

# The joy of giving back



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From scholarship recipient to donor and champion of young talent: more and more Excellence Scholars are becoming supporters of the programme themselves shortly after completing their studies, perpetuating the encouragement they received. We present a few of those former Excellence Scholars here.

## Andrei Poenaru

*Romania, Computer Science*

Since receiving the Excellence Scholarship in 2015 and earning my Master's degree I have been working for Google in Zurich, currently as a Senior Software Engineer.

What I would still like to achieve is to realise my entrepreneurial ambitions.

I donate to the programme because ETH and the scholarship represented a terrific opportunity for me and I would like to see others receive that potentially life-changing chance as well.



## Fabio Widmer

*Switzerland, Mechanical Engineering*

Since receiving the Excellence Scholarship in 2015 and earning my Master's degree I have gone on to become a doctoral student at the Institute for Dynamic Systems and Control at ETH and am aiming to develop intelligent thermal energy management software for a prototype trolleybus.

I donate to the programme because I would like to enable others to enjoy the experiences I had. The community of scholarship students was unbelievably valuable to me



## Denitsa Baykusheva

*Bulgaria, Chemistry*

Since receiving the Excellence Scholarship in 2012 and earning my Master's degree I have completed a doctorate in the Laboratory of Physical Chemistry at ETH. I'm currently a postdoc in the Department of Physics at the University of Harvard.

I donate to the programme because I was only able to study at ETH because of the scholarship. My time at ETH moulded me as a scientist and as a person. Today I'm a donor myself because I want to take the opportunity to give something back to ETH.



## Redona Hafizi

*Albania, Medicinal and Industrial Pharmaceutical Sciences*

Since receiving the Excellence Scholarship in 2016 and earning my Master's degree I've been studying for a doctorate in pharmacology at the University of Bern.

What I would still like to achieve is to work in the pharmaceutical industry, at the interface between science and management.

I donate to the programme because ETH gave me so much: a great environment in a new country and insight and experiences that are simply priceless. I'll never be able to repay the debt I owe my alma mater.



## Mauro Salazar

*Switzerland, Mechanical Engineering*

Since receiving the Excellence Scholarship in 2012 and earning my Master's degree I have completed a doctorate at ETH and spent a year as a postdoc in the Autonomous Systems Lab at Stanford University. In April 2020 I was appointed assistant professor at Eindhoven University of Technology.

What I would still like to achieve is to contribute to a zero-emissions society through my research into intelligent mobility systems. On the teaching side, I not only want to pass on "state-of-the-art" knowledge to prospective engineers but teach them about human values too.

I donate to the programme because I am aware how important it is for ETH to attract and support talented and creative students.



Tamara Eicher

*Switzerland, Pharmaceutical Sciences*

Since receiving the Excellence Scholarship in 2014 and earning my Master's degree I have worked in a pharmacy. Today I am employed as a scientific officer for sterile production in the Cantonal Pharmacy in Zurich.

What I would still like to achieve is a leading position in the pharmaceutical industry

I donate to the programme because I was very glad for the support during my own studies. Because I completed my education at a later age, I had to cover my own living expenses.



<https://ethz-foundation.ch/en/spotlight/news-2021-esop-wb-joy/>

PDF exported on 05/19/2026 13:11

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