

One-year scholarship program  
sponsored by the Free State of Bavaria for graduates  
of Central, Eastern and Southeastern European states



## - Guidelines for the letter of endorsement (first time applicants) -

The letter of endorsement is an essential part of the application for the annual scholarship program of the Free State of Bavaria for students from Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe. Basically, the letter of endorsement states that an applicant has been in contact with the university of his/her choice in Bavaria and receives academic support in case he/she will be admitted to the respective study program. In case of a master's degree application in Bavaria it's recommended to submit a letter of endorsement, but it's not mandatory (i.e. applications without such a letter can be considered as well). In case of PhDs in Bavaria and one-year research sojourns in Bavaria (as part of the PhD in the home country) a letter of endorsement is mandatory; applications without such a letter cannot be considered.

The annual scholarship program is meant to support academic exchange and scientific cooperation. In order to decide on awarding a scholarship, it will be taken into consideration whether the scholarship is beneficial for the guest institution in Bavaria. Please refer in your letter of endorsement to this aspect and let us know if the scholarship is a desirable contribution to the research activities at your chair or if it supports the maintenance and development of a partnership with a higher education institution in Central, Eastern or Southeastern Europe.

Furthermore, we would appreciate it if you could give us additional information on the applicant's qualification (e.g. based on presented documents / personal interviews). Criteria might be:

- How do you assess the applicant's academic ability to write a thesis?
- What other aspects of the applicant's qualification would you like to emphasize?
- In respect to PhDs: How do you rate the presented dissertation project, esp. regarding
  - its relevance to research
  - its theoretical or methodological approach
  - its academic level
  - the stage of prior work
  - its work- and time schedule
- Additionally, for one-year research sojourns in Bavaria as part of the PhD in the home country
  - How is the planned research sojourn in Bavaria embedded into the entire PhD (in terms of content and time)?
  - Which impact do you anticipate for the progress of the PhD project?

The letter of endorsement can be written either by a course coordinator (master courses) or a professor (PhD projects). The letter of endorsement needs to be written on the department's official letter paper and contain the signature of the supervisor. Sending the signed letter directly to BAYHOST / BTHA via mail or as a scanned attachment by email is possible.

**Contact** for applicants

with the citizenship of the Czech Republic:

Ms Martina Guttenberger  
Bayerisch-Tschechische Hochschulagentur  
BTHA c/o BAYHOST  
Universitätsstr. 31  
D-93053 Regensburg  
Tel: ++49 941 943-5315  
[guttenberger@btha.de](mailto:guttenberger@btha.de)  
[www.btha.de](http://www.btha.de)

from other countries:

Ms Katrin Döppe  
Bayerisches Hochschulzentrum für Mittel-, Ost-  
und Südosteuropa BAYHOST  
Universitätsstr. 31  
D-93053 Regensburg  
Tel: ++49 941 943-5049  
[doeppe@bayhost.de](mailto:doeppe@bayhost.de)  
[www.bayhost.de](http://www.bayhost.de)

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