



2021

ANNUAL REPORT

ESTABLISHED 1991



**Schweizerische Studienstiftung
Fondation suisse d'études
Fondazione Svizzera degli Studi
Fundaziun svizra da studis
Swiss Study Foundation**

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FOREWORD

BETWEEN CHANGE AND CONTINUITY

The motto “Curiosity, Motivation and Responsibility” has now shaped the activities of the Swiss Study Foundation for three decades. Throughout the years, the Foundation has been in a constant state of flux and has managed to grow without changing its DNA. The 30th anniversary was celebrated with a variety of events that highlighted the diversity of the personalities actively involved in the Swiss Study Foundation. Numerous stakeholders were invited to contribute. The celebrations were financially supported by the Alumni Association with an exceptionally generous contribution. The closing ceremony of the anniversary year was marked by the farewell and acknowledgement of three long-standing members of the Foundation Board, Board member Sarah Springman, Board member Ulrich J. Looser and President Antonio Loprieno, as well as the handover of the presidency to Astrid Epiney.

The pandemic further boosted the number of online services offered. In the “Alumni Talks”, alumnae and alumni talked about their everyday lives. The series “Practical Impulses” conveyed impressions from the professional world. There was an increased focus on events particularly covering current incidents, such as the political upheavals in Afghanistan. Without exception, the information evenings took place online. For these short events with audiences from all over Switzerland, the virtual format was particularly suitable.

In 2021, the Swiss Study Foundation further increased its visibility in the Swiss educational landscape. This is reflected in the extraordinarily high number of interested students and selection seminars. With the intention of attracting members from French-speaking Switzerland, the range of events in the Romandie region was expanded: they reached a new record number this year. An important pillar for the work of the Foundation are the numerous cooperations. The new collaboration with the recently established Austrian Study Foundation, which was modelled on the existing successful cooperation with the German Academic Scholarship Foundation, provided cause for celebration. These collaborations enable selected events to be opened up to reciprocal scholarship recipients from the two other countries. There was also an intensive exchange with sponsors, although this was not limited to monetary agreements: valuable discussions on content also took place. The Swiss Study Foundation is extremely grateful for the willingness of the people involved to share their knowledge with our fellows.

A heartfelt thank you to the more than 400 volunteers! Their commitment is of enormous value and an investment in the future. It enables the promotion of young people and thus contributes to an innovative and solidary society. Would you also like to participate? The head office will be happy to advise you. We welcome your support, both financial and non-material.



Prof. Dr. Astrid Epiney
President of the Foundation Board



Dr. Klara Sekanina
Director

FIGURES

2021

The Swiss Study Foundation supports young people. It offers talented students the best conditions to quench their thirst for knowledge, develop new ideas and fill their place in society. The Swiss Study Foundation is politically neutral and independent. Committed and high-achieving students are accepted into the support programme. They obtain access to individual counselling, interdisciplinary educational offers, financial support and benefit from a wide range of networking opportunities.

814
currently supported students

2379
supported since founding

1565
formerly supported students

STAKEHOLDERS

SUPPORTED STUDENTS

814

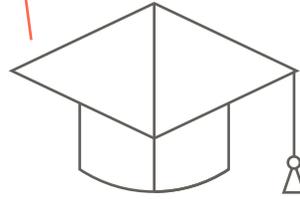


5
Other

GRADUATIONS

206

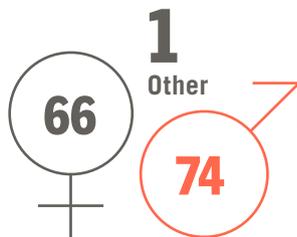
13
with doctorate



5.52
Average grade

141

New admissions



618

Members of the Alumni Association

9.6

Full-time equivalents at the head office

139

Members in the friends' association

29

Partners and donors

VOLUNTEERS

4747

Volunteer hours

Foundation Board members

12

Committee members

14

Education event leaders

172

Crisis coaches

5

Assessors

121

Mentors

56



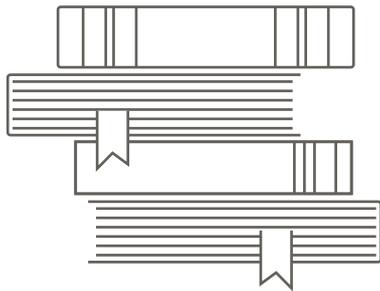
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME

EVENTS

118

2987

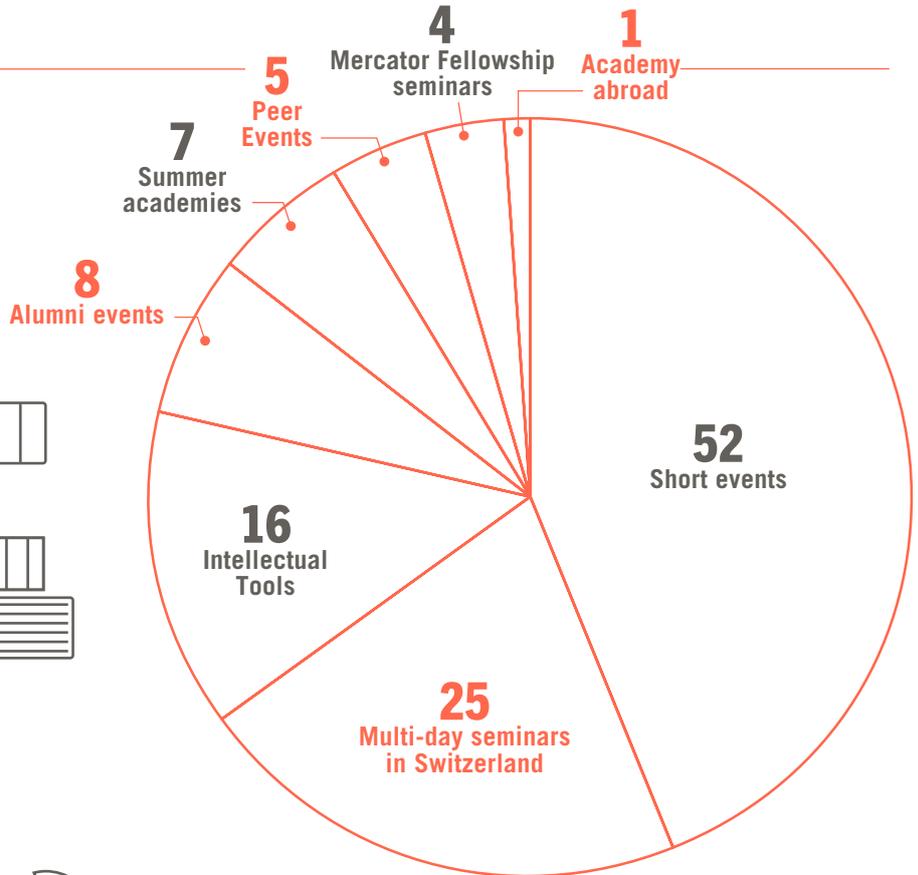
Participants



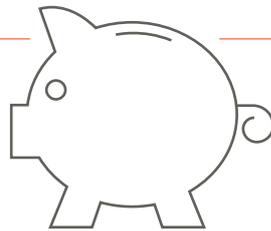
Due to Corona:

5
Events cancelled

4
Events postponed



FINANCES



COSTS

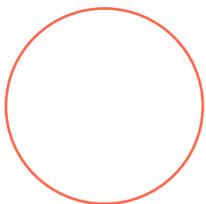
CHF 3,848,180

total expenditures

DONORS

CHF 3,524,220

total contributions



Foundations



Public sector



Friends' association



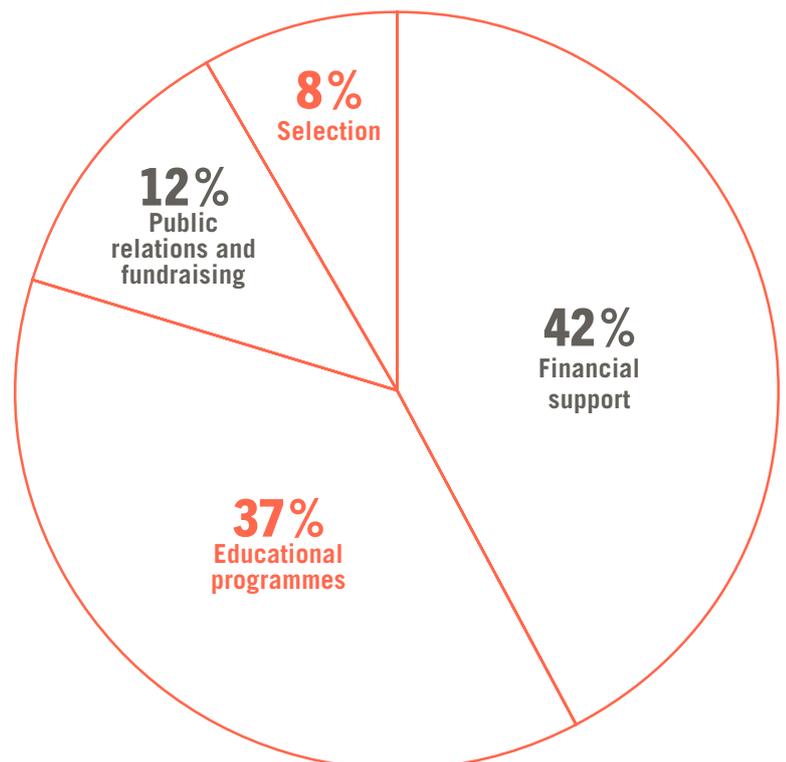
Companies



Alumni

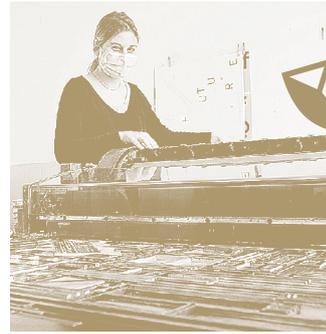


Private, Bequests



“It was a school of life and enthusiasm, at the heart of which was to grow a desire for social responsibility.”

