may be graded or ungraded. No separate registration is required for this form of performance assessment. However, students must enroll in the respective course.

The student must register for the examination during the third or fourth week of each semester:

- [www.mystudies.ethz.ch](http://www.mystudies.ethz.ch)
The provisional specifications are on the personal examination plan, which is published on
→ www.mystudies.ethz.ch
about four weeks [Spring semester], respectively six weeks [Autumn semester] before the end of the semester.

It is possible to withdraw from examinations via myStudies (otherwise the examination will be considered as a first attempt), according to the following deadlines:

- Session examinations: from the third week of the semester until Sunday at midnight (24:00 hours) one week before the start of the examination session.
- End-of-semester examinations: from the third week of the semester to the penultimate week of the semester [Monday morning, 8:00 hours].
4 Mobility

A period of stay as a mobility student at another university enriches the student’s experience and extends their horizons. Apart from a view of the research and theory at other universities, a guest semester offers the possibility to learn about other cultures and ways of life and of deepening language knowledge. Therefore, ETH Zurich and D-MAVT promote and support student mobility. The exchange programs are normally not open for students in the Master’s program without an ETH Bachelor; for these students, if the tutor or the supervisor agrees, it is possible to carry out the Master’s thesis abroad.

Applications to mobility programs will be considered only for students with a good study profile, i.e. continuity in completing coursework, good grades and when supported by the tutor. Moreover, the student has to prove his knowledge of the local foreign language.

The tutor approves the suggested program of the courses to be carried out at a partner university in the “Core Course” category and the research projects in the category “Semester project” or “Master’s thesis”. The agreement has to be submitted to the D-MAVT Student Administration.

According to ETH Zurich regulations, at least two-thirds of the credit points required for a Master’s degree must be obtained at ETH Zurich. This condition implies that a maximum of 30 credit points may be obtained at another university and counted towards a D-MAVT Master’s degree. Furthermore, at least 12 credits in the category core courses [36 ECTS] have to be achieved at ETH Zürich.

In addition to institutional partnerships and exchange programs with European, American, Australian and Asian universities, professors at D-MAVT have contacts with other universities and there is often the possibility to write a Master’s thesis as part of a research project conducted outside of ETH Zurich.
Mobility credit points must be recognized by the Student Administration of D-MAVT and must therefore be discussed prior to departure with a mobility advisor. An agreement exists between some universities and the ETH Zurich for the recognition of courses and credit points. Up to one year is needed to plan and organize an exchange semester.

The Student Exchange Office at the Rectorate advises and supports study exchanges with partner universities at home and abroad:


D-MAVT Mobility Advisor:

→ www.mavt.ethz.ch/studies/exchange-and-visiting-studies.html

4.1 Planning an Exchange Semester

In planning an exchange semester, the student must organize and prepare the necessary documentation. The documentation required and the time schedule depends on the specific program and the student must follow the instructions given by D-MAVT Student Administration and the ETH Student Exchange Office for each program.

The following steps must be taken:

1) Students should obtain information about the host university on the web page of D-MAVT (possible host universities and experiences of former students can be found on the pages of the Exchange Office).
2) The student must discuss the possibility of an exchange with their tutor. They should clarify with the tutor whether they are interested in taking courses or completing their Master’s thesis during this semester.
3) The student must discuss their plans with their mobility advisor. The advisor will decide on their participation with the host university. If several students are interested in an exchange semester at the same university, a selection will be made.

4) Subsequently the student must prepare a study program and check it with their tutor and mobility advisor. Ideally, it should be structured in a way to replace the courses the student would forego at ETH.
5 Program Requirements, Application and Enrollment

5.1 Program requirements

The ETH Bachelor’s program in Mechanical Engineering qualifies students for the Master in Mechanical Engineering. Candidates with a degree in other fields of study may be admitted if they possess high quality degrees.

The Master in Mechanical Engineering is a consecutive Master, meaning that students with an ETH Zurich Bachelor in Mechanical Engineering are automatically admitted without going through the admission process.

Other students must apply according to the application terms and deadlines and provide the documents as listed by the Rectorate and according to the Appendix to the Program Regulations of the Master’s degree program in Mechanical Engineering [2010]:


Candidates for the Master’s program must present proof of specialized knowledge and ability in the field of mechanical engineering. The program requirements are based upon skills and knowledge taught in the ETH Bachelor’s programs, and are a minimum requirement and serve as a basis for the admission process.

