

HUMER FOUNDATION

FOR ACADEMIC TALENT



INTERNATIONAL

Dr Franz B. Humer, Chairman of the Foundation Board

Even just a few years ago, most doctoral candidates planned, researched and wrote their theses in the rooms and laboratories of their respective universities. Extended stays abroad working on theses were the exception, not the rule. However, as our co-operation with the Universities of Zurich, Salzburg and Basel shows – this trend has changed fundamentally. Most of the young scientists that we have been fortunate enough to support since 2007 have spent at least a year living abroad during their thesis. Whether they chose Asia, Africa or Europe, I am convinced that the insights resulting from these stays abroad have significantly enhanced the quality of the individual pieces of work. They give the publications practical relevance and thus enhanced value.

However, it seems even more important to me that theses with an international focus significantly broaden the young academics' experience. This is because it is only when one has crossed national borders and incorporated the reality of living in all manner of different countries that one gains insights which cannot be found within the four walls of a university.

From our regular encounters with doctoral candidates, I repeatedly become aware that, when they talk about their semester abroad, some things that still seemed very theoretical concepts suddenly come to life. And it becomes clear why writing a thesis also makes a lot of sense in the Bologna era. At this stage, the young people are laying the foundations of knowledge upon which they can draw la-

ter in their career and which make them capable of performing at their best.

Working internationally has long formed part of the everyday life at most companies – and we are not just talking about the large, global corporations. Even those who work for an SME or in the public sector after finishing their thesis will sooner or later be faced with questions that are easier to answer by drawing on their experience of living overseas. As far as my own personal experience shows, thinking globally also helps to adopt a more focused and successful approach in a national context. And that leads us back to the core of our Foundation's work: we do not support theses on account of the titles they confer, but rather we see them as the basis for a meaningful professional career that delivers outstanding success.

What we know about the next career move of doctoral candidates who completed their theses a few years ago with our financial support confirms this beyond all doubt. And I am glad to admit that, we on the Foundation Board are occasionally a little proud when we learn about the professional feats of "our" former students. That is why we are motivated to continue our work over the coming years too in close co-operation with the universities.



PERFORMANCE REPORT 2017

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 eleventh year of our operations, we have granted the University of Zurich funding to the tune of CHF 100 000 for doctoral training in the key research area, "Asia and Europe". This sum was used to fund two doctoral candidates. As planned, this payment concludes our partnership with the University of Zurich. We have been able to facilitate many impressive theses as part of our more than ten years of support. We would like to extend a most sincere thanks to the University of Zurich and its doctoral candidates for their many years of excellent collaboration. In 2017, the University of Salzburg received a sum of EUR 210 000. This support enabled six candidates to continue their doctoral work at the Salzburg Centre of European Union Studies during the year under review. And, finally, the Foundation has once again supported the University of Basel with a grant of CHF 150 000 for the key research topic "Africa". This sum was used to fund three doctoral candidates.

We deeply value the intensive collaboration with the relevant staff at these universities. This is the best way to ensure the quality of the individual research projects, which is regularly monitored by the professors involved. The Hummer 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 Erlenbach. 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 efficiency 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.

At the end of 2017, the organisation's capital totalled around CHF 2.6 million. This represents a smaller decline than originally expected thanks to a very good financial result in the year under review. In this light, the Foundation Board believes that our Foundation can continue its co-operation with the Universities of Salzburg and Basel until at least the end of 2020, although the organisation's capital will inevitably be reduced further over these years.

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 two doctoral students:

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:

SANDRA HUMMELBRUNNER – The Consistency of European External Action

MILENA KERN – Impacts of EU tax reforms

CHRISTIAN KLEINERTZ – Labour Market Effects of Immigration and Immigration Policy

CARINA KOBLER – Cross-border welfare rights and shifting concepts of redistributive justice: a challenge for European integration?

THOMAS LEHNER – Governments, Parties and the Public - The multiple layers of conflict during the Euro Crisis

ISABEL STAUDINGER – The EU and the IMF

UNIVERSITY OF BASEL – AFRICA

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

RAJA DAOUAH – Emerging Trends, Developments and Opportunities of Islamic Finance: The Moroccan Case

ANDREA KIFYASI – Diplomatic History of China's Medical Assistance to Africa: A case Study of Tanzania, 1960 - 2015

STEPHEN ASOL KPABINDE – Political Sermons in Kenyas Quest for Democratic Governance between 1986 and 2010: A case study of the selected sermons from the three Anglican Clergy

COMPLETED THESES

In 2017, the following theses made possible by our Foundation were completed:

UNIVERSITY OF ZURICH – ASIA AND EUROPE

MOTAZ ALNAOUQ – The Right to Life in the Palestinian Society: The Case of Death Penalty from Comparative Human Rights Perspective

AMIR HAMID – Mediating Desire. Yusuf al-Qaradawi and the Circulation of Norms on Gender & Sexuality in the Transnational Muslim Public

ELIZA ISABAEVA – Negotiating Illegality: Re-Production of State Structures in an Illegal Squatter Settlement in Bishkek

TOBIAS WEISS – Capturing the sun. Journalism and nuclear power in Japan.

UNIVERSITY OF SALZBURG – EUROPEAN UNION STUDIES

HENDRIK JUNGSMANN – Company Taxation in Europe: Evidence from Microdata

JAMES WILHELM – EU Issue Voting in National Elections

UNIVERSITY OF BASEL – AFRICA

CHRISTOPHER BARRATT – Biodiversity patterns and conservation of the coastal forests of Eastern Africa

VLADIMIR WINGATE – Remote sensing environmental change in southern African savannahs: A case study of Namibia

KEY FINANCIAL DATA 12/31/2017

in CHF

	2017	2016	2015
Financial support	531 000	629 000	579 000
Annual result	-294 000	-548 000	-690 000
Organisation's capital	2 601 000	2 929 000	3 521 000

Since it was established in 2007, the Foundation has provided financial support totalling CHF 6 800 000.

FOUNDATION BOARD

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Dr Franz B. Humer (Erlenbach)
Chairman of the Board of Directors of the International
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Fritz Gerber Foundation for talented young people

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

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