



Nurture Knowledge – Cultivate Talent – Create Expertise

s:fi



Dr. Stefan Seiler

Chairman of the SFI Foundation Board and Group Head Human Resources & Corporate Services,
UBS AG

Switzerland is one of the world's leading financial centers. In a world marked by political uncertainty and structural upheavals, Switzerland stands for a number of qualities that are sought after and appreciated, such as the combination of stability and world-leading innovation. The business models of the firms in the Swiss financial center have undergone fundamental changes in recent years. Key to their continuing success are a solid foundation and the support of highly trained employees. This high standard of education and training also enables the Swiss financial industry to compete successfully on a global level. The Swiss Finance Institute (SFI) makes an important contribution through its

close integration of research and practice, its up-to-date continuing education courses for finance professionals, and the access it provides to a unique pool of outstanding Swiss-based academics. This unique combination is based on a regular exchange of knowledge, nurtured by research conducted at SFI's partner universities, research supported by SFI and thus ultimately by the Swiss financial industry. The knowledge gained in the academic world flows into practice-oriented activities at SFI, into the institute's publications and public events, and thus into the thinking of employees in the financial sector. SFI's added value for the Swiss financial center cannot be overstated.

Prof. François Degeorge

Managing Director

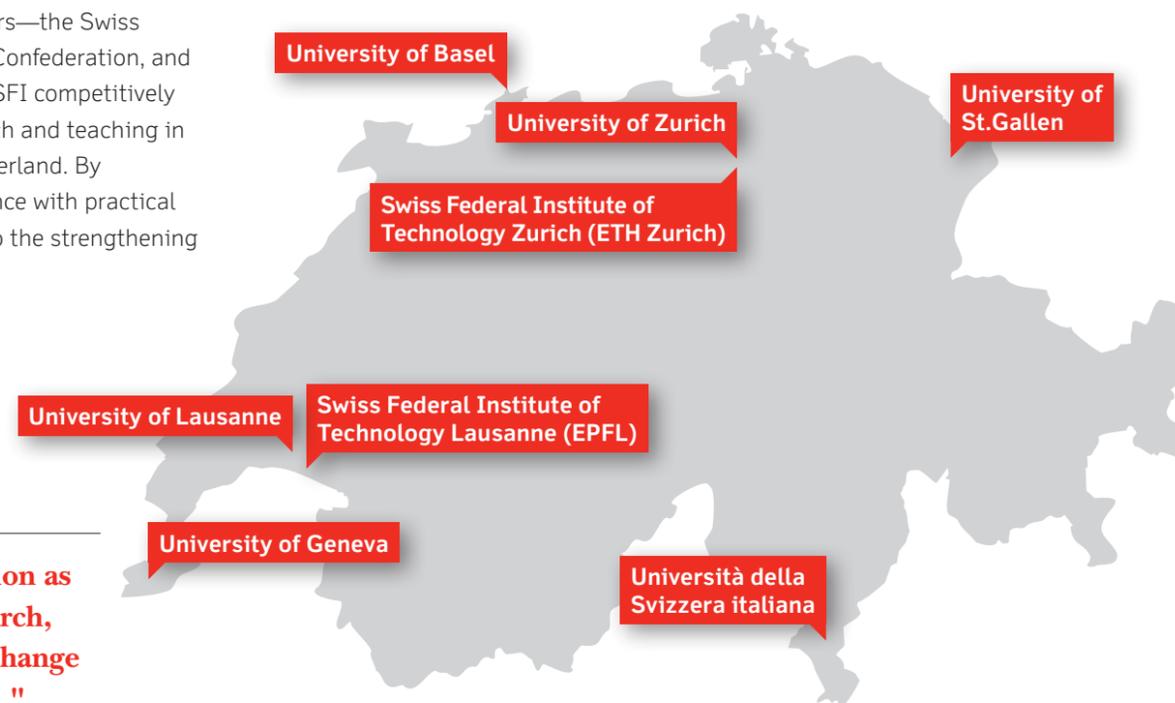
Research and development leads to new technologies and innovations, and in turn promotes competitiveness, prosperity, and employment. Against this background, SFI sees itself as playing an important bridging role for the Swiss financial industry. Our aim is to link fundamental research with practice-oriented continuing education, and to nurture a dialogue between academics and practitioners in the interests of a competitive and efficient financial sector. For this purpose, we work closely with eight Swiss partner universities. SFI's faculty currently comprises more than 75 professors spread across three language regions in Switzerland, and the institute regularly ranks

among the ten best finance research centers worldwide. Fundamental research is not carried out for its own sake or from some academic ivory tower. On the contrary, the dialogue and exchange between researchers and practitioners flows in both directions. As a result, participants of SFI courses benefit from a superior continuing education offering that is probably unique thanks to how closely it links research and practice. In turn, targeted research activities give the Swiss financial sector as a whole an important advantage over competing locations, and help it to position itself as a leading competence center in the global financial industry.

