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# ETH Zürich

The Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich or ETH Zürich (ETHZ) is an engineering, science, technology, mathematics and management university. Like its sister institution École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), it is directly subordinate to Switzerland's Federal Department of Home Affairs. ETH Zurich is consistently ranked among the top universities in the world. It is considered the best university in continental Europe. Historically, ETH Zurich has achieved its reputation particularly



ETH Hönggerberg from the south, looking at the five "fingers"

in the fields of chemistry, mathematics and physics. It was founded by the Swiss Federal Government in 1854 with the stated mission to educate engineers and scientists, serve as a national center of excellence in science and technology and provide a hub for interaction between the scientific community and industry.

ETH is not selective in its undergraduate admission procedures. Like every public university in Switzerland, ETH is obliged to grant admission to every Swiss citizen who took the Matura. It also grants entry to foreign students with certain qualifications, but only in specific combinations. Most applicants from foreign countries are required to take either the reduced entrance exam or the comprehensive entrance exam.

There are no obligatory examinations during the first academic year which is divided into two semesters. However, the actual selection process takes place in the summer shortly after the second semester. Students have to pass the Basisprüfung. More than 50% of the students fail the Basisprüfung on first try and many of them choose to drop out after the failure. Education at ETH tends to be theoretically oriented with a high amount of mathematics involved throughout the courses. The main language of instruction in undergraduate (Bachelor) studies is German, while most Master's programmes and doctoral studies are in English.

ETH Zurich has two campuses. The main building was constructed in the 1860s in the heart of the city. As the university grew, it spread into the surrounding quarters. As a result, the Zentrum campus consists of various buildings and institutions throughout Zurich and firmly integrates the ETH in the city. The main building stands directly across the street from the University of Zurich. A new campus was built from 1964 to 1976 on the Hönggerberg in the outskirts of the city.

## The History of the Nobel Prize

The Nobel Foundation was established by Alfred Nobel, the Swedish inventor of dynamite, then known as 'Nobels safety powder'. His will stipulated that the interest from his foundation's capital be divided yearly among five categories to honour outstanding performance in Physics, Chemistry, Medicine, Literature and Peace. The first Nobel Prize award ceremony took place December 10, 1901.

ETH Zurich has association with 21 Nobel Prize winners, who at the time of their awards were engaged as professors at ETH Zurich, or had studied or researched there, and who received the Nobel Prize in recognition of their singular performance. A further 16 Swiss personalities and institutions have been honoured with a Nobel Prize.

### Nobel Prize Laureates of ETH Zurich

|      |           |                                    |
|------|-----------|------------------------------------|
| 1901 | Physics   | Wilhelm Konrad Röntgen             |
| 1913 | Chemistry | Alfred Werner                      |
| 1915 | Chemistry | Richard Willstätter                |
| 1918 | Chemistry | Fritz Haber                        |
| 1920 | Physics   | Charles-Edouard Guillaume          |
| 1921 | Physics   | Albert Einstein                    |
| 1936 | Chemistry | Peter Debye                        |
| 1938 | Chemistry | Richard Kuhn                       |
| 1939 | Chemistry | Leopold Ruzicka                    |
| 1943 | Physics   | Otto Stern                         |
| 1945 | Physics   | Wolfgang Pauli                     |
| 1950 | Medicine  | Tadeusz Reichstein                 |
| 1952 | Physics   | Felix Bloch                        |
| 1953 | Chemistry | Hermann Staudinger                 |
| 1975 | Chemistry | Vladimir Prelog                    |
| 1978 | Medicine  | Werner Arber                       |
| 1986 | Physics   | Heinrich Rohrer                    |
| 1987 | Physics   | Georg Bednorz/<br>Alexander Müller |
| 1991 | Chemistry | Richard Ernst                      |
| 2002 | Chemistry | Kurt Wüthrich                      |

### Recipe for Almost-Vermicelles

*Boil a kumara with your Gschwellti. When cold, peel and grate finely; make sure you take the stringy bits out. Mix with one tablespoon of Drinking Chocolate and some whipped cream (and if you have, a bit of kirsch) - and that's it.*

*I have no tool to get it into worm shape, but it's nice like that, with more whipped cream and maybe meringue... not exactly diet food, but who wants diet food?*

tb