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For further information:	Admissions Office or the Registrar's Office

Directive

Restrictions on study programme selection, change of degree programme, re-entry to ETH Zurich and recognition of study achievements

This English translation is for information purposes only. The German version is the legally binding version.

The Executive Board of ETH Zurich,

at the request of the Rector and pursuant to Art. 40 Para. 4, Art. 41 Para. 6, Art. 42 Para. 5 and Art. 43 Para. 8 of the Ordinance on Admission to Studying at ETH Zurich (*Zulassungsverordnung ETH Zürich*) of 30 November 2010¹,

decrees the following:

Overview

Part 1: Restrictions on study programme selection following exclusion from a degree programme

Part 2: Change of degree programme before acquiring a degree

Part 3: Re-entry to ETH Zurich

Part 4: Recognition of study achievements and waiving of performance assessments

Part 5: Final clauses

Appendices

¹ RSETHZ 310.5

Part 1: Restrictions on study programme selection following exclusion from a degree programme

(Reference: Art. 40 of the Ordinance on Admission to Studying at ETH Zurich)

Art. 1 Restrictions on study programme selection after exclusion at ETH Zurich

¹ Exclusion due to failure to respect programme deadlines: Students who have been irrevocably excluded from continuing a particular degree programme at ETH Zurich because they have not respected programme deadlines remain excluded from matriculating in the Bachelor's and Master's degree programme in this discipline at ETH Zurich.

Examples of exclusions due to failure to respect programme deadlines at ETH Zurich:

- A student who has been excluded from the ETH Bachelor's degree programme in Physics will not be granted further admission to the Bachelor's or Master's degree programmes in Physics at ETH Zurich.
- A student who has been excluded from the ETH Master's degree programme in Mathematics will not be granted further admission to the Master's or Bachelor's degree programmes in Mathematics at ETH Zurich.
- A student who has been excluded from the ETH Master's degree programme in Biomedical Engineering will not be granted further admission to the Master's degree programme in Biomedical Engineering at ETH Zurich.

² Exclusion due to failure of performance assessments: Students who have been irrevocably excluded from continuing a particular degree programme at ETH Zurich because they have failed performance assessments remain excluded from matriculating in the following Bachelor's or Master's degree programmes at ETH Zurich.

- a. Students who have been excluded from a Bachelor's degree programme remain excluded from matriculating in the following degree programmes:
 1. The same Bachelor's degree programme and the Master's degree programme in this discipline which is consecutive to it;
 2. Bachelor's degree programmes in a comparable discipline (= comparable Bachelor's degree programmes). A list of comparable Bachelor's degree programmes is provided in Appendix 1.
- b. Students who have been excluded from a Master's degree programme remain excluded from matriculating in said Master's degree programme and the Bachelor's degree programme in the same discipline.⁽²⁾

³ Exclusion according to Para. 1 and 2 is perpetual and also applies to students who after exclusion from a degree programme at ETH acquire a degree in the same or a comparable discipline at another university⁽³⁾ and wish to re-matriculate at ETH Zurich.

² At Master's degree level the term 'comparable discipline' is not applied, i.e. there is no list of 'comparable Master's degree programmes' in this directive.

³ The term 'university' covers universities, universities of applied sciences and Swiss teacher training colleges (*Pädagogische Hochschulen*).

Art. 2 Restrictions on study programme selection after exclusion from another university

¹ Students who have been irrevocably excluded from continuing a particular degree programme at another university because they have failed performance assessments or not respected programme deadlines, and who apply for admission to ETH Zurich, remain excluded from matriculating in the following degree programmes at ETH Zurich:

- a. Students who have been excluded from a Bachelor's degree programme remain excluded from matriculating in the following degree programmes:
 1. The Bachelor's and consecutive Master's degree programmes in the discipline in which the student was matriculated at the original university;
 2. Bachelor's degree programmes in a comparable discipline as listed in Appendix 1 of this directive.

Example: A student who has been excluded from a Bachelor's degree programme in Physics at another university remains excluded from matriculating in the following degree programmes at ETH Zurich:

- The Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes in Physics;
- The Bachelor's degree programme in Mathematics (= comparable Bachelor's degree programme as listed in Appendix 1).

- b. Students who have been excluded from a Master's degree programme remain excluded from matriculating in the Master's and Bachelor's degree programmes in the discipline in which the student was matriculated at the original university.