To be admitted, students must meet the following requirement profile, largely covered by the common elements of the first 2 years of a university education in science and engineering. These requirements represent 121 ECTS:

- Minimum required contents in basic knowledge and skills:
  - 30 ECTS e.g. in Mathematics and Informatics: Analysis I + II + III and Linear Algebra I+II [26 ECTS]; Statistics and Introduction to Computer Sciences [4 ECTS];
- 13 ECTS e.g. in Natural Sciences: Physics I + II (10 ECTS) and Chemistry (3 ECTS).
- 40 ECTS e.g. in Engineering Sciences: Mechanics I + II (11 ECTS); Thermodynamics I + II (8 ECTS); Fluid Dynamics I (6 ECTS); Control Systems (4 ECTS); Engineering Materials and Production (4 ECTS); Construction, Machine Elements and Product design (8 ECTS).

- Minimum required contents in technical disciplines: 18 ECTS e.g. compulsory courses or elective courses from Engineering, Mathematics, Physics, Computer Science and Natural Sciences. These disciplines are relevant for mechanical engineering, but only partially correspond to the course content of the ETH Bachelor program in Mechanical Engineering.

- Minimum required contents in specialized disciplines: 21 ECTS e.g. elective courses or focus courses (e.g. Bachelor thesis) requested to fulfill the requirements of the tutors.

Admission of all applicants is based on the program requirements. The following points will be considered in the evaluation process:

- Assessment of the profile
- Performance and grades
- Personal letter of application describing personal goals and motivation for studying for the Master in Mechanical Engineering at ETH Zurich
- Three preferred tutors and their order of preference
- 2 letters of recommendation
- GRE Test
- Any additional documents that may be relevant for the application, such as scientific or professional publications, awards, information about previous education, etc.
- An English test (Level C1) for non-native speakers (TOEFL, IELTS or equivalent)

The evaluation of the Bachelor’s degree is made based on the corresponding Bachelor of Science degree at ETH Zurich. Admission is made based on an individual evaluation of the
application file [evaluation sur dossier] to establish whether students have sufficient prerequisite courses in their Bachelor’s degree.

During the admission review, the application will be checked to verify that all requirements are fulfilled. If the student is admitted with a requirement for additional courses, these will be defined and added to the standard Master’s program to ensure that the student fulfills the qualification profile. Of the additional requirements, a maximum of 30 ECTS may be completed during the Master’s program.

Students holding a degree from a Swiss University of Applied Sciences are admitted with the precondition that they must take a minimum of 43 ECTS and up to a maximum 60 ECTS of additional courses. The additional requirements depend on the specialization at the Swiss University of Applied Sciences.

Students can be admitted with or without additional requirements, but they may be rejected as well. The Rectorate will inform the students in writing of their decision.

5.2 Application

Students with a Bachelor ETH in Mechanical Engineering are admitted without any application [registration under myStudies] or additional requirements to the Mechanical Engineering Master’s program. ETH Bachelor students of Mechanical Engineering who have less than 35 ECTS to complete their degree receive provisional admission to the Master’s program.

The application form and detailed information about the application can be found on the web:

It is possible to start the Master’s program at the beginning of both semesters, in spring or in autumn, but students are encouraged to enter the autumn semester because more courses are offered.

5.3 Registration and Enrollment

Upon admission, students receive an invitation to enroll from the Rectorate, together with the information requested for the admission. Upon successful enrollment, students are matriculated and receive their access data for all web tools.

All students must enroll for the chosen Master’s program via the electronic enrollment system (myStudies). This tool is also used to enroll for the courses; this should be done after the tutor approves the chosen courses (Agreement between Master Tutor and Student).

Students from ETH Zurich who have not finished a Bachelor’s program must enroll for both the Bachelor’s program and the Master’s program. Semester fees are only billed once.

→ www.mystudies.ethz.ch

5.4 Visa and Residence Permit

Students must submit visa applications in person at the Swiss diplomatic mission (embassy or consulate general) in their country of residence at least three months before entering Switzerland. The following link clarifies whether the student needs a visa or not:

→ www.bfm.admin.ch/bfm/en/home.html
→ www.ethz.ch/en/studies/international-immigration-housing.html
The application must be supported by all of the documents listed in “Guidelines for entering Switzerland for foreign students”

For questions concerning residence authorization, students can contact:

International Student Support
HG F 22.3
Phone: +41 44 632 20 95
Fax: +41 44 632 11 17
E-Mail: international@rektorat.ethz.ch

5.5 Scholarships

A limited number of scholarships is available for applicants with outstanding academic records:

Excellence Scholarship

→ www.ethz.ch/en/studies/financial.html

Markus Meier Funds [students with FH or CH Bachelor’s degree]

→ www.mavt.ethz.ch/studies/markus-meier-fund.html
6 Useful Information about ETH Zurich

6.1 ETH in Short

Consistently rated among the top universities in Europe, ETH Zurich is a leading participant in the world of research and education in Switzerland and abroad. Its 16 departments offer Bachelor, Master and Doctoral programs in engineering and natural sciences.

