

VISITING SCHOLARS

The Center for Legal Data Science (CLDS) at the Law Faculty of the University of Zurich has established a Visiting Scholars Program and invites applications from scholars (Postdocs and Professors) from around the globe.

The call for applications is open to scholars who work in the field of Legal Data Science and who want to spend up to three months at the CLDS in Zurich as a visiting scholar. During their stay, visiting scholars will conduct their project using their own data. They will be given a workspace on the premises of the CLDS and have access to the resources provided by the University of Zurich. They are invited to participate in the scholarly activities of the CLDS and present their work at the UZH Brown Bag Series in Legal Data Science.

About the CLDS

The Center for Legal Data Science (CLDS) is an interdisciplinary research hub at the Law Faculty of the University of Zurich. The core task of the CLDS is the application, critical reflection and promotion of data science methods in national and international legal contexts. The CLDS pursues the following high-level goals:

- advancing legal knowledge and legal knowledge production through the application of quantitative methods,
- enhancing the transparency of the law and legal procedures through the application of quantitative methods,
- facilitating interdisciplinary legal research and teaching involving quantitative methods, on a national and international level.

The working areas of the CLDS are:

- empirical legal research,
- computer-assisted methods in legislation, application and finding of law,
- fundamental research in the working areas of the CLDS.

Eligibility Criteria

- Highly qualified researchers (Postdocs and Professors) from law, data science, statistics, computer science, economics or related field,
- Project in the field of the working areas of the CLDS that the researcher intends to work on during the research stay,
- Full-time research in Switzerland during the research stay.

Duration

- Minimum stay: 1 month, maximum stay: 3 months.
- No prolongation possible.

Scholarship Amount

- The scholarship amounts to a monthly payment of CHF 2'500 (for Professors) and CHF 2'000 (for Postdocs).
- This amount covers the expenses and living costs of one person only. The scholarship is not a salary and no further compensation will be paid for costs and expenses incurred by the applicant.
- It is the responsibility of the visiting scholar to obtain a visa for Switzerland (if applicable), to organize their travel to/from Switzerland and to find accommodation in Zurich.

Selection Criteria and Evaluation Process

- The Visiting Scholars are selected by the Chair of the Executive Board of the CLDS together with the CLDS General Manager.
- The selection criteria include: the academic profile, research capacity and motivation of the candidate; the originality and methodological soundness of the research project and its relevance to the working areas of the CLDS; and the potential for future academic cooperation.

Self-funded research stays

The CLDS welcomes applications for self-funded research stays at any time. Please send a message to clds@rwi.uzh.ch.

Application documents

The application should contain the following documents:

- Completed and signed form "Application as Visiting Scholar" by the Faculty of Law of the University of Zurich – Vice Dean's Office External Relations [available here](#),
- Letter of motivation stating the reasons for the application, what you expect to gain from a research stay at the CLDS etc.,
- Research Proposal (max. 3 pages) specifying the field, topic, research question(s), methods and (if applicable) the data used to carry out the project,
- Current CV,
- List of publications (highlighting up to five most important publications),
- Proposed time period for conducting research at the CLDS (dates of arrival and departure),
- Statement on the financing of the research stay (scholarship requested; self-funded).

Deadline

The deadline for applications is December 31 of each year (for research stays in the Spring semester), and June 30 of each year (for research stays in the Fall semester).

Timeline for 1st call

September 2023: Launch of program

December 31, 2023 (23:59 CET): Deadline for applications

January 2024: Review by CLDS

End of January 2024: Communication of selection decision by CLDS

February 2024: Earliest possible start for Visiting Scholar

(A subsequent call is expected to be launched in April 2024.)

Contact

Please send all applications to clds@rwi.uzh.ch.

Contact for further information: Nathalie Guibert (nathalie.guibert@rwi.uzh.ch) or Dr Zhivko Taushanov (zhivko.taushanov@rwi.uzh.ch).