



# UZH Entrepreneur Fellowships BioTech and MedTech

## Guidelines

### 1. What is the UZH Entrepreneur Fellowship?

With the UZH Entrepreneur Fellowships in BioTech and MedTech, the University of Zurich (UZH) provides funding, advice, and support to young researchers in life sciences and related fields who intend to start up a company based on their own research carried out at UZH. The Fellows will be given the opportunity to further develop their technology, product or novel service and to evaluate the potential for the commercialization of such a technology, product or service before founding the company.

### 2. Who can apply?

Eligible candidates for an UZH Entrepreneur Fellowship in BioTech and MedTech

- must either complete their doctoral degree (PhD) in life sciences or related fields at UZH within six months after the application deadline or are currently working as postdoctoral researcher at UZH;
- must submit their project as a single applicant;
- have to be supported by an UZH professor (host professor) who is ready to act as a mentor during the fellowship and will provide the necessary lab space and infrastructure to carry out the project.

### 3. What are the general terms of the fellowship?

- The UZH Entrepreneur Fellowship amounts to CHF 150'000 and is given for a period of 18 months. Fellows are free to decide on how to spend the money (e.g. for their own salary, the employment of co-workers or for consumables) but are expected to work full-time on the project. Salaries are calculated according to UZH standards. Fellows can reduce their own salary (by a reduced level of employment) in order to increase funds for consumables and/or co-workers.
- The project may be co-financed by other means; however, funding obtained or requested from other sources that is related to the project must be declared (see form A2).
- As part of the fellowship and besides their work on the project, fellows take part in the BioEntrepreneurship & Innovation (BEI) Program that conveys the fundamentals of business start-up and management (see 6).



- The rights to the research results gained in the course of work funded by the UZH Entrepreneur Fellowship are owned by the University of Zurich. Any commercial use of such research results by a company is subject to a written license agreement between the University of Zurich and the company. The protection and licensing of the research results is managed by Unitectra (the technology transfer organization of the Universities of Zurich, Basel, and Bern).
- The start of the project must be no later than six months after the fellowship was awarded. Interim reports on project development together with achievements have to be submitted regularly. A final report providing information on finances and project activity has to be submitted within six weeks after the completion of the fellowship.

#### **4. How do I apply?**

Submission deadline is **15 September 2019** (23:59 CET). A next call is planned for spring 2020.

Applications must be written in English and include:

- The filled in application form including a detailed description of the development and the business idea that is based on research results obtained at UZH and is linked to a potential translation into practical application in the area of BioTech or MedTech (form A1);
- The budget plan including the intended utilization of the CHF 150'000 (form A2);
- The CV of the applicant (max. 2 pages), including a brief outline of the career goals;
- A letter of support by a host professor at UZH, stating why and how she/he plans to support the candidate and the project, what infrastructure will be available to the fellow, and how she/he assesses the presented project idea.

Forms A1 and A2 are available at [www.innovation.uzh.ch/entrepreneur-fellowships](http://www.innovation.uzh.ch/entrepreneur-fellowships).

All application documents [forms A1, A2, CV, and support letter] have to be sent as PDF (preferable in one single file) to: **support@innovation.uzh.ch**.

#### **5. Do I have to hand in any consent(s) by the ethics committee and/ or veterinary office?**

If you are planning to perform research on humans or to carry out animal experimentation that requires the consent from the responsible ethics committee or the veterinary office according to law, you must submit a copy of this consent by the start date of your fellowship at the latest.



## **6. How does the review procedure work and what are the selection criteria?**

Applications that comply with the guidelines will be evaluated by a committee, consisting of UZH professors and industry experts along with members from the Technology Transfer Office, the Therapy Development Accelerator (TDA) and the BioEntrepreneurship & Innovation (BEI) Program.

The evaluation process is organized in two steps: At step 1, the committee pre-screens the proposal based on the submitted written documents. The opinion of external experts may be obtained if needed. At step 2, successfully pre-selected applicants are invited for an interview (in English) to present their project and business planning to the evaluation committee. Based on the assessment of the written documents and the oral presentation, the evaluation committee takes the funding decision.

The UZH Entrepreneur Fellowship is awarded based on the following criteria:

- Project is based on scientific results produced by the applicant or towards which the applicant has made a substantial contribution;
- Potential for innovation and economic viability;
- Compelling market opportunity and business case (while this may not be fully determined at proposal stage, a broad outline has to be presented);
- Unique and defensible technology (e.g. existing or envisaged intellectual property protection);
- Personal potential of the applicant (motivation, entrepreneurial spirit).

## **7. Supporting program**

The UZH Entrepreneur Fellows in BioTech and MedTech take part in the *BioEntrepreneurship & Innovation (BEI) Program* organized by the Institute for Regenerative Medicine (IREM). The program aims at developing the fellows' entrepreneurial potential and leadership skills and helps them to establish a network and to connect with potential industry partners.

The fellows are also supported by the *Therapy Development Accelerator (TDA)* that provides professional expertise in project management and business development.

*Unitecra* supports the fellows on commercialization issues, such as the protection of intellectual property (patents, trademarks, copyright), licenses, and the creation of spin-off companies.