



Your support for new talent: Impact Report 2023

Funding outstanding young
researchers. For science, industry
and society.

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Many thanks!

Like you, dear donors, we're convinced that promoting our young researchers to the best of our ability is the key to unlocking the myriad solutions needed to meet the major challenges of our times. After all, brilliant minds have the potential to fire our society's powers of innovation, ease the shortage of skilled workers and provide responses to numerous issues, including sustainability and the climate. Supporting young researchers is therefore not simply an investment in individual minds and ideas at ETH Zurich but an investment in the future of our present generation, and of generations to come.

Such support enables students like Excellence Scholar Luca Schaufelberger to seek ways of improving solar cell efficiency (p. 14), ETH spin-off Planted to conquer the Swiss and European retail markets with its revolutionary pea protein, and former scholarship holder Giulia Amos, now a doctoral student, to break new ground in neuroscience (both p. 20).

Providing direct resources to promising students and young entrepreneurs would not be possible without philanthropic funding. We and the young beneficiaries are most grateful for your trust – and will do our utmost to ensure that it bears rich fruit.



Günther Dissertori
Rector



Vanessa Wood
Vice President for Knowledge
Transfer and Corporate Relations

By funding new talent at ETH Zurich, you support ...

... outstanding Master's students from Switzerland and abroad:
Excellence Scholars

Our country depends on first-class specialists. By attracting exceptional young people from Switzerland and around the world to study for a Master's degree at ETH Zurich, the Excellence Scholarship & Opportunity Programme (ESOP) is an essential instrument in the competition for the world's greatest talent. Each year, the scholarships are awarded to students ranking among the top two to three percent of their year. They receive a scholarship of CHF 48,000, which covers their study and living costs during their entire Master's programme. Due to the increasing number of students, the demand for Excellence Scholarships has grown: the goal is to be able to award 60 Excellence Scholarships per year.



... bright minds with limited financial resources:
needs-based scholarship holders

For some young people, the dream of studying at ETH is only possible with a scholarship. Around 400 people are supported in this way every year, the requirements being that they provide regular proof of their academic progress and that they complete their studies within a reasonable period of time. The ETH needs-based scholarships ensure that no one is excluded from studying at ETH on the basis of their financial situation if they have all the necessary qualifications. This is all the more important as ETH studies are time-consuming and often do not allow students to pursue a part-time job. Society as a whole benefits from the programme because it enables more highly qualified and sought-after specialists to be trained.