Prof. e. Suzette Sandoz | former member of the Foundation Board



30

22.03.2021
True print – analogue poster production



Fit for Future! This was the motto of the anniversary year marking the 30th anniversary of the Swiss Study Foundation

Numerous public events were held inviting people to engage in dialogue about the impact of the Swiss Study Foundation and the current challenges facing the Swiss educational landscape. The focus of the anniversary activities was on the people who have shaped the Swiss Study Foundation since its inception. Supported students, alumnae and alumni as well as volunteers shared their experiences in the portrait series “30 Years – 30 Personalities” and published texts on topics that moved them in the anniversary blog. The program, which was designed in a participatory process, was generously supported financially by the Alumni Association, and members of the Foundation Board and former fellows also contributed to the agenda. During the closing anniversary celebration, Prof. Dr. Antonio Loprieno handed over the presidency of the Swiss Study Foundation to new hands: Prof. Dr. Astrid Epiney, Dean of the University of Fribourg, took over the highly responsible task. The Foundation’s goal remains: to prepare talented young people for the complex challenges of the future.



Scan here to get the full picture of the anniversary activities – all portraits, blog posts, event descriptions and other impressions.





Y

30 years
30 personalities
6 events
5 blog contributions

28.05.2021

Digital future – knowledge, complexities, collaborations



“The conversations with the young people impress me: so many ideas, so much creativity, plus the ability to incorporate other perspectives. So many visions for a future that will not be easy. But if this is our youth, then I am full of hope.”

Dr. Barbara Piatti | alumna

18.09.2021

Mobility and education – tales of migration between past and present



E

A



12.11.2021

Anniversary celebration – responsibility for tomorrow’s world



R

“Promoting excellence is not an end in itself. By providing holistic support for gifted young people, the Swiss Study Foundation performs a service for the common good.”

Marc Aurel Hunziker | alumnus

S





SUPPORT PROGRAMME

The support programme includes the following offers:

As part of the **individual support**, students are matched with mentors and assisted in building up their network.

The **educational programme** conveys knowledge to students and fosters their ability and skill to work on topics in an interdisciplinary manner.

Financial support, where needed, is offered in the form of scholarships to enable internships, study semesters abroad or the in-depth study of specific academic interests.

INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT

56 MENTORING GROUPS AT 17 UNIVERSITIES

5 CRISIS COACHES

1488 PEOPLE IN OUR NETWORK

Through meetings with experienced mentors and exchanges with alumnae and alumni, the Swiss Study Foundation supports students in building their network. In addition, there are opportunities for individual and free counselling sessions: members of the head office and crisis coaches are on hand to provide support.

Mentoring and Networking

Students supported by the Swiss Study Foundation will be assigned a mentor (all professors) at their study locations, and this same mentor will guide them until they complete their studies – in 2021, 56 mentors were active, each of whom supervised a group of students. The joint activities are diverse: mentors offer tours of their institute or laboratory, for example, or create opportunities for joint meals, visits to museums or lectures and virtual meetings. At these events, the students build contacts and expand their network across disciplines.

In addition, mentors are available for the students to discuss personal concerns, to answer general questions about their studies or to give job and career advice. Our students can visit the “Who’s Who” directory on the Foundation’s website, giving them access to the Swiss Study Foundation’s entire network. They can use keywords to search currently supported students, alumni and alumnae mentors.

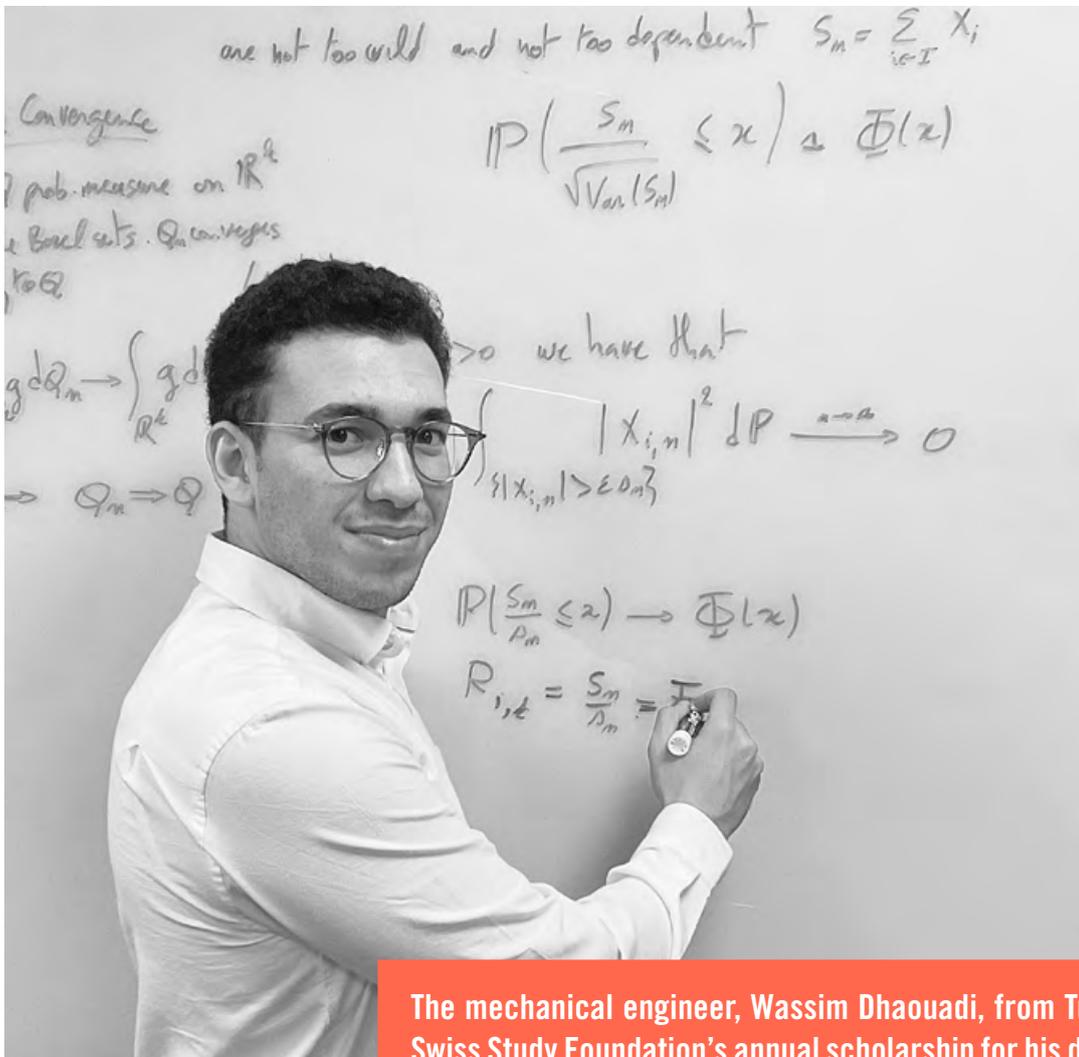
Consulting and Coaching

The services offered by the Swiss Study Foundation’s head office are very popular: the staff provides information to supported students on funding opportunities for stays abroad, advice on study and career issues and assists in writing scholarship applications. In the programme “Coaching for Students by Alumnae/Alumni”, students receive practical support from a person who is very familiar with their current and future challenges. In addition, five professional coaches (crisis coaches) are available to the students free of charge should they need advice in challenging situations regarding their study situation or personal development.



“The Study Foundation has now been by my side for half my life. As a fellow, it inspired and supported me and enabled me to have both stimulating and ground-breaking encounters. Today, as an assessor, I can pass on this opportunity to young, outstanding personalities. I see the impetus that the Swiss Study Foundation generates by bringing together like-minded people from the most diverse fields as its main mission. And it is what motivates me today to actively contribute to the Foundation’s work.”