Examples:

- A student who has been excluded from a Master's degree programme in Physics at another university remains excluded from matriculating in the Master's and Bachelor's degree programmes in Physics at ETH Zurich.
- A student who has been excluded from a Master's degree programme in Statistics at another university remains excluded from matriculating in the Master's degree programme in Statistics at ETH Zurich.

- c. Students who have been excluded from a Bachelor's or Master's degree programme in human medicine, dentistry or chiropractic remain excluded from matriculating in the Bachelor's degree programme in Human Medicine.⁴

² The stipulations of Para. 1 apply irrespective of whether the exclusion involved the student's major or minor.

Example: A student who has been excluded from a major or minor in Physics during the Bachelor's degree programme at another university may not be admitted to the following degree programmes at ETH Zurich:

- The Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes in Physics;
- The Bachelor's degree programme in Mathematics (= comparable Bachelor's degree programme as listed in Appendix 1).

³ If students have been excluded from a Swiss university Bachelor's degree programme which at ETH Zurich either does not exist or does not exist under the same name, comparability is established according to the swissuniversities classification of disciplines (list published at www.studyprogrammes.ch).

⁴ As per Art. 5 of the *Zulassungsbeschränkungsverordnung Medizin der ETH Zürich* [in German; ordinance regarding restriction on admission to medical studies at ETH Zurich] of 14 November 2017 (SR 414.131.54).

⁴ Students at EPF Lausanne (EPFL) required to sit the 'cours de Mise à niveau (MAN)' who either do not do so or fail, and who later wish to change to ETH Zurich, are subject to the same stipulations as students at EPFL or another university who fail one of the examination levels equivalent to the first-year examinations once. Details are set out in Art. 23 below.

Art. 3 Teacher training (*Teacher training at ETH Zurich is offered in German only*)

¹ Students who have been irrevocably excluded from the ETH degree programme *Lehrdiplom für Maturitätsschulen* (LD) [teaching diploma for upper secondary education] or the *ETH Didaktik-Zertifikat* (DZ) [Teaching Certificate] training programme in a specific discipline due to failure of performance assessments or failure to respect academic deadlines are excluded from matriculating in the LD and DZ programmes in the respective discipline.

Example: A student who has been excluded from the LD degree programme in the discipline of Physics at ETH will no longer be admitted to either the LD degree programme in the discipline of Physics or the DZ training programme in the discipline of Physics at ETH.

² Students who are irrevocably excluded from an equivalent teacher training programme or degree programme at another university due to failure of performance assessments or non-compliance with programme regulations, and who apply to ETH Zurich, remain excluded from matriculating in the LD and DZ programmes in the respective discipline at ETH Zurich.

³ Admission to a different LD or DZ discipline at ETH Zurich after exclusion as per Para. 1 or 2 is only possible if

- a. the disciplinary admission requirements for the new discipline are satisfied;
- b. it is still possible for the student to acquire all of the ECTS credits required to complete the LD or DZ programme.

Comment on (b): Due to the special structure of the LD and DZ programmes, admission to another LD or DZ discipline is not possible if, in this discipline, completion of a compulsory course unit is required which was earlier failed twice. This applies, for example, to the field of education. (See also Art. 4.)

Art. 4 Performance assessments: Maximum of two attempts

¹ According to Art. 14, Para. 1 of the ETH Zurich Ordinance on Performance Assessments⁽⁵⁾, a failed performance assessment may only be repeated once. This policy is universal at ETH, irrespective of whether one or both attempts take place in different degree programmes or if the student is a Special Student, exchange student or visiting student.

Comment: This policy means, for example, that a student who changes degree programmes at ETH or enters ETH may (depending on the details) be allowed only one further attempt at an examination or may remain excluded from matriculating in a degree programme because said student failed a single examination in a compulsory subject earlier.

² A passed performance assessment may not be repeated (see Art. 14, Para. 6 of the ETH Zurich Ordinance on Performance Assessments⁽⁶⁾).