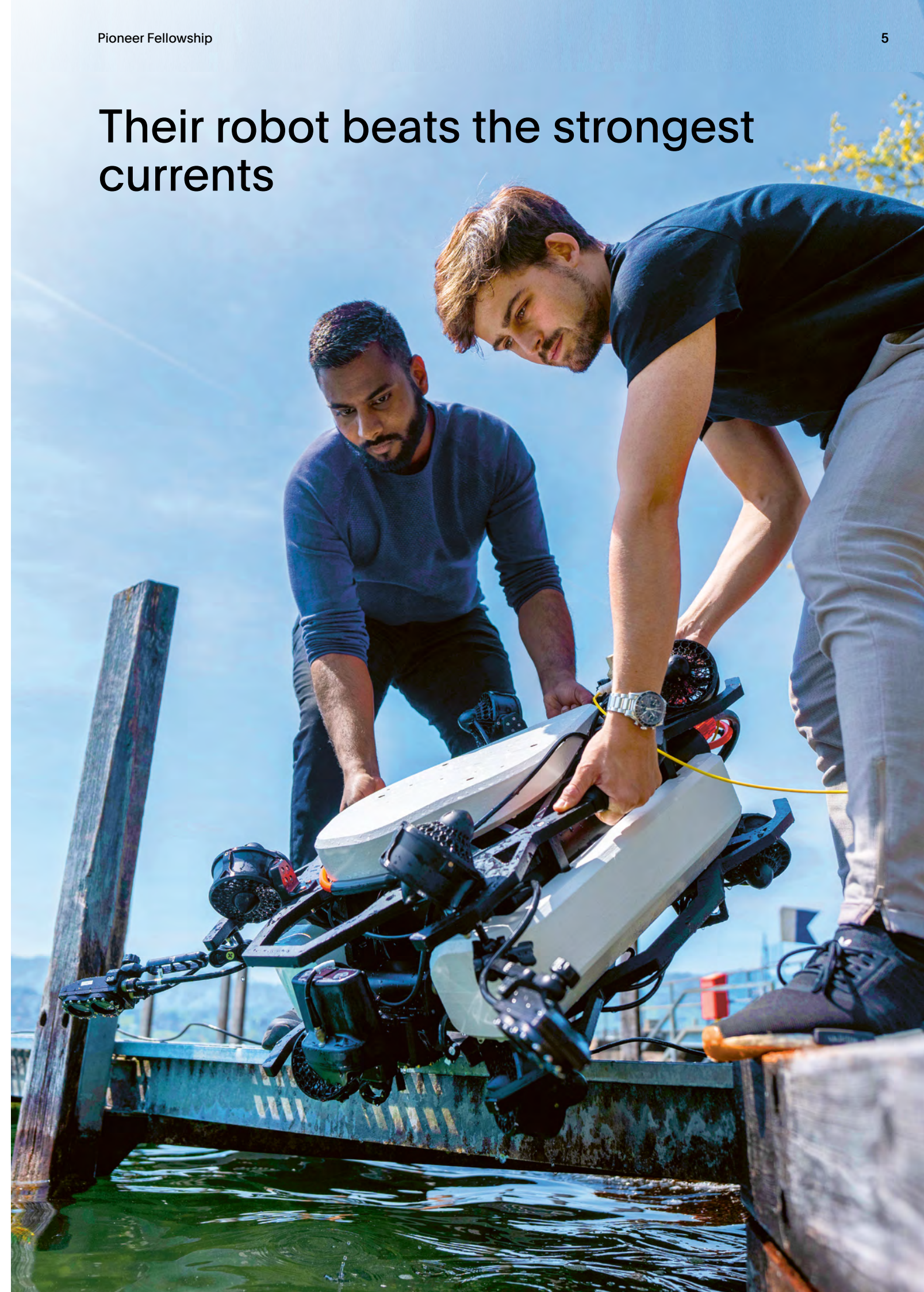


... budding young entrepreneurs with drive and ambition:
Pioneer Fellows

For young scientists, it is often a long and rocky road from the initial idea to creating a marketable product. After all, setting up your own company requires not only courage but also sufficient seed capital, a strong network and access to urgently needed infrastructure. That is why a jury of experts awards 10 to 15 Pioneer Fellowships every year. ETH Zurich would like to further expand the programme so that even more young ambitious researchers can receive up to CHF 150,000, coaching sessions and the opportunity to develop their research to the point of commercial application. The aim is to bring highly innovative products and services of societal value to market as quickly as possible.



Their robot beats the strongest currents





Jonas Wüst and Pragash Sivananthaguru met on account of their shared fascination for robots. In the meantime, business partners at home and abroad have shown interest in the two ETH Zurich graduates' underwater drone.

"At the beginning, we didn't think that the project could one day become a company. We just wanted to build a robot," says mechanical engineer Jonas Wüst. It was an acquaintance who brought electrical engineering student Pragash Sivananthaguru on board. When it came to deciding what kind of robot to build, they quickly saw the advantage of designing a system for underwater use as robotics wasn't yet as advanced here as in other fields. After deciding to register for the world's largest student underwater robotics competition, the clock started ticking and life became rather stressful for the students who were still doing their Bachelor's at the time. Pragash Sivananthaguru remembers: "During the day we studied and at night we tested our prototypes in the Bungertwies indoor swimming pool close to ETH."

At the competition in the USA, the ETH team landed in the top ten. "Taking part in a competition right at the beginning of the project was a good stress test for the team – and we definitely passed," Jonas Wüst says. This motivational boost was soon followed by another when they were contacted by the army: the unit responsible for explosive ordnance disposal and

mine action were looking for a solution to salvage people and objects from murky or dangerous waters without endangering divers. After two years of collaboration, the Proteus prototype, originally designed for pool environments, was handed over to the new partner in May 2022. It has been in operation ever since and its inventors receive valuable feedback on a regular basis.

Robotics needs time

The research for their robot is complex and Jonas Wüst is convinced that it wouldn't have been possible to get this far without ETH backing. For one, they have benefited from working in ETH Professor Roland Siegwart's lab in an environment that has long been conducting research in this field, albeit for applications in the air. Secondly, they have been able to incorporate findings from around 20 semester, Bachelor's and Master's papers into their designs. "A lot of innovative thinking has come together," Jonas Wüst says. They are currently in the process of applying for a patent. Since September 2022, the project has been funded by an ETH Pioneer Fellowship, a programme made possible by donors that helps support researchers with entrepreneurial ambitions commercialise their innovations by providing seed funding, access to infrastructure, and further training. Named after a Greek goddess of the sea, the start-up is called Tethys.