Jennifer Ribeiro Rudin, alumna, musician and teacher for German and Music at Bündner Kantonsschule Chur



The mechanical engineer, Wassim Dhaouadi, from Tunisia, received the Swiss Study Foundation's annual scholarship for his doctorate in the USA. After completing his engineering studies at EPF Lausanne and ETH Zurich, he now wants to do his doctorate at Stanford University. He has great ambitions – and he is currently able to pursue them thanks to the one-year scholarship. His goal is to develop algorithms that enable the morally acceptable use of artificial intelligence in various applications. Wassim Dhaouadi has already received several awards for his extraordinary academic achievements, including for solving an old physics riddle: why does an air bubble get stuck in a narrow, vertical tube of liquid instead of rising? Wassim Dhaouadi succeeded in describing the phenomenon more precisely than ever before, thus explaining the process for the first time ever. His commitment is extensive: as president of the NEO Zurich Hub, he led a student network striving to explore challenges of the future together with leading experts from academia, business and industry. In this role, he took care of organising keynotes, networking events and start-up nights on various topics such as sustainability, responsible mining, digital health or mobility.

Wassim Dhaouadi, PhD in Mechanical Engineering, Stanford University, USA, 25

Annual scholarship holder, financed by SERI

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME

118 EVENTS

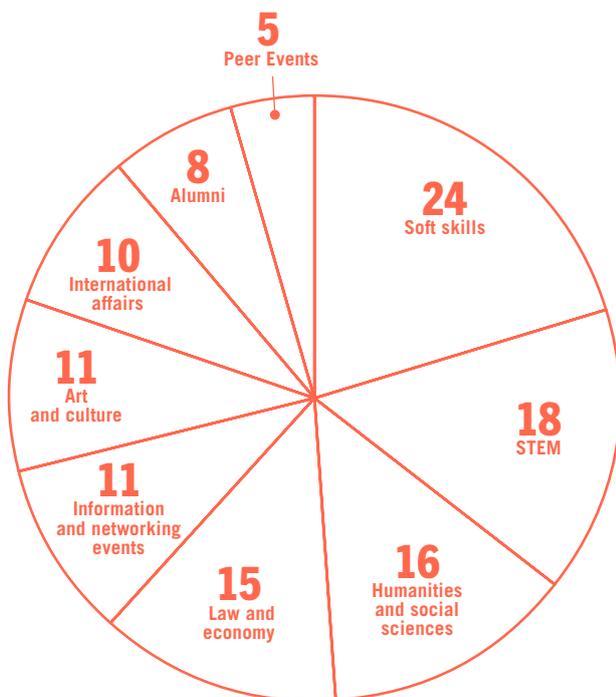
26 EVENT LOCATIONS

2987 PARTICIPANTS

The Swiss Study Foundation's educational programme is characterised by a wide range of topics, interdisciplinary approaches and personal support. This includes programmes run with partner foundations, summer academies as well as short events, multi-day seminars and academies abroad.

Through events of varying duration and different formats – from panels to workshops to seminars lasting several days – fellows are given the opportunity to engage with topics from different academic fields and to enter into an interdisciplinary dialogue. Small groups with diverse compositions in terms of field of study, language region or gender enable a particularly enriching exchange. Events “by supported student for supported students” (Peer Events) and events organised by the Alumni Association complement the programme.

DISCIPLINES



Partner programmes

The Swiss Study Foundation works with partner foundations to provide three higher-level programmes with wide-ranging impact: they prepare the students for Switzerland's future challenges (STEM promotion through the Werner Siemens Programme), strengthen awareness of social cohesion (Univers Suisse) and emphasise the importance of international cooperation in overcoming global challenges (Mercator Fellowship). The programmes are forward-thinking, and in addition to educational events, they provide financial support for selected students.

The **Werner Siemens Programme** promotes high-achieving students in STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and mathematics as well as medicine, pharmaceuticals and life sciences) who are committed to promoting their field of study in society. The goal of the programme is to strengthen the STEM field as well as to sensitise students from other fields to the topics of mobility, infrastructure and innovation with a focus on interdisciplinary exchange. The generous support of the Werner Siemens Foundation includes three summer academies, 10 fellowships (scholarships) and a range of educational events.

Univers Suisse deepens the appreciation for the value of a diverse yet united Switzerland, fosters exchange and cohesion between the Swiss language regions and raises awareness of the country's social, cultural and political diversity. It includes a summer academy called “Le Tableau de la Suisse”, nine scholarships as well as educational events. It is implemented and funded in cooperation with the Sophie and Karl Binding Foundation.

The **Mercator Fellowship** encourages young personalities to take responsibility for the world of tomorrow after completing their university education. It prepares them for highly responsible roles in international organisations and NGOs. The fellows identify issues of international relevance and implement the corresponding solutions in work assignments. In seminars, they delve into issues of international cooperation and the development of leadership and key skills. The programme funded by the Mercator Foundation accepts five new fellows from Switzerland each year and offers them access to a large network.



“In my almost 20 years as a lecturer and course instructor, I have rarely experienced such inspiring groups of students from the most diverse disciplines as I have at events organised by the Swiss Study Foundation. Appreciation, interest and the need for professional and personal development are not just empty words here. Thank you for the many special encounters!”

Anouk Scherer, event leader, actress as well as voice and speech coach

Summer academies

The summer academies are characterised by their unique format. For one week, the students hold intensive discussions on interdisciplinary themes in groups of 20 participants at most. Two to four teaching staff per academy provide optimum mentoring, and exceptional study locations provide space for creativity and promote openness to new ideas. Within this well-structured framework, the students have the opportunity to expand their professional networks and develop personal friendships. The summer academies are also open to non-fellows, grant recipients of the German Academic Scholarship Foundation and, as of this year, to fellows of the Austrian Study Foundation.

The summer academies 2021 dealt with the following topics:

Fundamental questions of state theory and state philosophy in the early 21st century

Sustainable circular economy – many paths close the circle. What makes sense from which perspective?

Utopia – dystopia in the past and present

Univers Suisse

“Le Tableau de la Suisse” – what is relevant to the system?

Werner Siemens Programme

From antibiotics in the stone age to pathogens in the modern era

Werner Siemens Programme

Research – ethics – innovation

Werner Siemens Programme

Symmetries – mathematical gimmicks in combinatorics and geometry

Science communication training

In addition to the in-depth exploration of the respective topics, the participants received training in science communication during the summer academies. The scientific think tank Reatch – Research and Technology in Switzerland guided them through the process of writing blog posts. The texts produced in this context offer interesting insights into the diverse programme of the summer academies.



See the complete list of all responsible persons and experts of the summer academies here. Thank you!



Morgane Tironi is committed to the exchange between the Swiss language regions over and beyond her studies. This commitment is rewarded with a Binding Scholarship from the Swiss Study Foundation. Growing up in Courroux (JU), Morgane Tironi was interested in the German language from an early age. As a secondary school student from the Jura, she spent a language exchange in Oftringen (AG) and completed half of her secondary schooling in German in Laufen (BL). Morgane Tironi is studying history and French at the University of Basel and has recently taken up a position as assistant. While studying, she works as a city guide and would like to refine her Italian skills in the future. Her interests also extend beyond Switzerland: in 2019, she spent a semester at West Virginia University, where she researched the history of Native Americans.

Morgane Tironi, Master's studies in History and French,
University of Basel, 23

Scholarship holder of the Sophie and Karl Binding Foundation

Short events, multi-day seminars, academies abroad

Numerous events offer the opportunity to discuss and analyse current topics with subject matter experts. The events are of manageable size and enable the students to optimally express themselves in science and society. They encourage (self-)reflection and prepare for the start of a career. Last year, the topics covered ranged from Latin as a connecting line to language and culture, to photography and storytelling, to animal testing. In “Alumni Talks”, former fellows offered insights into their lives and associated choices.

Many events are initiated or co-organised by supported students. Reading groups are just as much a part of the programme as information evenings for potential future fellows. In 2021, all information events were held virtually, which proved very popular, as evidenced by the above-average number of participants. This year, shorter events were increasingly held at off-peak times. Educational offerings in French-speaking Switzerland were also expanded and events on current incidents – such as the situation in Afghanistan – were introduced.

The following main topics were on the programme:

Academies abroad are one- to two-week stays abroad that promote an understanding of the diversity of cultures, values and environments. They open up perspectives for local approaches with different financial parameters and facilitate intercultural exchange. The academies abroad are made possible thanks to federal funding from the Dispatch on the Promotion of Education, Research and Innovation (ERI), under the leadership of the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI).

Culture Matters enables students to theoretically reflect on and practically experience their own and foreign cultures. The programme includes museum and concert visits as well as theatre workshops, enables encounters with artists from different disciplines and creates spaces for intercultural dialogue.

GraduateBox is a modular toolbox that provides useful knowledge and skills for a successful doctorate or the transition into the working world outside of academia. It covers themes such as work and communication methods, career planning and management.

