

PhD Scholarships Foster the Research of the Future

Creative, curious, and determined to break new grounds: young researchers are the future of science and drivers of innovation for our society. Support the Department of Economics in providing outstanding talents with the best possible education so that together we can positively influence the future of our social coexistence.



Enable excellence support for doctoral students

With a scholarship for young talents, you ensure that our doctoral students receive first-class economic training at our unique research and teaching institution in Zurich so that these future researchers can find the answers to the most pressing questions of our time and apply their knowledge to renowned institutions, organizations, and companies.

The international competition for talented young professionals is strong and will continue to intensify in the coming years. By bringing the world's most demanded talents to Zurich through your support, we strengthen Zurich as a center for the financial industry and promote Switzerland as a whole as an education-oriented country. Last but not least, our successful graduates act as ambassadors for Switzerland as a center of education and business.

Zurich: the First Address for a PhD in Economics

Switzerland is an education-oriented society with a large financial sector that depends on professionals with a first-class economic education. Thus, hundreds of students at the bachelor's and master's level benefit each year from courses of the highest standard at the Department of Economics. The Zurich Graduate School of Economics (Zurich GSE) was established in 2009 specifically for the doctoral level. The doctoral program, which is structured according to international standards, is considered the first address for a doctorate in economics on the European mainland and is positioned among the best programs worldwide.

Excellent researchers Pass on Excellent Knowledge

The structured doctoral program offers not only a range of courses taught by internationally renowned scholars but also world-class research opportunities. Nevertheless, inspiration and knowledge transfer are not a one-way street. Our professors also benefit from working with doctoral students. For it means to be confronted with innovative questions that are researched with the highest degree of creativity and new methods.

The young researchers immerse themselves in their work with a great deal of passion and verve, sketching out questions and hypotheses, creating models, and questioning conventions. In addition to the close collaboration between doctoral students and supervisors and a strong team spirit among the students, they also enjoy the benefits of a highly interdisciplinary, vibrant research community with access to first-class facilities.

The goal of the program: bringing outstanding young talent from around the world to Zurich

It is specifically about producing independent young researchers as drivers of innovation for our society, who can secure academic positions at the world's best universities and leadership roles in institutions, such as central banks, or in local and international organizations.

Talent Pool with Enormous Potential

Every year, hundreds of students from more than 70 countries apply for one of the 12 to 15 highly coveted study places. The competitive application process follows strict selection criteria that include excellent academic performance and outstanding references.

Under the leadership of the director of the Zurich GSE, Prof. Roberto Weber, a committee of professors evaluates the candidates. Only the best are shortlisted and invited for interviews.

Already during their studies, doctoral students are valuable employees of the Department

A doctorate is an investment in the future, and Zurich GSE is considered a career launch pad for young professionals. On average, the program lasts five years and consists of various components. During this time, doctoral students attend courses and seminars and work on their own research projects and their dissertation. At the same time, the dissertation serves as an "application portfolio" for a later career. In addition,

doctoral students are involved in teaching and supervising bachelor's and master's students, which makes them valuable employees of the Department and the University of Zurich already during their studies.



"We are highly experienced in selecting and recruiting young talent. We assure and guarantee you that your contribution will go to the leaders of tomorrow and that your financial contribution will be used to conduct research at the highest level. Thus, your contribution has the highest possible impact."

Prof. Roberto Weber, Director of Zurich GSE

Pioneering Economics as a Guiding Principle for Research and Education

Doctoral students hold enormous potential in terms of creativity, motivation, and talent. That is why, in our degree programs, we focus on the importance of applied research – in addition to the important teaching of theories and methods. At the same time, we encourage young people to ask critical questions and to consistently pursue their goals, as they can accomplish great things. As an international research community, we see it as our responsibility to search for and support outstanding young talents and to pro-

vide them with an optimal launch pad for their careers in the form of a doctorate. After all, it is often doctoral students who, with fresh questions and new approaches, ask precisely the questions that pave the way to new insights. This is one of the reasons why many Nobel Prizes can be traced back to a doctoral thesis.

Under the credo “Pioneering Economics,” our researchers are taking a pioneering role and pushing the boundaries of economic thinking

to improve our social and economic lives. They contribute to addressing the five major challenges facing the world today: achieving a sustainable economy, shaping the digital transformation, overcoming the globalization crisis, reducing poverty and inequality, and developing effective policies. Our doctoral students contribute to this with their projects in an innovative and important manner.



