

Excellence Scholarships

For outstanding emerging talent. For business, science and society

Our country relies on first-class professionals. The Excellence Scholarship & Opportunity Programme (ESOP) encourages outstanding young people from Switzerland and around the world to complete their Master's degree at ETH Zurich. The scholarship allows them to develop to their full potential and achieve excellence, from which society as a whole benefits.



Shaping the success paths of
outstanding talents

[Make a gift](#)

Our goal

The Excellence Scholarships enable selected, outstanding Master's students to focus fully on their studies and research - a highly persuasive argument in the international competition to attract the most talented students.

This support, however, is not just an investment in talented individuals, but advances society as whole. As the career paths of former scholarship recipients show, they have excellent prospects of holding key positions in business, science or politics, or founding their own companies. In this way, the Excellence Scholarship Programme

is not only a targeted promotion of young talent, but also has a lasting positive impact on innovation in Switzerland and beyond.

The programme is fully funded by donations. The goal is to award at least 50-60 scholarships per year through a highly competitive selection.

Your support enables

- ETH Zurich to attract highly talented students to its Master's programmes;
- the best possible development of potential by enabling the scholars to pursue their scientific interests, network across disciplines and motivate one another to achieve great things;
- Switzerland, as a centre for knowledge and business, to maintain an internationally leading position in the future.

Good to know: around three-quarters of the foreign scholarship students remain in Switzerland after completing their degree. They work and pay taxes and insurance. This means that the amount invested in them flows back into society after an average of three years.

[explore the impact report 2025](#)

[all Excellence Scholars](#)



“The Excellence Scholarships encourage exceptionally talented individuals to live up to their full potential – with their outstanding achievements benefiting society as a whole.”

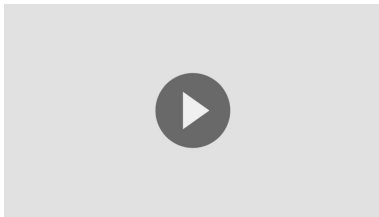
Professor Günther Dissertori
ETH Rector and ESOP patron

Portrait

The two Excellence Scholars and friends Noa Bernasconi and Diego Bernasconi both studied materials science at ETH Zurich.

In the video portrait, they share insights into their research work and talk about what particularly fascinates them about their field.

Video



Explore more video portraits

This short video series of ETH gives a somewhat different insight into everyday life as a student. It provides an account of students, their setbacks and how they dealt with them. The portraits also feature Excellence Scholars talking about their experiences.

David Oort Alonso

Carla Ferradini

Agon Besimi

Sally Liu

Georgette Weingärtner

Katrin Jodocy

Excellence Scholars 2025



In September, 52 Excellence Scholars began their Master's degree programs at ETH Zurich.

© ETH Foundation / Hannes Heinzer

Students who would like to apply for a scholarship can find all information on ETH Zurich's [student portal](#).



Your contact

Isabelle Herold

+41 44 632 60 61

isabelle.herold@ethz-foundation.ch

<https://ethz-foundation.ch/en/projects/topics/talents/esop/>

PDF exported on 05/29/2026 19:48

© 2026 ETH Zurich Foundation