Intellectual Tools offers two- to three-day specialist seminars and events on soft skills and personal development. It helps students to shape their professional lives responsibly and with foresight. Individual Intellectual Tools are financed by the Ernst Göhner Foundation.

Treffpunkt Bern provides a regular opportunity for students to network in the political centre of Switzerland with representatives from politics, administration, culture and business. The evening events focus on discussion and broadening horizons.

Univers Suisse includes workshops and educational events at different locations in Switzerland on topics related to cultural diversity, multilingualism as well as disparities and cohesion. These events are organised and funded in cooperation with the Sophie and Karl Binding Foundation.

The **Werner Siemens Programme** uses various formats from panel discussions to multi-day seminars to highlight STEM topics and topics at the interface of other disciplines. It is funded by the Werner Siemens Foundation.



Here you can find an overview of all events offered by the Swiss Study Foundation.



“Thanks to the course ‘Ethics – an Introduction to Ethical Decision-making’, I gained a concrete idea of how my personal value system and that of others differ from established law. Since then, this awareness regularly prompts me to reconsider my previous attitudes towards various moral obligations. Since the weekend in Olten, I have been able to independently deduce how moral obligations arise in the first place based on the concept I learned there.”

Lea Krähenmann, supported student, Bachelor’s studies in Economics, University of St. Gallen, 22

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

125 PROJECTS SUPPORTED

1,488,754,CHF GRANTED THROUGH SCHOLARSHIPS

The students supported by the Swiss Study Foundation can apply for financial support. The scope and total amount contributed depends on the specific needs and scholarship.

Funding for time abroad is offered by the ERI Dispatch (SERI). An annual scholarship (CHF 20,000) offers support for one- or two-year studies or longer research stays abroad. The subsidies of CHF 5,000 and grants of CHF 500 are awarded for shorter study, conference and library visits abroad. In 2021, 19 annual scholarships, 32 subsidies and 18 grants were awarded.

Since 2018, **Bärbel and Paul Geissbühler Scholarships** have been awarded to outstanding students of STEM subjects to cover their living costs. In 2021, seven students benefited from this scholarship. The scholarship holders receive CHF 1,200 per month throughout their studies.

Since 2007, **Binding Scholarships** have been awarded to students who are studying at a Swiss higher education institution in a different linguistic region. The aim is to encourage gifted students to make a personal contribution to cohesion in Switzerland and to promote the country's cultural diversity during their education. In 2021, nine scholarships were awarded to ten students. The financial support for scholarship holders is CHF 1,200 per month. They are supported for a maximum of six semesters.

Ernst Göhner Scholarships for Artists in training have been awarded since 2011. The scholarship holders receive CHF 1,200 per month for a maximum of ten semesters. Eight students benefited from this scholarship in 2021.

Ernst Göhner Scholarships for Teachers in training have been awarded since 2014 to prospective teachers at all school levels, from kindergarten to secondary schools. Students receive financial support of CHF 1,200 per month for up to six semesters. In 2021, five students were supported with this scholarship.

Ernst Göhner Scholarships for Scientists have been awarded since 2009 as excellence scholarships recognising outstanding students and enabling them to dedicate themselves fully to their studies and extracurricular activities without having to worry about income. In 2021, six of these scholarships were awarded. The scholarship offers CHF 1,200 per month, provided for a maximum of ten semesters.

The **Mercator Fellowship on International Affairs** is for graduates with some initial professional experience who are seeking work with international scope and high levels of responsibility. This 12-month scholarship programme is arranged in partnership with the Mercator Foundation Switzerland, the Mercator Foundation Germany, the German Academic Scholarship Foundation and in cooperation with the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the German Federal Foreign Office. In 2021, four Swiss nationals were part of the programme. The monthly scholarship amounts to CHF 3,500. Further funding is available for the stays abroad and language courses planned as part of the programme.

Suyana Scholarships have been awarded since 2012 to outstanding students with limited financial resources, enabling them to dedicate themselves fully to their studies and extracurricular activities. The scholarship provides CHF 1,200 per month for a maximum of ten semesters. Two students benefited from this scholarship in 2021.

Since 2016, **Werner Siemens Scholarships** have been aimed at STEM students who are especially openminded towards the subjects of mobility, infrastructure and innovation and who have achieved outstanding results in their studies. Scholarship students are encouraged to actively shape the future of STEM domains and develop creative solutions. The scholarship provides CHF 1,650 per month and is awarded for a maximum of eight semesters per student. In 2021, ten students benefited from this scholarship.

As a result of the Corona pandemic, six people had to cancel their foreign projects and withdraw their already-approved applications.



Here you can find more information on admission criteria and the application process for the individual scholarships as well as portraits of former scholarship holders.

Great achievements and new creations

Antonio Loprieno steps down after 13 years

For 13 years, Prof. Dr. Antonio Loprieno led the Swiss Study Foundation as President and supported numerous forward-looking changes. Even before that, he was actively involved in the Swiss Study Foundation as a mentor. He also accompanied various summer academies and events as a leader and speaker.

The Swiss-Italian Egyptologist (*1955), who has been a Professor at the University of Basel since 2000, has worked in Europe, the USA and the Middle East and has played a key role in shaping the Swiss and European educational landscape: he was Dean of the University of Basel (2005–2015) and President of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences (2017–2020). Since 2018, he has served as President of ALLEA (All European Academies), the European umbrella organisation of the academies of sciences. Thanks to his rich experience in these various functions, he was able to make a valuable contribution to the Swiss Study Foundation. He entered into dialogue with the various stakeholders of the Foundation and gave them a voice. One of Antonio Loprieno's central objectives was always to increase the visibility of the Swiss Study Foundation at universities and universities of applied sciences

as well as in federal bodies and authorities. This was thoroughly successful: the Study Foundation's financial potential increased, and it was able to position itself as a recognised player and attractive strategic partner within the Swiss foundations and education landscape.

Prof. Dr. Antonio Loprieno's work has also left its mark on the Study Foundation's sponsorship programme: under his leadership, the participation of fellows has been reinforced, with one seat each on the Board of Trustees and the Education Commission. International partnerships were expanded, and additional educational and scholarship programmes were created. With the opening of an office in the Romandie, the Foundation, which was established in Zurich, expanded its offerings in French-speaking Switzerland. At the end of 2021, when his term of office finished, Prof. Dr. Loprieno passed the presidency on to new hands. Looking to the future, Antonio Loprieno sees the greatest challenges and opportunities in the digital development. In his view, this can only be addressed and fully realised through interdisciplinary dialogue – which is an aspect that the Swiss Study Foundation continues to pursue.

Antonio Loprieno has lived the values of the Swiss Study Foundation himself.

Would he have liked to be a fellow if the Foundation had existed in his days?

After his departure as President of the Foundation Board, he answered these and other questions.

The advancement of other people is close to your heart – would you have wished for more fostering for yourself when you were young?

I have certainly experienced a lot of support. Both in my family and at the European School in Brussels that I attended, I was able to flourish. Perhaps it is even because I myself was encouraged in that way that the support of young people is so close to my heart.

Your career as a scientist is impressive. In addition, you have learned various languages, driven the creation of the Swiss Center for Islam and Society (SZIG) in Fribourg, and shaped various university programmes as an evaluator. What was it that enabled you to achieve such far-reaching results?

I tend to see life as a learning process, which also has its negative side – I get impatient when the novelty of what I have just experienced is limited. And I readily admit to a certain conceit of being knowledgeable even in areas in which I actually have at most comprehensive half-knowledge! In my work for SZIG, my orientalist

socialisation adds another element: when I studied Egyptology and Semitic sciences, people still believed in the intellectual proximity between the “Orient” and the “Occident”.

In many of your appointments, you have taken on the role of bridge builder and have done a lot of translation work.

What motivated you to do this?

For me, science is not above other things. Rather, I see myself as a scientist committed to society. The exchange between science and society seems to me to be fundamental for a functioning democracy. This also includes the communication and conveyance of scientific knowledge.

What do you wish for the fellows of the Swiss Study Foundation?

That they may always understand their talent as a social mission and not as an individual privilege.



“An anniversary – no matter what period of time it covers – does not serve the purpose of recalling the past, but of preparing for the future. From a fading history, we draw strength and inspiration for a long future.”

Prof. Dr. Antonio Loprieno, President of the Foundation Board of the Swiss Study Foundation from 2008 to 2021

SUPPORTED STUDENTS



The supported students are at the heart of all of the Swiss Study Foundation's activities. They benefit from a diverse range of offers that they actively help design, and they share their perspectives by participating at Committee level. The Swiss Study Foundation selects its students with care, supports them in the ways that work best for them and offers them a platform to bring their talents centre stage.

The Swiss Study Foundation supports particularly high-achieving students with a broad range of interests who, in the context of their social commitments, also want other people to benefit from their scientific or artistic talents and thus take on responsibility in all areas of society.

SELECTION

141 NEW ADMISSIONS 20 ASSESSMENT DAYS

Candidates are generally invited to apply by high schools or higher education institutions, but they can also apply on their own initiative.

