

Use of the overhead shares of the research teams

Information Sheet of the Executive Board of UniDistance Suisse as of April 17, 2023

General information

Overhead contributions are cost shares of a third-party funded research project that go beyond the financed direct costs of the research group (e.g. personnel expenses, operating expenses, acquisitions) and are intended to cover indirect costs of the university or research institutions. Indirect costs include, for example, infrastructure (e.g. workstations, laptops), laboratory costs, licences, publication contributions and knowledge transfer costs. Personnel costs are not included in indirect research costs.

Overhead contributions are paid by third-party funders to the universities or research institutions and not to individual researchers. Hence, corresponding payments are made directly to UniDistance Suisse. Please note that not all research funding programmes disburse overhead contributions.

The division of Finance at UniDistance Suisse is responsible for controlling overhead contributions. The Vice-Rectorate for Research at UniDistance Suisse has an insight into the reporting on overhead contributions.

Use of the research teams' overhead shares

Ten percent of the overhead contribution paid to UniDistance Suisse by the respective third-party funder goes to the principal investigator(s), who has/have secured funding for the project. This amount will be available for the entire duration of the project and, unlike the operating credits ("Betriebskredit"), is not subject to annual expiry. This part of the overhead contributions is shown separately in an overhead account indicating the Sur-name of the Principal Investigator. The funds can be used according to the rules for operating credits. The principle investigator(s) is/are responsible for the administration of these funds. The use of the funds must be related to the research activities of the funded project.

This regulation comes into force with immediate effect, and retroactively for projects that started in the calendar year 2022 or later.

The Vice-Rector for Research, Prof. Dr Nicolas Rothen