⁵ SR 414.135.1

⁶ SR 414.135.1, RSETHZ 322.021

Part 2: Change of degree programme before acquiring a degree

(Reference: Art. 41 of the Ordinance on Admission to Studying at ETH Zurich)

Art. 5 The term 'change of degree programme'

A change of degree programme is when an ETH student, before acquiring a degree, transfers to a different programme at the same level at ETH Zurich. This principle applies irrespective of whether the change involves uninterrupted matriculated status or withdrawal from followed by re-entry to ETH Zurich ('re-entry to a different degree programme at the same level').

Art. 6 Restrictions on study programme selection

Every change of study programme is subject to the restrictions on study programme selection set out in Art. 1 – 3.

Art. 7 Recognition and non-recognition of a change of degree programme

¹ Every change of degree programme is officially recorded as such. The only exceptions are:

- a. Bachelor's degree level: Changes of degree programme which are made during the first semester of the first year of Bachelor's degree studies by the 'final deadline for change of study programme'⁷
- b. Master's degree level: A change from a specialised or other Master's degree programme back to the original consecutive Master's degree programme (*e.g. Biology → Statistics → Biology*)⁸, as long as the following prerequisites are met:
 - 1) The affected student completed the respective connected Bachelor's degree programme at ETH Zurich;
 - 2) The initial enrolment in the consecutive Master's degree programme involved a maximum of two semesters;
 - 3) Enrolment in the specialised or other Master's degree programme involved a maximum of one semester (i.e. the change back to the original consecutive Master's degree programme must take place after the first semester spent in the specialised or other Master's degree programme at the latest).
- c. Master's degree level: Pilot project "Science, Technology and Policy (STP)": A change from a Master's degree programme into the STP Master's degree programme and a change back to the original Master's degree programme.

² Changes of degree programme as set out in Para. 1 (b) and (c) are subject to the normal ETH dates and deadlines.

⁷ The 'final deadline for change of study programme' is published in the academic calendar: [www.ethz.ch/en/ > news-and-events > academic-calendar > dates-deadlines-students](http://www.ethz.ch/en/>news-and-events>academic-calendar>dates-deadlines-students)

⁸ *Example*: A student who holds a Bachelor's degree in Biology from ETH Zurich first progresses to the consecutive Master's degree programme in Biology, then changes to the Master's degree programme in Statistics, and finally returns to the original consecutive Master's degree programme in Biology.

Art. 8 Change of degree programme if admission was based on a foreign matriculation certificate

¹ If a student was granted admission to a Bachelor's degree programme at ETH Zurich on the basis of a matriculation certificate from outside Switzerland, a change of degree programme at Bachelor's degree level may be subject to verification of a place on a study programme in the desired discipline in the country of origin.

² This verification is no longer required if said student has passed the ETH Zurich first-year examinations with an average grade of 4.5.

Art. 9 Change of degree programme at Bachelor's degree level

¹ After entering a Bachelor's degree programme at ETH Zurich a student may change his/her study programme twice before acquiring a Bachelor's degree. However, a second change of degree programme is not possible if the affected student was irrevocably excluded from the first and second original degree programmes (decreed exclusions).

² If a student changes to another degree programme after failing the first-year examinations said student will always be required to sit all of the first-year examinations in the new Bachelor's degree programme.

³ Students who fail their first-year examinations once and then change to a comparable Bachelor's degree programme are only entitled to sit the respective new first-year examinations once. The comparable Bachelor's degree programmes are listed in Appendix 1.

⁴ The normal programme deadlines apply to the new Bachelor's degree programme⁹, with the following exceptions:

- a. If ECTS credits for previous study achievements are recognised, the maximum permitted duration of studies is reduced by one semester per every 30 credits recognised.
- b. If a student is only entitled to sit the new first-year examinations once he/she must sit said examinations within the first two semesters following the change of degree programme.
- c. Programme regulations may stipulate deadlines for certain changes of degree programme which differ from those in (a) and (b).

⁹ The term 'programme deadlines' comprises all study programme deadlines. In this directive it is applied in the sense used in Art. 3 of the Ordinance on Admission to Studying at ETH Zurich (RSETHZ 310.5).

Art. 10 Change of degree programme at Master's degree level

¹ After entering a Master's degree programme at ETH Zurich a student may change his/her study programme once before acquiring a Master's degree, provided that

- a. said student has not been irrevocably excluded from the original degree programme⁽¹⁰⁾, and
- b. the prerequisites for admission to the new Master's degree programme have been satisfied.