ETH Zurich has more than 17,000 students from approximately 80 countries, 3,700 of whom are doctoral candidates. More than 400 professors teach and conduct research in the areas of engineering, architecture, mathematics, natural sciences, system-oriented sciences, and management and social sciences.

21 Nobel Laureates have studied, taught or conducted research at ETH Zurich, underlining the excellent reputation of the institute; the most famous graduate of ETH was none other than Albert Einstein.

The international environment – close to 60% of the professors come from outside of Switzerland – and the excellent teaching and research infrastructure make ETH Zurich the ideal place for creative individuals. Connections with business and industry are strong, as the Greater Zurich Area is the economic centre of Switzerland and home to numerous international companies.

ETH has two principal locations: one in the centre of Zurich and the Science City campus at Hönggerberg, just outside the city. Students participating in the Master’s program in Robotics, Systems and Control spend most of their time at the central campus.

6.2 Zurich – the City

Zurich is well-known as a safe and attractive city – indeed, for several consecutive years it has been ranked as having the highest quality of life in the world. Despite its relatively small size (380,000 inhabitants), the city has an international metropolitan flair and offers an extensive range of leisure amenities.

While Berne is Switzerland’s political capital, Zurich is considered its business capital: formerly an industrial town, the city’s focus has shifted to commerce and knowledge-intensive enterprise.

With its theatres, concert halls, museums, art galleries, libraries, bookshops, and educational institutions at all levels, Zurich is also a centre of cultural importance. Its location on Lake Zurich and its proximity to the Alps and other places of scenic interest make Zurich a pleasant place to live in both summer and winter.

Zurich has excellent air, rail and road connections. Eurocity and Intercity trains from all directions stop at the central station. Within the metropolitan area, there is a combined network of public transportation, linking rapid suburban rail, trams, buses and boats.

6.3 Tuition and Cost of Living

Students should budget between CHF 22,000 and 24,000 (Euro 18,000 to 20,000) per year for tuition and cost of living. This covers tuition and student fees (CHF 664 per semester, as higher education is publicly funded in Switzerland), accommodation, subsistence, health insurance and other personal costs.


6.4 Maps and Directories

Zurich City Guide:  [www.stadtplan.stadt-zuerich.ch/zueriplan/stadtplan.aspx](http://www.stadtplan.stadt-zuerich.ch/zueriplan/stadtplan.aspx)

ETH Building Maps

Location of D-MAVT and ETH Main Building

→ [www.mavt.ethz.ch/the-department/locations.html](http://www.mavt.ethz.ch/the-department/locations.html)
6.5 D-MAVT Contacts

General information about the Department of Mechanical and Process Engineering:

→ www.mavt.ethz.ch

Student Administration of the Department of Mechanical and Process Engineering
ETH Zentrum, LEE K 208
Leonhardstrasse 21
CH-8092 Zurich

Opening hours Student Administration & Internship Services
During the semester
Tue: 09:00 – 13:00, Thu: 13:00 – 16:00
Wed & Fri: 09:00 – 12:00
During the semester break
Tue & Fri: 09:00 – 12:00, Thu: 13:00 – 16:00
or by appointment

Student Administration (general questions, administration, examinations):
Phone: +41 44 632 24 57 or +41 44 632 24 52
ETH Zentrum, LEE K 208
E-Mail: info@mavt.ethz.ch

Coordination for mobility, admission, special questions, interim arrangements:
Phone: +41 44 632 21 99 ETH Zentrum, LEE K 210
Consultation by appointment

Internship Services
Phone: +41 44 633 32 83
ETH Zentrum, LEE K 208
E-Mail: praktikantendienst@mavt.ethz.ch
6.6 Contacts at Rectorate

