

# HUMER FOUNDATION

## FOR ACADEMIC TALENT



### **POST-GRADUATE EDUCATION: BACK TO NORMALITY!**

Dr Franz B. Humer, Chairman of the Foundation Board

When we began the work of our Foundation ten years ago, in university circles there was a very great fear that the Bologna reform – which was ongoing at the time – might, sooner or later, deal a death blow to post-graduate education at universities. Naturally, academics who are seeking a purely academic career would want and need to continue writing theses in the future. But what about those who gear their academic education more to an activity in business – might not they be content with a Master's or even a Bachelor's? Reflecting the gravity of the situation, in the middle of the last decade many universities went to great lengths to offer particularly attractive post-graduate programmes – often involving several faculties and almost always with an international orientation.

Since our establishment in 2007, our Foundation has considered it a privilege to be able to specifically promote such programmes. We do this in close co-operation with the universities in Zurich, Basel and Salzburg. Based on our own experiences, we can now say that those fears, while not groundless, have – thankfully – only partly been vindicated. Of course, many people who would once have completed their studies with a doctorate nowadays move straight into the world of work after successfully completing a Master's. For businesses, this is quite an advantage. In return, many employers allow their younger academically trained employees to complete a post-graduate degree after their first few years of work if they are keen to further broaden their knowledge.

Yet – as the CVs of many doctoral candidates whom we have had the pleasure of supporting show – even after the Bologna reform, it is by no means the case that only those who want to dedicate their futures entirely to research and teaching complete a thesis. The impressive professionalization and internationalization of many postgraduate programmes makes a doctorate increasingly attractive to young people keen to prove themselves in business after their studies. I am delighted with this development, even though I am of course aware that a doctorate alone is no guarantee of a successful career at a company.

So, more than fifteen years after the Bologna process first began, we can say without doubt that the situation for post-graduate education at universities is returning to normal and, in many cases, has even improved.

I take great pleasure in the fact that our Foundation is able, in our 11th year of business, to play our part in this.



## PERFORMANCE REPORT 2016

Urs Lauffer, executive member of the Foundation Board

Our Foundation, set up in spring 2007, aims to fund talented young scholars in Switzerland, Austria and other European countries, on an exclusively non-profit basis. This is done in close co-operation with the universities in Zurich, Basel and Salzburg.

In the tenth year of our operations, we have granted the University of Zurich funding to the tune of CHF 200 000 for doctoral training in the key research area, "Asia and Europe". This sum was used to fund four doctoral candidates. In 2016, the University of Salzburg received a sum of EUR 210 000. With this support, during the year under review, six candidates have continued their doctoral work at the post-graduate teaching centre in Salzburg. And finally, the Foundation has once again supported the University of Basel with a grant of CHF 200 000 for the key research topic "Africa".

We deeply value the intensive collaboration with the relevant staff at the three universities. This is the best way to ensure the quality of the individual research projects, which is regularly monitored by the professors involved. The Humer Foundation therefore still does not consider applications sent directly to it by doctoral candidates.

During the year under review, the Foundation Board met in two sessions, in Salzburg and Arlesheim. The main focus was the evaluation and approval of requests for financial support for doctoral candidates, which was undertaken on the basis of thorough, balanced assessments made by the three universities. In addition, the Foundation's statutory business (annual accounts, yearly review, auditor's report, elections) was dealt with.

Furthermore, the Foundation Board periodically reviews the success of funding activities, in the presence of professors and individual doctoral candidates. In doing so, we assess both the effectiveness and efficiency of our work, thus measuring the usefulness and the economic efficien-

cy of the allocation of our Foundation's resources. Based on this, and using specific individual cases as templates, we then define our Foundation's goals for the new financial year. And finally, we also deal with all financial issues and risks (including investment principles, which are regularly reviewed and adjusted), and oversee the work of our office.