² Any student at Master's degree level who wishes to change his/her degree programme and who satisfies the corresponding prerequisites must submit an application for admission to the new Master's degree programme. The normal ETH dates, deadlines and documentation required for admission apply. Exceptions are listed in Para. 3.

³ Students who hold an ETH Bachelor's degree which guarantees admission to the new consecutive Master's degree programme without additional requirements should inform the Registrar's Office of the change of degree programme at an early stage in writing or by email. The normal ETH dates and deadlines apply.

⁴ In the new Master's degree programme the normal programme deadlines apply, irrespective of whether credits for previous study achievements have been recognised. The stipulations of Para. 5 still apply.

⁵ If the change of degree programme involves a return to the original consecutive Master's degree programme as per Art. 7, Para. 1 (b) (e.g. Biology → Statistics → Biology), then the determination of the remaining duration of studies in the consecutive Master's degree programme is subject to the provisions governing 're-entry to the same degree programme'. The pertaining policies are set out in Art. 42, Para. 3 of the ETH Zurich Admissions Ordinance and in Art. 13 of this directive.

Part 3: Re-entry to ETH Zurich

(Reference: Art. 42 of the Ordinance on Admission to Studying at ETH Zurich)

Art. 11 Policy

Students who have withdrawn or who have been dematriculated from ETH Zurich may re-matriculate in an ETH Zurich degree programme as long as they satisfy the corresponding prerequisites.

Art. 12 Restrictions on study programme selection

Every re-entry to ETH Zurich is subject to the restrictions on study programme selection set out in Art. 1 – 3.

¹⁰ Irrevocable exclusion from a Master's degree programme always results in dematriculation; a change of degree programme is not possible. However, affected persons may re-matriculate in an ETH Zurich degree programme (re-entry to ETH Zurich) as long as they satisfy the corresponding prerequisites.

Art. 13 Programme deadlines pertaining to re-entry to the same degree programme

¹ The programme deadlines pertaining to re-entry to the same degree programme are stipulated in Art. 42, Para. 3 of the Ordinance on Admission to Studying at ETH Zurich.

² In the calculation of the remaining study duration it is immaterial whether revised or new Programme Regulations entered into effect between withdrawal/dematriculation and re-entry.

³ Re-entry is not possible, even if superficially feasible according to credit numbers (a maximum of 30 per semester), if the curriculum of the respective degree programme would necessitate more than the remaining permitted number of semesters.

Example: The remaining length of studies is one semester, and to complete the Bachelor's degree 25 credits must be acquired. If, however, the respective Bachelor's programme offers the course units involved in different semesters, or as a year course, acquiring the required 25 credits would take longer than one semester and hence re-entry is not possible.

⁴ Repeating a failed performance assessment does not entitle the respective student to an extension of the remaining length of studies. If the repetition of a failed performance assessment is required to complete the degree but is impossible within the remaining period of studies, the student will be regarded as having failed the degree programme in question and will be excluded from it.

⁵ Persons who were enrolled in an untiered Diploma programme prior to re-entry to a degree programme in the same discipline are subject to special regulations. These are set out in Appendix 2.

Art. 14 Programme deadlines pertaining to re-entry to a different degree programme

If re-entry is to a different degree programme the normal programme deadlines apply. Exceptions are:

- a. If credits for previous study achievements are recognised in the new Bachelor's degree programme, the maximum permitted duration of studies is reduced by one semester per every 30 credits recognised.
- b. If re-entry takes place following failure of the first-year examinations once in a comparable Bachelor's degree programme (see the Appendix 1 to this directive), the student in question is only entitled to sit the first-year examinations in the new Bachelor's degree programme once, and must do so within two semesters of re-entry.

Part 4: Recognition of study achievements and waiving of performance assessments

(Reference: Art. 43 – 45 of the Ordinance on Admission to Studying at ETH Zurich)

1. Subsection: General regulations

Art. 15 Policy

In the context of changes of degree programme, re-entry to ETH Zurich, and student admissions from other universities credits for previous study achievements may be recognised and performance assessments may be waived. The relevant policies are set out in Art. 43 – 45 of the Ordinance on Admission to Studying at ETH Zurich.

Art. 16 No automatic entitlement to recognition of study achievements

There is no automatic entitlement to recognition of credits for study achievements. The corresponding stipulations in the programme regulations of the individual degree programmes, and the pertaining curricular provisions, apply as per Art. 17, Para. 3 below.

