

# A flying career for alumni of SSTH

BY SWISS SCHOOL OF  
TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY

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The hospitality industry is one of the fastest-growing industry sectors world-wide. As a booming industry, diverse career opportunities continue to flourish on a global scale and the industry continues to attract new talent who are passionate, well-educated and well trained.

The Swiss School of Tourism and Hospitality (SSTH), part of the Ecole hôtelière de Lausanne (EHL) Group and Swiss Hotel Association, is a College of Applied Sciences that offers a fascinating international atmosphere. Students not only benefit from top hands-on experience, but also from a high level of academic education preparing them for successful careers.



Photograph: Christian Wesenberg, Kolonihaven

## ▶ HOW DO SSTH GRADUATES GET A Foothold ON THE CAREER LADDER?

For many fresh college graduates, the satisfaction of completing an undergraduate degree quickly turns into an anxious job search, almost before the ink on their diploma paper has had a chance to dry. At SSTH the process of researching and finding a job starts before graduation with the help of the alumni network and the career services department.

SSTH has an active alumni network of over 5,000 in around 100 countries. EHL, the parent company of SSTH has 25,000+ in 120 countries.

## ▶ SO WHY IS THE ALUMNI NETWORK SO IMPORTANT TO SSTH?

The alumni network is closely linked to SSTH and benefits the current student population immensely. Alumni are a key source of excellent internship and job opportunities. They promote SSTH and its degree programs worldwide within the industry which gives SSTH graduates a competitive edge in the job market and they regularly visit SSTH as key note speakers, sharing their real-life experiences.

The SSTH Alumni Director, Maria Ramstad Kristiansen describes the importance of SSTH's alumni for students at SSTH.

“To effectively take advantage of the excellent SSTH alumni network, students should work on creating relationships with alumni throughout their college experience by attending networking events and liaising via social media. It is a solid investment of students' time because our alumni are in the position to actually offer career opportunities in some of the world's most luxurious and exotic locations.”

Maria goes on to talk about the vast array of careers SSTH alumni have followed since graduating.

“International managerial careers vary enormously with our alumni population. Some alumni work in prestigious hotel chains, event companies, restaurants, luxury retail, airlines and cruise ships and some in private banking and other corporate industries. Our alumni are passionate, driven and super interesting people. Take Karan Narang for instance. He is training to become a pilot, sails, has studied till masters level, supports a family and if that isn't enough, is the Director of Acquisitions and Financial Analysis for the Hospitality Ventures Management Group, Atlanta.”

Having studied at SSTH herself, Maria who is Norwegian, gives us an insight into fellow Norwegian, Nina Henriette Brandanger and her career success since leaving SSTH.

Nina lives outside Oslo with her 8 year old daughter. She joined SSTH in 1999 having been recommended to study at SSTH whilst briefly working at the EPCOT center at Disney World in Florida.

“I was restless to see the world and knew that I should adopt a career that would allow me to travel and live abroad – which led me to study hospitality management at SSTH. The challenging program at SSTH with interesting lectures and international key note speakers attracted me most.”

## ▶ WHAT INTERNSHIPS DID YOU DO AS PART OF THE PROGRAM?

“I worked at the Holiday Inn Oceanfront Hotel, Hilton Head Island, in South Carolina. I started as an intern and was promoted to supervisor during my year. The hotel was in a prime location on the beach and I learnt everything about revenue management, quality control, service standards and general front office.”

Nina was asked to go back to the Holiday Inn Oceanfront Hotel and was promoted to Front Desk Manager. She then returned to Norway as a Front Office Manager at Hotel Continental, a 5 star hotel and Norway's only member of the Leading Hotels of the World, in Oslo. She was promoted as the hotels first revenue manager in 2007 and then left in 2009 to become a General Manager at Hotel Bondeheimen in Oslo.

Nina is now the General Manager at the Hotel Continental, a family owned hotel. At the Hotel Continental she is joined by fellow SSTH alumni Guest Relations Manager, Asbjorn Solem and Event Coordinator, Marina Helbostad. Pictured below with Nina, on the left is Tore Skog, Front Receptionist, who was successfully accepted to study this year at Ecole hôtelière de Lausanne. [www.hotelcontinental.no](http://www.hotelcontinental.no)



▶ WHAT TIPS WOULD YOU GIVE TO FRESH GRADUATES ON EMBARKING UPON A CAREER IN HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT?

“Getting a foot in the door is important. Use all your networks. Then prove yourself within the industry! Career options are not just limited to the industry. Many of my fellow students have actually successfully digressed into other businesses which is a testament to just how versatile the SSTH Degrees are.”



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**FOR FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT SSTH OR TO VISIT:**

Website: [ssth.ch](http://ssth.ch)  
Tel: +41 81 255 11 11  
Hauptstrasse 12,  
7062 Passugg,  
Switzerland

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