

CEO

Federal Chancellor

Comedian

Nobel Laureate

Researcher

Philanthropist

Robot ethicist

Founder

Top athlete

Architect

Entrepreneur

Mayor

150th Alumni Anniversary

The diverse world of ETH

ETH graduates are constantly achieving great things – as architects, engineers, researchers and in all kinds of other fields. Over the past 150 years, these graduates have fostered the development of the ETH alumni network. Read on to find out what motivates and empowers them.

20 well-known and not-so-well-known alumnae and alumni are under the spotlight here. They represent all the ETH graduates who are using their knowledge to help shape our world.

COMPILED BY Nicol Klenk



01

Richard Ernst
Studied chemistry,
Nobel Laureate

Richard Ernst studied chemistry at ETH from 1952 to 1956 and obtained his doctorate in physical chemistry in 1962. He returned to ETH after spending five years in the US. In 1991, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his “contributions to the development of the methodology of high resolution nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy”. An emeritus professor since 1998, he continues to play

a key role in the research community both in Switzerland and abroad. *Listen to Richard Ernst in our podcast:*
→ www.ethz.ch/podcast

02

Klaus Schwab
Studied mechanical engineering, executive chairman of the WEF

Klaus Schwab is the founder and executive chairman of the World Economic Forum (WEF). Based in Geneva, the WEF is an international organisation that provides a platform for leaders from business,



government and civil society to address global challenges. Published in 2016, his book *The Fourth Industrial Revolution* has sold over one million copies and been translated into more than 30 languages.

03

Tilla Theus
Studied architecture, architect



Tilla Theus studied architecture at ETH Zurich from 1963 to 1968. After completing her degree, she set up her own firm, which she has run under the name Tilla Theus und Partner AG since 1985. Theus spe-

cialises in planning and constructing new buildings in challenging urban contexts and renovating and refurbishing listed buildings, as well as in interior design and decoration.

04

Jörg Sennheiser
Studied electrical engineering, member of the Sennheiser supervisory board



Jörg Sennheiser began his degree in electrical engineering in Hanover and completed it at ETH. In 1973, he obtained his doctorate at the ETH Institute of Telecommunications Engineering. In 1976, soon after starting his career, he joined the family company Sennheiser, which was founded by his father. In 1982, he took the helm of the audio equipment manufacturer. He is currently a member of the supervisory board.

05

Jürgen Hilti
Studied electrical engineering and business management, vice president, board of directors, Hilcona AG

In 1971, after completing his degree, Jürgen Hilti and



his brother Ekkehard joined the management board of the company Scana Konservenfabrik AG – founded by their father Toni Hilti – and transformed it into a market leader for fresh convenience foods under the name Hilcona. After selling Hilcona to the Coop Group, Hilti set up the Family Office business with his son Rico and founded Stiftung Zukunft.li, a foundation that aims to address the challenges facing Lichtenstein in the future.

06

Annemarie Huber-Hotz
Studied spatial planning, president of the Swiss Red Cross



Annemarie Huber-Hotz was Federal Chancellor of Switzerland between 2000 and 2007, the first woman to hold this position. She studied sociology, ethnology and political science at the universities of Bern and Uppsala (Sweden), and the Graduate Institute, Geneva. Huber-Hotz took



Corine Mauch,
mayor of Zurich

a postgraduate course in spatial planning in 1976 – 77. She has been the president of the Swiss Red Cross since 2011.

07

Corine Mauch
Studied agricultural economics, mayor of Zurich

Corine Mauch completed her degree in agricultural economics at ETH in 1986. She came to Zurich specifically to take this programme and was fascinated by the interdisciplinary approach and solution-oriented combination of research and practice. She subsequently completed a part-time Master's degree in public administration at

the University of Lausanne. She has been mayor of Zurich since 2009.

08

Urs Schaeppi
Studied engineering, CEO Swisscom



Urs Schaeppi joined Swisscom 21 years ago. He was appointed as head of corporate business in 2008 and head of Swisscom Switzerland at the start of 2013. Swisscom's board of directors appointed

Schaeppi as CEO at the end of 2013. Before joining Swisscom, he studied engineering at ETH, completed his licentiate degree at HSG, and held various management roles at Iveco, Ascom AG and the Biberist paper mill.

09

Urs Hölzle
Studied computer science, senior vice president at Google Inc.

Urs Hölzle is responsible for designing and operating the servers, networks



and data centres that run Google's services as well as for developing Google Cloud Platform. Before joining Google as its first vice president of engineering, he was an Associate Professor of Computer Science at University of California, Santa Barbara. Hölzle studied computer science at ETH Zurich from 1983 to 1988.