Art. 17 Procedure regarding recognition of study achievements

¹ Students must submit a request for recognition of credits for previous study achievements to the following offices:

- a. Recognition involves a Master's degree programme (with the exception of additional requirements for admission): The request must be submitted to the Study Administration Office of the respective Master's degree programme.
- b. Recognition involves a Bachelor's degree programme, the additional requirements for admission to a Master's degree programme, the LD degree programme, or the DZ training programme: The request must be submitted to the Registrar's Office or the Admissions Office of Academic Services. The modalities for submission are published on the websites of the Registrar's Office and the Admissions Office.

² The Director of Studies of the affected Master's degree programme makes the decision regarding recognition in the context of Para. 1 (a). Recognition in the context of Para. 1 (b) is decided on by the Rector at the request of the Director of Studies of the affected Master's degree programme.

³ The degree programmes may not recognise credits or apply to the Rector regarding recognition of credits of their own volition: this may only happen at the request of the student. Exceptions are when recognition is on curricular grounds, i.e. involve changes of degree programme or re-entries. Restrictions on recognition as per the ETH Zurich Admissions Ordinance and this directive apply in any case.

Example of recognition on curricular grounds: In the case of a change of degree programme, it may happen that an individual examination which the student passed in the earlier degree programme comprises a compulsory examination in the new degree programme. Because passed examinations may not be repeated, this would mean that the previous examination result must be recognised if the student is to complete the new degree programme.

⁴ Requests for recognition of study achievements may be submitted once per semester, by the end of the respective fourth week of teaching.

⁵ Requests will not be considered if

- a. they are late or are not submitted in the proper form;
- b. they concern an alteration to a previously approved request.

Art. 18 Partial waiver not allowable

Waiving of a performance assessment always applies to all components of the performance assessment. Partial waivers (e.g. a semester course belonging to a year course) are not permitted.

Art. 19 Reduction of the maximum permitted duration of studies

If credits for previous study achievements are recognised, the maximum permitted duration of studies in the new degree programme may be reduced. The following applies:

- a. For students entering a Bachelor's degree programme or the LD degree programme for the first time, the maximum permitted duration of studies is reduced by one semester per 30 recognised credits.
- b. For students entering a Master's degree programme for the first time there is no reduction in the maximum permitted duration of studies.
- c. For students who re-enter the same degree programme, any reduction in the maximum permitted duration of studies is governed by the provisions set out in Art. 42, Para. 3 of the ETH Zurich Admissions Ordinance (reduction according to the number of completed semesters).

Art. 20 The form in which study achievements are recognised

¹ If study achievements are recognised they are to be recorded in the corresponding documentation (transcript of records, academic record) only in the form of credits, without details of the university, corresponding course units or grades. Exceptions are listed in Para. 2 and 3.

²⁽¹¹⁾ If, however, the recognised study achievements were undertaken at ETH Zurich and have not already been counted towards another degree and if they are part of the new degree programme (transferable course units) they are generally detailed in full (title of course unit(s), grades, number of credits) in the corresponding documentation (transcript of records, academic record). Exceptions include course units which are part of the first-year examinations or an examination block of the new degree programme. In such cases the grade cannot be carried over, but the examination will be waived and the credits recognised. The average grade in the first-year examinations or in an examination block will be computed from the remaining examination grades (see also Art. 22 (f)).

¹¹ Updated version, 24.08.2012.

³ If the recognised study achievements were undertaken during ETH studies in the framework of student exchange, verification of these achievements is subject to the provisions of Art. 16 of the ETH Zurich Admissions Ordinance and the corresponding implementation stipulations.

2. Subsection: Particular stipulations at the Bachelor's and Master's degree levels

Art. 21 Bachelor's degree level: Limitations on the number of allowable credits

¹ Credits for previous study achievements may be recognised when students are admitted to the Bachelor's degree programme. It is immaterial whether these credits have already counted towards a degree. The maximum allowable number of credits comprises

- a. 120 credits, if acquired at ETH Zurich or EPFL; further credits may be earned at ETH Zurich or EPFL in addition to these as long as these further credits have not already been recognised towards a degree.
- b. 60 credits, if acquired at a further university

² The restriction set out in Para. 1, Subpara. a does not apply to re-entry to the same Bachelor's degree programme.