From the Rhine in Basel to the North Sea

Which markets do the young entrepreneurs, both born in 1996, have their sights on? First of all, the search and rescue market where potential customers would include military units, as mentioned, and the police. After the Second World War, for example, thousands of tonnes of ammunition were dumped in Swiss lakes. The job of defusing and salvaging them is dangerous for divers, but ideal for the underwater robot. Another future application for Proteus could be in strong currents. "We recently carried out tests in the Rhine in Basel. Diving there is extremely strenuous. Humans are not made for that," Jonas Wüst explains.

Yet the underwater robot finds its way even in poor visibility as the ETH team has developed algorithms that can reconstruct maps from the data captured by acoustic sensors. If it drifts, the robot can quickly correct itself, again thanks to a sophisticated algorithm. Recently, the two researchers were even contacted by potential partners in Norway. Munition often also lies on the seabed of the North Sea where offshore wind turbines are to be built. Clearing these areas has always been very expensive, but Proteus, equipped with metal detectors, could do a good job here as it is not thrown off course by tidal currents.

In the longer term, Tethys also has its eye on the market for underwater infrastructure inspections: once wind farms are built, they need to be checked regularly for damages such as rust. Because of its hydroelectric infrastructure, Axpo is also interested in the start-up.

Technical expertise alone is not enough

The next milestone for the Tethys team is to convert the prototype into a product that can be manufactured at a reasonable cost. The robot is likely to cost a six-figure sum, although the price will depend heavily on the respective customer's specifications. On the software side, the team is working on designing a usable interface for their customers. This doesn't worry Jonas Wüst: "Technically, we're well positioned. What we have to work on is winning new customers and building new partnerships, with everything this requires. That will mean looking for additional funding."

A jump in at the deep end is how Jonas Wüst describes his experience of making the step from researcher to entrepreneur: "We're still learning, but now we at least know what there is to learn." The various forms of support at ETH, such as the Student Project House, and especially the contact with other start-ups, have been of great help. When asked about the planned Centre for Students and Entrepreneurs, which would bring initiatives created by students and entrepreneurs under one roof, Jonas Wüst says: "Something like that would definitely be important!"

Young entrepreneurs currently receiving funding

Yvan Bosshard
and Tiago Salzmänn

peakFlow: putting the “smart” into smart infrastructure

Using energy intelligently and reducing an infrastructure’s energy consumption not only reduces the operator’s costs, but also makes a significant contribution to achieving a climate-neutral future. But this requires precise details on its everyday consumption. The technology designed by peakFlow makes this possible: innovative infrared sensor technology is used to collect extensive context-related data about an infrastructure, enabling its energy consumption to be optimised accordingly.

Talking with donors at Meet the Talent 2023: the young peakFlow entrepreneurs.

Nevena Paunović
(Pioneer Fellow)
and David Klein
Cerrejon
(Co-Founder)

Transire Bio: removing the pain from administering medicines

Today, numerous diseases can only be treated by means of painful injections instead of administering the medication in tablet form. This is because the active substances in the medicine cannot pass through the intestinal mucosa or are simply digested. With Pioneer Fellow Nevena Paunović’s technology, patients can apply small patches to the inside of their cheek. From here the medication is delivered into the body more effectively: compared to a tablet, the absorption of the medicine is increased by up to 150 times.

Paulius Viskaitis
(Pioneer Fellow)
and Dane Donegan
(Co-Founder)

SmartVNS: personalised rehab for stroke patients

SmartVNS is a portable, non-invasive brain stimulation system for post-stroke rehabilitation. It is intuitive to use, speeds up recovery and reduces costs. The technology will enable therapists to perform quantitative assessments and stay in continuous contact with their patients via remote access, allowing patients to benefit from state-of-the-art neuroscientific rehabilitation at home.

Fabian Schmid
(Pioneer Fellow)
and Murielle Schreck
(Co-Founder)

qCella: heating textile products more easily and cost-effectively

Whether for car seats, clothing or heat wraps, Fabian Schmid and Murielle Schreck have developed a new type of heating mat. It is made from natural fibres like paper impregnated with copper. Thanks to the composite of conductive copper and electrically insulating cellulose, the mats have the proper electrical resistance over the entire surface and heat up evenly. They can be cut into any shape and are easy to integrate into the end product.



Natanael Lanz

Chiral: for next generation transistors

Transistors are now key components in quantum processors, IoT sensors and computer chips. Natanael Lanz is convinced that integrating nanomaterials into transistors is the key to future progress: although such nanotransistors are more powerful, their production has so far been a slow and laborious manual process. Chiral’s ability to integrate nanomaterials into transistors fully automatically will enable high-quality nanotechnology to be manufactured on an industrial scale.

David Stark

QCSEL: surface emitting infrared laser for gas measuring instruments

Quantum cascade lasers can be used to measure many gases in the mid-infrared range with precision. Their field of application ranges from medical diagnostics and environmental sensors to industrial process control. David Stark is developing the Quantum Cascade Surface Emitting Laser, which can be produced in large volumes at comparatively low cost. Because it also generates relatively little heat, it is easy to integrate into portable applications.