Admission to the Swiss Study Foundation requires more than outstanding intellectual ability. It is also crucial that candidates are motivated, have a broad spectrum of interests, are dedicated and have the right personality. The Swiss Study Foundation stands for equal opportunities.

Application process

After the application file has been formally assessed, suitable candidates will be invited to an assessment centre for one day. The assessments involve individual interviews and group discussions. They take place in all three official languages and linguistic regions of Switzerland. A selection committee composed of personalities from the fields of education, business, society and culture makes the decision on admission. After the assessment, candidates will be offered the opportunity to have an individual feedback discussion.

In 2021, a total of 20 assessment days were carried out (11 of them online). 186 people were invited to an assessment, of which 141 (75.8%) were admitted to the Swiss Study Foundation's support programme.

Annual evaluation

The head office carries out an annual evaluation of its students. After consulting with their mentors and under the supervision of the Committee for Selection and Individual Mentoring, they decide whether any students should stop receiving support. In 2021, the results of this evaluation meant support for 10 people had to be discontinued.

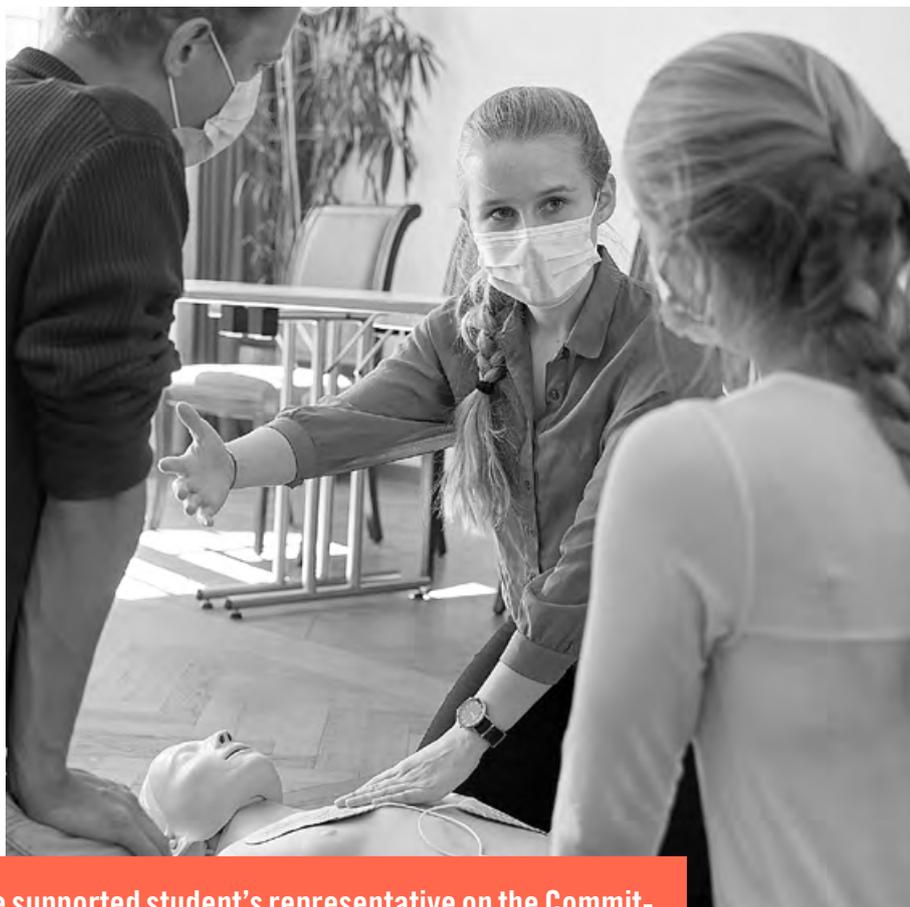


Here you can find more information about the application, the requirements and contact persons for Matura students.



“Swiss Study Foundation fellows are like sparklers: they catch fire and spread starlight, manifold and in many places, over and over again! Supporting young people in achieving their goals is an essential task of the Study Foundation as we look to tomorrow’s society. I am happy to contribute to this.”

Dr. Katarina Farkas, assessor, Head of the Department of German Didactics and German as a Second Language, University of Teacher Education Zug and lecturer in giftedness, University of Teacher Education Lucerne



Leandra Ramin-Wright is the supported student's representative on the Committee for Education. Her wide-ranging interests and extraordinary talents became apparent early on: between 2002 and 2008, she won first prize several times at "Youth plays music" – and this in two categories: piano and cello. During secondary school, she completed an exchange year in Florida and, after her return, passed the Abitur in Lörrach with distinction. Currently, Leandra Ramin-Wright is a master's student in medicine at the University of Basel, besides working on her PhD thesis in the context of preterm infants and participating in a research course at Harvard University. She completed her internships in the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit in London, the Department of Cardiac Surgery in Hamburg, and in Oxford in the Department of Cardiology. Leandra Ramin-Wright, who has now received a Werner Siemens Fellowship, is also strongly committed outside of her studies: formerly president of the Amnesty International team at the University of Basel, she is now a moderator at the Forum for Continuing Medical Education (FOMF). Within the Swiss Study Foundation, Leandra Ramin-Wright, in addition to her involvement in the Committee for Education, leads the Intellectual Tool "Introduction to Medicine" with other students. She is also a multiple and distinguished participant in the Model United Nations, and in 2020 she led the delegation of the Swiss Study Foundation as Head Delegate.

Leandra Ramin-Wright, Master's studies in Human Medicine, University of Basel, 24

Fellowship holder of the Werner Siemens Foundation

SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION

5 PEER EVENTS

2 REPRESENTATIONS ON COMMITTEES

Social Engagement

Many of the Swiss Study Foundation's students are involved in social issues through voluntary work – either by launching their own initiatives or by playing a significant role in existing organisations. These activities take place in diverse areas, such as education, support for disadvantaged groups (refugees, underprivileged children and young people), sustainability issues or politics.



Here you will find a list of initiatives that are (co-)shaped by and through supported students.

Participation

Supported students and alumni members actively contribute to the work of the Swiss Study Foundation. They each have a seat on the Foundation Board of the Swiss Study Foundation with one vote. The supported students also actively contribute with a voice in the Committee for Education since 2018. The representatives of the supported students are newly elected every two years. As elected members of these Foundation bodies, they represent the interests of the fellows and broaden the perspective of the support programme. In 2021, Clara Ehrenzeller and Leandra Ramin-Wright held this office on the Foundation Board and the Committee for Education, respectively.

In this anniversary year, numerous supported students contributed to its success – whether by participating in the anniversary events, writing blog texts or as subjects of the “30 Years – 30 Personalities” series. Others contributed to the town hall meeting regarding the current set-up of the Foundation and developed ideas and suggestions for future content.

The supported students also take advantage of additional opportunities to get involved within the Swiss Study Foundation or to contribute new impulses: at Peer Events and student initiatives or in their function as ambassadors at secondary schools. Peer Events are events and initiatives organised and financed by the supported students themselves. In the case of student initiatives, the initiators take on the main role in organising and carrying out the events. As ambassadors, the supported students make a significant contribution to raising the profile of the Swiss Study Foundation as contact persons at their former secondary schools.

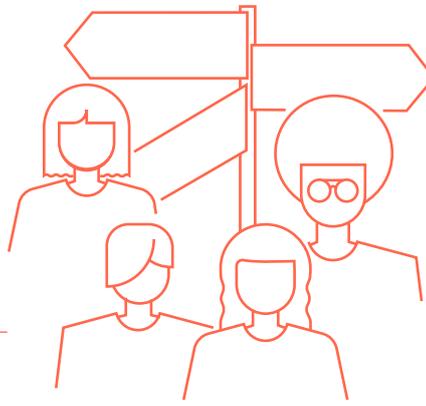


“Since June 2021, I have been on the Executive Committee of the Swiss Student Union (UNES), where I am responsible for national politics and public affairs. As part of my mandate, I frequently collaborate with national parliamentarians and various political actors to defend the interests of students in Switzerland. This somewhat special year was marked by continued mobilization against the closure of universities, but also by a strong commitment in favour of Switzerland's full association with the Erasmus+ programme.”