³ The restriction set out in Para. 1, Subpara. b does not apply to universities with which ETH Zurich has a corresponding agreement.

Art. 22 Bachelor's degree level: Recognition of credits on change of degree programme or re-entry to ETH Zurich

The following special stipulations apply to the recognition of credits for previous study achievements on a change of degree programme or re-entry at Bachelor's degree level:

- a. An individual examination of passed first-year examination blocks may only be recognised if it received an individual pass grade. Any special provisions in individual degree programme regulations which address across-the-board recognition still apply ⁽¹²⁾.
- b. Examinations from failed first-year examination blocks are not recognised. It is immaterial whether a pass grade was obtained in any single examination belonging to these. (c) still applies.
- c. The following points apply to split first-year examinations from the pilot project of the same name:
 1. An individual examination in one block of passed first-year examinations may only be recognised if it received an individual pass grade. It is immaterial whether the other block of first-year examinations was passed, failed or not taken. (3) below still applies.

¹² An example of across-the-board recognition would be the stipulation in some programme regulations that, in certain changes of degree programme, passed first-year examinations are fully recognised independent of whether any single examinations have been passed or failed.

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2. Examinations from failed first-year examination blocks are not recognised. Whether a single examination belonging to this block received a pass grade is immaterial.
 3. If a student changes degree programme from Mathematics to Physics or vice versa, passed first-year examination blocks are recognised as a whole. Further details are set out in the two sets of programme regulations.
- d. Examinations from passed or failed examination blocks (second- and third-year examinations) are recognised provided that they received pass grades. If an examination block is taken twice (repetition), only the grades achieved in the second attempt are considered towards recognition (if this occurs).
 - e. Credits already acquired outside the context of the first-year examinations or examination blocks may be recognised.
 - f. If recognition of credits leads to waiving of examinations which form part of the first-year examinations or examination blocks of the target degree programme, the average grade achieved in the respective examinations is calculated without taking into account the grades associated with the recognised credits.

Art. 23 Bachelor's degree level: Recognition of credits for students admitted from other universities

If students admitted from other universities are required to sit the first-year examinations of the ETH Zurich Bachelor's degree programme, the following special stipulations apply to the first-year examinations and the recognition of credits for previous study achievements.

- a. Students from other universities who have once failed the performance assessments at the original university which correspond to ETH Zurich's first-year examinations, and who attend a degree programme at ETH Zurich in the same discipline,
 - 1) are only entitled to sit the first-year examinations once, and
 - 2) must sit the first-year examinations within the first two semesters at ETH Zurich.
- b. A waiver of the examinations of the first-year examinations is only possible if at least 30 credits were acquired during the first year of study at the original university.
- c. Failed performance assessments at the original university which correspond to ETH Zurich's first-year examinations cannot be recognised. It is immaterial whether a pass grade was obtained in any single performance assessment belonging to these.
- d. Credits acquired via pass grades in performance assessments which neither correspond to the examination level mentioned in (c) nor belong to the ETH Zurich first-year examinations may be recognised. This applies regardless of the original-university examination results at the level mentioned in (c) and regardless of the condition set out in (b).
- e. If recognition of credits acquired at the original university leads to waiving of examinations which form part of the first-year examinations or examination blocks in the ETH Zurich Bachelor's degree programme, the average grade achieved in the respective examinations will be calculated without taking into account the average grades acquired at the original university.

Art. 24 Master's degree level: Restrictions on the recognition of credits

¹ No credits for previous study achievements are recognised for students admitted to Master's degree programmes. The exceptions are:

- a. Credits acquired at ETH Zurich which have not yet been counted towards a degree may be recognised.
- b. In Joint Degree programmes, credits acquired at the partner university may be recognised if they have not already been recognised towards another degree. The details are set out in the respective programme regulations.
- c. Internships in industry and professional traineeships can be recognised if the respective programme regulations allow for this. The details are set out in the respective regulations.

² In well-founded exceptional cases credits already recognised in the context of an ETH Zurich Master's degree may be counted towards a second Master's degree at the discretion of the Rector. If exceptional permission is granted the details are provided in the respective programme regulations.

