"L’Esprit de Genève" illustrates a long, rich philanthropic and humanitarian tradition. As our world changes, the philanthropy domain grows ceaselessly. The creation of the Geneva Centre for Philanthropy allows us in a sense to seize that ‘Spirit’ at the opportune moment and to develop the knowledge and expertise that will nourish philanthropic initiatives in the future.

Patrick Odier
President of the Lombard Odier Foundation

Philanthropy represents a powerful laboratory for solutions, for example in the arts, education, entrepreneurship, and healthcare. We are convinced that deepening and broadly disseminating knowledge is indispensable for ensuring better understanding of human capital, general interest, and future convergences.

Ariane de Rothschild
President of the Edmond de Rothschild Foundations

Invested in dialogue with our community, the University prioritizes creation of structures that build bridges between fundamental and applied research and the local economy. Exchanges stem from the creation of lines of research for the development of society.

Yves Flückiger
Rector of the University of Geneva

OUR PARTNERS

OUR TEAM

Professeur Henry Peter, Head
Holder of a doctorate in law, Henry Peter has taught at the University of Geneva’s Faculty of Law since 1988. For many years, his courses and publications have dealt with governance and corporate social responsibility, which led him to launch the Philanthropy Series at the University of Geneva in 2014. He belongs to several bodies involved in questions of governance and ethics.

Lætitia Gill, Executive Director
Lætitia Gill holds a master’s degree in Management and is a recognized expert in the fields of social innovation, CSR and philanthropy. She has 15 years of experience in corporate strategic development, implementation and evaluation as well as in devising and managing training modules on the theme of partnerships in that field.
RESEARCH IN CONTEMPORARY PHILANTHROPY

What motivations and ethics are at work in philanthropy? How are we to understand the growing number of charitable foundations and businesses engaged in this sector? How can we develop strategic, responsible and sustainably effective philanthropy? How can we address tomorrow’s challenges for development and innovation?

These fundamental questions call for research-based investigation with the view of efficient and viable actions. This is the mission of the Geneva Centre for Philanthropy of the University of Geneva.

THE CENTRE IN A NUTSHELL

The aim of the Geneva Centre for Philanthropy (a public-private partnership) is two-fold: to encourage academic research and teaching in philanthropy and to transfer knowledge to meet the needs of practitioners. The Centre, which approach is unique in Europe, acts as an interface between the world of research and practice, serving as a forum for discussion between University experts and the field actors.

INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

Philanthropy raises questions of law, management, finance, economics, sociology, affective sciences and neuroscience, in addition to fundamental issues touching upon values and ethics.

The Centre draws on the excellence and versatility of the University of Geneva to address challenges related to philanthropy from an interdisciplinary perspective. It guarantees the academic freedom of its researchers.

AT THE HEART OF INTERNATIONAL GENEVA

Geneva plays a central role in the philanthropy sector through its humanitarian tradition and the presence of many international foundations and organisations. The Centre contributes to the global expansion and influence of Geneva’s philanthropic standing.

THE CENTRE’S ACTIVITIES

To carry out its mission, the Centre focuses on three complementary areas: teaching, research and events.

TEACHING

In cooperation with the Faculties of the University of Geneva, the Centre offers a variety of postgraduate and continuing education programmes as well as seminars. Courses on philanthropy are also integrated in Bachelor and Master programmes.

RESEARCH

With its network of researchers, the Centre engages in fundamental research in philanthropy and offers opportunities for applied research projects.

EVENTS

The Centre also organizes exchanges between researchers and practitioners at local and international level through:

• Philanthropy lunches (periodic debates)
• Philanthropy series (in-depth seminars)
• Geneva Summit on Philanthropy (biannual conference)

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF ALL STAKEHOLDERS

The Centre supports the increasingly professional nature of the sector. It is of interest for current and future actors in philanthropy:

• Experts from the world of academia
• Benefactors, foundation managers
• Social entrepreneurs
• Legal and financial advisors
• Persons in charge of philanthropy in private companies
• Representatives of public authorities
• Professionals from International Organizations and NGOs