



## Student Support Programme

### A Commitment to Talent

At EPFL, our fundamental duty is to prepare our students for their future, not only as first class engineers, but also as engaged and active members of society. To achieve this we must provide them with an outstanding education in engineering and the sciences, all the while ensuring that they acquire, and embrace the importance of, soft skills and an open mindset.

To support our commitment to society to develop productive, well-rounded, global citizen-engineers of tomorrow, EPFL has launched a brand-new *Student Support Programme*. Although sharply focused on attracting and honing top talent at EPFL, the Programme's multi-faceted approach means that it will benefit the entire student community at EPFL as well as society.

## Excellence Fellowships

The first area of focus of the *Student Support Programme* is Excellence Fellowships. For the first time in its 50-year history, EPFL has decided to implement Excellence Fellowships for Bachelor level students, in this case for Swiss citizens and/or residents.

This brand new endeavor at EPFL puts us amongst the first Swiss universities to offer merit-based support to students at the Bachelor level.

At Master's level, our ambition is to double the number of Excellence Fellowships available to students, regardless of their citizenship or residency. We believe that it is crucial for EPFL to reinforce its attractiveness to top talent across the world so that the exceptional education that we offer can reach an even larger pool of potential. Not only does this ensure that EPFL remains a key player in an increasingly competitive academic world, but it also means that top, global talent can benefit from a unique, holistic educational experience at EPFL.

## Excellence Training

EPFL professors are leaders in their respective fields, and are central to the expertise that our students acquire during their time here. Being able to apply and explain the theory learned in an auditorium is, however, just as crucial to the future success of our students. The *Student Support Programme's* second pillar supports this via Peer-to-Peer Student Tutors and PhD Excellence Training:

### Peer-to-Peer Student Teachers

Master students and 3<sup>rd</sup>-year Bachelor students will learn the art of knowledge transmission by tutoring 1<sup>st</sup>-year Bachelor students.

This illustrates how supporting talented students can have a reach that extends beyond the initial target group. Not only do the tutors learn how to explain what they have learned, and thereby fine-tune their communication skills, empathy and general relational skills, tutored students benefit from additional support through the existence of this peer-to-peer system. Through this activity, talented students also learn first-hand that top talent has a responsibility to help those who may require additional support. Our ultimate aim is for all of our students to be successful, not only for themselves but also for the positive impact that their success will have on the society they will then serve as graduates.

### PhD Excellence Training

EPFL will facilitate a seamless transition for our doctoral candidates between the academic and corporate world, by equipping these students with skills in project management, leadership and entrepreneurship.

A majority of doctoral candidates at EPFL ends up in careers outside of academia; we want to ensure that they can adapt quickly and efficiently to a role in industry, and give them the leadership skills required to ensure that their knowledge and expertise can be aptly communicated and transferred.

Even though this specific Training is new at EPFL, we have always been committed to ensuring the permeability between academia and society on our campus, for example via the EPFL Innovation Park and ArtLab, as well as with initiatives such as the FORWARD Forum for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs). This community

and culture of partnerships enables EPFL to understand the needs of industry and society, and leads to the most beneficial innovations for all.

## Excellence Projects: The MAKE Catalyst Fund

Interdisciplinary student-led projects are a key component of the well-rounded education that our students receive at EPFL, and represent the final pillar of the *Student Support Programme*.

By working on large-scale projects with their peers from other faculties, our students have the opportunity to put theory into practice, experience the challenges and rewards of teamwork, and connect with people from a different backgrounds, for example when participating in international student competitions. The project groups also receive invaluable support from our experienced technical staff.

By participating in these projects, our students gain valuable experience in project management, financial forecasting and accounting. They are also required to display initiative, and grasp the significant role soft skills play in developing a successful team. These interdisciplinary projects provide a genuine first taste of what it may be like to work in industry after their studies.

EPFL has already allocated a significant amount of funding to these interdisciplinary projects, but our ambition is to scale it up to allow a larger number of students to be able to take part in them and benefit from the experience.

## Get in Touch

EPFL's student community is our university's most important asset. In order to respond to the expectations that society has of our graduates, we must equip them with the scientific knowledge, soft skills, and openness to become high-caliber engineers and citizens of the world.

We need committed visionaries to join us to make this happen, by enabling the EPFL Student Support Programme to be as impactful and valuable as possible for all of our students.

In addition to making a lasting difference, whose effects will reverberate across the student community, joining us will enable you to:

- become a recognized partner of a brand new EPFL flagship programme
- have the opportunity to meet Fellows at bespoke events
- be invited to major EPFL events such as *La Magistrale*, and award ceremonies
- be recognized in our Annual Report and across all relevant communication

Get in touch with Magali Goby at [Magali.Goby@epfl.ch](mailto:Magali.Goby@epfl.ch) to find out more.

We look forward to hearing from you.