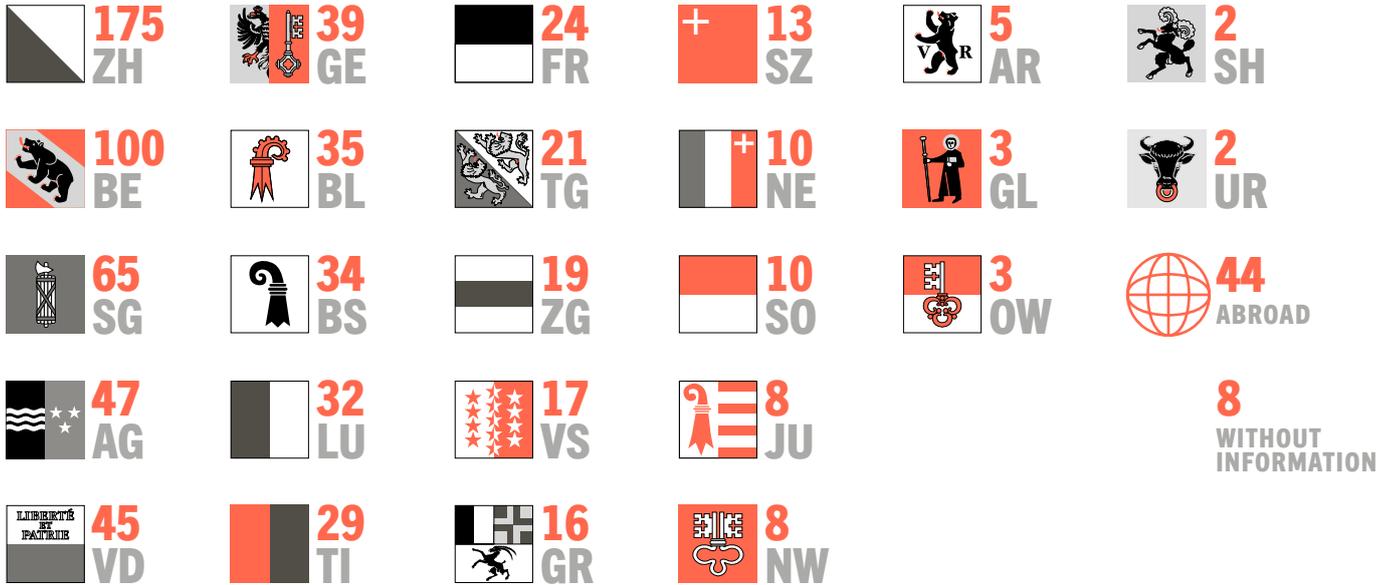
Maxime Crettex, supported student and board member of the Swiss Student Association, Bachelor's studies in Law, 21

ORIGIN AND PRESENCE

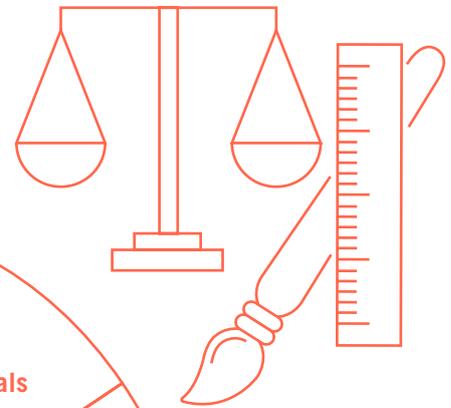
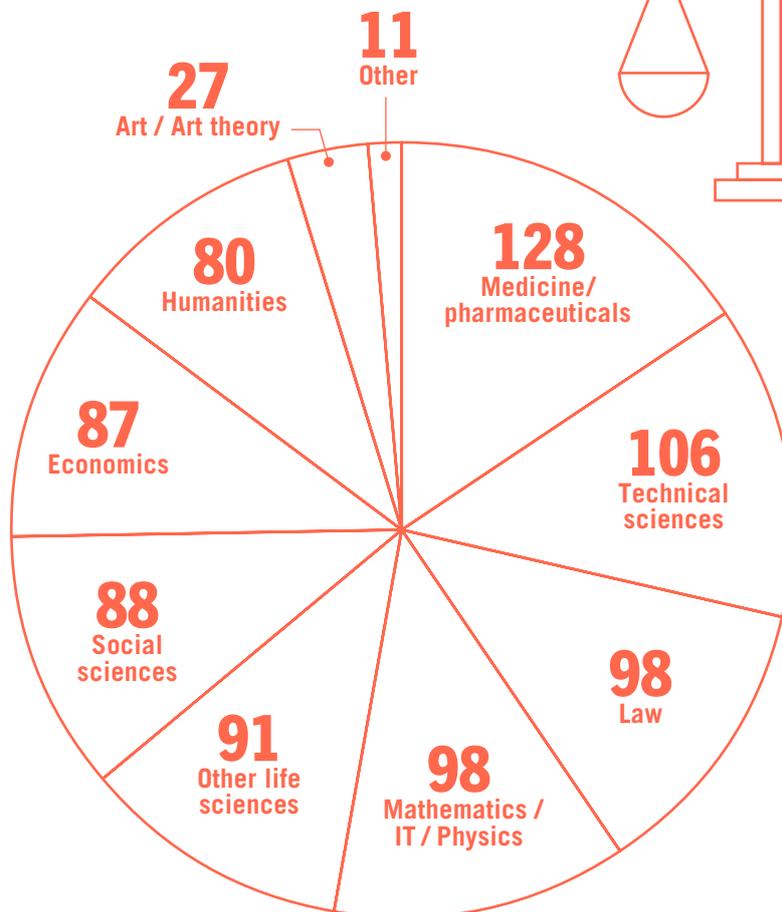
OF SUPPORTED STUDENTS



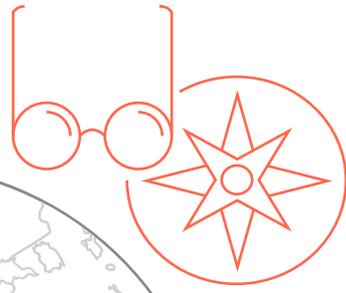
LOCATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION ENTRANCE QUALIFICATION



SPECIALIST BACKGROUND



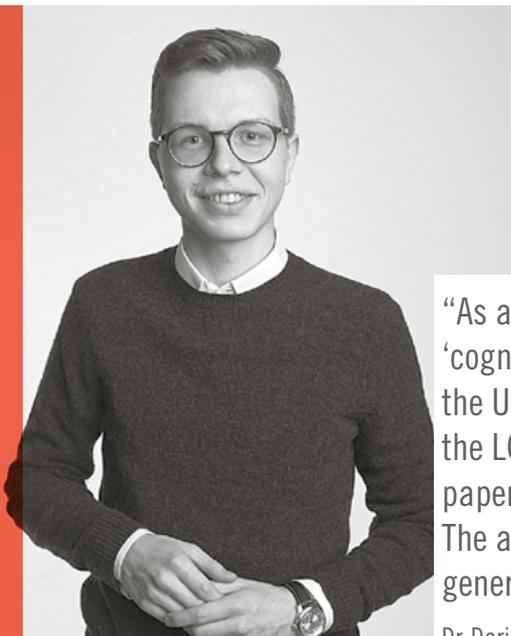
STUDY LOCATIONS



M Mercator Fellows



Here you'll find a list of all students supported by the Swiss Study Foundation in 2021.



“As a member of the editorial team of the open access journal ‘cognitio – student forum for law and society’, I am very pleased that the University of Lucerne has honoured our magazine project with the LORY award. As part of this project, we publish law students’ papers and support them in the writing and publishing process. The award motivates us to keep fighting for open access and the next generation of scientists.”

Dr. Dario Piccchi, supported student, founding and editorial member of the journal “cognitio”, lawyer and lecturer, 28



ORGANISATION

More can be achieved by working together. The Swiss Study Foundation's rich offer can only be realised thanks to the involvement of numerous stakeholders. Many volunteers commit their time, be it to the Foundation Board and the committees or as assessors, mentors and event leaders. The central contact point is the head office, whose staff are responsible for designing and delivering all activities. Financially, everything we do is made possible by the generous support of our partners, the friends' association and Alumni Association members.

COMMITTEES

12 FOUNDATION BOARDS
14 COMMITTEE MEMBERS
12 HEAD OFFICE STAFF

Head office

(As at 31 December 2021)

Director



Dr. Klara Sekanina

Deputy Director



Iris Schuler, EMBA HSG

Finances



Maja Bischoff

Academic staff



Stefano Aloise



Dr. Nicholas Arnold



Dr. Sarah Beyeler

Administration staff



Nathalie Ellington



Michelle Hug



Samira Landolt



Dr. Barbara Dankwa



Dr. Silvan Moser



Dr. Lydia Tchambaz

Intern



Elisa Cesare

Changes in membership

In May and January 2021, respectively, Dr. Raphael Meyer and Chiara Macciachini left the head office team. We would like to thank them for their work. Since July and August 2021, respectively, Dr. Nicholas Arnold and Elisa Cesare complete the team. A warm welcome!

