



**Schmidt Futures and Rhodes Trust Announce First Cohort of  
"Rise" Global Winners, in Partnership with The  
Deutschlandstiftung Integration**



*These One Hundred 15 - 17 Year Olds Represent "Hidden Brilliance" Working in Service of Others*

*Hailing from 42 Countries, Winners Receive **Access to a Lifetime of Benefits** Including Scholarships, Mentorship, Career Development Opportunities, and Funding for Future Ventures for Public Benefit*

*Rise is the Anchor Program of a **\$1 Billion Philanthropic Commitment by Eric and Wendy Schmidt** to Find and Support Global Talent*



**[BERLIN, 25/10/2021]** -- [Schmidt Futures](#), in partnership with [The Rhodes Trust](#), announced the inaugural cohort of 100 Global Winners for [Rise](#), a global initiative that finds brilliant people who need opportunity and supports them for life as they work to serve others. Rise is the anchor program of a broader [\\$1 billion philanthropic commitment](#) from Eric and Wendy Schmidt. The 100 Global Winners selected from tens of thousands of applicants speak more than 20 languages and hail from 42 countries, including Afghanistan, China, India, Kenya, Mexico, and the United States. The Deutschlandstiftung Integration.

“Since the beginning, our work at Schmidt Futures has centered around betting early on exceptional people who are working to solve the world’s toughest problems,” **said Eric Schmidt, co-founder of Schmidt Futures.** “It is imperative that we equip a new generation of leaders with the support and resources to address the growing complexities of our world throughout their lives. Today’s Rise Global Winners have offered us a glimpse into what brilliance looks like, and I am confident that our future is in very good hands.”

“The 100 young people we’re introducing today are truly remarkable in what they’ve brought to their communities even before graduating from high school,” **said Wendy Schmidt, co-founder of Schmidt Futures.** “We’ve seen in our philanthropy and in the world of technology how the power of the network multiplies the power of the individual. We are excited to be able to provide the Rise Global Winners lifelong support and a community of peers who will team up, share ideas, root for each other, and find solutions to global problems that can best be found in collaboration. Together, they will be positioned to help create a healthier, safer, and more humane world.”

Winners were selected after a rigorous application process which included peer and expert review of applicants’ social change projects, formal assessments of brilliance, and group interviews with candidates from over 170 countries submitting their entries through a variety of platforms. The initial 100 Global Winners will lay the foundation for a global community of rising leaders who will receive access to benefits that last a lifetime as they work to serve others.

The full list of winners can be found at [www.risefortheworld.org/global-winners](http://www.risefortheworld.org/global-winners).

Rise worked with dozens of global partners—from schools to businesses to local governments—to identify talented young people in communities throughout the world, including the Deutschlandstiftung Integration (German Foundation for Integration), which supported Rise in making the project known throughout Germany. Furthermore, the Deutschlandstiftung



Integration actively supported Rise in the selection process and is looking forward to continuing the process for the next cohort.

Global Winners from Germany include:

- Nefeli Mariam Louka
- Diler Salim
- Ludwig Immanuel Gunter Illies
- Leon Jeckel

“By joining Rise, we will support young people in Germany and beyond to implement their ideas for a better future. The Deutschlandstiftung Integration is proud to become a member of a global network of like-minded organizations and contribute with its long-term experience in the areas of migration, equal access to education, and anti-discrimination. I am convinced that this diverse community of talents will create a significant positive impact.” Christian Wulff, the former Federal President of Germany & Chairman of the Board of the Deutschlandstiftung Integration, proudly announced at the launch of the partnership.

### **Rise Global Winner Benefits**

Benefits for Rise Global Winners take many shapes. The program is personalized and flexible, tailored to Global Winners’ needs as they evolve over time. The program aims to provide Global Winners with individualized support to empower them to achieve their goals while they work to serve others throughout their lives.

All Rise Global Winners receive access to the following benefits and participate in the following programs upon selection:

- **Higher Education Scholarships:** A four-year, post-secondary scholarship at any accredited university, including tuition and a living stipend, based on need and where not already covered by financial aid.
- **Residential Summit:** An invitation to attend a fully-funded, three-week residential summit with other members of the Rise Global Winner cohort—to be held in a rotating location globally for each new cohort—as well as to join network events in subsequent years.



- **Mentorship & Career Services:** Access to mentors that will be paired with each Global Winner to provide personal, academic, or professional guidance, and specialized career services for internships and jobs.
- **Programming:** Access to specialized programs, courses, and fellowship opportunities through Rise partners. The Winners' anchor program in 2021/22 is a Human Centered Design course designed for the Rise Winners by DC Design. Online courses are delivered on a specially designed learning platform being developed with High Resolves. Customized Global Winner courses on our online learning platform have been developed together with High Resolves.
- **Global Winner Network:** Access to a network of other Global Winners across cohorts to connect on common interests, make service commitments, launch enterprises, and collaborate together.
- **Technology:** Technology packages, such as laptops or tablets, to be determined each year.