Alexandre Anthis

AnastoSEAL: a smart patch that prevents surgical leaks

Every year, up to 14 million people worldwide undergo abdominal surgery. The tissue is sewn together or closed with staples. In about ten percent of cases, this suture breaks after the operation, allowing gastric or intestinal fluid to penetrate the surrounding tissue which is often life-threatening. AnastoSEAL is a suture and staple sealing patch that remains adhered under the harshest conditions.



Julia Carpenter

Apheros: metal foams for efficient cooling

With up to six per cent of global energy consumption being required to cool electronic devices by 2030, more efficient cooling systems are called for. Apheros produces metal foams for cooling solutions that have an extremely large surface area and high levels of thermal conductivity. This renders them three times more efficient than current cooling solutions. In addition, the foams have properties that make them interesting for a variety of other applications such as electrodes and catalyst substrates.

Success since the launch in 2010

More than
120 Fellowships
awarded

More than
70 companies
founded
by Fellows



Infected by optimism

Some things are made for each other: like the Ernst Göhner Foundation and the talented researchers at ETH it chooses to fund. Patricia Kopp gives us the background story.

Who was Ernst Göhner?

Ernst Göhner was born into simple circumstances in 1900 and was still young when, due to his father's early death, he took over the family's carpentry and glazing business in Seefeld, Zurich. He turned it into a huge company that operated as a general contractor and a pioneer in prefabricated construction. Ernst Göhner lived modestly and did a lot of good with his fortune during his lifetime, including setting up his foundation in 1957. He was a philanthropist and wanted, among other things, to support as many young people as possible and fuel their burning passion.

What does the Ernst Göhner Foundation support today?

We support four areas: culture, environment, social affairs, and the combined field of education and science. All funding areas are equally important, but of course I find "my" subject the most interesting (laughs). It's very diverse and includes education and training, vocational training, young entrepreneurship and research. From lectures at schools to complex research projects, there's room for everything.

How do you see the relationship between the Ernst Göhner Foundation and the ETH Foundation?

Switzerland is dependent on innovation, which is why we work with ETH Zurich and other universities. Due to the inherent complexity of some of the topics addressed by the universities, it's important that we can count on a

bridge builder between us and the institution. From the funding projects available at ETH, the ETH Foundation makes a pre-selection for us, which is very helpful: thanks to the many years of working closely together, we can rely on a good alignment between the projects they propose and our foundation's purpose.

Your foundation is currently supporting the project led by young entrepreneur Julia Carpenter – why do you see it as promising?

I think her idea of using ultra-porous metal foams to cool electronic devices is as ingenious as it is simple. After looking at her documentation, I wanted to visit the materials scientist in her lab so that she could show me how the metal foam is made and processed. Julia's palpable passion and the enthusiasm displayed by her team were totally infectious. It's clear to us that her invention will find extremely useful forms of application.

We had the pleasure of welcoming you among our guests at this year's Meet the Talent event – what impression did the talented beneficiaries leave on you?

I remember the three speakers as particularly multi-faceted individuals. It was interesting to learn how they'd come up with their ideas, what they'd already done and what goals they were pursuing. Their optimism and enthusiasm put a spring in my step as I made my way home. I think that many more people should get involved and attend such events. It changes the way you look at what's happening in the world today and makes you aware that alongside the many crises and challenges we all face, there are also many talented young people out there working to change things for the better.

"We're connected to ETH by a long-standing partnership based on mutual trust."

Patricia Kopp, responsible for Education and Science at the Ernst Göhner Foundation



The headquarters of the Ernst Göhner Foundation are located in the Villa Stadlin in Zug. The foundation acquired the culturally and historically significant building in 2007 and proved itself a cultural benefactor in its treatment of the building's historic fabric.

Many thanks!

Talented individuals at ETH Zurich receive substantial backing from committed private individuals and partners. We would also like to thank all those supporters who are not mentioned by name but who, together, have enabled great things to happen.

The joy of giving back

71 former Excellence Scholars and

11 former Pioneer Fellows are now ETH donors.

Pioneer Pledge

With a Pioneer Pledge, young entrepreneurs from ETH Zurich make a non-binding pledge to engage in philanthropic activity for ETH. Founders like Lukas Böni from Planted or Michael Hagander from Microcaps thereby declare their support for an interconnected and sustainable start-up scene at ETH.

“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 of Versantis

ETH biotech spin-off Versantis was acquired by Genfit in 2022.