3. Subsection: Recognition of study achievements undertaken by Special Students, exchange students and visiting students at ETH Zurich

Art. 25

If Special Students, exchange students and visiting students undertake study achievements at ETH Zurich, and enter an ETH Zurich degree programme at a later date, the following stipulations apply to recognition of the study achievements undertaken at ETH Zurich:

- a. Entry to an ETH Bachelor's degree programme:
 1. Recognition is possible if the study achievement or the performance assessment in question must be undertaken as an individual performance assessment in the target degree programme.
 2. Recognition towards the first-year examinations or another examination block is only possible if the examination(s) in question were sat under the same conditions as those of ETH students in the affected Bachelor's degree programme, i.e. if all first-year examinations or examinations of another block were undertaken during the same examination session. Partial recognition is not possible. If there is no recognition, students are permitted two attempts at the first-year examinations and at individual examination blocks provided that no restrictions based on earlier ETH Zurich matriculations apply.
- b. Entry to an ETH Master's degree programme:

Recognition is only possible if study achievements have not already been counted towards a degree (see Art. 24, Para. 1 (a)).
- c. In all cases any further restrictions listed in the ETH Zurich Admissions Ordinance and in this directive apply.

4. Subsection: Particular stipulations regarding recognition of credits from the “Science in Perspective” programme

Art. 26

¹ Credits already acquired in the “Science in Perspective” (SiP) programme may, on request, be recognised towards changes of degree programme and re-entry to ETH Zurich if the stipulations of the pertaining directive¹³ permit this.

² If students are admitted from other universities no study achievements are recognised towards the ETH Zurich SiP programme unless the respective course units come from this programme.

³ Recognition is also subject to the following stipulations:

- a. Bachelor’s degree level: Study achievements which cause total credits to exceed the maximum of 120 or 60 at Bachelor’s degree level may be recognised if the following two conditions are met:
 1. The additional credits have not already been counted towards a degree.
 2. The number of credits recognised do not exceed the maximum number of SiP credits recognisable in the new degree programme.
- b. Master’s degree level: Recognition is only possible if the credits in question have not already been counted towards a degree. The number of credits recognised may not exceed the maximum number of SiP credits allowable in the new degree programme.

Part 5: Final clauses

Art. 27 Rescindment of previous directives

The following directives are rescinded:

- a. Directive of 1 May 2005 ‘Change of degree programme and restrictions on study programme selection after failing Bachelor’s degree level examinations’
- b. Directive of 1 March 2009 ‘Restrictions on study programme selection after failing examinations’

Art. 28 Entry into effect

This directive enters into effect on 18 February 2011.

¹³ Directive ‘Science in Perspective’ (SiP) programme. See www.directives.ethz.ch

Appendix 1

Comparable Bachelor's degree programmes

(Reference: Art. 1, Para. 2, Subpara. a of this directive)

(Version: 25 February 2020)

This English translation is for information purposes only. The German version is the legally binding version.

Groups A – D below each comprise comparable Bachelor's degree programmes. ¹The Bachelor's degree programme in Interdisciplinary Sciences has two subject directions, the following stipulations apply only to the respective subject direction of this degree programme.

Stipulations applying to these groups:

- a. If a student is excluded from a Bachelor's degree programme due to failure of the respective performance assessments he/she is not permitted to commence or re-enter any Bachelor's degree programme in the same group. This applies analogously to the admission of students from other universities (see Art. 2, Para. 1, Subpara. a of this directive).
- b. Students who fail the first-year examinations once and change to a different Bachelor's degree programme in the same group are only entitled to sit the respective new first-year examinations once.
- c. Students who fail the first-year examinations once and re-enter the same Bachelor's degree programme or change to a different Bachelor's degree programme in the same group are only entitled to sit the respective new first-year examinations once.
- d.² The Bachelor's degree programme in Interdisciplinary Sciences has two subject directions. A change from one subject direction to the other within this degree programme is by definition not a change of degree programme.

Group A Bachelor's degree programmes:

- Mathematics
- Physics
- ³Interdisciplinary Sciences (physical-chemical direction only)

Group B Bachelor's degree programmes:

- ⁴Biochemistry – Chemical Biology
- Chemistry
- Chemical Engineering
- ⁵Interdisciplinary Sciences (biochemical-physical direction only)

¹ Inserted at the request of the Rector (10.04.2019), in force since 01.11.2019.

