Corporate Responsibility
Swiss Talent Forum

Overview

Roche is committed to supporting science and education, with a particular view to supporting children and young adults. We believe that it is important to invest in the talent of future generations to ensure that the advances we have made in medicine and innovative medical solutions can be continued by young talented scientists. Established in 2009 by the Swiss Youth in Science group, the Swiss Talent Forum is a politically independent think tank, supported by Roche, for young adults who have an interest in and are committed to addressing global and long-term challenges of our time.

How does it work?
Swiss Youth in Science aims to promote the best talents in Switzerland and across Europe. At the Swiss Talent Forum, motivated, talented young adults have the opportunity to discuss pressing issues with high-profile personalities from business, society and politics. The young delegates then work together with coaches to develop new solutions for these problems. By sharing ideas with other young people, coaches and experts, participants learn how to work in interdisciplinary teams and tackle problems using a solution-oriented approach. The Swiss Talent Forum provides a platform for young people to debate and discuss current topics with leaders from a range of different disciplines and allows them to take a fresh look into the future that, ultimately, they will shape.

Working closely together in such a setting helps the participants build a valuable network of national and international contacts to support their future careers. Held roughly every two years, the meeting takes on a new theme each time and addresses real issues and challenges that are faced at a global level.

The themes for the first three forums were:
• The Energy Challenge, 2009
• The Future of Health, 2011
• The Future of Work, 2014

The forum provides young delegates with the opportunity to address key issues which will impact their future and the chance to rigorously debate “out of the box” solutions that may help overcome these challenges.

Key facts and figures

• 80 to 100 delegates attend each Swiss Talent Forum
• Delegates are aged between 17 and 22
• During the forum, numerous ideas are generated from countless new insights
• Speakers have included, among others, Kofi Annan (Seventh Secretary-General of the UN), Adolf Ogi (former Federal Counsellor Switzerland), Bertrand Piccard (Adventurer, Balloonist), Philipp Hildebrand (former Head Swiss National Bank) and Severin Schwan (CEO, Roche)
The programme structure
The four day meeting includes a variety of sessions throughout the day to keep the students engaged:
• Keynote speeches
• Workshops
• Blog exchange and social media
• Team building activities
• Evening social events

The Swiss Talent Forum attracts a number of high profile speakers whose opinions engender lively debate. As part of the workshops, delegates are tasked with challenging different points of view to determine how they approach and think about a given problem. Carefully selected coaches support each of the groups to work through their tasks and develop a presentation, which each group gives on the last day of the forum.

Building the Scientists of the Future
We believe that the Swiss Talent Forum provides the perfect arena to foster the leaders and experts of the next generation. By being part of a European wide educational platform, Roche is supporting the development of networks across different regions. We believe that this broad spectrum of initiatives will support young people in becoming the passionate, committed and talented scientists of the future.

Swiss Youth in Science
Swiss Youth in Science is a politically independent non-profit organisation. It is officially recognised and supervised by the federal government and is supported by different sponsors, including Roche. One of its key aims is the promotion of highly motivated young people who are willing and able to perform at a very high level. Swiss Youth in Science wants to enhance young people’s interest and their joy in science. Its support programmes complement school education and are aimed at exploration and discovery.

“I am really proud of Roche’s partnership with the Swiss Talent Forum. It is a wonderful way to support talented young people throughout Europe and engage them in the pressing global issues of today. At Roche, we believe that it is important to promote science to young people and it is an honour to be able to help foster the great thinkers of tomorrow.”

Dr. Stephan Feldhaus, Head of Group Communications, Roche and speaker at the Swiss Talent Forum 2014