

Zug Institute for Blockchain Research (ZIBR)

ZIBR INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

1. Purpose

The ZIBR International Fellowship Program (ZIBR-IFP) offers established and early career scholars the opportunity to strengthen their academic or professional profile through focused research, mentorship and active participation in ZIBR's interdisciplinary research community and to contribute to ZIBR's mission: to investigate the social, legal, political, economic and cultural implications of blockchain and other new digital technologies. Fellows contribute to ZIBR's interdisciplinary research agenda, public outreach, and engagement with academia, industry and policymakers. They benefit from a workplace and the facilities of ZIBR as well as from ZIBR's research network, connections with partners, activities and events.

2. Types of Fellows

There are two categories of fellowships: Research Fellows (with a monthly expense allowance) and Visiting Fellows:

ZIBR Research Fellows

Two calls per year (see section 8 below for submission deadlines), on-site, monthly expense allowance

- a. Senior Research Fellows (> 5 years after PhD)
- b. Research Fellows (< 5 years after PhD)

ZIBR Visiting Fellows

Ongoing call, on-site or hybrid

- c. Visiting Researchers (with PhD)
- d. Visiting Doctoral Researchers
- e. Visiting Professionals (Blockchain Practitioners from Industry and Public Service)

3. Eligibility & Selection

- Researchers from humanities, social sciences, law, economics, health sciences, behavioural sciences and psychology, computer science, and interdisciplinary fields may apply.
- Selection is based on quality of the proposed research, relevance to ZIBR's mission, and potential contributions to the ZIBR community.

- How to apply: see below (sections 8 and 9).

4. Duration & Appointment

- Standard fellowship length: 1–12 months, with possible extension subject to performance and funding.
- Research Fellows are based on-site in Zug, Visiting Fellows conduct their research on-site in Zug or hybrid.
- Accepted Fellows receive an invitation letter outlining expectations, supervision/mentoring arrangements, and access to facilities.
- Research Fellows with a monthly expense allowance will in addition receive a contract signed by a member of the ZIBR Steering Committee (Leitungsausschuss).

5. Research Expectations

- Fellows are expected to actively participate in ZIBR's research community: seminars, workshops, reading groups, policy roundtables and public events.
- Interdisciplinary engagement is strongly encouraged.
- Expected outputs include a lecture, seminar or contribution to ZIBR events and at least one of the following:
 - working paper, academic article or policy brief
 - collaboration on ZIBR publications, datasets or outreach projects
- Fellows must acknowledge ZIBR in all outputs produced during the fellowship.
- Applications and/or participation in the application for competitive third-party funded projects are strongly encouraged.
- Fellows must adhere to the University of Lucerne's standards of scientific integrity, research ethics, and responsible communication of results (see: <https://www.unilu.ch/en/research/scientific-integrity-and-research-ethics/scientific-integrity/>).

6. Resources

- Research Fellows and, if necessary, Visiting Fellows are provided with a workspace at the ZIBR premises in Zug and a ZIBR email address; they have access to
 - ZIBR's research network and connections with partners from academia, industry, authorities and politics,
 - compensation for expenses for activities on behalf of ZIBR according to its expense policy,
 - ZIBR's facilities (internet, library, meeting rooms, podcast studio, et al.),
 - ZIBR's seminars, workshops, reading groups, policy roundtables and public events,

- University of Lucerne's Graduate Academy activities, where applicable.
- Travel and housing are the responsibility of the Fellows. Fellows are also responsible for their own insurance coverage, visa/work permits and taxes.
- Research Fellows receive a monthly expense allowance, which is specified in the contract (see section 4).

7. Reporting & Evaluation

- Mid-term check-ins may be scheduled with the ZIBR Steering Committee or supervising/mentoring ZIBR host.
- At the end of the fellowship, Fellows submit a short report (1–2 pages) summarising activities, outputs and future plans.
- Fellows are encouraged to remain active in the ZIBR network and may be invited to future events, publications or collaborations.
- ZIBR may highlight fellow achievements on its website or in communications.

8. Application procedure for Research Fellows

- Applications for Research Fellowships must be submitted by 30 April or 30 September of each year; in justified cases, applications may also be accepted outside of these deadlines.
- The starting dates and duration of the fellowships will be agreed upon individually.
- The application includes a motivation letter (1 page), a resume (CV), and a research plan; it may include writing samples, published papers, or links to previous work.
- The motivation letter explains why a researcher wants to join ZIBR, how his/her work contributes to ZIBR's mission and what the researcher expects to gain from the fellowship.
- The CV includes academic background, publications, and relevant experience.
- The research plan (max. 4 pages) is aligned with ZIBR's focus on the impact of blockchain and other emerging digital technologies on society, institutions, markets, economy and human behaviour. It outlines:
 - research questions and methodology;
 - expected outcomes (publications, lectures, seminars and other contributions);
 - interdisciplinary aspects, if applicable;
 - collaborations with ZIBR's academic staff;
 - rough schedule and work plan.
- All documents need to be submitted as a single PDF to the fellowship application address (fellows@zibr.ch).
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.

- Shortlisted candidates may be invited to an online interview.
- The decision on the award of a fellowship is taken by the ZIBR Board (Institutsleitung).
- The ZIBR Board designates a ZIBR member as the official host and academic contact point.
- Decisions are typically communicated within 4 weeks following the calls' deadlines or 4 weeks after the submission of the application outside the fixed calls (if justified – see above).

9. Application Procedure for Visiting Fellows

- Applications for Visiting Fellowships are accepted on a rolling basis.
- Applicants apply with a respective chair (directly to their email addresses), and submit at least a motivation letter and a CV.
- The starting dates and duration of the fellowships will be agreed upon individually.
- The decision is taken by the ZIBR Board based on the recommendation of the chair; the decision can be taken by circular resolution if no member of the ZIBR Board opposes.
- The chair who recommended the Fellow assumes the role of the official host and academic contact point.
- Decisions are typically communicated within 4 weeks of submitting the application.

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