



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

Free the potential, enrich the community

IMPACT REPORT
2019-2020

 **Ecolint**

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A BIG THANK YOU

Your generosity changes lives.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we have had the privilege of welcoming at Ecolint since September 2019, **five students under this new scholarship programme**. Originally from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Switzerland and Syria, **their journey to Ecolint has been marked by major hardship and sufferings**: war, mourning, exile and uprooting have been for them, in various ways, a painful reality.

In addition to **bringing socioeconomic diversity** to our community, the Ecolint scholarship programme is set up for students who have potential and exceptional promises but who do not have the financial means to attend Ecolint because of their difficult realities and backgrounds.

I am very grateful to the **many members of our community who have so far contributed to this programme and to those of you who will in the future**.

It is only through diversity that we can sow the seeds of solidarity and honour the equal value of all human beings as embedded in the Ecolint Charter.

We are eternally grateful that we were able to give these students **the opportunity to join Ecolint**.

So, a big **thank you**,

To our generous donors, mainly **alumni and parents**, thanks to whom we have raised **CHF 190,481**, representing almost the annual budget for our five scholarship recipients. To our institutional partners, in particular the **Hospice Général** for its help in recruiting our candidates. To **our students**, for their welcome and solidarity. To our teaching teams, for their dedication to their students in general and in particular to **our scholarship recipients** for all these efforts and the joyfulness they bring to our community.

Sincerely yours,

David Hawley
Director General

A YEAR OF IMPACT

Feedbacks from scholarship students and community members

Students

"I believe that this scholarship **has been very transformative** because it has allowed me to have access to **an outstanding education**, surrounded by invested and motivated teachers, and a **healthy learning environment**. All of this will allow me to achieve my goal to become **a behavioural analyst**."

"Ecolint is very interesting for me because I find myself in the same situation as almost everyone else in this school. **Most of the students are foreigners** and do not know many people in Geneva. They are **open-minded**. Contact is easy and friendships are almost immediate."

"The IB and ULP prepare for life rather than just for exams. **A new skill I have acquired is programming**, an activity in which I have a lot of fun because it is simple and very interesting. The IB and ULP also **taught me to think about what I am told and to make my own judgment**. Moreover, I learned how to play the piano and how to use Photoshop."

"**The community at Ecolint is so supportive**, the teachers and the students alike have made me feel not only welcomed and supported; I also felt heard. In classes such as homeroom, my teacher always makes sure to ask us how we are feeling, making sure we do not need help with anything. This is something I really appreciated as **it made me feel safe and listened to**. The students there have also made my experience so great, **everyone is kind and respectful to one another**, once again making the environment at the school safe for me to learn and grow to the best of my abilities."



Teachers

"It was a good experience. **The scholarship student in my class is very lively and enthusiastic!**"

"The attitude, interest and motivation of the scholarship student I had the chance to teach to was absolutely exemplary. **He is eager to learn, very interested, very serious with his work: a perfectionist!** His spirit and personality can be praised. I do not often give such compliments. He is well above average in terms of diligence, vigour and willingness to do well."



"His integration is going very well. He is extremely popular. **He is very charismatic and carries a strong and positive aura.** He has a very nice personality. He is making great efforts and contributes to a **positive atmosphere in the classroom.**"

"The generosity of the school towards disadvantaged pupils is a **source of joy and inspiration for us teachers and for our students.** This has a positive impact on the school community."

Students

"After a year at Nations, the values that I resonate with the most with are **inclusiveness, respect and intercultural understanding.** During this year being a new student, I never felt as though I was ever put aside or disrespected in any way. **Everyone was very welcoming.** Teachers were particularly understanding and were very helpful when I had struggles. Especially during the Covid-19 pandemic, teachers were committed in keeping up the academic standards to help us succeed during the last few months of the year."

