

# Guidelines for CLS Exchange Fellowships

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The Max Planck ETH Center for Learning Systems (CLS) aims to foster cross-institutional collaborations. Therefore, the CLS Exchange Fellowships are intended to support highly motivated PhD students with excellent track records to spend 3-12 months at the other institution, MPI Tübingen/Stuttgart and ETH Zurich, respectively. Candidates have to be at least in the second year of their PhD studies and must be accepted associated PhD Fellows of the CLS.

Given the limited number of CLS Exchange Fellowships available in a given year (4-6 fellowships, depending on the financial resources of the CLS), the fellows are selected in a competitive process to ensure that the best students with the highest potential are chosen.

## Application

Applications need to include:

- a CV including a list of publications, invited talks and awards (if applicable),
- a short research plan (1-2 pages) describing the targeted research during the CLS Exchange Fellowship and outlining the added value of the stay at the host lab,
- letters of support from the doctoral supervisor at the home institution, and the corresponding supervisor at the envisaged host lab at the other institution, respectively. The host letter must confirm that the host will provide the visiting student with an employment contract for the duration of the visit.

Applications are to be submitted via e-mail to the [CLS scientific coordinator](#). The deadline for submission (2-4 deadlines per year) is communicated on the CLS web page (<http://learning-systems.org/>).

## Evaluation

Applications will be assessed against criteria addressing the candidate's scientific aptitude, the quality of the research plan and the expected synergy with the envisaged host lab.

The criteria include:

- previous performance and future potential of the candidate
- competence for the proposed work
- the originality of the proposed research (high risk research is encouraged)
- particular strengths and skills relevant to the host labs
- added value and integration into the host labs

## Time line of the evaluation procedure

week	task
0	Submission of applications
4-6	Assessment of applications by the CLS Steering Board according to pre-defined criteria (see above)
6-8	Decision on the selected fellows
8	Information to the applicants about the final decision per e-mail

## Funding

During the CLS Exchange Fellowships, PhD students will be remunerated through employment contracts, subjected to the rules of the Max-Planck-Society and ETH Zurich, respectively. The CLS will pay for a part of the position, which is matched by the host lab at the Max-Planck-Society and ETH Zurich, respectively.

The duration of the CLS Exchange Fellowships is limited to 12 months. The start date of the CLS Exchange Fellowship can be arranged individually.

The intention is to have a balanced exchange of PhD students between the two institutions, that is to have about the same number of students from MPI Tübingen/Stuttgart and ETH Zurich, respectively, to receive a CLS Exchange Fellowship.