Maria Weber was a Professor of International Relations and Comparative Politics at Bocconi University and responsible for research on Asia at the Institute of International Political Studies (IIPS) and held many other important positions. From 2004 to 2006 she was the Managing Director of the Italian Institute of Culture in Beijing.

In her studies on China she was ahead of her time. Never so much as in her analysis of the strategies employed by firms in approaching the Chinese market. When for Italian entrepreneurs China was still an unknown and distant marketplace, Maria Weber went to great lengths to highlight the immense opportunities it offered.

She published many articles and books among which: *Vele verso la Cina* (Olivares ed., Milano, 1996); *After the Asian Crises*
(London, Macmillan,2000);
Reforming Economic Systems in Asia
(Edward Elgar, 2001);
Il miracolo cinese
(Il Mulino, eds., Bologna, 2002 and 2003);
Il Dragone e l'Aquila, Cina e USA: la vera sfida
(Bocconi University ed., Milano, 2005);
Due anni di Cina, opportunità di businesse scenari in evoluzione
(Etas, Milano, 2008).

Maria Weber was much loved by her students and highly respected by her academic colleagues. Following her untimely death in 2009 her family and friends decided to endow a scholarship in her memory, to honor her life's work and to encourage young students to study the extraordinary, fascinating and oftentimes impenetrable country to which she had dedicated her career.

The Maria Weber Scholarship was established in 2010 and is awarded to a student of the Globalization Program: Sustainable Development (spring semester) with the best dissertation proposal on a theme related to China.
The selected student travels to China to do research for his/her master's dissertation at one of the Chinese member universities of VIU.

The selection committee is composed of the following members (Spring 2016):

1. Prof. Marco Croci

2. Prof. Guglielmo Weber, Università degli Studi di Padova
3. Prof. Carlo Giupponi, Dean of Venice International University

2010 Winner:
Giulia Montanari - Communication and social advertising of sustainable development in China.

2011 Winner:
Federica Lena - Shanghai and its new satellite towns : the process of decentralization.

2012 Winner:
Sara Bindi - Green Urban Planning in China : the case of Huai Rou New Town Master Plan.

2013 Winner:
Giulia Di Giusto - Italian design brands in China's fourniture market.

2014 Winner:
Giulia De Zotti - The importance of the energy efficiency in the water industrial sector: comparison between Italy and China.

2016 Winner:

Agnese Ziliani - Gender Issues and Feminist Literature in Modern and Contemporary Taiwan