“The promotion of highly qualified young scientists is of great importance for a country’s innovation potential and competitiveness. Zurich GSE graduates are therefore valuable specialists not only for science but also for Switzerland as a location for education and business.”

Walter Kielholz, Honorary Chairman at Swiss Re Ltd, Advisory Board Member at the Department of Economics, University of Zurich

Excellent Research Requires a High Level of Effort and Time

Should preventive health care be free, or is it more effective if you have to pay for it? Which cultural factors influence the willingness to pay for sustainably and ethically produced goods? How can pension systems be financed in an aging society? What do optimal tax systems for globally active companies look like?

These and similar questions are addressed by our young researchers in their work. This involves a great deal of effort – not only in terms of time, but often also financially. Especially in the field of experimental economics and development economics, data collection involves high costs. These include data procurement, experimental costs, or costs

associated with field research and international networking. Further costs are also incurred in data processing, especially for large-scale studies or for historical data sets.



“I’m fascinated by cognitive biases in economic decision-making, and I want to investigate the causes of poverty traps.”

Lexi Schubert, PhD student at Zurich GSE



“Thanks to my field study in Guatemala and the on-site interviews, I was able to show in my dissertation that organic certifications can exacerbate structural problems in local agriculture because they facilitate plant disease outbreaks. This leads, for example, to an increasing migration of young workers to more developed countries.”

Emilio Dal Re, PhD student at Zurich GSE

The Impact of Your Investment

By donating to the Zurich Graduate School of Economics, you are enabling the best students to receive a high-quality education at one of the leading institutions in economics, thereby investing in a better future for society as a whole.

Scope and Impact:

Full Scholarship	Career Kick-Start Funding	Travel Grants	Specific Project Funding
<ul style="list-style-type: none">You support and accompany a young talent in his or her career as a doctoral student from start to finish.This includes full financial support, including tuition and basic living expenses for an average of five years.You will receive annual reporting on status and progress and have the unique opportunity to closely experience the journey from a young doctoral student to an experienced researcher.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">You support a young talent in the first two years of her or his doctoral studies and provide her or him with an initial boost in this important phase.This consists of a partial fellowship for the most expensive years of the doctorate when doctoral students are not yet able to pursue teaching responsibilities.With the "Career Kick-Start Funding" you pave the way for a doctoral student to successfully complete a doctorate at Zurich GSE.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">You offer a young talent a valuable exchange with researchers and experts in other countries.Travel Grants include travel expenses, for example for stays abroad and conferences of significant importance to the doctoral student's research and career.Other activities abroad are also promoted, such as short research stays at universities or other research institutions, archival or library research, or field studies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">You enable a young talent to undertake an ambitious and concrete research project as part of their doctoral studies.This ranges from partial funding of certain project phases, e.g., data collection or data analysis, to full funding of the entire project.After completion of the project, you will receive a reporting with the most important results.
Funding for a full scholarship requires a donation of CHF 250,000 to 300,000	The "Career Kick-Start Funding" requires a donation of CHF 50,000 to CHF 100,000	A Travel Grant requires a donation of CHF 25,000 for ½ year or CHF 50,000 for 1 year stay	Specific Project Funding requires a donation of CHF 5,000 to 10,000

Your Contribution to Zurich GSE: A Benefit for Both Sides

Individuals and representatives of institutions who support our doctoral students are frequently invited to events organized by the Department of Economics, where they have the opportunity to exchange ideas with the young talents and other doctoral students.

There is also the possibility of a graduate school named entirely after you. Please contact us directly for this option.

Invest Today in the Leaders of Tomorrow

Today's young talents are tomorrow's leaders. By providing scholarships for doctoral students with your donation, you are helping to attract the best young researchers to Zurich. So that the next generation can tackle the global challenges of our time with sound knowledge.

Excellence Foundation Zurich
Katrin Polzer
Managing Director
Schönberggasse 1, 8001 Zurich
T + 41 44 634 59 38
katrin.polzer@econ.uzh.ch
www.efzh.org

Account number:
IBAN: CH51 0070 0114 8036 0420 5
1148-3604.205
Bank: Zürcher Kantonalbank,
8010 Zurich