Bayerisch-Tschechische Hochschulagentur
Česko-bavorská vysokoškolská agentura
B A Y H O S T

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

Call for application for the funding year 2027/28

– advice for first time applications –

For the academic year 2027/28, the Free State of Bavaria will once again be awarding one-year scholarships to graduates from Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine. The scholarship is intended to finance postgraduate studies (i.e. Master's programs), PhDs or one-year research stays (as part of the PhD in the home country) at a state or state-funded higher education institution in Bavaria.

A. Requirements for the application:

- citizenship of one of the following countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine
- permanent residence in the home country at the time of the scholarship application
- unfinished 30 years of age (for Master's degree students) or 35 years of age (for PhDs) at the time of the first scholarship award, i.e. October 1, 2027 (justified exceptions possible, see FAQ / question 11)
- no financing of the study or research stay at a Bavarian university from own funds or from third-party funds (e.g. through another scholarship) possible
- German and / or English language skills corresponding to the study or research project in Bavaria (usually C1 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages)
- well above-average academic performance at the university in the home country at the time of the scholarship application
- enrollment at the chosen Bavarian university while the scholarship is being awarded (not required at the time of application)

B. Selection criteria:

- previous academic achievements (i.e. grades, scholarships or prizes, publications, lectures
- relevant motivation for postgraduate studies in Bavaria (meaningful connection to the first degree and professional goals)
- project description (only for PhD proposals): convincing presentation of the research project, the scientific relevance of the research subject and the research question
- very good knowledge German and/or English
- further foreign language skills
- practical experience (e.g. internships, part-time jobs)
- international experience (e.g. studies or internships abroad)
- attendance at specialist conferences, non-university seminars, further training events
- voluntary work and commitment (e.g. student representation, associations, politics, NGOs)
- confirmation of supervision from a Bavarian higher education institution (only for PhDs / one-year research stays as part of the PhD in the home country)
- letter of recommendation from the PhD supervisor from the home institution (only for one-year research stays as part of a PhD in the home country)
- cooperation between the home university and the selected higher education institution in Bavaria desirable (not a prerequisite for the award of the scholarship)
- willingness to participate in a possible online application interview

C. General conditions for awarding scholarships

- Funding is provided for a maximum of three years (but no longer than until completion of the degree or PhD) and can be extended twice by one year each time on application. In case of a PhD in Bavaria, funding can be extended a third time by up to one or two additional semesters in well-founded and comprehensibly documented exceptional cases.
- Eligible for funding:
  - complete postgraduate studies or doctorate at a Bavarian state university, state-recognized university under church sponsorship, art or music university
  - one-year research stay as part of a doctorate in the home country (the scholarship period is generally limited to one year)
- Not eligible for funding:
  - exchange year in Bavaria as part of the Master's program in the home country
  - fee-based continuing education program for experienced professionals, etc.

- The selected course of study must mainly take place in Bavaria and require a change of residence to Bavaria for the duration of the course.
- The sponsored students are responsible for their own travel to the respective university location. Visa arrangements must be clarified in advance with the German Embassy or German Consulate in the home country. Travel allowances will not be granted.
- The scholarship is expected to be paid out in twelve monthly installments of € 992 each.
- Grantees with at least one child can also apply for a family allowance (€ 160 per month). BAYHOST / BTHA must be informed of this as early as possible; the family allowance may only be granted from the new financial year after the application has been submitted.
- The scholarship is usually transferred by BAYHOST / BTHA at the beginning of each month. The following information is required from each recipient: Account details in Germany or the EEA (any fees will be borne by the recipient), details of the residential address in Bavaria and the German tax identification number (to be submitted as soon as possible after registering the place of residence in Bavaria).
- In consultation with BAYHOST / BTHA, scholarship holders may have an additional income of up to €800 gross per month on average (e.g. work, scholarship). A combination with another scholarship is possible if this is less than €450 per month.
- If no degree certificate was available at the time of the scholarship application: Applicants selected for a scholarship are obliged to submit their university degree certificate including an overview of grades and certified translations into German or English to BAYHOST by e-mail as soon as possible after the scholarship has been awarded. Czech applicants must submit copies of their university degree certificate incl. overview of grades (in Czech, German or English without certified translation) to BTHA.
- Scholarship holders are obliged to:
  - always submit a current certificate of enrollment to BAYHOST/BTHA
  - to attend the meetings (e.g. weekend seminar, annual reception), which usually take place once a semester.