Growing Knowledge Capital for the Swiss Financial Marketplace

Never before has the financial industry undergone such rapid and fundamental change. Digital disruption and abrupt changes in regulation are challenging established business models. In order to remain competitive, the Swiss banking and finance industry must nurture innovation and expertise.

With support from its founders—the Swiss banking industry, the Swiss Confederation, and leading Swiss universities—SFI competitively promotes world-class research and teaching in banking and finance in Switzerland. By combining academic excellence with practical experience SFI contributes to the strengthening of the Swiss financial center.



We are the only national center uniting, under one roof, world-class researchers in eight partner universities from across Switzerland:

- the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL)
- the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH Zurich)
- the Università della Svizzera italiana
- the University of Basel
- the University of Geneva
- the University of Lausanne
- the University of St. Gallen
- the University of Zurich

Our purpose: growing knowledge capital to guarantee the long-term prosperity of Switzerland's financial marketplace.

"SFI has achieved international recognition as the Swiss center of excellence for research, continuing education, and knowledge exchange in the domain of banking and finance."

Dr. Mauro Dell'Ambrogio
Former State Secretary for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI)



"The ties between science and practice represent an important basis for the education and training of our employees, and thus for the success of our financial center."

Dr. Stefan Seiler
Chairman of the SFI Foundation Board and Group Head Human Resources & Corporate Services, UBS AG

Nurturing Innovation and Expertise

Growing Knowledge Capital The most valuable asset of any industry is the expertise of its labor force—its knowledge capital. For Switzerland to maintain its position as a leading financial center, such capital must continue to grow throughout the financial marketplace. SFI contributes by providing forward-thinking ideas and by connecting key players.



Nurture Knowledge

Fundamental research by SFI professors plants the seeds for new financial ideas and provides fertile ground for innovation. Since 2006, SFI professors have published more than 150 articles on banking and finance in the top finance journals (*Journal of Finance*, *Journal of Financial Economics*, and *Review of Financial Studies*). And they have shared their results with all sectors of the finance industry, through university classes, public workshops, and continuing education courses.



"SFI has a unique way of combining science and practice. This concentrated know-how forms a strong foundation for the Swiss financial center and constitutes a key unique selling point as well as a real competitive advantage."

Dr. Jochen Dürr

SFI Foundation Board Member and Chief Risk Officer and Member of the Executive Board, SIX



Cultivate Talent

Talent alone is not sufficient—it must be cultivated. By disseminating knowledge, SFI reveals the value of fundamental research and allows financial talent to grow. Our events, workshops, publications, and continuing education courses boost the competency of all members of the financial marketplace. SFI professors expose bachelor's, master's, and PhD students at SFI partner universities to the latest thinking in banking and finance.

We foster knowledge exchange between practitioners and academics, enabling researchers to get early feedback on their projects, and practitioners to have timely access to the expertise of the SFI faculty. Along the way, SFI helps educate the Swiss public on the workings of the financial sector.



Create Expertise

The Swiss banking and finance industry profits from the expertise created by SFI, embodied by the thousands of graduates from our continuing education activities and the Finance programs of our partner universities, as well as the thousands of readers of our publications and participants at our events and workshops.



"I believe that we are privileged in Switzerland to have a competence center with such a history and such support from both the banking industry and faculty. This should remain a priority for both parties, and I trust that this will be the case."

Patrick Odier

Senior Managing Partner of the Lombard Odier Group



"SFI keeps on enhancing our opportunities to be productive, creative, and to continually develop and progress. It's everything—the ambition, recognition, pride, and being part of this is important."

