

CCMX ERU MatLife Educational Program 2009

Financial Support of Master Theses in the field of *Materials for the Life Sciences*

1. Background

The *Competence Center for Materials Science & Technology* (CCMX) of the ETH Domain, founded in 2006, supports research projects and educational programs in Switzerland. For details see: www.ccmx.ch.

One of the CCMX Education and Research Units (ERU) covers the field of *Materials for the Life Sciences* (MatLife, see <http://www.ccmx.ch/erus/matlife/index.html>). **MatLife financially supports Master Theses conducted by students from abroad.** The motivation for this support is to encourage and allow more students from foreign countries to take part in the master programs of ETH Zurich and EPF Lausanne, which otherwise, without financial support, would not be able to do so. It is envisaged that this support will make our schools more international on the level of the master education, positively contribute to a lively, international research group culture and strengthen the educational and research links between our institutions and top foreign universities worldwide. Foreign students that are well supported in a competitive and excellent research environment are the most effective PR for our university and institution. There are many examples where students that were offered such a unique chance by the host university keep a long-term/life-long relationship to that institution. This holds particularly for students from Far East, an increasingly important source of good students dedicated to science and engineering and to hard working.

Also, the experience of research groups has been in the past that students performing a master thesis at our institutions can much better be judged for their personal suitability to conduct a PhD thesis. In this sense, a further aim of this master thesis support program is to serve as a source of top international students for the doctoral school.

2. Eligibility

a) Eligible are students that have successfully made their bachelor or equivalent degree at a foreign university (outside of Switzerland) and who plan to perform their master thesis at (or in association with) either ETH Zurich or EPF Lausanne in the field of the MatLife research activities¹, with submission of the thesis to ETHZ or EPFL, or to the home university of the student.

b) The thesis can be performed at another institution (e.g., PSI, Empa, CSEM) or in industry, if in association with ETH Zurich or EPFL.

c) In the attached form (Appendix “Application for financial support of master thesis”) details about the student’s origin and CV, information on the hosting institution and topic of thesis has to be given.

3. Support

CCMX MatLife will financially support the thesis based on each individual case and a budget that considers funding from other sources as well. The total support should allow the student

¹⁾ see : <http://www.ccmx.ch/organisational-structure/matlife.html>



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to perform his/her thesis in Switzerland in terms of living costs; it is not a salary. Consumables/infrastructure costs have to be covered by the host institution.

In Appendix Application Form (“Financial figures for master thesis support of foreign students”) the corresponding figures have to be provided. **The maximum financial support for a 6 months thesis is CHF 6'000.-**. The funds will be paid to the student in monthly installments once they have started their project.

4. Procedure

a) Student¹ and proposed supervisor(s) (one of whom should be from either the ETH Zurich or the EPF Lausanne) should prepare the application together and send the *application form (fill in the Appendix)* to the Liaison Officer of the MatLife Program (liaison-officer-matlife@mat.ethz.ch) with Cc: to Student Exchange Office for master thesis done at ETHZ or at EPFL² and Cc: to supervisors. **Applications will be considered by the CCMX MatLife upon receipt.**

b) “CCMX-MatLife Master Thesis Support ” – “name of master student” should be added in the mail title.

c) Depending on the country of origin the applicant should take into account time required for visa application (permission to come to Switzerland might take 2-3 months administrative delay). The applicant needs to take contact with the proper administration supported by the administrator of the host laboratory.

d) Confirmation of receipt will be provided by CCMX-MatLife Liaison Officer

e) *Selection of proposals* for CCMX funding are on a first come/first serve basis (limited number per year).

f) The *maximum number of master thesis grants per individual group* (professor) is 3.

g) The funding will be paid directly to the student, after arrival, in monthly installments.

5. Obligations by Master Student and Supervisor after having received grant

a) The final thesis must be sent to MatLife by E-mail as a pdf file (max. 5 MB).

The supervisor has to agree that the thesis will be **published on the CCMX website (<http://ccmx.ch>)** and made available to the general public. **Confidential theses cannot be supported.**

b) **The thesis will be presented as a poster** (by student or supervisor or another person of the supervising team) at one of the CCMX-related conferences when possible (CCMX Annual Meeting, CCMX MatLife/Biosurf International Conference).

c) **MatLife has to be acknowledged in the master thesis** and in any publication that is fully or partly based on the results of the funded master thesis. (Standard acknowledgement: “*This work has been financially supported by the Materials for the Life Sciences Unit of the Swiss Competence Center for Materials Research and Technology of the ETH Domain*”)

6. Inquiry

In case of questions, please send email to liaison-officer-matLife@mat.ethz.ch

/ GC. 31.03.2009

¹ not possible for students from Applied Science University

² Cc. Email Application to Student Exchange Office (http://www.mobilitaet.ethz.ch/index_EN): barbara.schori@rektorat.ethz.ch for master thesis done at ETHZ and eliane.reuille@epfl.ch for master thesis done at EPFL (<http://sae.epfl.ch/>).

Appendix¹: Application form for financial support of master thesis within the CCMX-MatLife Master Program Materials for the Life Sciences

Planned start date: _____

Planned thesis submission date: _____

Application date: _____

Personal data master student:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Photo:</u>			
Email address:				
Phone /mobile phone:				
Nationality:				
Date of birth:				
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">male</td> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">female</td> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> </tr> </table>	male		female	
male		female		
<u>Address:</u>				
Postal code + City:				
Country:				

Annexes: please attach to your PDF application Curriculum Vitae, copy of grades/transcript, motivation letter and photo using the Acrobat "Document Attach a File" option

Home institution (full affiliation):

Receiving institution:

Name:	Name ² :
Department:	Department:
	Supervisor Name (s):
	E-mail:
	Website:



Thesis Project:

Title of thesis:

Keywords (max 5):

Short Description of Planned Research (400 words maximum + attach 2 figures max):

Caption Figure 1

Caption Figure 2

Financial figures for master thesis support of foreign students

Costs	CHF
Travel costs	+
Living costs ³ :	+
Total Costs	
Contributions	
Contribution by home university	-
Contribution by guest university (ETHZ, EPFL)	-
Contribution by other funding sources (e.g. ERASMUS)	-
Total Contributions (without CCMX) in CHF	
Balance = Costs – Contributions in CHF⁴	

Student's signature:

I herewith declare that I have taken note of the obligations by master student and supervisor after having received the CCMX-MatLife grant (point 5 master theses program)

Supervisor's signature:

I herewith declare that I have taken note of the obligations by master student and supervisor after having received the CCMX-MatLife grant (point 5 master theses program)

Compulsory enclosures:

Curriculum Vitae, copy of grades/transcript with details of current and previous education, motivation letter

Liaison Officer to fill in

Final CCMX MatLife support in CHF	+
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In case of questions please E-mail to the CCMX-MatLife Program Coordinator : liaison-officer-matlife@mat.ethz.ch

¹ Tooltips appear when pointer hovers briefly over the form fields

² ETH Zurich, EPFL, Empa, CSEM, PSI

³ Maximum living costs: CHF 9'000 .-

⁴ Maximum CCMX MatLife support for 6 months thesis is CHF 6'000.-