D. Time frame: Scholarship selection for the academic year 2027/2028

Deadline for first time applications	**December 1, 2026**
Review and evaluation of applications	December 2026 – March 2027
Meeting of the selection committee	April – May 2027
Dispatch of the selection results via e-mail	May 2027
Regular application deadline for studying at Bavarian higher education institutions (Please note varying deadlines for certain master's programs)	June 15 (all other institutions) / July 15 (research universities) 2027
Start of the scholarship program	October 1, 2027

E. List of application documents (first time application)

All documents must be submitted **online via the BAYHOST / BTHA StipSys form by December 1, 2026** at the latest.

Applications received late or submitted by e-mail or post will not be considered. The same applies to incomplete applications or applications that do not comply with the prescribed form.

1. filled out **StipSys online form** including the following documents in PDF format (max. 5 MB per file):
2. **letter of motivation** in German or English (1 – 2 pages)
3. **proof of your German and/or English skills** (see FAQ)
4. **university degree certificate including a transcript of records** along with a certified German or English translation (for Czech applicants in Czech, English or German without certified translation). In the absence of a university degree certificate due to pending graduation: Transcript of Records and confirmation from the home university of the expected graduation by July 31, 2027 at the latest.
5. **proof of citizenship** (scan of passport or identity card)
6. **Curriculum vitae in tabular form** in German or English
7. documents on voluntary work, internships, further training, publications, etc. (without translation; max. 10 documents)
8. optional for Master's applications: If there is already existing contact with a professor or the coordination office of a Master's program at the selected Bavarian higher education institution, a reference or letter of endorsement can optionally be attached to the application. However, this is not an application requirement.
9. **additionally for PhDs in Bavaria**:
    - **two-page project description** and **timetable** for the overall project
    - **letter of endorsement** ("Betreuungszusage") from a professor at a Bavarian higher education institution (see FAQ and "Guidelines for the letter of endorsement")
10. **additionally for one-year research stays in Bavaria** as part of the PhD in the home country:
    - **two-page project description** and **timetable** for the overall project;
    - **letter of endorsement** ("Betreuungszusage") from a professor at a Bavarian higher education institution (see FAQ and "Guidelines for the letter of endorsement")
    - **letter of recommendation** from the PhD supervisor in the home country
11. if applying for an **exception to the age limit:** informal letter with corresponding justification (see FAQ)
12. if applying for a **family allowance: Birth certificate of the child** along with a certified German or English translation; for applications from Czechia without translation.

F. Instructions for submitting the application via StipSys

- **Allow sufficient time and rest:** Once all documents have been submitted, it will take around 30 minutes to complete the online form, upload the documents and send the application if you process them quickly.
- **Important:** If the form is inactive for too long, the session will be terminated automatically. It is also not possible to save the form temporarily. It is advisable to prepare all documents BEFORE filling in the form and to refresh the form window in the browser (e.g. F5 key in Windows).
- **Documents may only be uploaded in PDF format with a maximum of 5 MB per file:** Only one file per category (e.g. letter of motivation, university certificate) can be uploaded. Several PDF files from one category must therefore be converted into one PDF file before uploading. Alternatively, other documents can be uploaded as separate, clearly named files in the "Other attachments" category.
- **Accept privacy policy** (next page of the online form)
- **Register with StipSys at the end of the online form to submit the final application:** When registering, please provide your name, country of origin, e-mail address and password. If you already have an account with StipSys (e.g. through applications to other scholarship providers), you can reuse the registration data. A forgotten password can be reset.
- **Activate your StipSys account:** After successful submission of the application, two e-mails will be sent: a confirmation of receipt of the application and a request to activate the StipSys account. Clicking on the activation link serves to verify the e-mail address so that the application can be processed by BAYHOST / BTHA
- **After submitting your application:** no subsequent changes are possible: any additions and subsequent submissions to the application can only be made by e-mail to the responsible contact person at BAYHOST / BTHA.
- **Deleting the application:** After logging in, click on "Withdraw application". The withdrawn application will not be considered in the selection process.
- **If several applications have been submitted, only the last application will be considered.**

G. Contact

If you have any questions, BAYHOST and BTHA will be happy to advise you. Please also read the FAQ and application tips beforehand.

For applicants with the **citizenship of Czechia**:

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For applicants from **all countries (except Czechia):**

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