Auditors

PricewaterhouseCoopers AG

Foundation Bodies

(As at 31 December 2021)

Foundation Board

President and Vice President

- Epiney Astrid, Prof. Dr., Rector of the University of Fribourg*
- Hengartner Michael, Prof. Dr., President of the ETH Board*

Members

- Ammann Odile, University of Lausanne, Alumna
- Athanas Peter, Prof. Dr., Member of the Foundation Board, Werner Siemens Foundation*
- Dell'Ambrogio Mauro, Dr., former Secretary of State for Education, Research and Innovation
- Ehrenzeller Clara, supported student
- Franz Christoph, Prof. Dr., Chairman of the Board of Directors, Roche Holding AG
- Martinoli Piero, Prof. Dr., Università della Svizzera italiana
- Rahier Martine, Prof. Dr., University of Neuchâtel
- Süssstrunk Sabine, Prof. Dr., EPF Lausanne
- Tardo-Styner Christina, lic. phil. nat., Deputy Head of Kantonsschule Solothurn*
- Widmer Müller Franziska, Dr., Former Head of Kantonsschule Rychenberg

Honorary members of the Foundation Board

- Eberle Meinrad, Prof. em. Dr., ETH Zurich
- Kubli Eric, Prof. em. Dr. Dr. h.c., University of Zürich

* Executive Committee

Changes in membership

After many years of dedicated service, Prof. Dr. Antonio Loprieno and Prof. Dr. Sarah Springman have left the Foundation Board. New members of the Foundation Board are Prof. Dr. Astrid Epiney and Prof. Dr. Sabine Süssstrunk. In addition, Darryl Ackermann, the representative of the supported students on the Foundation Board, has passed on his office to Clara Ehrenzeller. We would like to express our sincere thanks for the work done by the current and outgoing members and welcome the newcomers.

Committees

Committee for Selection and Individual Mentoring

- Tardo-Styner Christina, lic. phil. nat., Deputy Head of Kantonsschule Solothurn, President of the Committee
- Alder Ursula, lic. phil., Head of Realgymnasium Rämibühl
- Donzé Laurent, Prof. Dr., University of Fribourg
- Hämmerli Marion, Dr., Associate Partner, McKinsey & Company
- Hiller Odermatt Sebastian, Prof. Dr., University of Basel
- Sekanina Klara, Dr., Director of the Swiss Study Foundation

Committee for Education

- Hengartner Michael, Prof. Dr., President of the ETC Board, President of the Committee
- Maggi Rico, Prof. Dr., Università della Svizzera italiana
- Pichonnaz Pascal, Prof. Dr., University of Fribourg
- Ramin-Wright Leandra, supported student
- Riecher-Rössler Anita, Prof. em. Dr., University of Basel
- Sekanina Klara, Dr., Director of the Swiss Study Foundation
- de Weck Roger, Author and Publicist

Committee for Finances and Fundraising

- Athanas Peter, Prof. Dr., Member of the Foundation Board, Werner Siemens Foundation, President of the Committee
- Nevistic Vesna, Dr.
- Sekanina Klara, Dr., Director of the Swiss Study Foundation

All foundation bodies operate on a voluntary basis. Their periods of office are limited to 12 years.

Changes in membership

The composition of the committees remained unchanged.



“I am stimulated by the encounters with particularly curious and capable young people and by being able to work occasionally with some of them in a language, Italian, that they have learned after three or four others.”

Dr. Mauro Dell'Ambrogio, Foundation Board Member, former State Secretary, State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation

VOLUNTEERS

56 MENTORS

121 ASSESSORS

The Swiss Study Foundation's work would not be possible without its many volunteers. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their valuable engagement.

Assessors bring their expertise to the assessment days. As far as the experience and professional background of the assessors is concerned, the spectrum is very broad – among them are lecturers from universities and universities of applied sciences, secondary school teachers, human resources managers as well as freelance coaches or professional assessors. This means they can assess the candidates from many different angles.



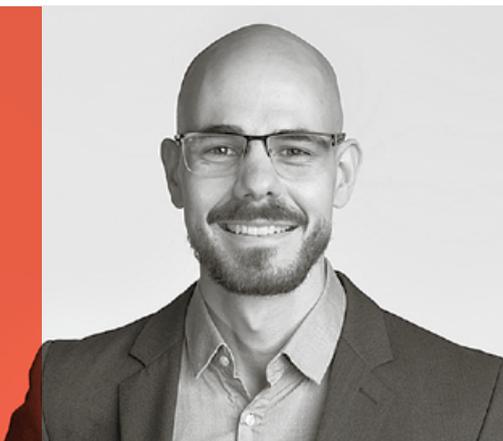
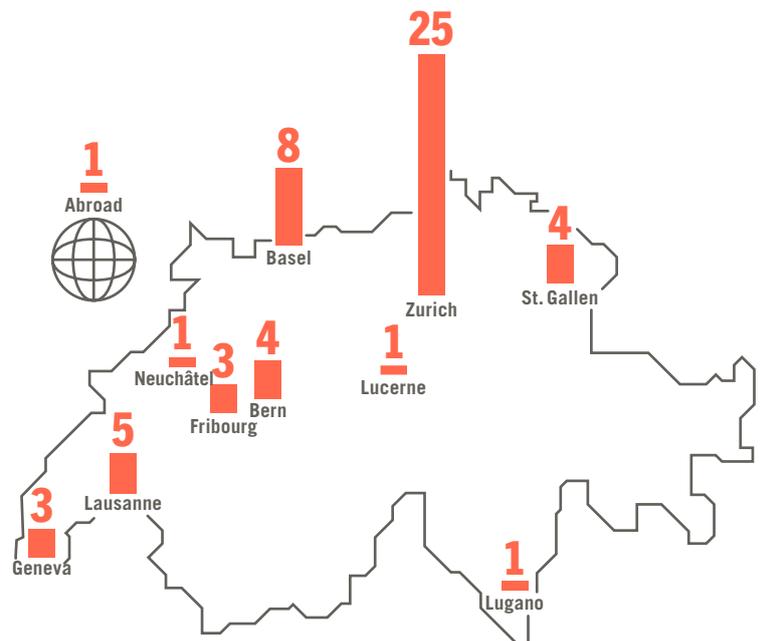
Here you'll find a list of all the assessors.

Mentors are professors who are points of contact for the students at their study locations. They can help with matters related to studies and career planning at individual and group meetings.



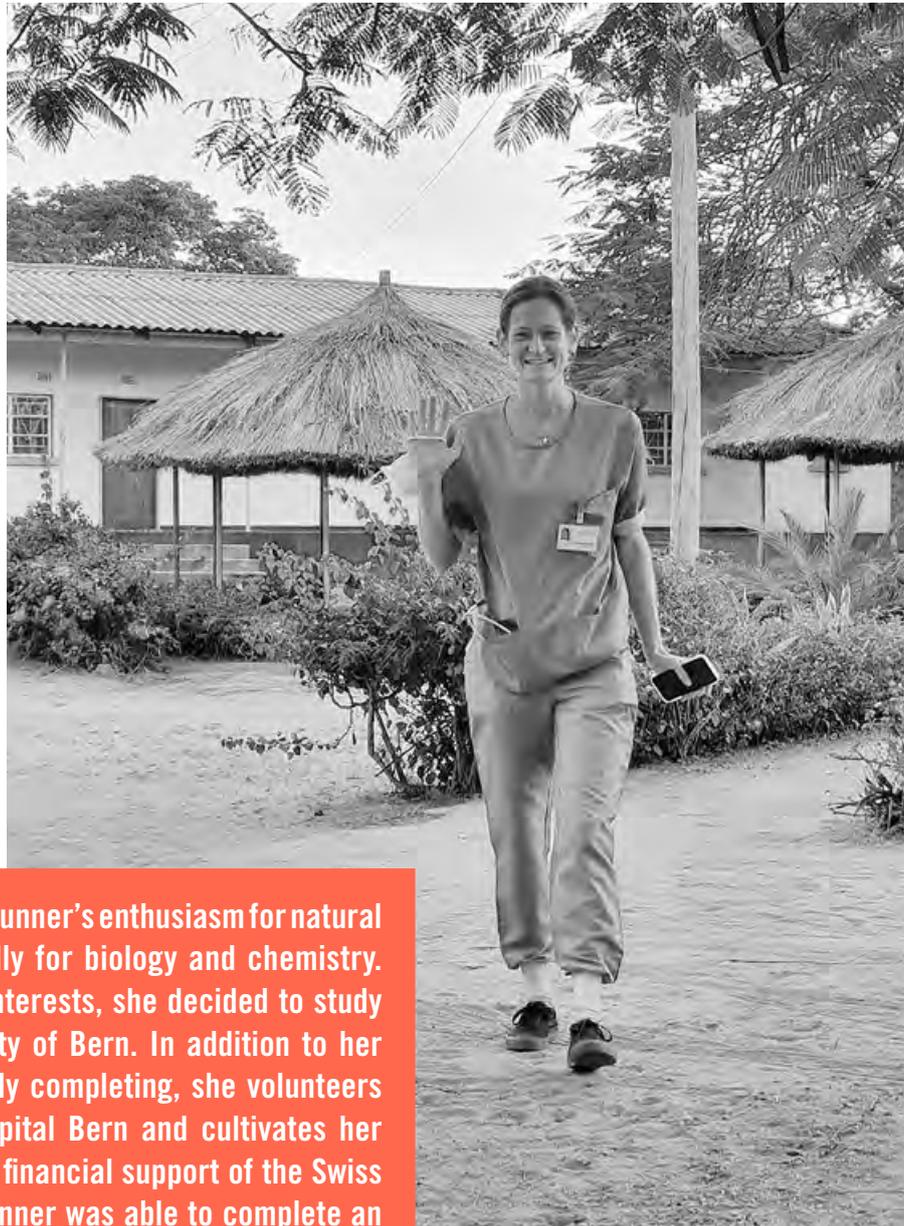
Here you'll find a list of all the mentors.

