

Press Release

### **The Bakala Foundation will be selecting its scholarship recipients from 238 applicants**

Prague, July 15, 2015: Demand for financial support for studies abroad through the SCHOLARSHIP program is strong as ever in 2015. 238 students applied for the program and the Foundation will now select among them those, who will be invited for personal interviews. Approximately one in ten applicants will be picked, and if they prove their qualities to the selection committee, they will receive a scholarship which will help them to pay for their studies at prestigious universities abroad.

*„Competition is fierce every year. Majority of our applicants are students with great academic results and clear idea about their future. As usually, we again received applications from all 14 counties,“* says Kristýna Borsodi, Academic Advisor of The Bakala Foundation.

As was the case in previous years, students of high schools and universities are eligible to apply. The Foundation received over 400 applications, of which some had to be discarded, not meeting some of the requirements. Among other criteria that have to be met in a valid application, the applicant has to be planning to study undergraduate or graduate program at a quality university abroad, writing an essay in English language, not being older than 33 years of age and submission of a recommendation letter.

*„Czech students are very interested in studying at Ivy league universities in the United States or at elite European universities. However, a great number of them can't afford to live and study abroad and we are trying to help the most talented of those students,“* adds Borsodi.

Student, who decides to study abroad usually needs to – besides passing the entrance exams – inform the university on how he or she intends to pay for the studies. Yearly tuition at the most expensive schools can reach the CZK 1 000 000,- (USD 45-50 000) mark. Furthermore, living costs and additional expenses have to be taken into account.

For six years already, The Bakala Foundation offers financial support to those talented Czech students that need it to achieve their academic dreams. The Foundation offers funding to high school students who want to continue their studies outside of the Czech Republic as well as to current university students who intend to further deepen their knowledge of their chosen field at one of the top universities abroad.

Scholarships issued as part of the program shouldn't be considered one way ticket to a semester or a year of studies abroad. Students, who continuously produce good academic results and are not able to support themselves and their studies financially are funded through the whole time of their studies.

The Scholarship program is organized by The Bakala Foundation (formerly Nadace Zdeňka Bakaly) in cooperation with Switzerland-based Fondation Zdenek et Michaela Bakala. Overall sum, donated by Mr. and Mrs. Bakala to the program is nearly CZK 75 000 000,-. 87 students were supported through the Scholarship program.

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