Companies

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Albers & Co AG
Artemis Holding AG
Biotronik
BKW
E2A
Glencore
headcount AG
Huawei Technologies
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Palmary Foundation
SCS Swiss Child Support Foundation
Stavros Niarchos Foundation
Stiftung zur Unterstützung und Förderung Begabter
SWF Stiftung für wissenschaftliche Forschung
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In remembrance

Bequests, legacies and funeral donations:

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Spickenreuther Fonds
Hans Ulrich Würglar (d.)
(d.) deceased

Many thanks to all other 6000 donors and partners.



Science and its social impact

Excellence Scholar Luca Schaufelberger belongs to a new generation of researchers campaigning for their work to be embedded in society.



"As young researchers, we have a responsibility towards society. The knowledge we generate doesn't float in a vacuum." Luca Schaufelberger is a lively conversation partner who picks up a notepad to illustrate his explanations and knows how to break down complex issues. This ties in with his involvement with Reatch, an association that promotes constructive dialogue between science and politics, and whose relevance was highlighted by the recent Corona pandemic and energy supply crises.

For closer scrutiny of AI

The fact that the Excellence Scholar is able to get involved with Reatch alongside his ETH studies is due to the freedom the scholarship gives him. As he sees it, political communication at universities in future should be viewed as part of everyone's work alongside research and teaching – from doctoral students to professors. It is therefore essential to train researchers in the applicable skills and their understanding of the Swiss political system. Too much information or a lack of target group awareness are common mistakes that researchers make when speaking outside their community. In accordance, Reatch organises bootcamps that offer skills training for researchers. This year's camp at ETH Zurich was fully booked.

One of Reatch's latest proposals is to establish a monitoring process in the field of artificial intelligence (AI): "AI opens up endless possibilities, but what risks does it harbour? There's currently a lack of reliable data available to serve as a basis for political decision-making." The proposal suggests that in order to avoid flying blind, problems such as misdiagnoses or power outages that can be traced back to AI should be reported to a central hub.

A breakthrough in solar cells?

Luca Schaufelberger's affinity to politics is no coincidence: his father, a mathematics teacher, was a member of the Zofingen executive board and there was plenty of political discussion at home. Nevertheless, he says quite clearly: "I'm a scientist at heart. I love to solve scientific problems." It's important to Luca Schaufelberger to be able to forge his own path,

which is why he chose the interdisciplinary sciences degree programme. On this programme, students initially study mathematics with the mathematicians, physics with the physicists and chemistry with the chemists. But in the second year they can already put together their own combination of subjects.

In his Master's thesis, the young researcher – who already has several awards to his name – is currently attempting to design new materials on the computer with the aim of increasing solar cell efficiency: "Today's solar cells waste energy. Theoretically, for some of the light used, the amount of electricity generated could be doubled. Researchers have been working on this since the 1960s but have always lacked the right materials for their applications. Luca Schaufelberger is now using recently gained understanding of the physical and chemical properties of materials as well as advances in machine learning to identify potential new materials which can then be tested in the lab at a later stage. He plans to continue pursuing his passion for research with a doctorate in ETH professor Kjell Jorner's Digital Chemistry group.

By the way: if, like Luca Schaufelberger, you like to consider the social implications of scientific innovation, he has a reading recommendation for you: *Stories of Your Life and Others* by Ted Chiang, a science fiction short story collection for anyone interested in how our world works and how it could work.

Success of Excellence Scholarships

2007 to 2022:
over 643 outstanding students funded

Front runners:
Departments of Mechanical and Process Engineering (105), Information Technology and Electrical Engineering (69) and Computer Science (67)

"Quality is everything"

Before a young person with talent is awarded a scholarship or fellowship from ETH, they must first cross the hurdles of a multi-stage selection process. Professor Lorenz Hurni, long-standing Vice Rector for Study Programmes at ETH, provides insight into how the process works in the case of Excellence Scholarships.

As Vice Rector for Study Programmes, you chaired the ESOP Commission for five years. What does it do exactly?

After the almost one thousand applications have been reviewed and prioritised by the departmental admissions committees of the respective degree programmes, the ESOP Commission is tasked with drawing up an overall nominations list. Each prioritised dossier is then reviewed once more by two people on the basis of the following criteria: potential and motivation, quality and originality of the project proposal, exceptionality, and special qualities. Our eleven-member commission is made up of professors from different fields, two students and two doctoral students, as well as the Head of International Affairs. The varying complementary perspectives are very enriching and raise the quality of the selection.

When does the Commission not follow a department's proposal?

