

Entry into effect:	1 August 2016
Version:	1 August 2016
For further information:	Deputy Head of Academic Services

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

DIRECTIVE

“Science in Perspective” (SiP) programme of the Department of Humanities, Social and Political Sciences (D-GESS)

Objective

The aim of the ETH Zurich Executive Board with the programme “Science in Perspective” is to enable students to reflect on their disciplinary knowledge and its application in the social context.

The “Science in Perspective” programme is a new iteration of the heretofore “compulsory GESS electives”: electives from the range of courses offered by the Department of Humanities, Social and Political Sciences which the Executive Board declared in 1999 as required for all students beginning their studies in Winter Semester 2000/2001 or later.

The Rector,

pursuant to the relevant Executive Board resolution of 7 September 1999 and in connection with Art. 9, Para. 2 of the ETH Zurich Organisational Ordinance of 16 December 2003 (RSETHZ 201.021),

decrees the following:

1. ETH Zurich departments must incorporate the “Science in Perspective” programme of courses into all of their degree programmes as a course unit category. Eight credits must be acquired in this category: normally six during the Bachelor’s degree programme, and two during the Master’s degree programme. It is recommended that students begin attending the respective courses from the third semester of the Bachelor’s programme onwards.
2. Departments whose degree programmes already incorporate compulsory course units in humanities, social and political science subjects may submit a request to the Science in Perspective Teaching Commission for a reduction in the number of required credits (normally eight). The Rector will rule on the request after conferring with the Teaching Commission.

3. At the request of the Teaching Commission D-GESS will rule on incorporating specific course units into the programme. This also applies to course units offered by ETH departments other than D-GESS. The Rector will settle any disagreements between the respective department and D-GESS after conferring with the Teaching Commission.
4. The programme will only incorporate course units which offer a maximum of three credits each.
5. The Course Catalogue lists the elective course units under section “GESS – Science in Perspective”, where it also provides a description of course unit content and lists the requirements for earning the respective credits.
6. The programme’s course units are listed under two types in the Course Catalogue. **Type A** lists all of the programme’s course units. **Type B** lists a selection of course units which in some way facilitate reflection on subject-specific methods and content within individual specialist disciplines. These course units are especially suitable for students of specific departments and are labelled accordingly.
7. Departments may recommend courses with specific emphases to their students, but may not restrict students’ freedom of choice.
8. Language courses from the range of the Language Center of the University of Zurich and ETH Zurich and course units from the ETH “Erziehungswissenschaften” (education) unit may also be recognised towards the “Science in Perspective” course unit category. The following restrictions apply:
 - a. A maximum of three credits from language courses may be recognised. In addition, only advanced courses (level B2 upwards) in the European languages English, French, Italian and Spanish are recognised, and for German language courses level C2 applies. (*See also the transitional provision in 12 (b) below.*)
 - b. Academic achievements earned at ETH Zurich in the context of an additional didactic training programme may be recognised if they involve course units from the ETH “Erziehungswissenschaften” (education) unit which are attended parallel to the Bachelor’s/Master’s degree programme.
9. Students may apply a maximum of three credits from course units in humanities, social and political science earned during a student exchange. Advance approval for this must be obtained from the Director of Studies of the respective degree programme and the Science in Perspective Teaching Commission. The Teaching Commission decides how many credits (a maximum of three) will be allocated to these course units.
10. Students who change degree programmes at ETH Zurich or re-enter ETH Zurich, or students who are admitted to ETH from another university, may have credits from the programme already earned at ETH recognised by the new degree programme if all the prerequisites are satisfied. The details are supplied in the directive mentioned in 11 (c) below.

- 11.** The following enactments also apply:
- a. Ordinance on Course Units and Performance Assessments at ETH Zurich (ETH Zurich Ordinance on Performance Assessments) of 22 May 2012⁽¹⁾
 - b. Ordinance on Admission to Studying at ETH Zurich (Admissions Ordinance ETH Zurich) of 30 November 2010⁽²⁾
 - c. ETH Zurich Executive Board Directive of 18 February 2011 “Restrictions on study programme selection, change of degree programme, re-entry to ETH Zurich and recognition of study achievements”⁽³⁾
- 12.** Transitional provisions:
- a. All credits recognised in the category “compulsory GESS electives” earned before and during Spring Semester 2016 remain valid and may also be recognised towards the category “Science in Perspective”.
 - b. Students who can certify that they earned more than three credits in recognised language courses before and during Spring Semester 2016 may count a maximum of four credits in language courses towards the category “Science in Perspective”.⁽⁴⁾
- 13.** This directive enters into effect on 1 August 2016.
It replaces the directive on compulsory GESS electives of 24 September 2007.

Zurich, 2 June 2016

Rector, ETH Zurich
Prof. Dr. Sarah M. Springman

¹ SR **414.135.1**, RSETHZ **322.021**

² SR **414.131.52**, RSETHZ **310.5**

³ See www.directives.ethz.ch

⁴ The previous stipulations (valid up to and including Spring Semester 2016) regarding compulsory GESS electives stated that a maximum of four credits from qualifying language courses could be recognised. 8 (a) of the current directive decrees that from Autumn Semester 2016 onwards a maximum of three credits from language courses may be recognised.