Prof. Steven Ongena

SFI Professor of Banking at the University of Zurich

Knowledge plus Talent Equals Expertise

Nurturing Knowledge

- SFI retains more than 75 top professors across our eight partner universities situated throughout Switzerland.
- SFI professors have, since 2006, published more than 150 articles on banking and finance in the top finance journals.
- SFI is regularly ranked among the top 10 finance institutes worldwide and in the top three in Europe, according to the ranking by the W.P. Carey School of Business.

Cultivating Talent

- SFI conducts around 30 Master Classes—short, intensive learning units—for experienced specialists and managers from the financial industry each year.
- SFI organizes two flagship conferences and many other events and workshops, and issues a number of publications each year.
- SFI professors teach hundreds of bachelor's and master's students each year at our eight partner universities.
- SFI runs one of the largest PhD programs in finance, with about 100 students enrolled from all over the world.

Creating Expertise

- Thousands of participants have benefited from SFI continuing education offerings since 2006.
- More than 200 PhDs have graduated from the SFI PhD program since 2006, some becoming professors at top universities such as Columbia, HEC Paris, the London School of Economics, and UCLA, and more than half currently working in the financial sector.
- We reach more than 1'500 event participants and more than a million readers with our publications each year.
- Thousands of undergraduate and master's students have been taught by SFI finance professors in our partner universities since 2006.



"Regular exchanges between academic researchers and practitioners are of the utmost importance for the prosperity of the Swiss financial center. SFI plays a key role in this regard."

Pascal Kiener

SFI Foundation Board Member and CEO, Banque Cantonale Vaudoise



"SFI is well known and has a great reputation. It is internationally renowned, and its professors have a great network that they are willing to make available to SFI PhD students."

Prof. Paola Pederzoli

SFI PhD graduate and Assistant Professor of Finance, University of Houston, Bauer College of Business



"The Swiss financial center will only maintain its leading role if new insights from fundamental finance research are systematically incorporated into practice."

Dr. Stephanino Isele

SFI Foundation Board Member and Member of the Executive Board and Head Institutionals & Multinationals, Zürcher Kantonalbank

>75 top professors
across our eight partner universities



one
of the largest PhD programs
in finance

Thousands
of continuing education participants
since 2006



10
a top
finance institute worldwide

>200

SFI PhD program graduates
since 2006

>1million
readers of our publications each year



>150

articles published in top finance journals

SFI Brings Together the Finest Minds in Academia and the Swiss Financial Community

SFI offers something that cannot be found elsewhere: an opportunity for academics and practitioners to move beyond current practice, exchanging the knowledge and expertise that will keep Switzerland at the top of banking and finance.

SFI acts as a magnet for talent, attracting top finance students and professors to Switzerland.

SFI fosters collaboration between top researchers.

SFI faculty teach bachelor's, master's, and PhD programs at SFI's eight partner universities.

SFI places PhD graduates in the financial sector and in top universities around the world.

SFI educates senior finance professionals in Switzerland.



"I think the biggest strength so far has been the ability to attract and retain top talent—world-class professors in Finance and related disciplines but also PhD students. Without SFI, Swiss universities would not have the same talent pool."

Renaud De Planta

Former SFI Foundation Board Member, Senior Partner of Pictet & Cie Group SCA, and Chairman of Pictet Asset Management

As a trusted, long-term, public-private partnership between academia and the Swiss banking and finance community, SFI fosters the expertise that guarantees that Switzerland's financial center will continue to thrive.



"One of the biggest strengths of SFI is certainly that there is a good balance between its academic, university elements and its practice-oriented continuing education. This ensures that value-oriented exchange takes place in both directions."

Dr. Romeo Lacher

SFI Foundation Board Vice-Chairman and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Julius Baer Group Ltd. and Bank Julius Baer & Co. Ltd.



"SFI provides a unique educational setting for doctoral students. Not only do PhD students learn from professors in their local university, they can access faculty from across Switzerland. They can therefore leverage the expertise of a large faculty and enjoy exposure to multiple fields of research and different cultural environments."

Prof. Francesco Franzoni

SFI Professor of Finance at the Università della Svizzera italiana

Contact Us

**We are committed to growing knowledge capital
to guarantee the long-term prosperity of Switzerland's
financial marketplace.**

**Contact us to foster your financial competence,
access financial expertise, or stay up to date with
the latest finance know-how.**



www.sfi.ch/contact

swiss:finance:institute

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