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 one-year scholarship program of the Free State of Bavaria for students from Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe, as it confirms that an applicant is in contact with the higher education institutions of his/her choice in Bavaria and will receive academic supervision if admitted. For PhDs or one-year research stays in Bavaria (as part of the PhD in the home country) a letter of endorsement is therefore mandatory. Applications without such a letter cannot be considered in the selection process.

Submitting a letter of endorsement for Master's applications is optional: 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.

The one-year scholarship program serves to promote academic exchange and scientific cooperation. The decision is influenced by the fact whether the scholarship is beneficial for the respective Bavarian higher education institution. Please address this aspect in your letter of endorsement and let us know if the scholarship is advantageous for the research work at your chair or if it contributes to the development and maintenance of an important partnership with a higher education institution in Central, Eastern or Southeastern Europe.

In addition, we would appreciate it if you could provide us with additional information about the applicant's qualification (e.g. based on documentation provided / personal interviews). Criteria could be:

- What is your assessment of the applicant's academic ability to write a thesis?
- What other aspects of the applicant's qualifications would you like to highlight?
- With regard to doctoral candidates: How would you evaluate the proposed dissertation project, especially in terms of
  - its research relevance
  - its theoretical or methodological approach
  - its academic level
  - the level of previous work
  - its work and time schedule
- In addition, for one-year research stays in Bavaria as part of the PhD in the home country
  - How does the planned research stay in Bavaria fit into the overall PhD (in terms of content and time)?
  - What impact do you expect it to have for the progress of the PhD project?

The letter of endorsement can be written either by a course coordinator (Master's courses) or a professor (PhD projects). The letter of endorsement must be written on the department's official letterhead and include the supervisor's signature. **The signed letter can be sent directly to BAYHOST / BTHA as a scanned attachment via email.**

Contact for applicants
with the citizenship of Czechia:

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