

VISITING Students Program (PhD / Master)

The Center for Legal Data Science (CLDS) at the Law Faculty of the University of Zurich has established a Visiting Students Program and invites applications from PhD and Master students from around the globe.

The call for applications is open to students at the PhD and Master level whose project is in the field of Legal Data Science and who want to spend up to six months at the CLDS in Zurich as a visiting student. During their stay, visiting students 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 internal Legal Data Science Meetings of CLDS.

In order to be considered eligible, visiting students must meet the general application criteria set up by the UZH (see <https://www.int.uzh.ch/en/in/visiting/invited.html>).

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

- First university degree in Law or first university degree in Data Science, Statistics, Computer Science, Economics (or related field),
- PhD/Master 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: 2 months
- With CLDS scholarship, the maximum stay is 6 months.
- Without CLDS scholarship (self-funded research stay), the maximum stay is 12 months.
- No prolongation possible.

Scholarship Amount

- Scholarships are available for PhD students only (Master students are required to be fully self-funded).
- The scholarship for PhD students amounts to a monthly payment of CHF 1'750. 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 student 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

- Application to UZH: <https://www.int.uzh.ch/en/in/visiting/invited.html>
- Visiting Students 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 of PhD students

In addition to applications for scholarships, the CLDS welcomes applications by PhD students for self-funded research stays at any time. Please send a message to clds@rwi.uzh.ch providing the documents listed below.

Application documents

The application should contain the following documents:

- 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 (CLDS scholarship requested; self-funded),
- Letter of support by supervisor from home university.

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 student

(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).