

Entry into effect:	1 March 2014
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For further information:	Deputy Head of the Rectorate

[This is an English translation only. The German version is the legally binding version.]

DIRECTIVE

Working scientifically, and the declaration of originality

The Rector,

pursuant to Art. 9, Para. 2 of the ETH Zurich Organisational Ordinance of 16 December 2003¹,

decrees the following:

1. Scope

This directive applies to all ETH degree programmes, with the exception of doctoral studies. Doctoral studies are governed by the stipulations of the ETH Zurich Ordinance on Doctoral Studies of 1 July 2008² and the respective implementation provisions.

2. An introduction to working scientifically

- 2.1 An introduction to students on how to work scientifically, and especially the communication of the respective rules³, is a component of every ETH degree programme. The department responsible for the degree programme sees that it is provided.
- 2.2 The introduction can be integrated into an existing course unit or taught in the framework of a special course unit.
- 2.3 The point in time at which it is provided should be selected such that students possess all the knowledge they require as their studies progress.
- 2.4 The introduction is generally provided at every level of studies, including university continuing education programmes.
- 2.5 Students who can document that they have already received the corresponding introduction may not have to repeat it. The respective Director of Studies or (for university continuing education programmes) the Programme Director decides whether a waiver is possible.

¹ RSETHZ 201.021

² SR 414.133.1

³ For further information see *Guidelines for Research Integrity and Good Scientific Practice at ETH Zurich* of 14 November 2007 (RSETHZ 414).

3. Declaration of originality

- 3.1 Every semester paper, Bachelor's thesis and Master's thesis written at ETH Zurich must include a signed declaration of originality. This also applies to semester papers and final papers in university continuing education programmes. If the declaration of originality is not included when the respective work is submitted, the work will not be accepted.
- 3.2 The respective lecturer may also require a declaration of originality for other written work, for example written assignments and lab journals.
- 3.3 As a rule the declaration of originality must be made via the corresponding Rectorate form⁴. The departments may use their own forms instead, with additional specifications – however, the Rectorate's specifications constitute a minimum which other declarations may not go below.
The declaration of originality must be signed personally by the author of the work. If a work was co-authored by a group the declaration must be signed by all members of that group.
- 3.4 The signed form is a component of the written work. Every copy of the work, written or electronic⁵, must include it. If a work comprises several parts (report, documentation, presentation materials, product etc.) the form must be integrated into the main written part.
- 3.5 Responsibility for adherence to these requirements lies with the lecturer responsible for the respective written work.

4. Entry into effect

This directive enters into effect on 1 March 2014.

The specifications of "An introduction to working scientifically" will be implemented from Autumn Semester 2014.

Zurich, 5 February 2014

The Rector of ETH Zurich
Prof. Dr. Lino Guzzella

⁴ See www.plagiarism.ethz.ch

⁵ To be included in the electronic version of the text: a scan of the original signed form.