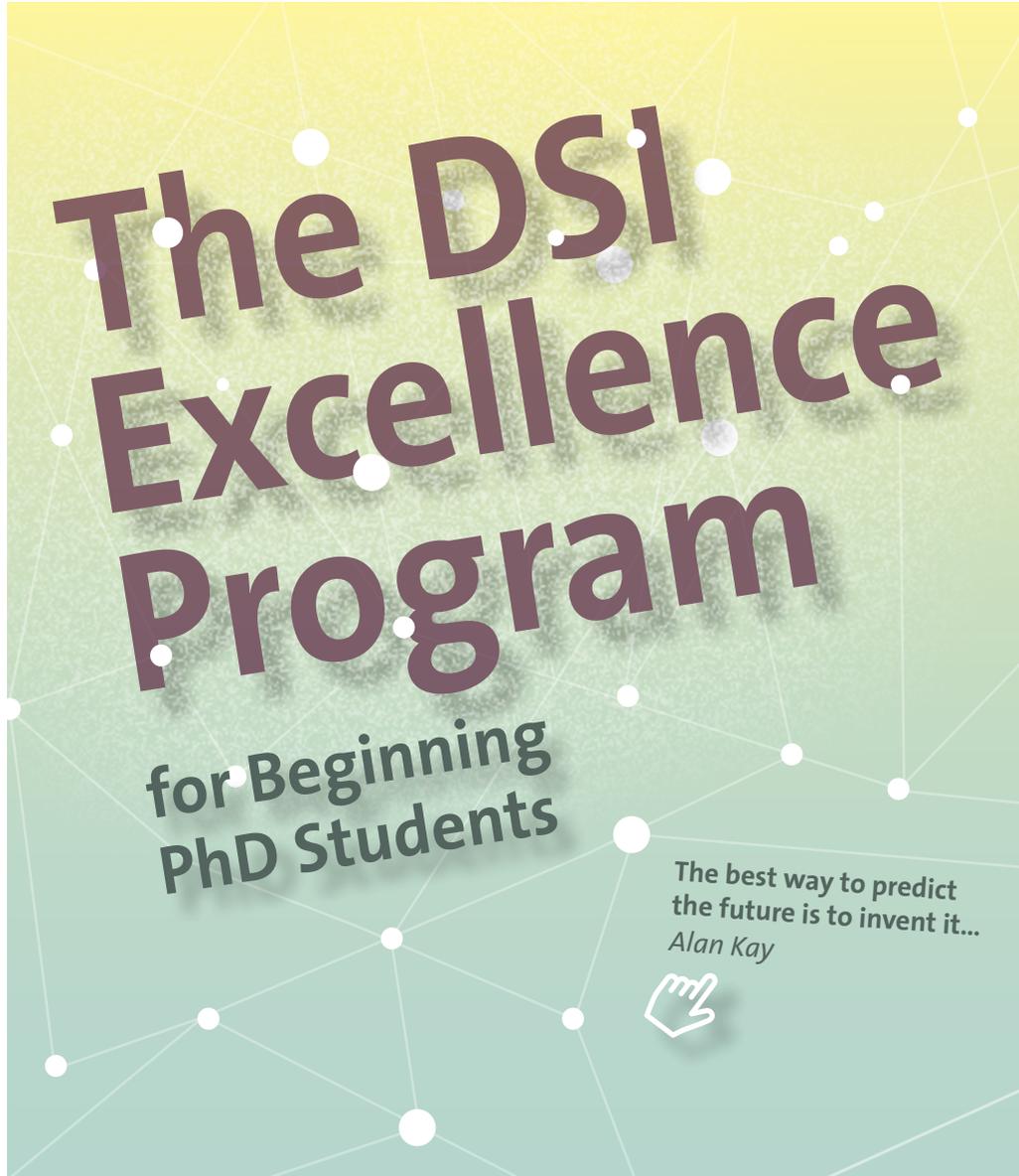




Digital Society Initiative



Digitalization is fundamentally changing science and society. The Digital Society Initiative (DSI) at the University of Zurich (UZH) offers a complementary Excellence Program for beginning doctoral students interested in the digital transformation.

Whom is this for?

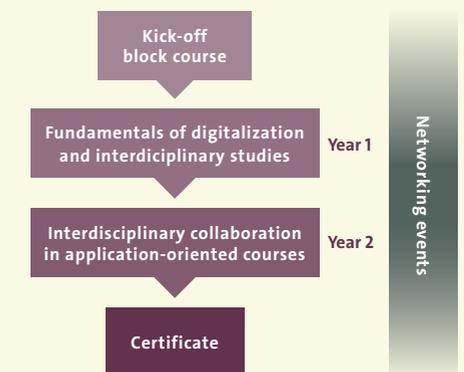
The program is for excellent PhD students of all disciplines committed to building up, deepening and expanding their interdisciplinary thinking and skills including digital competences in a cross-disciplinary environment while gaining their PhD in their home discipline.

Where will this happen?

At the Digital Society Initiative. The DSI is a center of competence for critically reflecting, studying and improving all aspects of the digital society, including the future of communications, democracy, health, mobility and work. Interdisciplinary by its nature, it involves members from all UZH faculties.

What is it exactly?

The DSI Excellence Program is a complementary curriculum for students enrolled in a PhD program. It features interdisciplinary courses about digital skills and technical knowledge, interdisciplinary thinking and problem-solving, and critical reflection on all aspects of a digital society, including ethical, legal and societal aspects of digital change. The Excellence Program is usually completed within the minimum duration of two years and consist of compulsory and elective courses. Participants will receive a DSI Excellence Program certificate upon successful completion.



The DSI Excellence Program in a nutshell



### Program details

The Excellence Program kicks off with a one-week block course before the official beginning of the Fall Semester, followed by block- and semester-courses. The first year focuses on providing the fundamentals of interdisciplinary studies and digitalization. The second year puts the emphasis on application. Course examples include skills in data handling and analytics, legal and ethical aspects of data management, data visualization, and research methods in various disciplines. Participants will collaborate in interdisciplinary teams with complementary competences to tackle research problems in digitalization. Interdisciplinary networking and team building across all UZH faculties is further strengthened by the DSI Fellowship network. Participants are expected to spend at least one day per week in the co-working space of the DSI. Regular events such as the DSI day and DSI summer school support networking during the entire PhD period and are excellent match-making opportunities for doctoral students, senior scholars and professors.

Conforming to UZH regulations, all DSI courses include performance assessments (module exams, presentations, paper writing, etc.).

### Who can apply?

PhD students interested in the digital transformation of society who expect that digitalization will have a significant impact on their PhD research are invited to apply. They should have an excellent academic track record and must be enrolled in a UZH doctoral program. Students at the beginning of their doctoral program are preferred. Applicants must ensure that they can complete the DSI Excellence Program before they finish their doctoral studies. A good command of English is a prerequisite for the DSI program. Applicants looking for a scholarship who are not yet enrolled in a UZH doctoral program can check our other announcement at [www.dsi.uzh.ch/en/students/phd.html](http://www.dsi.uzh.ch/en/students/phd.html)

### How to apply?

To submit your application for the DSI Excellence Program, go to: [www.dsi.uzh.ch/en/students/phd/appl-enrolled.html](http://www.dsi.uzh.ch/en/students/phd/appl-enrolled.html) and follow the described process.

The DSI program starts each Fall Semester. The application deadline for the start in Fall 2021 is **10 December 2020**. Candidates will be notified by **28 February 2021**.

### More information:

[www.dsi.uzh.ch/en/students/phd.html](http://www.dsi.uzh.ch/en/students/phd.html)



### Contact:

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