Given the challenging conditions in the financial markets, the Foundation had to fund its activities during the financial year largely through transfers from capital reserves. At the end of 2016, the organisation's capital totalled around CHF 2.9 million. Our Foundation will have to reduce the extent of its support in the next three to four years, and in doing so accepts that its capital will be largely depleted.

The office is managed by Lauffer & Frischknecht, a communication management consultancy, on a consultative basis. Stéphanie Ramel takes care of the administration, and Fritz Frischknecht, MA Econ., is responsible for the accounts department. Swiss GAAP FER 21 is used for the annual financial statements.

## CURRENT THESES

### UNIVERSITY OF ZURICH – ASIA AND EUROPE

At present, the Humer Foundation is supporting the following four doctoral students:

THIRUNI KELEGAMA – Anxious Integration: Development in Sri Lanka's Post-War Frontier

NATHALIE MARSEGLIA – Craftsman – Artist – National Treasure: Preserving Cultural Heritage and its Effects on the Practices of Contemporary Japanese Ceramicists and the Reception of their Works

NINA RAGETH – Medicine and Religion. Traditional Tamil Medicine in the Context of Religious Institutions

ANUSOOYA SIVAGANESAN – Forced to Marry. A Human Rights' Violation within its Euro-Asian Entanglements

### UNIVERSITY OF SALZBURG – EUROPEAN UNION STUDIES

At present, the Humer Foundation is supporting the following six doctoral students:

FRANCESCO GALLETTI – Varieties of Capitalism and the EMU Crisis: Assessing the Domestic Adjustments Variations

HENDRIK JUNGSMANN – Company Taxation in Europe: Evidence from Microdata

THOMAS LEHNER – Politicization and the Euro Crisis – Euroscepticism, Challengers and the Reaction of Mainstream Parties

DOMINIKA MAJOROWSKI – The European Stability Mechanism – A Crisis Resolution Mechanism

MARKUS TIEFENBACHER – Distributive Effects of fiscal measures within the Eurozone

JAMES HULDRICK WILHELM – EU Issue Voting? Political Parties, European Integration Attitudes and The Vote

### UNIVERSITY OF BASEL – AFRICA

At present, the Humer Foundation is supporting the following two doctoral students.

CHRISTOPHER BARRATT – Speciation Patterns in the Lowland Forests of East Africa

VLADIMIR WINGATE – Deforestation and Land Degradation in the Northern Communal Areas of Namibia

Three further scholarships were advertised in January 2017 in connection with the launch of the new Graduate Campus African Studies Basel.

## COMPLETED THESES

In 2016, the following thesis made possible by our Foundation was completed:

### UNIVERSITY OF BASEL – AFRICA

JOSCHKA PHILIPPS – Crystallizing Contention. A cumulative dissertation on youth, politics, and urban violence in Conakry, Kampala, and beyond

## KEY FINANCIAL DATA 12/31/2016

in CHF

	2016	2015	2014
Financial support	629 000	579 000	891 000
Annual result	-548 000	-690 000	628 000
Organisation's capital	2 929 000	3 521 000	4 152 000

Since it was established in 2007, the Foundation has provided financial support totalling CHF 6 300 000.

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## FOUNDATION BOARD

### CHAIRMAN

Dr Franz B. Humer (Erlenbach)  
Chairman of the Board  
of the International Centre for Missing  
and Exploited Children

### VICE CHAIRWOMAN

Renate Gerber (Arlesheim)  
Honorary Senator of the University of Salzburg,  
Vice Chairwoman of the Board of Directors of the  
Fritz Gerber Foundation for talented young people

### MEMBERS

Dr Gottlieb Keller (Zug)  
Member of the Corporate Executive Committee  
of F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd

Urs Lauffer (Steinmaur)  
Partner in Lauffer & Frischknecht,  
Management Consultants for Communication

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## OFFICE

HUMER FOUNDATION  
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## HEAD OFFICE

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## STATUTORY AUDITORS

BDO AG (Zurich)