Listed below are some of the most important weblinks and contacts. The Rectorate is responsible for the administration of teaching and hence for study in general, but not for the study programs in detail. [www.ethz.ch/students/en/studies/administrative.html](http://www.ethz.ch/students/en/studies/administrative.html)

**International Student Support**

ETH Zurich, Main Building, HG F22.3, Phone: +41 44 632 20 95,
E-Mail: international@rektorat.ethz.ch

**Admissions Office**

ETH Zurich, Main Building, HG F 21.2-21.5
Opening hours for Master students: Mon – Fri: 11:00 - 13:00
Phone: +41 44 632 93 96 ; +41 44 632 28 80 ; +41 44 633 91 78, E-Mail: master@ethz.ch

**Registrar’s Office**

Registration, enrollment, semester on leave of absence
ETH Zurich, Main Building, HG F 19
Opening hours: Mon – Fri: 11:00 - 13:00
Phone: +41 44 632 30 00, Fax: +41 44 632 10 61, E-Mail: registrar@rektorat.ethz.ch

**Examinations Office**

ETH Zurich, Main Building, HG F 18.1
Phone: +41 44 632 20 68, E-Mail: exam@ethz.ch
Opening hours: Mon – Fri: 11:00 – 13:00 or by appointment
6.7 Further Contacts and Weblinks

**Internal Phone Directory of ETH Zurich**
www.ethz.ch/person-search

**AMIV (Academic Association of Mechanical and Electrical Engineers, ETH)**
www.amiv.ethz.ch

**Woko Studentische Wohngenossenschaft (Home for Students)**
Sonneggstrasse 63, 8006 Zürich, www.woko.ch

**Housing Office University Zurich and ETH Zurich**
Sonneggstrasse 27, 8006 Zürich, www.wohnen.ethz.ch

**Arbeitsvermittlung der Studentenschaft der Universität Zürich**
www.arbeitsvermittlung.unizh.ch

**Nightline Zürich**
(Telephone hotline in the evening hours by students for students of Zurich University and ETH Zurich, Mon - Fri: 20:00 – 24:00), Phone: +41 44 633 77 77
E-Mail: info@nightline-zuerich.ch Webpage: www.nightline.ch

**ETH Zurich Ombudsman (help and mediation in case of conflict)**
(Confidential qualified help in case of serious difficulties, conflicts and personal crises)

**Psychological Counseling University Zurich and ETH Zurich**
Phone: +41 44 634 22 80, E-Mail: pbs@ad.uzh.ch
www.pbs.uzh.ch/index_en.html
## 7 Annex

