



Call für DSI Infrastructures and Labs¹

Commission for DSI Infrastructures and Labs²

Introduction

The research program of the «Digitalization Initiative of the Zurich Universities (DIZH)» finances the creation or promotion of infrastructures and labs. The terms «infrastructure» and «lab» are deliberately broadly defined. The focus is on the establishment of jointly usable infrastructures or structural vessels to promote collaborative settings for research that touches upon the idea of digital transformation. The bundling of existing competencies and persons should enable synergies and new forms of cooperation. Examples include regular, purpose-oriented meetings of researchers to jointly develop solutions and the combination of existing infrastructures or the development of new ones that are conducive to interdisciplinary cooperation. However, the call for DSI infrastructures and labs is not aimed at supporting individuals or projects.

Applications for DSI infrastructures and labs are evaluated by a commission² that includes representatives of all University of Zurich faculties and a representative from the office for Strategic Research Platforms of the University of Zurich. The decision of the commission is final. Further information can be found in the **Process** section below.

Applications for DSI infrastructures and labs can be submitted by members of the Digital Society Initiative (DSI) at the University of Zurich (i.e., regular DSI members). Projects with persons from other DIZH institutions (PHZH, ZHAW, ZHdK) are welcomed, but this is not a mandatory criterion for an award. Applicants must be able to provide (at least) the same amount of co-financing to match the funds applied for in the application. The financing period for applications with DSI funds is usually 1 to 2 years, with the possibility of extension. However, long-term financing of infrastructures and labs with DIZH funds is excluded.

¹ The English version of the text is for informational purposes only. If in doubt, the German version is relevant.

² Current members of the commission (as of April 2022) are: Abraham Bernstein (WWF), Thomas Friemel (PhF), Adrian Hehl (Vet-suisse), Titus Neupert (MNF), Maïke Sieler (ThF), Florent Thouvenin (RWF), Thomas Trüb (strategic research platforms), Claudia Witt (MeF); Gabriele Prohaska (DSI: secretary)

Call

Applicants: Full members of the Digital Society Initiative (DSI) are formally eligible to apply. Full members³ of the DSI can be all members of the UZH who are actively involved in issues related to the digitalization of society.

Structure of the application: An application for the creation of a DSI infrastructure or a DSI lab comprises a maximum of 5 pages and must address the following points (a Word template for the submission is available on the DSI website⁴):

- **Content:** The application should outline the goal and purpose of the proposed DSI infrastructure or DSI lab. Those should be related to the applicants' previous or future research projects and to the roadmap⁵ of the University of Zurich's Digital Society Initiative (DSI). It should be shown which advantages result from the proposed infrastructure or lab for the applicants as for other researchers at UZH.
- **Interdisciplinarity:** The application should provide a detailed outline of the interdisciplinary character of the proposed DSI infrastructure or lab. The added value for the interdisciplinary and inter-faculty cooperation created by the infrastructure or the lab must be explicitly pointed out.
- **Budget and matching funds⁶:** DIZH's share of the financing must be matched by at least an equal share. Applicants must indicate this co-financing according to the budget in the application template. The Commission for DSI infrastructures and labs expects the requested funds to range between CHF 40,000 and 100,000 (without possible prolongation applications), but lower or higher contributions are not excluded. Please note, that assets⁷ cannot be funded by DIZH nor can assets be used as matching funds.
- **Partners:** The application should make clear which co-applicants (researchers or institutions of UZH) are responsible for the DSI infrastructure or the DSI lab. The inclusion of project partners from DIZH universities is desirable but not mandatory. The person responsible for the applicant must be a member or institution of the University of Zurich.
- **Criteria for achieving goal and milestones:** The application should make clear which criteria are to be used to measure the success of the planned DSI infrastructure or lab. It should also be shown which conditions for the infrastructure or the lab are already in place. The relevant milestones for the development of the infrastructure or the lab should be presented with a timeline. It should be pointed out which resources are required to reach the different milestones.
- **Duration:** Applications should explain whether or not a long-term perspective is envisioned for the infrastructure or lab, and if so provide details on how this can be secured. Applications have a maximum duration of 2 years. An annual extension is possible if the defined objectives are met, but this is also subject to a competitive procedure.

³ Follow this link to register as a DSI member: <https://www.dsi.uzh.ch/en/research/network/registration.html>

⁴ <https://www.dsi.uzh.ch/en/research/dizh/infrastructure-lab.html>

⁵ The roadmap is available at: <https://www.dsi.uzh.ch/en/about/intro/background.html> (download in the right column at the end).

⁶ For further information see DIZH-UZH Matching Funds and explanations in the budget template <https://www.dsi.uzh.ch/en/research/dizh/infrastructure-lab.html>

⁷ Equipment, installations and infrastructure with a useful life of at least one year and a value above CHF 10'000 are assets.

Additional documents: In addition to the application document, applicants must enclose their CV and research output in accordance with the SNSF guidelines⁸. Depending on the application, other documents (e.g. commitments to use certain infrastructures) may also be enclosed.

Process

Submissions for a DSI infrastructure or a DSI lab will be processed as follows:

1. Applications are submitted by Selectus (<https://www.apply.dsi.uzh.ch/position/11304961>) to the Commission for DSI infrastructure/labs by **June 5, 2022**. These applications will be formally reviewed by the DSI office and, if necessary, the applicants will be contacted.
2. On **July 1, 2022**, the Commission for DSI infrastructures/labs will award the grants. The Commission will make the final decision on the award. In case of outstanding applications that cannot be financed due to the annual budget, applicants can transfer their application to the next call for proposals and be evaluated again.
3. Approved projects must begin no later than **six months after approval**.

A new call for applications will be published each year.

Please contact us for questions: dsi-labs@dsi.uzh.ch

⁸ Available at: <https://www.snf.ch/en/f8TLKrHtiavVbevww/page/funding/documents-downloads/guidelines-cv-research-output-list>