Often the departments find themselves in a quandary because they receive a higher number of excellent applications than their

quota of scholarship places. In rare cases, we adjust their rankings if, in addition to a candidate's performance track record – which is at a similarly top level for all – someone stands out thanks to a particularly interesting profile or special effort, for example. In the end, when a selection must be made between two multi-talented people of equal standing, origin can also be the deciding factor. We then tend to give a chance to someone from a disadvantaged background who would otherwise not be able to afford to study at ETH.

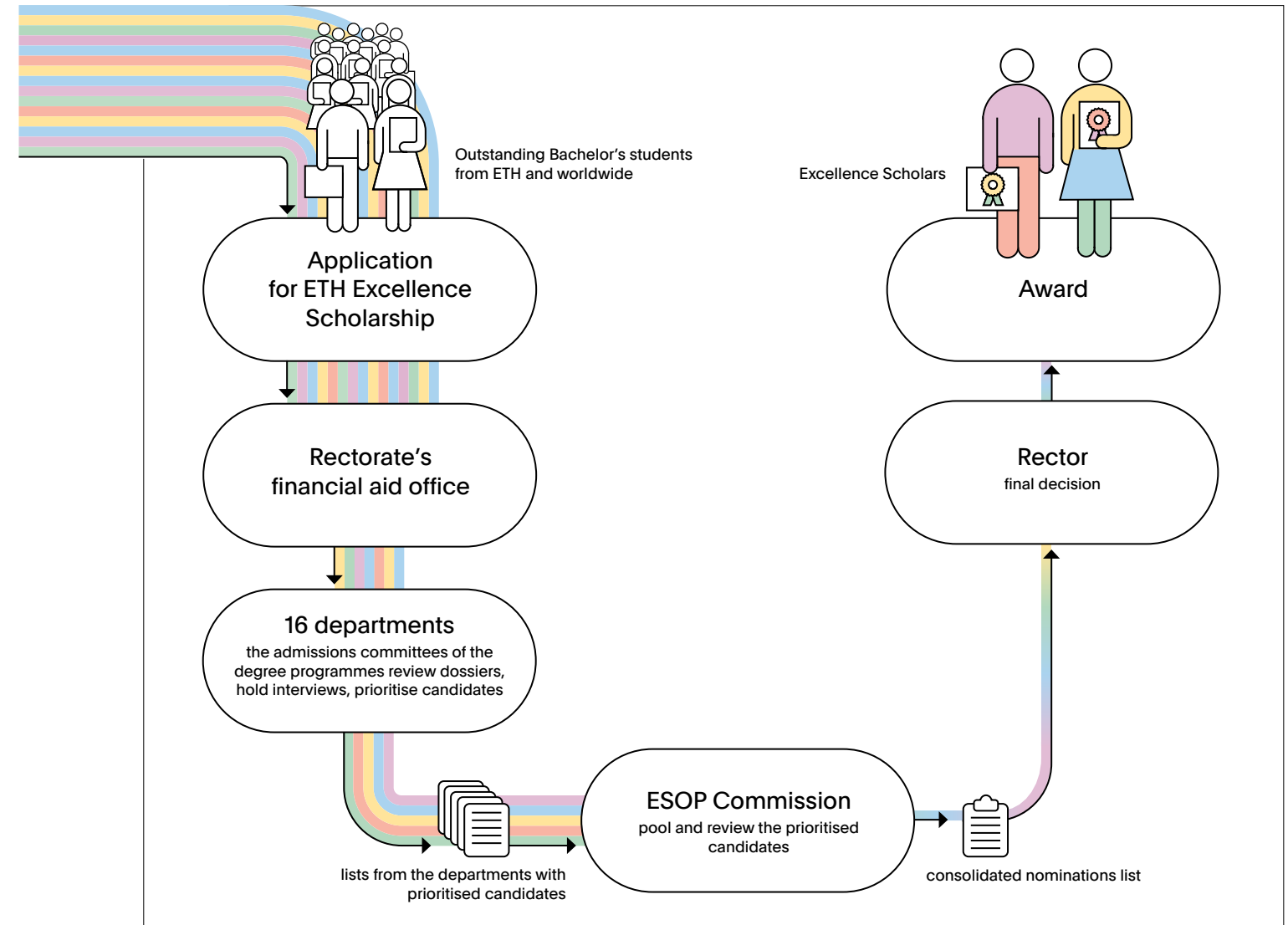
In your opinion, what distinguishes the ESOP programme from scholarship programmes at other universities?

In terms of numbers, we're unfortunately nowhere near the level of other universities: the top American universities, for example, award merit scholarships on a much larger scale. But because our programme is so competitive, the talented students we finally select really are the very best. Not only in terms of their subject, but also of their personality and broad horizons. In my eyes, the name Excellence Scholarship is absolutely justified.