² Inserted at the request of the Rector (10.04.2019), in force since 01.11.2019.

³ Inserted at the request of the Rector (10.04.2019), in force since 01.11.2019.

⁴ Inserted at the request of the Rector (25.02.2020), in force since 25.02.2020.

⁵ Inserted at the request of the Rector (10.04.2019), in force since 01.11.2019.

- Group C** Bachelor's degree programmes:
- ⁶⁾Biochemistry – Chemical Biology
 - Biology
 - Pharmaceutical Sciences

- Group D** Bachelor's degree programmes:
- Agricultural Sciences
 - Food Science
 - Environmental Sciences⁷⁾

⁶ Inserted at the request of the Rector (25.02.2020), in force since 25.02.2020.

⁷ Inserted at the request of the Rector (27.11.2019), in force since 01.12.2019.

Appendix 2

Programme deadlines pertaining to re-entry to a degree programme in the same discipline

(Reference: Art. 13, Para. 5 of this directive)

(Version: 18 February 2011)

This English translation is for information purposes only. The German version is the legally binding version.

1. Regulated here are programme deadlines in cases where persons have withdrawn from an untiered Diploma programme and wish to enter a degree programme in the same discipline. The stipulations set out in Art. 43, Para. 6 of the Ordinance on Admission to Studying at ETH Zurich also apply.

Example: A person has dropped out of an untiered Diploma programme in Physics before graduating and wishes to enter the Bachelor's or Master's degree programme in Physics.

2. The following stipulations apply:

- a. Withdrawal before the first intermediate examinations

Pursuant to Art. 42, Para. 3, Subpara. d of the Ordinance on Admission to Studying at ETH Zurich, re-entry is only possible if withdrawal has taken place by the end of the fourth semester at the latest. Re-entry to the corresponding Bachelor's degree programme may proceed; the normal programme deadlines apply.

- b. Withdrawal after failing the first intermediate examinations once

Re-entry is no longer possible (Art. 42, Para. 3, Subpara. c of the Ordinance on Admission to Studying at ETH Zurich).

- c. Withdrawal after passing the first intermediate examinations

If re-entry takes place it is to the corresponding Bachelor's degree programme. The maximum permitted duration of said Bachelor's degree programme determines the remaining length of studies. The stipulations set out in Art. 42, Para. 3, Subpara. a and b of the Ordinance on Admission to Studying at ETH Zurich apply. Exceptions are listed in Para. 3 of this Appendix.

- d. Withdrawal after passing the second intermediate examinations

If re-entry takes place it is to the corresponding Bachelor's degree programme, but the determinant of the remaining length of studies is the sum of the maximum permitted duration of the Bachelor's programme plus that of the immediately following Master's programme. The stipulations set out in Art. 42, Para. 3, Subpara. a and b of the Ordinance on Admission to Studying at ETH Zurich also apply here. The remaining length of studies is distributed between the Bachelor's and Master's levels according to the number of credits still to be acquired towards each degree. Exceptions are listed in Para. 3 of this Appendix.

3. Re-entry as per Para. 2, Subpara. c and d is not possible, even if superficially feasible according to credit numbers (a maximum of 30 per semester), if the curriculum of the respective degree programme would necessitate more than the remaining permitted number of semesters.

Example, Para. 2, Sub-para. c: The remaining length of studies is one semester, and to complete the Bachelor's degree 25 credits must be acquired. If, however, the respective Bachelor's programme offers the course units involved in different semesters, or as a year course, acquiring the required 25 credits would take longer than one semester and hence re-entry is not possible.

Example, Para. 2, Sub-para. d: The remaining length of studies is three semesters, and for the Bachelor's degree 25 and for the Master's degree 59 credits must be acquired. If, however, the respective Bachelor's programme offers the course units involved in different semesters, or as a year course, it would take two semesters to acquire the 25 Bachelor's degree credits, and leave only one semester for the student to acquire the 59 Master's degree credits. In this case re-entry to neither the Bachelor's nor the Master's degree programme is possible.

4. Repeating a failed performance assessment does not entitle the respective student to an extension of the remaining length of studies. If the repetition of a failed performance assessment is required to complete the degree but is impossible within the remaining period of studies, the student will be regarded as having failed the degree programme in question and will be excluded from it.