### 7.1 Tutors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institute</th>
<th>Web-Link</th>
<th>Language</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abhari Reza</td>
<td>Lab. for Energy Conversion</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lec.ethz.ch">www.lec.ethz.ch</a></td>
<td>G E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buchli Jonas</td>
<td>Agile and Dexterous Robotics Lab</td>
<td><a href="http://www.adrl.ethz.ch">www.adrl.ethz.ch</a></td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D’Andrea Raffaello</td>
<td>Inst. for Dynamic Systems and Control</td>
<td><a href="http://www.idsc.ethz.ch">www.idsc.ethz.ch</a></td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daraio Chiara</td>
<td>Chair in Mechanics and Materials</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mechmat.ethz.ch">www.mechmat.ethz.ch</a></td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dual Jürg</td>
<td>Center of Mechanics</td>
<td><a href="http://www.imes.ethz.ch">www.imes.ethz.ch</a></td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ermanni Paolo</td>
<td>Centre of Structure Technologies</td>
<td><a href="http://www.structures.ethz.ch">www.structures.ethz.ch</a></td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haller George</td>
<td>Nonlinear Dynamics</td>
<td>georgehaller.com</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hora Pavel</td>
<td>Inst. of Virtual Manufacturing</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ipv.ethz.ch">www.ipv.ethz.ch</a></td>
<td>G E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jenny Patrick</td>
<td>Inst. of Fluid Dynamics</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ifd.mavt.ethz.ch">www.ifd.mavt.ethz.ch</a></td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kleiser Leonhard</td>
<td>Inst. of Fluid Dynamics</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ifd.mavt.ethz.ch">www.ifd.mavt.ethz.ch</a></td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koumoutsakos Petros</td>
<td>Computational Science &amp; Engineering Lab</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cse-lab.ethz.ch">www.cse-lab.ethz.ch</a></td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mazza Edoardo</td>
<td>Center of Mechanics</td>
<td><a href="http://www.imes.ethz.ch">www.imes.ethz.ch</a></td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mazzotti Marco</td>
<td>Separation Processes Lab.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.spl.ethz.ch">www.spl.ethz.ch</a></td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meboldt Mirko</td>
<td>Product Development Group Zurich</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pdz.ethz.ch">www.pdz.ethz.ch</a></td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muller Christoph</td>
<td>Energy Science and Engineering</td>
<td><a href="http://www.es.eavt.ethz.ch">www.es.eavt.ethz.ch</a></td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nelson Bradley</td>
<td>Multi-Scale Robotics Lab</td>
<td><a href="http://www.msr.ethz.ch">www.msr.ethz.ch</a></td>
<td>G E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Hyung Gyu</td>
<td>Nanoscience for Energy Technology and Sustainability</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nets.ethz.ch">www.nets.ethz.ch</a></td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poulakakos Dimos</td>
<td>Lab. for Thermodynamics in Emerging Technologies</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lnt.ethz.ch">www.lnt.ethz.ch</a></td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prasser Horst-Michael</td>
<td>Laboratory of Nuclear Energy Systems</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lke.mavt.ethz.ch">www.lke.mavt.ethz.ch</a></td>
<td>G E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pratsinis Sotiris E.</td>
<td>Particle Technology Lab.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ptl.ethz.ch">www.ptl.ethz.ch</a></td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rösgen Thomas</td>
<td>Inst. of Fluid Dynamics</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ifd.mavt.ethz.ch">www.ifd.mavt.ethz.ch</a></td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sansavini Giovanni</td>
<td>Reliability and Risk Engineering</td>
<td><a href="http://www.rre.ethz.ch">www.rre.ethz.ch</a></td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siegwart Roland</td>
<td>Autonomous Systems Lab</td>
<td><a href="http://www.asl.ethz.ch">www.asl.ethz.ch</a></td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stemmer Andreas</td>
<td>Nanotechnology Group</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nano.mavt.ethz.ch">www.nano.mavt.ethz.ch</a></td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Affiliated Professors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institute</th>
<th>Web-Link</th>
<th>Language</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Filippini Massimo</td>
<td>Centre for Energy Policy and Economies</td>
<td><a href="http://www.eepe.ethz.ch">www.eepe.ethz.ch</a></td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gassert Roger</td>
<td>Rehabilitation Engineering Lab</td>
<td><a href="http://www.relab.ethz.ch">www.relab.ethz.ch</a></td>
<td>G E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morari Manfred</td>
<td>Automatic Control Laboratory</td>
<td><a href="http://www.control.ee.ethz.ch">www.control.ee.ethz.ch</a></td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Müller Ralph</td>
<td>Institute for Biomechanics</td>
<td><a href="http://www.biomech.ethz.ch">www.biomech.ethz.ch</a></td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panke Sven</td>
<td>Bioprocess Laboratory</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bsse.ethz.ch/bpl">www.bsse.ethz.ch/bpl</a></td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schönsleben Paul</td>
<td>BWI Center for Industrial Management</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lim.ethz.ch">www.lim.ethz.ch</a></td>
<td>G E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snedeker Jess</td>
<td>Institute for Biomechanics</td>
<td><a href="http://www.biomech.ethz.ch">www.biomech.ethz.ch</a></td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wokaun Alexander</td>
<td>Institute for Chemical and Bioengineering</td>
<td><a href="http://www.icb.ethz.ch">www.icb.ethz.ch</a></td>
<td>G E</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Adjunct Professors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institute</th>
<th>Web-Link</th>
<th>Language</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Onder Christopher</td>
<td>Inst. for Dynamic Systems and Control</td>
<td><a href="http://www.idsc.ethz.ch">www.idsc.ethz.ch</a></td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 7.2 Tutor Agreement

### Agreement between Master Tutor and Student – Master Curriculum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last name</th>
<th>First name</th>
<th>Student ID</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Master program:**

**Start of Master study:** (H/S/year; F/S/year)

**Tutor:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LE-Nr.</th>
<th>Course title</th>
<th>HS/FS</th>
<th>ECTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Core Courses (36 ECTS)**

|        |              |       |      |
|        |              |       |      |

**Multidisciplinary Courses (6 ECTS)**

|        |              |       |      |
|        |              |       |      |

**Semester Project (8 ECTS)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Supervisor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Master Thesis (36 ECTS)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Supervisor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Date: ................................ Signature tutor: ........................................

Signature student: ........................................

DMAVT