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 activities 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

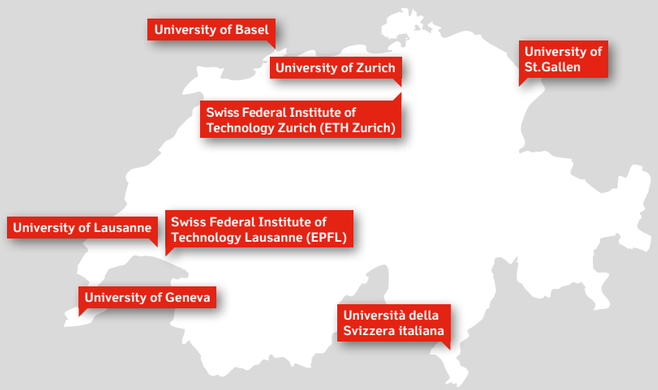
Research and development leads to new technologies and innovations, and in turn promotes competitiveness, prosperity, and employment. Against this background, SFI sees itself as playing an important bridging role for the Swiss financial industry. Our aim is to link fundamental research with practice-oriented continuing education activities, 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 around 100 professors spread across three language regions in Switzerland, and the institute regularly ranks among the top 10 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 activities 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

Switzerland's financial industry is not only a cornerstone of the national economy, it also delivers essential services that underpin the success of other industries and the broader Swiss economy. To maintain its global competitiveness and uphold the highest professional standards, the industry relies on continuous innovation and top-tier expertise.

With support from its founders—the Swiss banking industry, the Swiss Confederation, and leading Swiss universities—SFI fosters world-class research and teaching in banking and finance in Switzerland. As a result, SFI has become one of the world's top 10 research institutes in banking and finance. By combining this academic excellence with practical experience SFI contributes to the strengthening of the Swiss financial center.

Swiss universities are publicly funded and are subject to constraints that make it hard for them to compete in the international academic market for world-class researchers in banking and finance. SFI helps them overcome this structural disadvantage. The criteria for this support are aligned with internationally recognized standards for evaluating academic excellence, similar to those applied by the Swiss National Science Foundation and the European Research Council.



SFI is the only national center uniting, under one roof, world-class researchers in eight partner universities from across Switzerland.

SFI's governance framework upholds the highest ethical standards, safeguarding the independence of the research and teaching conducted at its partner universities and by its faculty members. Strict adherence to these principles is essential for maintaining SFI's position as a global leader in academia, and is a core priority of the Institute.

In addition to advancing research and education in banking and finance, SFI is dedicated to facilitating active knowledge exchange between its faculty and the Swiss financial industry. Through initiatives such as continuing education activities, contributions to public discussion, and the organization of conferences, SFI enables its researchers to share their expertise with experienced professionals, while practitioners can offer valuable insights for future research.

SFI's activities are dedicated solely to enhancing Switzerland's competitiveness as a hub for banking and finance research and education that fosters the exchange of knowledge between SFI faculty members and the Swiss financial industry. In doing so, SFI generates a vital resource: knowledge capital that helps the Swiss financial sector to position itself as a leading competence center in the global financial industry.

"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)

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 activities.

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 activities 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
President, Swiss Sustainable Finance, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Lombard Odier Group, and Chairman of Building Bridges

"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 around 100 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 more than 30 SFI 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 most renowned PhD programs in finance, with more than 100 students enrolled from all over the world.

Creating Expertise

- Thousands of participants have benefited from SFI continuing education activities since 2006.
- More than 250 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 1'000 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.

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a **top** 10
finance institute worldwide

Thousands
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since 2006

>250
SFI PhD program graduates
since 2006

>1 million
readers of our publications each year

>150
articles published in **top finance journals**

"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

A Trusted Partner for the Swiss Financial Marketplace

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 PhD graduates work in the financial sector and for top universities around the world.

SFI educates senior finance professionals in Switzerland.

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.

"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

"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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