EULER PROGRAM
SUPPORTING YOUNG SCIENTIFIC TALENT
It’s a widely held myth that ‘gifted’ children have it easy: sailing through school and university and obtaining top marks with ease. Success is innate, even guaranteed, and these children have it lucky.

The reality is very different. Children with exceptional academic ability often face considerable challenges at home and in the classroom, even from an early age. Often left on the sidelines as teachers concentrate on classmates who struggle to make the grade, these children find they don’t need to work, they lose interest and can even become disruptive or complacent.

Through our Euler program, EPFL aims to develop the ability of children with high potential in math. We enable them to unlock their talent through specialist teaching, offering them the opportunity to meet their peers and be inspired by some of the world’s leading mathematicians.
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ENSURING TALENT DOESN'T GO TO WASTE

UNLOCKING POTENTIAL

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We work closely with all secondary schools in French-speaking Switzerland, who help us identify an initial shortlist of students in the 10-13 age range. Around 200 children sit the initial selection exam and of this group, 20 are offered a place on the program every year.

Students are selected solely on their ability, regardless of their socio-economic background, and many have parents who have not been through third-level education. Girls are actively encouraged, currently represent up to a third of the student body, and are among the highest achievers.

At school, I was two years ahead of my peers but I was often bored. Being accepted into the Euler program was a huge change as the schedule here is relentless – missing a session is out of the question, since things move so fast! I really love learning how things work – new math concepts are a real challenge to start with but we work on understanding the rules. The ten hours of homework we get each week, on top of our usual schoolwork, can be hard, but I'm keen to continue studying math to degree level.

RAWDA BOURICHA
14, high-school student
Admission to the program is part of a considerable and long-term commitment on the part of the student and their families. Although exempt from Math classes at their school, the students take part in three hours of intensive lessons at EPFL on Wednesday afternoons, often traveling long distances. Outside the classroom, they have up to 10 hours of homework to complete per week. The full program, up to 6 years, takes the students up to a level equivalent to 1st or 2nd year at EPFL.

WHY ENCOURAGE HIGH POTENTIAL STUDENTS?

If left without help, many of these students drop out of education or are left with lasting academic and personal problems. Our aim is not to create geniuses but well-rounded and fulfilled young people. Some start university early but others use the time they have ‘saved’ to travel abroad for study or other opportunities. Some Euler students choose to continue to study math but many move to medicine, engineering or other technical subjects at EPFL and other universities.
The program pushed me a lot harder than I imagined and has taught me much more than just formulas and theories. The fast pace and very strict deadlines for handing in assignments helped me a lot with time management and learned how to persevere and work through things. Coming to EPFL every week for five years was also a big personal commitment!

I’m now in my third year of a Math degree at EPFL and I have offers from some excellent US universities for my Master’s degree.

WILLIAM BORGEAUD
19, Bachelors student

MORE THAN JUST MATH

Simply feeding these young people information is not enough – specialist teaching including logic and reasoning is paramount to helping them unlock their full potential. Students are also given the tools to help with planning and organization and are closely followed by a counselor who ensures their wellbeing.
By supporting Euler, you will be ensuring that young people from all backgrounds fulfill their potential. You will be encouraging math and science education, and contributing to the next generation of thinkers and innovators.

Any gift is gratefully welcomed but to help us secure the future of the courses, we are looking for Champions to support individuals or a class where possible.

**STUDENT CHAMPION**

- **10 kCHF**
  - supports 1 student for the full 6 year program

**YEAR CHAMPION**

- **50 kCHF**
  - supports a class of 20 students for 1 year

**CLASS CHAMPION**

- **300 kCHF**
  - supports a class of 20 students for the full 6 year program

*donations may be spread over 6 years

**What does my donation cover?**

- Contribution to teaching costs: 11 teaching staff, 100 hours per student, per year
- A qualified counselor to ensure student’s wellbeing
- Help with travel costs for students in financial difficulties
- Annual summer camp with intensive workshops and activities

To find out more, or to discuss making a gift, please contact EPFL’s Development Office on +41 21 693 3172 or by email giving@epfl.ch