

Promoting start-ups: Pioneer Fellowship

For the development of ground-breaking ideas – for tomorrow's entrepreneurs

The path from an idea to a marketable product is often long and difficult for young scientists. Setting up a company requires not just courage but sufficient start-up capital, a support network and access to essential infrastructure. For this reason, around 10 to 15 Pioneer Fellowships are awarded each year by an expert panel.



Boosting pioneering
ideas

Make a gift

Our goal

ETH Zurich wishes to maintain and expand the Pioneer Fellowship, which is largely funded by donations. This programme gives ambitious young scientists the opportunity to commercialise the results of their research, so that innovative products or services can be brought to market as rapidly as possible for the benefit of society.

Your support enables

- ambitious young researchers to develop entrepreneurial skills
- 10 to 15 Pioneer Fellows a year to receive starting capital as well as coaching and access to infrastructure
- ETH to further expand the programme, allowing even more young entrepreneurs to benefit

[overview of all Pioneer Fellows](#)

[explore the impact report 2025](#)



“I want to help turn research into applied innovation.”

Evelyne Pflugi

CEO of The Singularity Group and donor



“The Pioneer Fellowship led me along a successful path to an entrepreneurial career. Having a relationship with ETH is important to me, which is why I’m happy to support the university and its next generation of innovative founders today.”

Vincent Forster
Co-founder Versantis



Your contact

Valérie Mazza-Heller

T +41 44 632 63 78

valerie.mazza-heller@ethz-foundation.ch

<https://ethz-foundation.ch/en/projects/topics/entrepreneurship/pioneer-fellowships/>

PDF exported on 12/22/2025 13:21

© 2025 ETH Zurich Foundation