"**I feel more than happy at Ecolint!** The teachers give clear and precise explanations and prepare us well academically. **They are positive and always exhibit the good side of things.** I was a bit depressed last year but here, at Ecolint, **things are not problematic and everything is going great.**"

"I had the chance to meet **this excellent history teacher whose class changed my vision and future perception of subject I wish to study in the future** - philosophy. I enjoy discussions and debating around topics, as for example the latest one we have studied "Can peace be bad?". Also, I will never forget the day my math professor congratulated me on solving a mathematical problem using my own method, **and suggesting to send it to Harvard University.** It gave me this unforgettable feeling that I could believe in my academic ability and **it gave me the eagerness to perform better.**"

THE KEY TO SUCCESS?

An unlimited motivation and a tailored-made programme to maximise a successful integration

The challenges: adapting to difficult routes

Distance from family, significant academic gaps in some subjects, housing not very suitable for studying... The difficult - even chaotic – course of these young people on a human and academic level represented a major challenge for their integration at Ecolint.

Despite the very different education system from their country of origin, Ecolint, by its international nature and its long experience, was able to face it. It is lucky to have the expertise, the flexibility and the tools to adapt to students with **exceptional profiles**. It is even one of its main purposes/strengths: **the student is at the centre**; they are unique, as is their potential. It was also essential that the management of the campuses and the secondary schools were involved, particularly in supporting the teaching teams in their work.

A major obstacle was the language: some scholarship recipients had to take native language courses in French and in English because their language was not taught. **The teachers are adapted by creating ad hoc programmes and the students**, through hard work, have succeeded in developing good abilities both in written and orally.

Pedagogically, although Ecolint welcomes in its classes students with extremely heterogeneous school paths throughout the year, the academic profile of some of our young people presented complex peculiarities.

Dropouts, very limited computer skills, significant gaps in English, in French and in some other subjects.

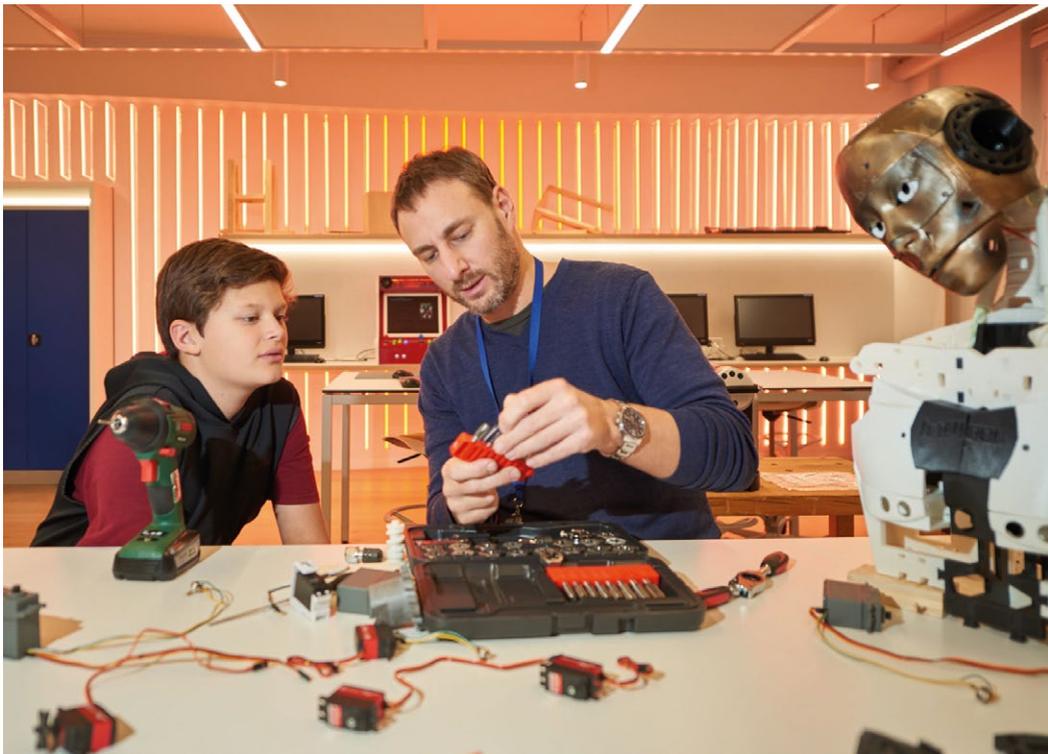
Our responses: tolerance, solidarity and personalized follow-up

Teachers and para-pedagogical staff at Ecolint are one of the keys to success.

