

Family allowance

Family allowance is a periodic monetary benefit paid out to help ease the financial burden of having one or more children. It includes child and education allowances. ETH Zurich pays benefits in addition to the statutory family allowance.

Information sheet | January 2024

Family allowance can be claimed for:

- Natural or adopted children
- Stepchildren who live primarily in the home of the step-parent
- Foster children who were taken in without payment and for permanent care
- Siblings and grandchildren whom the person with an entitlement to claim is maintaining

Entitlement

There is an entitlement to family allowance from an income subject to AHV of at least CHF 7,350 per year (CHF 612 per month).

Order of priority for claims

An allowance can be claimed by only one person per child. If more than one person is eligible, the following order of entitlement applies:

- a. the person in gainful employment
- b. the person who is the child's parent/guardian or was until the child reached the age of 18
- c. the person with whom the child predominantly lives or did live until the age of 18
- d. The person entitled to family allowance in the child's canton of residence
- e. The person earning the higher AHV income from gainful employment
- f. The person earning the higher AHV income from self-employment

Types of family allowances

Child allowance

Child allowance is paid from the month of birth until the end of the month in which the child reaches the age of 16, or until the child is entitled to an education allowance.

Education allowance

Education allowance is paid for young people in post-compulsory education. It can be claimed from a minimum age of 15 until the age of 25. Post-compulsory education is any training or education that follows compulsory education.

A young person is considered to be in training or education if they are systematically (at least four weeks) and predominantly (at least 20 hours per week: school lessons, lectures, courses, preparation and follow-up work, self-study, thesis, distance learning, etc.) either preparing for a vocational qualification or acquiring a general qualification that serves as a basis for various professions.

In order to receive an education allowance, the earned income or the replacement income of the child must not exceed CHF 2,450 per month. The gross salary is decisive.

Children who leave Switzerland for educational purposes will be presumed to continue to be resident in Switzerland for a maximum of five years. This period begins at the earliest on reaching the age of 15.

Additional benefits under the Personnel Ordinance for the ETH Domain

If the other parent already receives family allowance from elsewhere, ETH will pay the difference at a level of employment of $\geq 50\%$. In order for HR Operations to assess the claim for a possible top-up payment, it requires a written decision on family allowances from the partner's employer to complete the application process.

For a primary claim, the following ETH rates apply (place of employment Canton Zurich):

Employment on the basis of ≥ 50 % working hours

	Amounts in CHF		
	ETH rate	Rate canton of Zurich	Supplementary contr. from ETH
First child, child allowance	383.80	200.00	183.80
First child, education allowance	383.80	250.00	133.80
Additional child, child allowance until the age of 12	245.05	200.00	45.05
Additional child, child allowance between age 12 to 15/16	250.00	250.00	none
Additional child, education allowance, over the age of 15/16	275.90	250.00	25.90

Employment on the basis of < 50 % working hours

	Amounts in CHF		
	ETH rate	Rate canton of Zurich	Supplementary contr. from ETH
Child allowance until the age of 12	200.00	200.00	none
Child allowance between age 12 to 15/16	250.00	250.00	none
Education allowance over the age of 15/16	250.00	250.00	none

Children living abroad

Family allowance can also be claimed for children living abroad, if provided for under international agreements. This will depend on the nationality of the parents and the children's country of residence.

Children living in the EU/EFTA area

Employees who are citizens of an EU country may receive family allowance for their children if they live in an EU country. Employees who are citizens of an EFTA country may receive family allowance for their children if they live in an EFTA country. HR Operations can check the entitlement to family allowance only if the parent living abroad has already registered the child with the relevant authority in the child's country of residence and applied for family allowance. Please contact in this case beforehand HR Operations.

Children living outside the EU/EFTA area

Only in exceptional cases, family allowance can also be paid for children living abroad. Please contact HR Operations.

Registration

Family allowance is applied for exclusively via [ETHIS](#) (Personal > Personal details > Application for family allowances). The completed form must be signed and sent to familienzulagen@hr.ethz.ch together with the required documents.

For efficient processing of an application, prompt submission is strongly recommended. Family allowances are also paid retroactively.

You can register via [ETHIS](#) or [here](#).

Duty to report changes

Parents are obliged to report to HR Operations without delay any changes to their personal, financial or professional circumstances that could affect their claim to family allowances. Examples of changes:

Civil status changes, start of change of employment of the other parent, change of canton or country, termination and interruptions of any educations, changes of custody as well as changes of income, if the entitlement requirements are altered as a consequence.

Questions and further information

If you have any questions, HR Operations will be pleased to assist you at familienzulagen@ethz.ch.

ETH Zurich
 Vice-Presidency for Personnel Development and Leadership
 Binzmühlestrasse 130
 8092 Zurich

www.ethz.ch/familienzulagen