

# Unfriendly Behaviour of ETHz Towards Chinese STEM Students

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***Merci pour votre attention à cette situation***

# ETHz restrictions towards Chinese STEM<sup>1</sup> Applicants

Master's degree programmes for which a security screening is required:

<b>D-BAUG</b>	- Civil Engineering - Geomatics - Spatial development & infrastructure systems <i>excluded:</i> <i>Environmental engineering</i>	<b>D-INFK</b>	- Cyber Security - Data Science - Computer Science
<b>D-BIOL</b>	- Biology	<b>D-ITET</b>	- Biomedical Engineering - Electrical Engineering & Information Technology - Energy Science & Technology - Quantum Engineering
<b>D-BSSE</b>	- Biotechnology - Computational Biology & Bioinformatics	<b>D-MATH</b>	- Mathematics / Applied Mathematics - Computational Sciences and Engineering - Statistics
<b>D-CHAB</b>	- Biochemistry - Chemistry - Chemical & Bioengineering Sciences - Interdisciplinary Sciences - Pharmacy - Pharmaceutical Sciences	<b>D-MATL</b>	- Materials Science and Engineering
<b>D-EAPS</b>	- Earth Sciences - Space Systems <i>excluded: Atmosphere &amp; Climate</i>	<b>D-MAVT</b>	- Mechanical Engineering - Micro- & Nanosystems - Nuclear Engineering - Robotics, Systems & Control - Process Engineering
		<b>D-PHYS</b>	- High Energy Physics - Physics

- Wide range of majors
- Basic Science
- CS related
- Hard to specify

# ETHz restrictions towards Chinese STEM<sup>1</sup> Applicants

## Security Screening

The published formal and qualitative standards of the ETH apply as a basic requirement for admission to the Master's programme. In addition, a security screening "sur dossier" (case-by-case examination) is carried out centrally by the Admissions Office in cooperation with the Export Control Office according to the following criteria.

### Central evaluation criteria:

Do the following criteria apply?

1) <b>Previous education</b> relevant to admission at an institution with a security risk (see <a href="#">sanction search</a> <sup>4</sup> or at a military-related organisation from countries that require a security check. The most important relevant institutions of origin are listed in the <a href="#">appendix</a> ).	YES	NO
2) <b>Country of origin</b> (nationality, place of residence) against which an <b>embargo law</b> (sanctions) is in force or <b>Export Control Acts</b> are applicable.	YES	NO
3) <b>Funding</b> through a scholarship from a sanctioned state, through a critical scholarship or exchange programme, or from improper or questionable sources.	YES	NO
4) Application for a <b>Master's degree programme listed above</b> . Is the <b>specialised field</b> concerned subject to increased official supervision ( <b>embargo</b> ) or does it fall under the <b>export control regulations</b> for dual-use goods?	YES	NO

- 2) Chinese
- 4) STEM majors
- Several « YES »
  - **Rejection** ([Master](#))
  - **Recommended to reject** ([PhD](#))

The dossier is checked by the Admissions Office in collaboration with the Export Control Office of ETH Zürich for points 1 to 4. **If there are several YES, the application will be rejected.**

1. STEM: Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics

# Direct consequence

**Chinese STEM applicants  
will have basically no chance  
to be admitted into ETHz**

# Other consequences

## Academically

- ETHz will lose its **competitiveness** by excluding talented Chinese students
- Students will suffer from the decline in **diversity** and **equality**
- Risk of **excessive reliance on national security** concerns for student rejections, towards not only “unwelcomed countries”

## Socially

- More **discrimination** and **isolation** towards minorities
  - E.g. no teaming up with Chinese students, hard to get more data from professors, due to the restrictions

## Politically

- National security?
- Increased tension

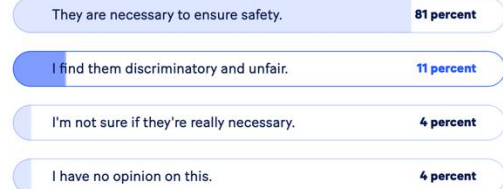
SWI swissinfo.ch

Swiss perspectives in 10 languages

Foreign affairs >

How Swiss universities combat espionage from high-risk nations

### What do you think of the new admission rules of ETH Zurich?



5141 votes

# A bad start for everything

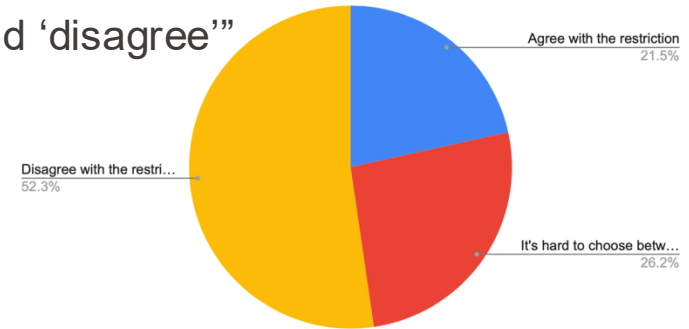
# Opinions from Chinese Students

- **125 response** from Chinese students
  - **123** choose “**Disagree** with the restriction”
  - 2 for “It's hard to choose between "agree" and "disagree”
  - 0 for “Agree with the restriction”
- **Comments from Chinese Students**
  - Unfair
  - Racism
  - Discrimination
  - Swiss Neutrality
  - Innocent students
  - Lose-lose
  - People with Chinese nationality, but never lived in China
  - *It's really hurtful for me to accept the truth that my university is abandoning the principle of diversity and stop accepting students like me.*

# Opinions from non-Chinese Students

- **65 response** from non-Chinese students
  - 34 choose “**Disagree** with the restriction”
  - 17 for “It’s hard to choose between ‘agree’ and ‘disagree’”
  - 14 for “Agree with the restriction”
- Comments from non-Chinese Students
  - Academic freedom
  - Espionage
  - *Scientific knowledge should be borderless.*
  - *I understand the security and industrial theft risks... European countries need to do more to protect themselves against IP theft from China... I'm really not a fan of these racist policies, but I don't know what could be a better alternative.*

(Among Non-Chinese Students) Attitude towards the restriction of ETHz towards Chinese STEM students?



# What Can We Students Do



@ EPFL

- Show care to Chinese students
  - They are innocent students, just like you all
  - Please do not discriminate against them
- Talk about it with your friends
  - Explain what happened
  - Raise awareness

## Final words\*

- *Quand ils sont venus chercher les socialistes, je n'ai rien dit, je n'étais pas socialiste.*
- *Quand ils sont venus chercher les syndicalistes, je n'ai rien dit, je n'étais pas syndicaliste.*
- *Quand ils sont venus chercher les Juifs, je n'ai rien dit, je n'étais pas Juif.*
- *Quand ils sont venus me chercher, il ne restait plus personne pour protester.*
- *First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out — Because I was not a socialist.*
- *Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out— Because I was not a trade unionist.*
- *Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out— Because I was not a Jew.*
- *Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.*

\*Not referring anyone as Nazis



## Chinese Students Need EPFL EPFL Needs Chinese Students

- Egalité
- Diversité
- Responsabilité
- Inclusion
- Bienveillance
- Dialogue

# References

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