

Ermenegildo Zegna

PRESS RELEASE

ERMENEGILDO ZEGNA FOUNDER'S SCHOLARSHIP 41 scholarships have been granted for the 2017/18 Academic Year

Milan, July 10, 2017 - The 2017/18 Academic Year marks the fourth edition of the Ermenegildo Zegna Founder's Scholarship program. With an investment of up to €1 million per year for 25 years, the Zegna Group initiative funds international specialization for talented Italian graduates who are motivated to return to Italy after a stay abroad.

In this edition, 41 new scholarships were awarded – twenty female and twenty-one male students. They were chosen from a list of 55 candidates submitted by the Rectors of the Italian universities adhering to the project (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, Università degli Studi di Bologna, Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa, Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna di Pisa, Luiss di Roma, Università Federico II di Napoli, and, as of this year, the Università degli Studi di Pavia) as well as the Fulbright Commission.

Of the foreign universities selected this year by the scholars, 23 are ranked among the top 30 by the *Times Higher Education Ranking*: Oxford, Cambridge, University College of London and London School of Economics in Great Britain, ETH in Zurich, Karolinska Institutet Stockholm and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard, Berkeley, Chicago, Yale, Pennsylvania, UCLA, Columbia, Johns Hopkins and Michigan in North America are among the most renowned. Other scholars will attend important research centers including Institut Pasteur in Paris. Among the Asian institutes, KAIST in Korea was added this year.

Most scholars will study overseas for a Master's degree or a PhD, but some of will attend pre- or post-doctorate research programs of a shorter duration. Among the areas of specialization, almost half of which relate to "STEM" (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), there are also several humanities, economics and legal disciplines.

Six scholarships were also renewed for candidates selected during the 2016/2017 Academic Year.

Since 2014, a total of 31 students have now completed their specialization programs. Some of them, having since returned to Italy, are professionally active in public and private sectors.

The Ermenegildo Zegna Founder's Scholarship is a program designed to give continuity to the sense of social responsibility that has characterized the work of the Group and the Zegna family from the beginning. The initiative pays tribute to founder Ermenegildo Zegna (1892-1966), who is known for both his philanthropic activities and for his pioneering approach to the business world. His career and his experience as a tireless and generous man personified high-profile values, which have been collected and developed by his successors who today lead one of the most important family *Made in Italy* luxury companies.

"I am proud of the Ermenegildo Zegna Founder's Scholarship project, which year after year offers young, deserving students the opportunity to enjoy a unique experience abroad. Knowledge, together with personal ethics, form part of the true heritage of our country. As we enter the fourth year of this adventure, we have selected another 41 worthy graduates who are looking forward to entering the world of work enriched with an extraordinary combination of personal and professional training. In Italy, we need new talents that are capable and rigorous, and endowed with a sense of pro-activity and evaluation skills that only the confrontation with an international reality can offer. Our goal is to select at least 1000 scholars in 25 years. My grandfather Ermenegildo, who founded this company, looked to the future with confidence and witnessed a profound balance between concreteness and ideality. The Ermenegildo Zegna's Founder's Scholarship initiative pays him homage and keeps his passionate spirit as a man and entrepreneur alive."

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 Gillo 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, and is focused on retailing, pioneering early entry in emerging luxury markets, in addition to being 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 513 Zegna stores (287 company-owned) in over 100 countries around the world. The total Group revenues in 2016 reached € 1.156 bn.

www.zegna.com

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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.

In July 2014, to strengthen the bond with Merino wool and reach higher standards in its production, the Group acquired the majority share of the Achill wool farm, an Australian property located in the New South Wales region, where Merino sheep are bred. The purchase represents a decisive step for the Zegna company, reconfirming its longstanding support of the wool industry and completing its verticalization strategy