

PRESS RELEASE

ERMENEGILDO ZEGNA FOUNDER'S SCHOLARSHIP
33 Scholarships for the 2016/17 Academic Year have been awarded

Milan, September 1, 2016 - The 2016/17 Academic Year is the third year of the **Ermenegildo Zegna Founder's Scholarship** program. The initiative, carried out by the Zegna Group to fund €1 million annually for 25 years, is aimed at talented graduates who are Italian citizens or permanent residents, and who wish to return to Italy after completion of their postgraduate studies abroad.

For the 2016/17 Academic Year, the scholarships were awarded to 33 students - 15 female and 18 male - chosen from among 49 candidates designated by the deans of the Italian universities taking part in the program: Politecnico di Torino, Politecnico di Milano, Università degli Studi di Milano, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Milano, Università Bocconi, Università degli Studi di Padova, Università degli Studi di Trento, Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa, Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna di Pisa, Luiss di Roma, and Università Federico II di Napoli.

The most significant achievement of the program was to assign the majority of the funds to students who enrolled in foreign academic institutions that are among the world's most prestigious, including **Oxford, Cambridge** and **London School of Economics** in the United Kingdom and **Harvard, Princeton, Stanford, Columbia, Massachusetts Institute of Technology** and **University of Toronto** in North America. Moreover, some students will attend prominent research centers of the caliber of **Institut Pasteur** in Paris or **CERN** in Geneva.

The majority of the students are seeking to obtain Master or PhD degrees, while a small number are enrolled in Pre- or Post-doctorate degrees. The specialization areas were chosen with regard to the individual focus of study, and range from humanities and law to medicine and economics.

In addition, six grants that were originally awarded in the 2015/2016 Academic Year were renewed again this year. Other students concluded their yearly specialization program and are now in contact with the Zegna Group, which is monitoring their path and offering them support in order to facilitate their return to Italy.

The **Ermenegildo Zegna Founder's Scholarship** program reflects the long-standing tradition of social responsibility that has characterized the Zegna Group under the leadership of the Zegna family. This initiative honors the Group's founder, **Ermenegildo Zegna**, who was well-known for his

Ermenegildo Zegna

philanthropic works, as well as for his innovative approach to entrepreneurship. His distinguished career, inexhaustible energy and commitment to charitable endeavors are models being pursued by his present-day successors, who run one of Italy's most important family-owned luxury enterprises.

*“It is extremely satisfying for us to see the Ermenegildo Zegna Founder’s Scholarship program grow every year,” commented **Gildo Zegna**, CEO of the Ermenegildo Zegna Group. “This year we gave the possibility to an additional 33 talented students to complete their postgraduate studies abroad in some of the most prestigious universities and research centers in the world. Each one of them is precious for our country. We will be able to count on these talented and deserving young people to contribute with their ideas, their attitude and their proficiency both in terms of the labor market and our country’s culture. We are hoping that each one of them will follow a stellar path that will eventually lead to prominent positions. What Italy needs are new leaders who are diligent, proactive and responsible, but at the same time have a clear vision of the international scenario. My grandfather, the founder of the Group, has always invested in the future, keeping a balance between pragmatism and ideals. The Ermenegildo Zegna Founder’s Scholarship is a tribute to his memory and a way to make his visionary spirit our own.”*

About Ermenegildo Zegna Group

The Ermenegildo Zegna Group is a leading luxury menswear brand and one of the most renowned businesses in Italy. Founded in 1910 in Trivero, in the Biella Alps, by the young entrepreneur Ermenegildo, whose vision was to ethically create the world's finest textiles through innovation and the sourcing of the noblest fibers directly from their markets of origin, the company is managed today by the fourth generation of the Zegna family with Gildo Zegna as CEO. Since the late 1980s, the company has implemented a comprehensive strategy of verticalization, creating a global luxury brand which now ranges from fabric to clothing to accessories, is focused on retailing, pioneering early entry in emerging luxury markets, BRIC and Asia in particular, and was the first luxury brand to open a monobrand store in China in 1991.

Ermenegildo Zegna celebrated 100 years of excellence in 2010. Today there are 524 Zegna stores (307 company-owned) in over 100 countries around the world. The total Group revenues in 2015 reached € 1.261 bn.

In 2012 the Group launched ZegnArt, an independent commitment focused on international collaboration in the field of visual arts and in February 2014, the Group announced the Ermenegildo Zegna Founder’s Scholarship, a 25-year project named for its founder with an annual investment in education of €1 million.