Faced with these challenges, the combination of the efforts of students and the school turned out to be extraordinary and rewarding. Thanks to their immense will, their resilience and their hard work, our fellows were able to pull maximum benefit from a personalized follow-up Ecolint gave to them. **Special support courses, tutoring sessions during the summer, private lessons, “à la carte” programmes, mentoring, constant monitoring, and psychological support.**

Our teaching and para-educational teams have multiplied the means available and creative classroom setups to surround our five students and develop the maximum of their potential.

Students at Ecolint are used to welcoming new comrades regularly, which represents an asset for the integration of the scholarship holders. Out of respect for these pupils, the school has decided not to communicate to students the special status of the five young people. It is up to them, of course, to share their story whenever and to whomever they wish to. Before the start of the school year, **the schools made sure to associate the new students to fellow comrades sharing the same interests.** At Campus des Nations, the student volunteer group "4You" took on the task of helping and guiding newcomers: **scholarship holders were able to count on solidarity and support of their classmates.**



THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

An opportunity to maximise integration thanks to our donors



Victoria Stereva – one of the very first scholarship recipients.

A programme inspired by our values

Socioeconomic diversity has been a strong pillar of Ecolint's Foundation since its inception, with students coming from all paths of life and joining a community embodying an unparalleled diversity. Beyond the indisputable benefits of being enrolled in Ecolint for young people with an uncertain future, our scholarship holders bring **an invaluable opportunity for our school community; allowing each of us to open our minds to different realities thereby developing a sense of solidarity and empathy.**

This diversity enriches the community offering studying opportunities to students with limited financial resources and **giving the opportunity of learning from refugee students that can share their life experiences and aspects of their cultures** with the entire community.

A part of our history

The Foundation believed in this programme since 1929 thereby setting up a scholarship programme focused on refugees and other underrepresented groups.

The first scholarship programme allowed Ecolint to welcome **15 bursaries fully funded first by the generosity of the Forstall and the Rockefeller families, and then in the following years thanks to the philanthropic gestures of many community members.** The first batch of scholarship in 1929 was awarded to candidates from the United States, Sweden, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Albania, Romania, Russia and Bulgaria.

Ecolint's history has been graced with other successful scholarship programmes, where students in need were met with a great deal of generosity from the Ecolint community. One case that stands out in Ecolint's collective memory is that of Beti Rucamuvyuma, a young refugee from Burundi who, during his last year of school in the mid-1990s, had to flee the atrocities being committed in his country.

He was introduced to Ecolint via a group of missionary nuns from Belgium as well as through the Geneva authorities, who struggled to integrate him in the Swiss school system. **"It was immediately apparent that he was an exceptional person: calm, thoughtful, hard-working, mature, and he had an intelligence that made him stand out from the crowd,"** remembers Luc Hamzavi, History teacher and Guidance counsellor at La Grande Boissière.



Beti Rucamuvyuma back at Ecolint after more than 20 years, welcomed by Dr. Hawley.

The Director General at the time, George Walker, worked to waive his fees and allow Beti to follow the 2-year bilingual IB programme at LGB on a full scholarship. **Beti made the honour roll the year of his graduation, having greatly impressed both his peers and his teachers.** Thanks to his results,

he went on to receive a full scholarship to the Ivy League Dartmouth College in New Hampshire, and now lives in Australia with his wife and daughter.

The opportunity in front of us

It has been 30 years since we have enrolled our last scholarship student. A deep reflection on the purpose and the mission of our school, coupled with the recent migratory crisis, unfortunately reaching an unprecedented degree, led us to reinstate this initiative in the list of our priorities.

Most recently and with the arrival of David Hawley, **Ecolint's new Director General, the Ecolint Foundation decided to launch a call to action to benefactors asking to reactivate the path set in 1929 by the Forstall and Rockefeller families, as well as other philanthropists, thereby re-establishing a bespoke scholarship programme for refugees with potential.** To carry out this initiative, Ecolint has set up a collaboration with the Hospice Général in Geneva, which has created structures to implement its mandate that includes welcoming refugees in Switzerland from a set of countries, as well as for the selection of potential candidates.

