ETH Zürich founded ESOP in 2007 in order that young, talented individuals from around the globe might have the opportunity to study for a Master’s degree at ETH Zürich. The original concept of rewarding excellent students for their determination and achievement has meanwhile evolved into a renowned scholarship programme. In 2007, ESOP sponsored just 13 students; the number has risen to more than 50 in 2017. Over the last 10 years, the programme has given a total of 393 talented scholars the chance to develop their full potential.

We would like to join Professor Sarah M. Springman, ETH Rector and patron of the programme, in thanking all those sponsors and partners who have committed themselves wholeheartedly to ESOP at ETH Zürich.

Visit us at [www.ethz-foundation.ch/danke](http://www.ethz-foundation.ch/danke) – find out what your support means to the scholars.
A scholarship can be a life-shaping experience for a young person. That was the case for Animesh, Marianna and Fanni, whose talent was recognised by ESOP in 2007, 2012 and 2016 respectively. What do they think when they look back on this experience?

ESOP provided substantial funding for your studies. How would you describe the ‘give and take’ element?

ANIMESH: I think give and take should be a matter of course. And it needn’t necessarily be a financial contribution – although this offers the receiver most flexibility. By supporting ESOP today, I want to help make a further training possible for everyone, regardless of their financial situation.

MARIANNA: I’ve learnt that society can really get things going by acting generously. And that’s why in the future I’d like to get involved with young people during their training.

Was there a particular highlight during your scholarship?

FANNI: For me it was the study trip to China, where I learnt about traditional construction techniques. I hope that by making use of this experience in my profession, I can give something back to society. In this way, the scholarship will have a long-term, lasting impact.

ANIMESH: Thanks to ESOP, my study period as a whole was a highlight!

MARIANNA: I feel the same: my life has really changed in the last five years I’ve spent in Zurich. Each experience was unique, allowing me to recognise what I am capable of, and to keep raising the bar.

Did the ESOP scholarship mean that your studies took a different course than they might have otherwise?

MARIANNA: It was what made my degree course possible – but not just that. I got to learn about new technologies and forms of research, and that widened my horizon considerably.

FANNI: It was a tremendous motivator! I see the scholarship as a door opener, helping me to get a foot in the job market.

ANIMESH: ESOP was a terrific vote of confidence in my ability. Without the scholarship, I probably wouldn’t have had the means to pursue a degree course at ETH.

MARIANNA SEREBRYAKOVA
Excellence Scholar 2012 from Russia; currently doing a doctoral degree at the Institute of Cartography, ETH Zürich.

ANIMESH TRIVEDI
Excellence Scholar 2007 from India; currently working at IBM Research in Zurich.

FANNI REA MÜLLER
Excellence Scholar 2016 from Switzerland; studied music and is currently doing a Master’s in Architecture.
NEWS VISIT TO AVALOQ
The software and financial services company Avaloq invited ESOP scholars to visit early this year. CEO Francisco Fernandez and members of the executive board gave the visitors an animated tour of the company and a personal insight into the complex banking and IT world at Avaloq.

NEWS MEET THE TALENT
In April, ESOP donors met with former and current scholars for the traditional Meet the Talent. At the event, the Excellence Scholars presented their research projects and discussed their studies, projects and plans with the mentors and supporters. Among the 2017 research work presented was SelfPuris, a simple yet innovative system for water purification, and Swissloop, the Swiss contribution to the international Hyperloop competition pioneered by the founder of Tesla, Elon Musk.
A PROGRAMME WITH IMPACT
The scholars themselves are proof that your commitment to ESOP has a long-term impact. Of the 393 scholars, 176 are currently studying for a Master’s and 108 for a doctoral degree. 20 are variously employed in research, 4 of whom as assistant professors. 80 scholars are working in the business world; some of these have developed their research into a commercial product and founded a company.

Marco Hutter
Excellence Scholar 2007 from Switzerland; in 2016 he founded the ETH spin-off Anybotics. His company is now market leader in the development of mobile, networked robots.
(www.anybotics.com)

Lorenz Meier
Excellence Scholar 2008 from Germany; he developed PX4 software, the worldwide standard for the drone industry.
(http://px4.io/)

Mattias Ivarsson
Excellence Scholar 2008 from Sweden; in 2015 he founded the ETH spin-off Inositec (www.inositec.com) which develops molecular drugs based on inositol phosphate.

Jan Rüegg
Excellence Scholar 2011 from Switzerland; in 2017 he founded the ETH spin-off Perceptiko (www.perceptiko.com) which specialises in computer vision.

CONGRATULATIONS!
ETH distinctions 2016/17
The Heinrich Hatt-Bucher Prize was awarded on ETH Day November 2016 to Matteo Berchier, Excellence Scholar 2014, for one of the three best Master theses in the Department of Civil, Environmental and Geomatic Engineering. Three ESOP students, Lorenz Eberhardt, Manuela Fischer and Thijls Vogels, received the Willi Studer Prize for the best Master’s degrees in their discipline, while Antonio Loquericio and Raphael Bigler were awarded ETH medals for the best Master thesis and best doctoral thesis respectively.

HERZLICHEN DANK!

GIVE AND TAKE
Give and take has come full circle – 18 former ESOP scholars are now themselves supporting the programme: Raphael Bigler, Olga Diamanti, Louis Du Plessis, Philipp Good, Baris Güç, Anna Kalinina, Bokyung Kim, Julian Marschewski, Martin Mosteiro Romero, Helen Oleynikova, Maren Peter, Mauro Salazar Villalon, Marianna Serebryakova, Nemanja Skoric, Gabriella Török, Animesh Trivedi, Peter Vogel, Xiaojing Zhang. Thank you!

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