



University Research Priority Programs (URPP) Fact Sheet Review Panel

January 26, 2023

1. University Research Priority Program (URPP)

Since 2021, the University of Zurich has promoted a third series of University Research Priority Programs (URPP). The URPP create and promote interdisciplinary academic networks in selected focal areas and contribute to advancing knowledge in research fields that benefit society. A URPP is funded with one to three Million Swiss Francs per year. The total duration of a URPP is a maximum of 12 years. Depending on the research focus, the URPP models can be 8 (4+4) years or 12 (4+4+4) years. After three years, the URPP will be evaluated by an international review panel.

2. Purpose and Responsibilities of the Review Panel

For every URPP the Executive Board of the University appoints an external review panel. The purpose of the panel is to provide an assessment on the scientific quality and achievements of the URPP. The panel provides constructive feedback to the URPP and expert opinion for the decision about further financing of the URPP by the Executive Board of the University. The review panel is involved in the following way:

- In early 2024, the review panel will be invited to a site visit (2 days) in Zurich. The visit includes a presentation by the URPP and a discussion with the Vice President Research (a detailed program will be provided prior to the visit, together with all relevant documentation).
- The review panel will prepare a written evaluation report (on site) according to a broad set of criteria, including scientific quality, synergies between research groups, and achievement of objectives. The evaluation is based on the site visits and the following documents: target agreements, progress reports, and development plans.
- The review panel will present the outcomes of the evaluation to the URPP and the Executive Board of the University.
- URPP with a duration model of 12 years: In 2027/2028, the review panel will again be invited to a site visit following the same procedure.

3. Confidentiality

The review panel must treat all information in the context of its function confidentially. The written report of the review panel will only be made available to the Executive Board of the University and the URPP and will be treated confidentially.

4. Conflict of Interest

Before the evaluation, any review panel member must identify potential conflicts of interest. Conflicts of interest can arise if the panel member

- is a partner in a cooperation project with one of the members of the URPP
- has published jointly with members of the URPP during the past five years
- has a close family or personal relationship with members of the URPP
- professionally depends on or competes with members of the URPP

Should any potential conflict of interest arise, please contact the Division Research Development.



5. Reimbursement

The travel expenses of the review panel will be reimbursed. Furthermore, the effort of the review panel will be compensated with CHF 1000 for the site visits and the evaluation report.

6. Contact

UZH Division Research Development

Sandra Volken, +41 44 634 4878, sandra.volken@uzh.ch