MENTORING GROUPS



“Thanks to the Study Foundation’s support, I have learned a lot on a variety of different topics together with wonderful people and, in the process, built relationships for life. The idealistic and financial support offered has multiplied since then, but at its core the Foundation has remained the same – and that’s a good thing. Supporting excellent and socially engaged students should remain a priority.”

Servan Grüninger, alumnus, biostatistician, co-founder and president of the grassroots think tank Reatch



In secondary school, Stephanie Brunner's enthusiasm for natural sciences was ignited – especially for biology and chemistry. In combination with her social interests, she decided to study human medicine at the University of Bern. In addition to her studies, which she is successfully completing, she volunteers for the organisation Teddybär Spital Bern and cultivates her passion for music. Thanks to the financial support of the Swiss Study Foundation, Stephanie Brunner was able to complete an internship abroad, where she worked in a hospital in Mpanshya, Zambia, for one month. Stephanie Brunner made her living up to now with catering assignments on weekends and with tutoring lessons. For some time now, she has also been working as an assistant in the operating room. The scholarship of the Suyana Foundation now allows her to concentrate more on her studies. In the future, Stephanie Brunner wants to dedicate herself to the “Health for Future” initiative with the goal of sensitising the healthcare system to sustainability issues and initiating creative solution approaches.

Stephanie Brunner, Master's studies in Human Medicine,
University of Bern, 24

Scholarship holder of the Suyana Foundation

PARTNERS AND DONORS

3,524,220 CHF INCOME

3,848,180 CHF SPENT ON STUDENTS

It was thanks to the generous support of our partners and friends' association that the Swiss Study Foundation was able to offer such richly varied offers in 2021. We would like to thank all our named and anonymous donors for their valuable contributions.

Contributions of CHF 1,000,000 and more

- State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation
- Werner Siemens Foundation

Contributions of CHF 100,000 and more

- Bärbel and Paul Geissbühler Foundation
- Ernst Göhner Foundation
- Friends' association of the Swiss Study Foundation
- Mercator Foundation Switzerland
- Sophie and Karl Binding Foundation

Contributions of CHF 50,000 and more

- ETH Zurich
- Novartis AG
- University of Zurich

Contributions of CHF 25,000 and more

- Alumni Association of the Swiss Study Foundation
- F. Hoffmann-La Roche AG
- Hans Eggenberger Foundation
- Suyana Foundation

Contributions of CHF 10,000 and more

- EPF Lausanne
- ETH Board
- Lagrev Foundation
- Syngenta
- UBS
- University of Lausanne

Contributions of CHF 5,000 and more

- Bern University of Applied Sciences
- Egon and Ingrid Hug Foundation
- Georg H. Endress Foundation
- Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts
- Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences
- Università della Svizzera italiana
- University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland
- University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland
- University of Applied Sciences Eastern Switzerland
- University of Basel
- University of Bern
- University of Fribourg
- University of Geneva
- University of St. Gallen
- Zürcher Kantonalbank
- Zurich University of Applied Sciences
- Zurich University of Teacher Education

Contributions of CHF 1,000 and more

- Basler & Hofmann Foundation
- Basler Konrad
- Folkers Gerd, Prof. Dr.
- Fondazione Fidinam
- von Graevenitz Alexander, Prof. Dr.
- PricewaterhouseCoopers AG
- Rohrer Rosemarie
- University of Lucerne

Partnerships

- Science Olympics
- Swiss Youth Researches

FINANCES



The Swiss Study Foundation's work would not be possible without the generous financial support of many different organisations and individuals. Our thanks to you all. You are very much helping us to achieve our challenging goals.

FINANCES

4747 VOLUNTEER HOURS

The anniversary in 2021 was celebrated with five public events – accordingly, public relations expenditures were slightly higher than in other years. The additional expenses were partially compensated by the generous support of the Alumni Association in financing the anniversary celebration with an amount of CHF 30,000. The cost unit account, which is broken down by project, shows that both the expenses for the Foundation’s own education programme and the expenses for financial support increased again after 2020. Event costs continued to be kept consistently low wherever possible, without sacrificing quality of support.

Compared with previous years, revenue and earnings were stable in 2021. Operating expenses amount to CHF 3,848,180 and total contributions to CHF 3,524,220. An exceptionally good year on the stock market resulted in a positive return on the securities, which were invested for ten years in a sustainable and low-risk manner. Finally, the dissolution of the Bachelor Programme Fund in the amount of CHF 300,000 ensured that the Swiss Study Foundation closed its annual accounts with a small profit of CHF 163,226. The capital (consisting of fund and organisational capital) of CHF 9,455,537 serves to guarantee operations for 3 years. Moreover, the precious capital that is not reflected in monetary terms should not be underestimated: the extraordinarily high voluntary commitment of 4,747 working hours in the anniversary year is of enormous value to the Swiss Study Foundation and is very much appreciated.



As a fellow of the Mercator Fellowship, Alessandra Luana Biagioni is working on the topic of sexualised violence in armed conflicts. Her goal is to develop inclusive, intersectional and innovative prevention interventions that focus on the needs of survivors. During her Master’s studies at the University of Zurich and the American University of Beirut, she specialised in international peace, conflict and security research. Prior to that, she had completed a bachelor’s degree in political science at the University of Zurich. Alessandra Luana Biagioni gathered work experience at the International Crisis Group, the Institute of Political Science at the University of Zurich and various human rights organisations, among others. Since her youth, she has volunteered in various political organisations, from associations for post-migrant women and non-binary people, to language classes for refugees, to a small social start-up that aims to motivate young adults to get politically involved.

Alessandra Luana Biagioni, Master in Democracy, Development and International Relations, University of Zurich, 28

Fellow of the Mercator Fellowship on International Affairs

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2021 with prior-year figures

(Amounts in CHF)	2020	2021
ASSETS		
Liquid assets operations	1,311,707	1,021,161
Accounts receivable	156,178	129,883
Accrued income	196,858	94,972
Total Current Assets	1,664,743	1,246,016
Securities	8,198,543	8,354,922
Furniture and IT hardware	18,110	21,803
Total Fixed Assets	8,216,653	8,376,725
Total Assets	9,881,396	9,622,741
LIABILITIES		
Committed support contributions	65,500	85,000
Deferred income	223,585	82,204
Total Short-Term Liabilities	289,085	167,204
Total Liabilities	289,085	167,204
Intellectual Tools Fund	300,000	300,000
Educational Programme Fund	351,777	351,777
PhD Programme Fund	276,533	276,533
Bachelor Programme Fund	300,000	0
Conferences Fund	200,000	200,000
Werner Siemens Programme Fund	1,000,000	1,000,000
Bärbel and Paul Geissbühler Fund	150,000	150,000
Scholarship Programme Fund	306,487	306,487
Dr. Hermann Freudiger Fund	500,000	500,000
Travel Allowances Fund	50,000	50,000
Dr. Jenö Staehelin Fund	27,006	27,006
Sustainability Fund	240,000	240,000
Foundation Development Fund	542,816	542,816
Total Fund Capital (dedicated)	4,244,619	3,944,619
Paid-in Capital Foundation	100,000	100,000
Free Capital Earned	1,703,583	5,247,692
Annual Result	3,544,109	163,226
Total Organisational Capital	5,347,692	5,510,918
Total Liabilities	9,881,396	9,622,741

Operating Statement 2021 with prior-year figures

(Amounts in CHF)	2020	2021
INCOME FROM OPERATIONS / DONATIONS		
Donations Alumni	43,308	80,602
Donations Friends' association	309,000	125,000
Donations Companies	125,618	116,115
Donations Foundations	2,145,775	2,111,438
Donations Private	4,000	3000
Legacies	3,200,000	0
Donations Public Authorities	852,850	1,088,065
Total Donations	6,680,551	3,524,220
Total Income Operations / Donations	6,680,551	3,524,220
COSTS		
Selection	304,122	314,128
Financial Sponsorship	1,444,988	1,631,045
Educational Programme	1,162,191	1,422,866
Public relations and fundraising	437,567	480,141
Total Costs Operation	3,348,868	3,848,180
Interim Result 1	3,331,683	-323,960
FINANCIAL RESULT		
Interest income	4	-1,303
Securities costs	-45,489	-50,192
Securities revenue	257,911	238,681
Total Financial Result	212,426	187,186
Interim Result 2	3,544,109	-136,774
FUND RESULT		
Creation Dedicated Grants	0	0
Dissolution Dedicated Grants	0	300,000
Total Fund Results	0	300,000
Annual result before allocation to organisational capital	3,544,109	163,226

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