"It's a pleasure to see what brilliant young people come to us. We as ETH and as a society can only be grateful to the donors who make this possible!"

Lorenz Hurni, Professor of Cartography, Vice Rector for Study Programmes and Chairman of the ESOP Commission (until mid-2023)

Excellence Scholarship selection process:



Selection process for other ETH grants:

ETH scholarships:

- For ETH students with limited financial resources.
- Each application is carefully reviewed by the Rectorate's financial aid office.
- The value of the scholarship is individual and calculated according to the family's financial situation and any other funding from the canton or country of origin.
- Students receiving support from ETH must provide regular proof of progress in their studies.

Pioneer Fellowships:

- For ETH students and researchers with entrepreneurial ambitions who want to market their research results.
- Applications are reviewed in three steps: preliminary evaluation according to formal criteria by the programme management, preliminary evaluation of scientific soundness by the Scientific Advisory Board, and final evaluation and selection by the Evaluation Board.
- The grant amounts to CHF 150,000 for 18 months (one recipient) or 12 months (two recipients).

Understanding climate change in the oceans

Supported by an ETH scholarship, Janine Schmitter delves deep into questions about our earth and its oceans in her Master's degree in earth sciences at ETH Zurich.

"My path to ETH was not a direct one at first. During my apprenticeship as a carpenter, I realised that I wanted to explore things in greater depth and developed a huge curiosity in the connections between scientific phenomena. After completing my apprenticeship, I therefore decided to take the supplementary examination that allowed me to study at ETH. I was originally attracted to astronomy; and then one of my teachers, herself an ETH graduate, told me about the Bachelor's in earth sciences. Choosing this degree was the right decision; I can fully develop my potential in earth sciences and ETH has been ranked among the world's best universities in this field for years.

Besides the universe, I'm passionate about the oceans. This was ignited by an internship at sea on the research yacht Eugen Seibold, funded by the Werner Siemens-Stiftung. We collected data which I was then able to analyse at the Max Planck Institute in Mainz. Like my Bachelor's thesis, my Master's also addresses the question of what we can learn about the climate from the oceans and how this knowledge can help us deal with climate change. It fascinates me that we can gather data below sea level from times gone by to understand and improve our climate now and in the future, and I'm grateful to be able to play a small part in this.

After completing my Master's, my goal is an internship at the Alfred Wegener Institute in northern Germany. I'd love to take part in an expedition with one of their large research ships and learn all about the data acquisition processes. The plan after that is to do a doctorate at ETH and a postdoc at a university in Germany or England, so that I can continue with marine research. My long-term dream is to return to ETH as a professor and pass on my expertise to the next generation. I owe so much to the scholarship. Without it I wouldn't be able to study at ETH, and I feel very privileged to be able to study at a top university. Through my involvement in the Earth Sciences student association and my work as a tutor, I can already give something back."

Success of ETH scholarships 2022/23

Around 350 young people supported by a needs-based scholarship



Making an impact



Fascinated by technology that serves human health: Giulia Amos

At work in the lab and in the sports arena

Giulia Amos is a doctoral student at the Laboratory of Biosensors and Bioelectronics at ETH Zurich. Her doctorate focuses on a neuroscience topic with significance for biomedical electronic devices. But that's not all: for the Cybathlon 2024 competition, a non-profit project in which people with disabilities compete against each other aided by the latest assistive technology, the young researcher will be managing the vision assistance races. While studying for her Master's in health sciences and technology, which she completed in 2022, Giulia Amos was supported by an Excellence Scholarship.

Successful funding round for EthonAI

Former Pioneer Fellowship EthonAI has managed to secure USD 6.8 million seed funding to make its cutting-edge quality management platform available to a wider market. The ETH spin-off uses artificial intelligence to detect and prevent quality defects. Founded by Julian Senoner and Bernhard Kratzwald together with their former professor Torbjørn Netland, EthonAI's customers already include key players in the manufacturing world like Siemens, Roche and Lindt & Sprüngli.