In addition, all Rise Global Winners will have the opportunity to apply for the following benefits over their lifetime:

- **Partner Network:** Opportunity to be matched to programs, secondary school scholarships, internships, and other benefits from partners who are part of the Rise network.
- **Funding Opportunities:** Opportunity to apply for funding to experiment with innovative ideas to address major problems in local communities or around the world—ranging from seed money to start a social enterprise to a grant for a non-profit. Funds will be designated for these purposes in a total pooled amount of at least \$5 million per year of the program.
- **Education Support:** Opportunity to apply for scholarship funds for a graduate degree.

“The answers to the world’s toughest challenges already exist—hidden inside the imagination of the world’s brightest minds. But too often this potential goes undiscovered or unsupported,” **said Eric Braverman, CEO of Schmidt Futures.** “Rise is the first program of this scale to build a network of extraordinary people, from diverse backgrounds worldwide, who have the potential to serve others together for life from a very young age. At Schmidt Futures we bet on exceptional people making the world better—and Rise is our largest commitment yet to build the unending engine of talent that puts brilliance in the service of others, tackling hard problems in science and society.”



“We are so excited to bring these brilliant young people together from across the globe and invest in their journeys to learn, lead, create, and make a difference,” **said Dr Elizabeth Kiss, Warden of Rhodes House in Oxford and Chief Executive of the Rhodes Trust.** “Our experience with the Rhodes Scholarships over more than a century tells us that when exceptional young people with different ideas, skills, perspectives and backgrounds come together in a shared spirit, they inspire each other to act in world-changing ways. We can’t wait to see what the Rise Global Winners do next.”

“It is an honor to introduce our first cohort of Global Winners, who have not just shown us their capabilities and potential, but also have shared with us their passion to make meaningful change across the world,” **said Wanjiru Kamau-Rutenberg, Executive Director of Rise.** “Recognizing that while brilliance is broadly distributed, opportunity is not, this year’s cohort represents the bounty of the world’s brilliance and we are honored to get to connect these emerging leaders to the opportunity they need to tackle some of humanity’s most challenging and pressing problems.”

### **Rise Selection Process**

The application process for year one launched in [November 2020](#), and called for talented people, ages 15 to 17, from around the world with the potential to use their talent to tackle the world's most pressing challenges. Rise received tens of thousands of applications from over 170 countries.

The 8-month selection process was divided into distinct components, including peer reviews, expert reviews, live evaluations, and a review panel, which together formed a holistic view of the applicant. In addition to Rise’s 100 Global Winners, 500 Finalists were also chosen and will participate in educational and leadership courses to develop skills, grow their networks, and gain access to additional funding opportunities allowing them to experiment with innovative ideas.

### **Rise Challenge 2022**

Additionally, beginning today through December 22, 2021, young people ages 15 to 17 as of July 1, 2022 can apply for the 2022 Rise cohort. Applications are accepted through the “[Hello World Network](#),” a mobile application available in Google Play and the iOS App Store.



Unlike many traditional applications, Rise uses videos, projects, and group interviews so applicants have multiple opportunities to showcase their potential. For applicants without access to mobile technology, Rise offers alternative pathways through web-browser and paper applications.

The Rise Challenge has three stages. Applicants introduce themselves through videos, create an individual project that demonstrates their talents and benefits their communities, and peer review other applicants' projects, among other activities.

After applicants complete the Rise Challenge, Rise selects up to 500 Finalists to advance to "Finalist Days," where they demonstrate their motivations, problem-solving abilities, and teamwork skills in an innovative interview format.

From the 500 Finalists, Rise selects 100 Global Winners to receive a lifetime of benefits as they work to serve others.

For more information about how to apply, visit [www.risefortheworld.org/apply-to-rise](http://www.risefortheworld.org/apply-to-rise).

### **About Schmidt Futures**

[Schmidt Futures](#) bets early on exceptional people making the world better. Founded by Eric and Wendy Schmidt, Schmidt Futures is a philanthropic initiative that creates public value from private philanthropy through risk transfer—showing that brilliant people in networks can solve hard problems in science and society by connecting across fields, competing and challenging ideas, bringing multiple types of capital to bear, and applying science and technology thoughtfully through tools such as AI.

### **About The Rhodes Trust**

[The Rhodes Trust](#), based at the University of Oxford, builds a better world through global fellowship programmes that develop and connect compassionate, innovative, and public-spirited people committed to solving humanity's challenges. Our flagship programme, established in 1903, is the Rhodes Scholarship, the world's pre-eminent graduate scholarship. Nearly 8,000 Rhodes Scholars have gone on to serve at the forefront of government, education, the arts, NGOs, commerce, research and other sectors. They are well known advocates for expanded social justice, and have advanced the frontiers of science and medicine.



## About The Deutschlandstiftung Integration

The Deutschlandstiftung Integration (DSI) is a Germany wide non-profit foundation based in Berlin. Under the patronage of Chancellor Angela Merkel, it works to promote equal opportunities for people with migration biographies in Germany.

Given the shared goals between Rise and DSI, the DSI, along with its one-of-a-kind community of the GEH DEINEN WEG scholarship program, is looking forward to not only continuing to promote Rise in Germany and assist with the selection process in the coming year, but also to support Rise winners through GDW's outstanding network of scholarship recipients and alumni by providing unique mentoring opportunities and participation in exclusive annual events.

For more information about Rise, visit [www.risefortheworld.org](http://www.risefortheworld.org).

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