



Independent Study

Supervised self-study

1 Guidelines

1.1 Definition

An Independent Study is a graded module of 3, 6 or 9 ECTS credits, which enables you to work intensively on a topic on your own and thus learn how to work independently. If professors can offer Independent Studies (and are then the “responsible person”); there is no right to Independent Studies.

1.2 Time and duration

Normally, an Independent Study is completed in the advanced stages of the BSc or MSc level. The duration of the Independent Study is determined by the responsible person. As a rule, the Independent Study lasts 3 to 6, but not more than 12 months. The performance record must be completed no later than 12 months from the start of the work (as noted on the registration sheet), otherwise the module is considered failed.

1.3 ECTS credits and multiple allocation of the module

Depending on the scope of work of the Independent Study, the responsible person determines in the registration form whether there are 3, 6 or 9 ECTS credits for the module. The Independent Study module can be taken more than once as long as the maximum number of failed attempts or the creditable 12 ECTS credits (maximum 2 Independent Studies per study level) is not exceeded. If you take the module more than once, you can take it more than once with the same or another responsible person.

1.4 Subject and form of the work

You discuss the topic and the form of the work with the responsible person. The work can take different forms, for example a literature study, a small research project, the development of a piece of software, the implementation of an algorithm or the design and execution of an experiment. Normally, an Independent Study is assigned to individual students. In exceptional cases, two or more students may collaborate partially or fully as part of their Independent Studies. The extent to which this collaboration is reasonable and permissible is at the discretion of the responsible person.

1.5 Proof of performance

The form of the performance record is determined by the responsible person, e.g., oral examination and/or written paper. Other products, such as software, may count toward the grade.

1.6 Failure and repetition

A repeated Independent Study can be supervised by another responsible person. There is no claim to a specific person even in the case of a repetition. Whether a new topic must be chosen is at the discretion of the responsible person.



2 Procedure

2.1 Finding a responsible person

If you are interested in doing an Independent Study, please contact the professor of your choice by email.

Usually, Independent Studies are supervised by a professor who already knows you from a previous course or thesis. In this way, the responsible person can ensure that the topic, type and scope of the Independent Study are optimally tailored to you.

2.2 Preliminary discussion

In the preliminary meeting with the responsible person, you will discuss potential topics, the scope and type of implementation, and the performance record for your Independent Study.

The following items must be noted on the registration form:

- Topic of the Independent Study
- Number of ECTS credits (3, 6 or 9)
- Start date

A description of the Independent Study must be submitted together with the registration form.

2.3 Registration

The form "Registration for an Independent Study" must be sent from a UZH email account to studies@ifi.uzh.ch, either by the responsible person or by you (with the responsible person in the CC). Note the "Agreement on the rights to written works and artifacts" on the registration form.

Your Independent Study is considered "officially registered" only once you receive the registration confirmation email from the Study Coordination.

2.4 Evaluation and credit

The performance record must be completed within 12 months from the start of the work (as noted on the registration sheet) at the latest, otherwise the module is considered failed. The ECTS credits will be booked by the Dean's Office of the Faculty of Business, Economics and Informatics, and listed on the next transcript of records.

Independent Studies are eligible for credit in the free elective or in the INF elective.