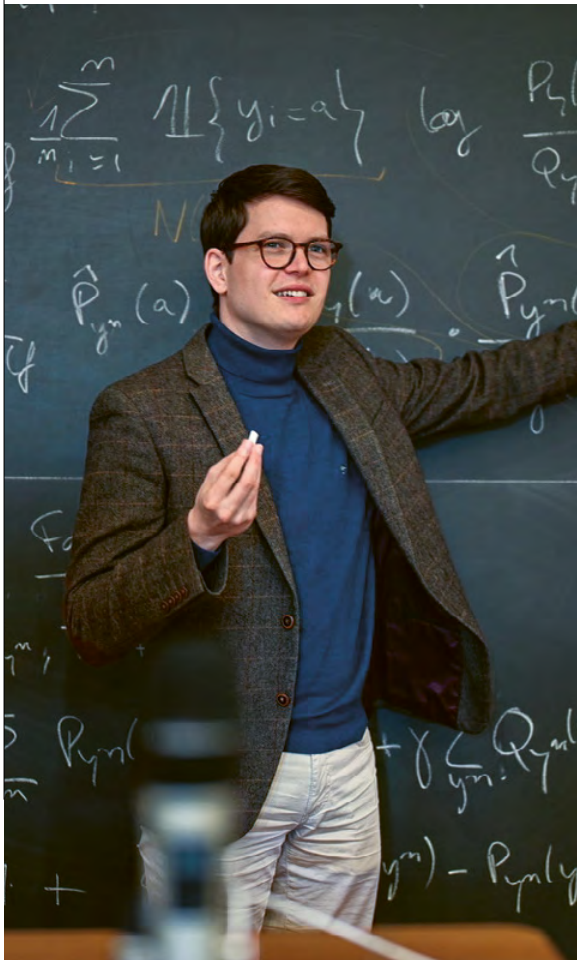
Academic merits for Vincent Fortuin

Former Excellence Scholar Vincent Fortuin has come a long way since completing his Master's degree at ETH Zurich in 2017: after a doctorate at ETH and stints as a postdoc and research fellow at the University of Cambridge, he joined Munich-based Helmholtz AI in spring this year as tenure-track research group leader. He is currently enjoying the freedom provided by the prestigious Branco Weiss Fellowship that enables him to choose the best possible location for his research with support for up to five years. The ETH programme was initiated by entrepreneur and philanthropist Branco Weiss.



Honoured for excellent teaching

Kaveh Razavi came to ETH Zurich from Iran in 2009 thanks to an Excellence Scholarship. After holding a professorship at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, his path took him back to ETH Zurich, where he now teaches as Professor of Computer Security. Today he is a donor of the scholarship programme from which he once benefited. In 2022, Kaveh Razavi was awarded the Golden Owl by the VSETH (the umbrella organisation of students at ETH Zurich), an award for particularly dedicated teachers.



Foodtech start-up Planted grows and thrives

Success stories at Planted, the company renowned for its plant-based meat made from all-natural ingredients, continue without end: originally a Pioneer Fellowship, the start-up secured CHF 70 million in funding last year, enabling it to launch new product lines and continue to expand its international market and increase production capacity. Planted is already available in more than 5,000 restaurants and over 6,000 outlets in the DACH region, France, Italy, the UK and the Benelux region.

Smart product launch from ETH spin-off Nanoleq

A new product from the Nanoleq company makes it possible to measure a person's stress and breathing activity in real time. Unlike conventional devices that only record heart rate and sleep patterns, Oxa Life provides a more comprehensive solution. Consisting of a sensor, a garment and an app that work together to measure the patient's breathing depth, breathing rate and heart rate, Oxa Life also estimates stress levels. In addition, the product offers tailored breathing exercises. Formerly funded by a Pioneer Fellowship, Nanoleq specialises in smart textiles.

Planted makes its mark on Berlin too



Challenge for the centre of innovation

A vibrant centre for creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship is to be built on the Hönggerberg campus. The project is igniting interest among ever more donors.

A centre of exchange and collaboration in which creative students and the ETH entrepreneurial community fuel each other with ideas and join forces on new projects – this is the vision for the Centre for Students and Entrepreneurs. The idea is for talented and driven individuals creating innovations for a more sustainable future to be united under one roof. Thanks to the generous support of UBS as a major partner, BKW, the SWF Stiftung für wissenschaftliche Forschung and numerous committed private individuals who believe in the significance and potential influence of the Centre for Students and Entrepreneurs, funding for the project has made great progress. However, for the project to be completed, ETH needs further partnerships and donations: every donation, large or small, counts!

Fondation Alcea has already pledged a generous contribution. In addition, the foundation has joined ETH President Joël Mesot in launching a challenge for ETH alumni and alumnae: Fondation Alcea will double their contributions to the project. In other words: donations from alumni and alumnae to the Centre for Students and Entrepreneurs are worth twice the amount gifted! The same applies to donations from ETH employees and students as well as from companies stemming from ETH. This means that over 1300 donations were doubled in the period up to July 2023, and this success is set to continue. Construction is planned to start in 2025, so that the building will be ready for occupancy in 2028.

“Great achievements need the best possible framework conditions. With my support for the Centre for Students and Entrepreneurs, I want to empower future young entrepreneurs at ETH!”

Dominique Gisin, former ski racer, Olympic champion, ETH alumna



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Find out more about the Centre for Students and Entrepreneurs:

