



**ZONTA**  
INTERNATIONAL

**DISTRICT 4**

BUILD A BETTER WORLD  
FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

# The Amelia Earhart Fellowship

Who was Amelia Earhart and  
Why does Zonta care?

# Who was Amelia Earhart

- Amelia Earhart is one of the most famous American pilots
- A record setting aviator, she was:
  - the second person to fly solo and nonstop across the Atlantic,
  - the first person to fly solo and nonstop across the United States,
  - A member of Zonta,
  - and much more



# A few facts about Amelia you may not know\*

- **First Woman Vice President of the National Aeronautic Association**
  - Earhart became the first woman vice president of the National Aeronautic Association, which authorized official records and races
- **Politically Outspoken**
  - Earhart lobbied Congress for aviation legislation. She also lobbied for birth control rights, supported women in politics and business, and endorsed the draft for men, women, and even the elderly to promote equality and peace.
- **Entrepreneur and Fashion Designer**
  - Earhart designed a line of "functional" women's clothing, including dresses, blouses, pants, suits, and hats, initially using her own sewing machine, dress form, and seamstress. She modeled her own designs for promotional spreads.

# A few facts about Amelia you may not know\*

- **College Professor**

- In 1935, Earhart became a visiting professor at Purdue University at the invitation of Purdue president **Edward Elliott**, an advocate of higher education for women, especially in engineering and science.
- Earhart, a former premedical student, served as a counselor for women and a lecturer in aeronautics.
- Elliott was also interested in supporting Earhart's flying career and convinced Purdue benefactors to purchase a twin-engine Lockheed 10-E Electra for her.

\* *Information from the Smithsonian Exhibition Women in Aviation and Space History*

# 1923

## **Amelia, the pioneer**

At the age of 25,  
Amelia Earhart becomes  
the 16th woman in the  
United States to be  
issued a pilot's license.



# 1928

## Connection to Zonta

Amelia joins the Zonta Club of Boston and later transfers to the Zonta Club of New York.



# AMELIA EARHART & HER FIGHT FOR EQUALITY

Beyond Amelia's accomplishments as a pilot, she wanted to make a statement about the role and worth of women's ability to contribute to society

She dedicated much of her life to prove that women could excel in their chosen professions just like men and have equal value.

# Promoting Women in Aviation

Earhart accepted a position as associate editor at [\*Cosmopolitan\*](#) and used it to campaign for greater public acceptance of aviation, especially focusing on the role of women entering the field

In 1934, Earhart interceded on behalf of [Isabel Ebel](#), who had helped Earhart in 1932, to be accepted as the first woman student of aeronautical engineering at [New York University](#) (NYU).

# AMELIA EARHART DISAPPEARS

She mysteriously disappeared in 1937 while trying to circumnavigate the globe from the equator. Amelia was legally declared dead in 1939.



# 1938

## Navigating the future

In 1938, Zonta's members establish a scholarship to be awarded each year to a woman for graduate study in aeronautical engineering.



# AMELIA EARHART DAY

- **Zonta International commemorates January 11 as Amelia Earhart Day:**
  - On 11 January 1935, Earhart embarked on a 2,408-mile trip from Honolulu, Hawaii to Oakland, California. The next day, she became the first person to fly solo to the United States mainland from Hawaii.





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## 1938: WHEN ZONTA INTERNATIONAL ESTABLISHED THE AMELIA EARHART FELLOWSHIP

- In 1938-39, aerospace was still in its infancy.
- It took Zonta two years to find a single qualified applicant to receive the first fellowship.
- Today women still make up only 25 percent of the workforce in the industries related to aerospace.

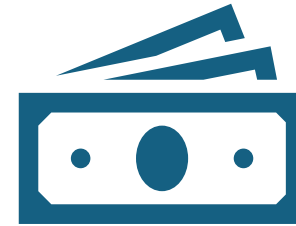
# THE AMELIA EARHART FELLOWSHIP TODAY

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## Purpose

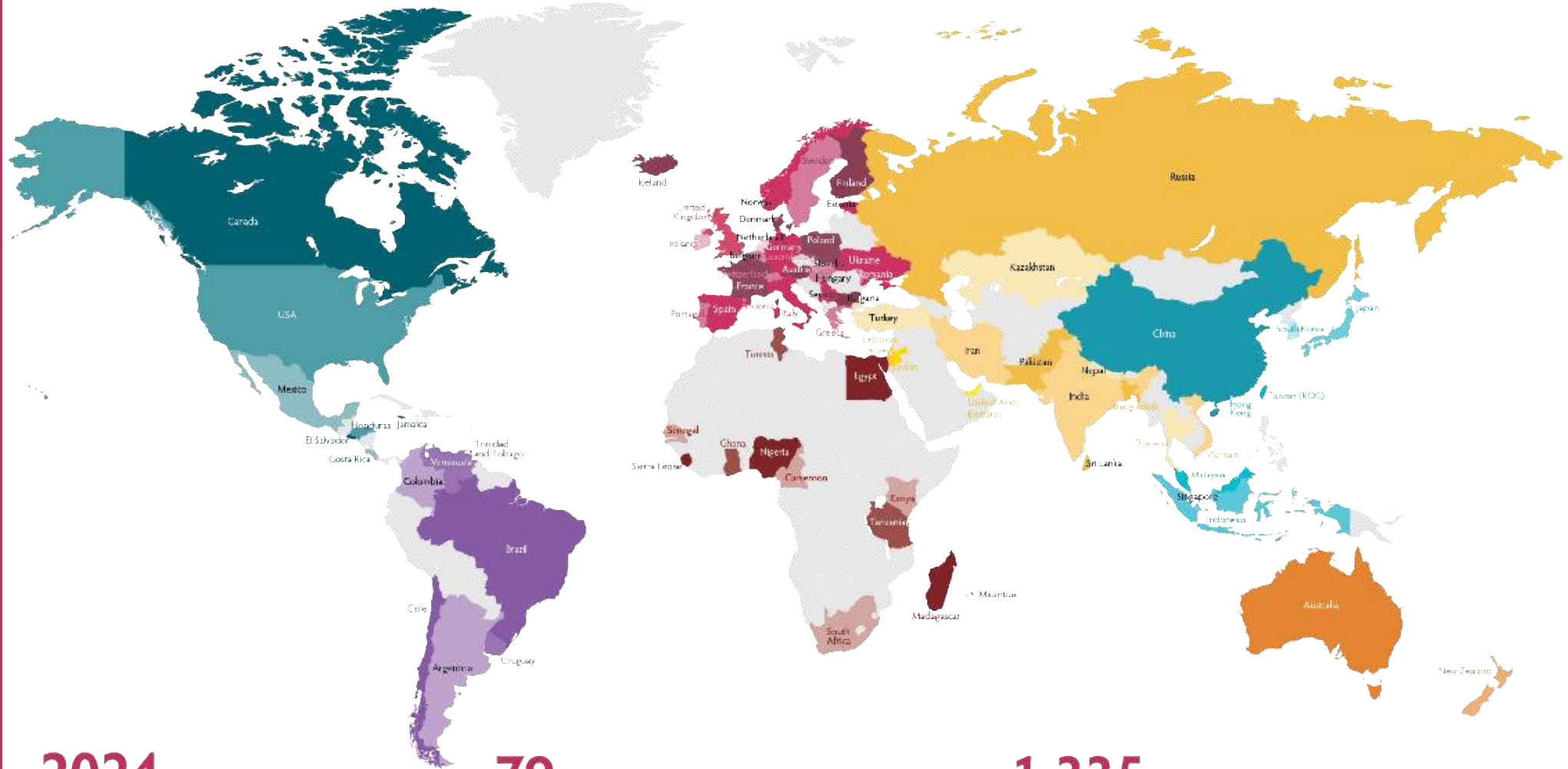
To empower women through encouragement and financial support of women pursuing Ph.D./doctoral degrees in aerospace engineering or space sciences.



## Program Statistics

Since the inception of the program in 1938, there have been 1,764 Amelia Earhart Fellowships, totaling More than US\$11.9 million, given to 1,335 women from 79 countries.

# THE AMELIA EARHART FELLOWSHIP



**2024**

**79 COUNTRIES OF CITIZENSHIP 1,335 FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS**

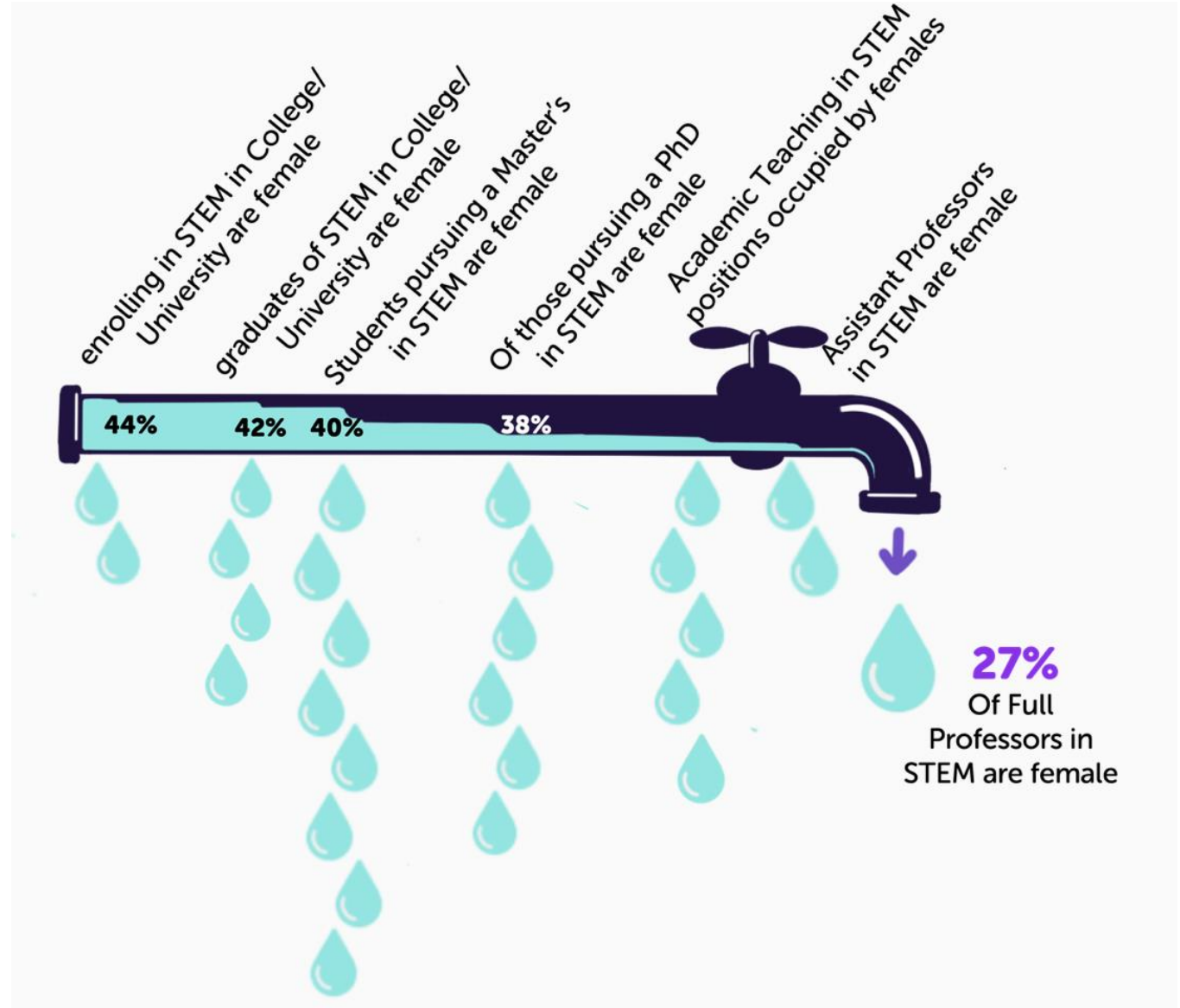
Andorra	1	Chile	3	Germany*	78	Ireland	2	Madagascar	2	Poland	6	South Africa*	3	Tunisia	3
Argentina	4	China, PR	73	Ghana	2	Israel	15	Malaysia*	3	Portugal	6	South Korea	14	Turkey*	19
Australia*	38	Colombia*	7	Greece*	10	Italy*	58	Mauritius	1	Romania*	14	Spain*	31	Ukraine	4
Austria	8	Costa Rica*	1	Honduras	1	Jamaica	1	Mexico*	7	Russia*	12	Sri Lanka	1	United Arab Emirates	1
Bangladesh	3	Denmark	3	Hong Kong	2	Japan*	19	Nepal	4	Senegal	1	Sweden*	15	United Kingdom*	38
Brazil*	11	Egypt	11	Hungary*	4	Jordan	1	Netherlands*	8	Serbia	1	Switzerland*	4	USA*	509
Bulgaria	6	El Salvador*	1	Iceland	3	Kazakhstan	1	New Zealand	11	Sierra	1	Taiwan (ROC)*	11	Uruguay	2
Cameroon	1	Estonia	1	India	61	Kenya	1	Nigeria*	2	Leone	1	Tanzania	1	Venezuela	1
Canada*	72	Finland	5	Indonesia	5	Lebanon	6	Norway	1	Singapore	1	Thailand	6	Vietnam	2
		France*	52	Iran	24	Luxembourg*	1	Pakistan	6	Slovakia	1	Trinidad/Tobago	1	Yugoslavia	7

\*Fellows with dual citizenship are listed under both countries.

# 2023 was the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fellowship

- We award the fellowship because women are still underrepresented in STEM in all decision-making positions
- Women earned more undergraduate and master's degrees and 42% of bachelor's degrees in STEM in 2019 but are still underrepresented at the PhD and faculty level (27%) \*

• \*<https://www.letsgetproof.com/blog/women-in-stem-the-leaky-pipeline>



# Women in Canada Are Less Likely to Enter and More Likely to Leave STEM Fields\*\*

- In 2019, women earned approximately one-third (36.4%) of all recipients of STEM postsecondary degrees in Canada.
  - Among students earning bachelor's degrees in 2019, women represented:
    - All STEM subjects: 41.8%
    - Science and science technology: 61.0%
    - Engineering and engineering technology: 21.7%
    - Mathematics and computer and information sciences: 31.4%
- In 2021, women accounted for less than a quarter (23.5%) of those working in natural and applied sciences and related occupations.
  - In these occupations, women earned, on average, \$0.84 to every \$1.00 earned by men in annual wages, salaries, and commissions in 2020.
- [\\*\\*https://www.catalyst.org/research/women-in-science-technology-engineering-and-mathematics-stem/](https://www.catalyst.org/research/women-in-science-technology-engineering-and-mathematics-stem/)

# Today

## Expanding horizons

AE Fellows lead the way with breakthroughs in aerospace engineering and space sciences as researchers, scientists, astronauts and more!



# The Amelia Earhart Fellowship now

- In Zonta we celebrate and reward these women who are working in advanced research
- Education is the single greatest tool to advance the status of women and
  - Advanced STEM education is needed in all economies in the world
- “Allowing young women to feel both welcomed and included in STEM by ....ensuring they are encouraged in STEM and helping them build an identity around being a successful female in STEM will sufficiently improve the retention of women in these fields”\*
- \*<https://www.letsgetproof.com/blog/women-in-stem-the-leaky-pipeline>



# Funding

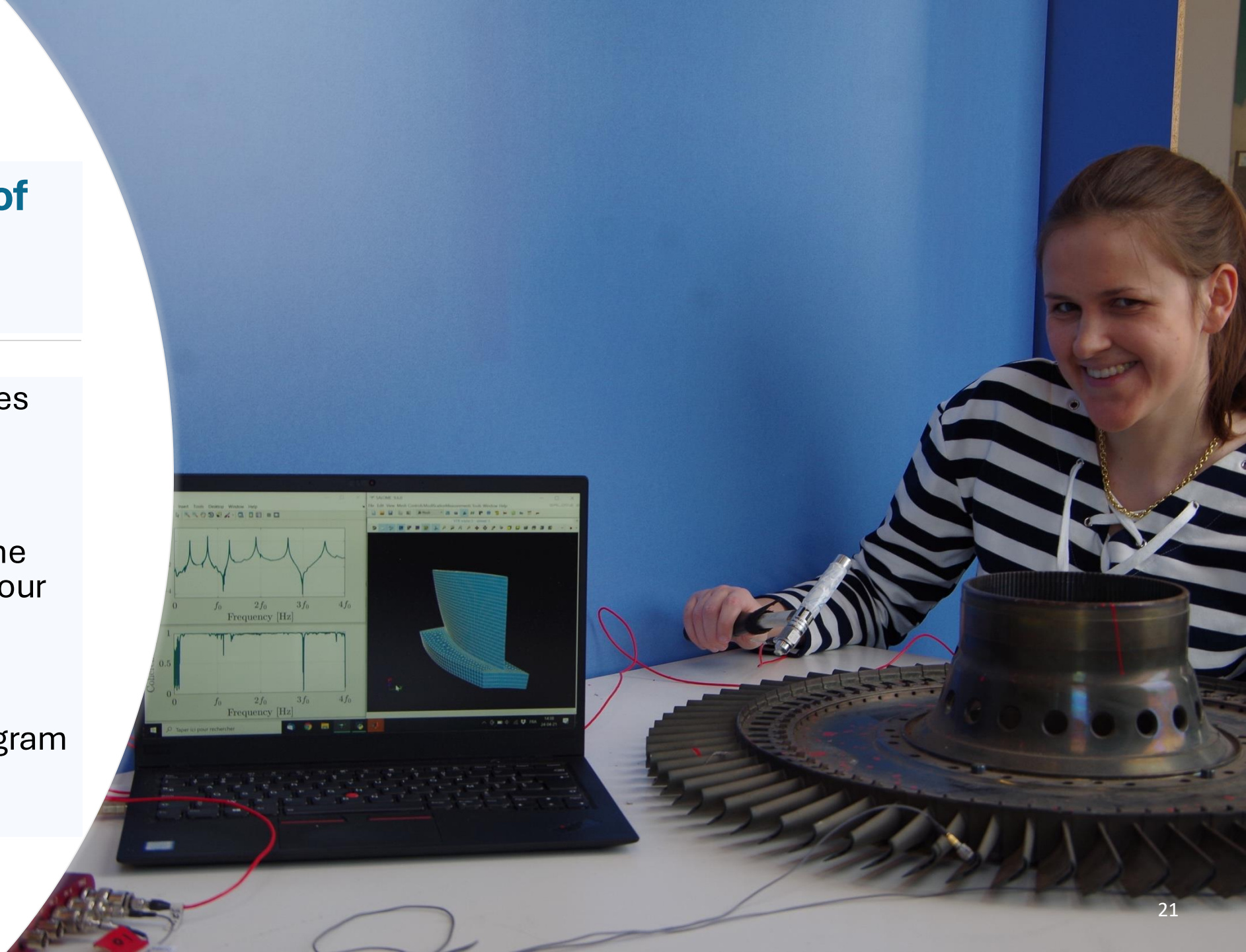
The fellowships are:

- Funded from the annual donations of clubs, members and supporters of the Zonta Foundation for Women.
- No funds come from annual membership dues



## Raising awareness of the AE Fellowship

- Zonta International relies on the members in the districts to support the program by:
- Raising awareness of the AE Fellowship among your members, educational institutions and young women in your district.
- Fundraising for the program in your club and area gatherings.



Thank you!