10

Walter Thurnherr
Studied physics, Swiss Federal Chancellor

Walter Thurnherr studied theoretical physics at ETH Zurich from 1983 to 1987. He subsequently



worked at the Mathematical Seminar and at the University of Bern's Institute of Physiology. In 1989, Thurnherr joined the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. He was elected by Parliament as Federal Chancellor at the end of 2015.

11

Pascale Vonmont-Bachmann
Studied chemistry, CEO and director of Gebert R  f Stiftung



Pascale Vonmont-Bachmann studied chemistry at ETH Zurich. In 1993, she obtained her doctorate in biopolymers and a teaching diploma in chemistry. In 2017, she was appointed as director of Gebert R  f Stiftung, Switzerland's largest private foundation for science and innovation. With an annual budget of 15 million Swiss francs, it supports the transfer of innovative research projects into commercial products.

12

Felix Graf
Studied physical chemistry, CEO NZZ Mediengruppe

Felix Graf completed his degree in interdisciplinary sciences at ETH in 1994 and embarked on a doctorate in physics at the chair of physical chemistry in 1998. After holding management positions at McKinsey, Swisscom, Teleclub



and CKW, Graf was appointed as CEO of NZZ Mediengruppe – one of Switzerland's largest private media companies – in 2018.

13

Roberto Cirillo
Studied mechanical engineering, CEO Swiss Post

Roberto Cirillo completed his degree in mechanical engineering at ETH in 1995. Following a stint as associate principal at McKinsey & Company,



Cirillo spent four years as CEO of Optegra Ltd. and eight years as a member of executive management at Sodexo SA. Roberto Cirillo is currently a member of the board of directors of Croda International Plc. In April 2019, Roberto Cirillo will take over as CEO of Swiss Post.

14

Myke N  f
Studied computer science, founder of Doodle

Myke N  f is the founder and former CEO of Doodle, the world's most popular online scheduling tool. Before founding Doodle, he worked as a



professor, security officer, project manager, engineer and consultant in various organisations in Switzerland, the US, Bhutan and the Philippines. Today, he is an angel investor and advisor to start-ups as well as founding his own ventures.

15

Christian Buhl
Studied physics, CEO Geberit Group



Christian Buhl studied physics at ETH Zurich from 1993 to 1999 before taking his doctorate at the University of St. Gallen. From 2000 to 2003, he worked in research and teaching at the Universities of St. Gallen and Basel. He then worked at McKinsey & Company from 2004 to 2008. In 2009, Buhl joined the Geberit Group, the European market leader in the field of sanitary products, becoming chairman of the group executive board in 2015.

16

Reto Frei
Studied industrial management and manufacturing, founder of tibits restaurants



Named after the English word "tidbits", tibits restaurants offer a selection of fresh, healthy and delicious food and drinks. The family business was founded in 2000 by brothers Daniel, Christian and Reto Frei and the Hiltl family. The idea behind tibits originated from the business plan competition Venture 98, organised by ETH Zurich and McKinsey.



17

Fabian Unteregger
Studied food science, Swiss comedian and TV host

Fabian Unteregger completed his degree in food science at ETH Zurich in 2003 and received his ETH teaching certificate in 2004. He studied human medicine at the University of Zurich from 2008 to 2014 and completed his doctoral studies in medicine in 2017. Unteregger performs in a wide range of venues as a parodist, host and theatresports participant.



18

Kate Darling
Studied at D-GESS, robot ethicist

Kate Darling is an award-winning researcher at MIT, where she investigates social robotics and conducts studies on human-robot interaction. Her research focuses on how robotics may develop in the decades ahead. Kate Darling obtained her doctorate in 2014 at the Department of Humanities, Social and Political Sciences.

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Dominique Gisin
Studied physics, Olympic downhill ski champion

Dominique Gisin was one of the world's top Alpine ski racers between 2007

and 2015. In 2014, she won gold in the prestigious downhill event at the Sochi Winter Olympics. She went on to study physics at ETH Zurich from 2015 to 2018, obtaining her Bachelor's degree in September 2018. In October 2018, she became CEO of the foundation Schweizer Sport-hilfe, successfully forging a career out of her passion for sport.



20

Eva Baier
Studied environmental sciences, founder of Fischwanderung.ch



Eva Baier grew up in Konstanz and came to Zurich in 2010 to take an interdisciplinary environmental sciences degree at ETH. After completing her degree in 2016, she founded Fischwanderung.ch GmbH. Her goal is to make a meaningful contribution to solving water conservation problems. ○