To create a world in which men and women have equal opportunities, women need to have an active role in technology and technological developments. The Zonta International Women in Technology Scholarship aims to encourage women to pursue education, career opportunities and leadership roles in technology.

As a pilot program, the Women in Technology Scholarship was offered one time in 2019. Zonta International awarded 30 district/region scholarships of US$2,000 each and six international scholarships of US$8,000 each. Read on to learn more about the 2019 international scholars.
Lindsey Tulloch is pursuing her master’s degree in computer science, exploring privacy-enhancing technologies—specifically, enhancements to The Onion Router (Tor), a well-known alternative browser that provides anonymous and private internet connections through an overlay network that uses perfect forward secrecy and rendezvous points to connect with hidden servers. Privacy is recognized as a fundamental human right by the UN Declaration of Human Rights and underpins human dignity and essential freedoms. Lindsey is a firm believer in the importance of creating accessible tools to protect the privacy of journalists, activists, dissidents and marginalized individuals living under oppressive regimes from grave danger.

Before entering her master’s program, Lindsey undertook research in the field of bioinformatics and presented her findings at the IEEE International Conference on Computational Intelligence in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology in Manchester in 2017 and was nominated for the best paper award. During her co-op at Red Hat, she worked on an open-source container orchestration tool and presented some of this work at the Red Hat Summit in San Francisco as well as at Kubecon CloudNativecon in Copenhagen in 2018 and Barcelona in 2019.

Throughout her academic career and beyond, Lindsey has stepped up to support those with less experience or greater barriers to success. She has run events and workshops to help students learn important industry skills that are not typically taught in classes and she organized the first group for Women in Computer Science at Brock University with the intention of creating a supportive space for gender minority students to share experiences and opportunities.
Lucy Pei

District 9
Citizenship: USA

Pursuing Ph.D. in informatics, University of California Irvine, USA

Holds bachelor's degree in human-computer interaction and global studies, Carnegie Mellon University, USA

Lucy Pei is a Ph.D. student in the University of California Irvine Department of Informatics. Her research looks critically at how technology intervention is framed as being for social good and how harms and extractions are also distributed alongside benefits for marginalized communities. Lucy is working with communities to develop an understanding of the downsides of technological intervention while still trying to help the benefits of technology reach a wider audience. She is particularly interested in how immigrant and resettled refugee communities adopt digital technologies in the context of community literacy centers.

Lucy is concerned with helping all kinds of people use technology effectively. Before starting her Ph.D. program, she volunteered at a literacy center where she provided language help to everyone from the poorest refugees to immigrants. She also worked as a learning consultant and UX designer at TiER1 Performance Solutions. In her first year as a Ph.D. student, Lucy co-authored a paper in the top venue of human-computer interaction and presented it at a conference, a big accomplishment for a first-year student. Now, she is the social co-chair for her university’s Informatics Graduate Student Association.

After finishing her degree, Lucy wants to work as a research professor to inspire and mentor university students to take action to create positive social change. Her goal is to contribute to theory and practice around how technologists engage with marginalized populations.
Sedinam Worlanyo

District 18
Citizenship: Ghana

Pursuing master's degree in learning, design and technology, Stanford University, USA
Holds bachelor's degree in computer science and economics, Swarthmore College, USA

Sedinam Worlanyo is a graduate student studying learning, design and technology at Stanford University. Through her education, she hopes to expand her knowledge around educational theory and sustainably run a development organization that will provide skills, leverage existing abilities and deliver sustainable revenue for members of her African community.

In previous roles, Sedinam worked as a senior platform manager at TechChange, where she supported a variety of innovative digital learning initiatives at the intersection of education, health and technology. She also founded social change organizations including YenAra robotics, a robotics and design thinking program aimed at providing hands-on exposure to science, technology, engineering and mathematics and tangible problem-solving skills to young girls in Odoben in the Central Region of Ghana. Additionally, she is a co-founder of Dislabelled, which provides career and academic development opportunities for people with physical disabilities and creates awareness about disability issues.

Sedinam strives to bridge the educational resource gap between rural, underserved communities and urban, affluent ones in Ghana. Her goal is to work at a well-established tech organization.
Jessica McBroom is a Ph.D. candidate in the School of Computer Science at the University of Sydney. She is studying educational data mining, which involves extracting patterns from educational data to improve student experiences and outcomes. Her motivation to improve educational outcomes and equity in our society comes from her experience of entering the technology area as an undergraduate, uncomfortable about the gender imbalance and cultural barriers in her classes. She wants to help change this dynamic by studying ways to make programming more accessible to everyone. In particular, she is developing tools to help teachers see where students have difficulty and how their different backgrounds affect their experiences.

Jessica is a member of the Girls’ Programming Network and regular marshal for a weekly 5 km park run. Past roles include student representative for Higher Degree Research, volunteer for Young Scientists Australia and University of Sydney Young Leaders Program, and student mentor for first-year computer science students.

As technology plays an increasingly important role in our modern society, Jessica believes that now, more than ever, education in technology is highly empowering and valuable. She is hopeful that her work can be a step toward realizing a world where everyone has access to technology and there are no cultural barriers to deter women or anyone else from entering the field.
Amal Tawakuli is a Ph.D. student at the SECAN-Lab at the University of Luxembourg. She works on improving the quality of data inputs for Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence while reducing the costs and time required for data preparation. Along with her research journey, Amal intends to encourage more young women to enter the information technology (IT) field in Luxembourg, which has one of the lowest percentages of women in IT in Europe. As such, she is a member of the Golden Z Club Young Luxembourg and is active in promoting computer science and other science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields to women, particularly the younger generation.

Amal graduated from her master's program at the top of her class with distinction and was selected for the “Best Student” award. She then worked as a software engineer in the United Kingdom before starting her career in research. Her research profile includes data management, parallel and distributed computing, and stream data processing. Amal's previous research was a practical investigation into possible approaches for improving throughput and reducing latencies in big data frameworks.

Believing the automotive field is behind when it comes to exploiting and extracting value produced from its sector, Amal aspires to make a state-of-the-art contribution in the big automotive data field. The sector, its entities (vehicles) and players (drivers) generate large data sets of various formats, uncertainties, and frequencies. Inventing new solutions in this field to process and analyze the data and investigating opportunities and challenges to transform the automotive sector would have a positive impact on societies, the environment, and on transportation's efficiency and safety.
Giorgia Di Tommaso recently completed her Ph.D. at the Sapienza University of Rome, where her research was focused on data and web science, particularly on semantics-aware recommender systems. During her doctoral career, she was a visiting student at the University of Mannheim in Germany, spoke at prestigious events and actively supported the research community by serving as a volunteer at top conferences. Giorgia has also received several awards and research grants for her research studies.

With a strong belief in the value of technology and the power of role models, Giorgia is consistently involved in projects for the dissemination of coding and digital skills to students, particularly women. She collaborates as a senior coach of a nonprofit organization called Fondazione Mondo Digitale (Digital World Foundation), to teach basic principles of coding. She and her team created the first Italian e-learning course about Artificial Intelligence for high school students. Giorgia is also an ambassador of Coding Girls, a program that aims to break false stereotypes and encourage girls to study science, technology, engineering and math.

Giorgia is currently a business intelligence solutions architect for Enel Group, an energy company and one of the world’s leading integrated electricity and gas operators. Passionate about new technologies, new ideas and new ways of thinking, she is interested in working in research at a university or industry developing a more comprehensive understanding of artificial intelligence processes. Giorgia also wants to keep inspiring more people to get involved in computer science.