A valuable mutual contribution

One year after relaunching this programme, we are welcoming on our campuses **five wonderful students** that are thriving and enriching the entire community.

We welcome and educate the citizens of tomorrow, who will have the capacity and the courage to create a better world.

WHAT FUTURE AFTER ECOLINT?

Ecolint's responsibility towards its students, whoever they may be, does not end at graduation. **Our guidance services work actively with students and families, already several years ahead of the end of their course**, to determine the milestones for a higher education or vocational training project. These milestones do not depend only on the wishes of the student. To access higher education, you need adequate academic results, be potentially mobile and have the financial means.

While our five scholarship holders all have dreams of a professional future, they are clearly disadvantaged by other criteria.

Again, Ecolint can help them maximize their chances of success.

Thanks to **its excellent knowledge of the local training courses, its establishment in Geneva since 1924, its connections with the local economy** and its school community made up of 3,500 families and 8,000 alumni; Ecolint is in position to offer the pupils **a network of contacts** that would have been very difficult to access otherwise.





THANK YOU LETTER FROM ONE OF OUR SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS

This initiative is transforming the life of our entire community and this is thank to the bursaries, the community and our donors.

Dear donors,

First and foremost, I would like to say thank you to the donors for their generosity. I am very much humbled and proud to have been able to benefit from this amazing opportunity. Not only has this granted me access to Ecolint's high level of education, it has also allowed me to get back on track with my studies, reopening doors I saw closing. But this school is so much more than an exceptional curriculum, or a beautiful campus. It is a community of students and teachers supporting each other in ways that allow us to grow into better people, for a better future. As a new student, I felt most welcome by everyone there, not once did I feel insecure or stressed about going to school, because I knew the people I was surrounded by were there to make my learning environment even more positive.

*All of this has ultimately allowed me to come to school with a smile on my face, ready to start my learning. Delighted to see my teachers, to see my friends, and excited to see what the day has in store for me. So to answer your question, "why should the donors continue contributing to the school development thanks to their generosity?" I would say, to put simply, because **this school supports and pushes me to be the best version of myself I can and want to be.** This school is so much more than 'a school'; it really is a **community and a family.** I have flourished during this past year at Ecolint. Subjects I used to struggle with have now become classes where I get my best grades; and that, I owe to Ecolint. Taking this opportunity away from other possible students would honestly be extremely unfortunate, as they would be missing out on the opportunity of a lifetime. I hope that one day, thanks to the donors' generous contributions; I will be in turn able to follow their example and contribute to help students reach their dreams.*

*L. P.
Scholarship student*

Together, we can advance the journey of these students by giving them the opportunity to further explore their goals and contribute to a more joyful, peaceful and fair world. Join us!

To sustain and develop this programme, we rely on the generosity of our school community and the support of our partners.

Join the many donors who built the Ecolint we know today and care for. It is also thanks to the philanthropists who preceded us that we can now benefit from many exceptional educational projects.

How to make a difference?



Become an advocate, offering your voice and network.



Make a philanthropic gift to make the programme sustainable.



In case you have teaching skills, become a volunteer.

How to make a gift?



Leave a gift in your will



Make a one-off cash donation



Make a recurring monthly gift

Our planned giving officer is ready to support you, contact us: legacy@ecolint.ch

By banking transfer

Fondation de l'Ecole Internationale de Genève
Account nb: 240-289946.22Z
IBAN: CH22 0024 0240 2899 4622 Z
SWIFT/BIC: UBSWCHZH80A
Ref: 3996

By credit card

On our website:
ecolint.ch/supporting-ecolint

Tax-deductible donations of any size are making the difference. Building up to the total needs and showing best participation across the entire community. For benefactors domiciled in the USA or the UK, please contact us for additional information on tax incentives.

Contact

Our Development Office remains at your disposal for any question or conversation around this programme.

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