



Nadace  
Zdeňka Bakaly

60

**Bakala Scholars are studying at top universities through our program**

February 2013



**15 May 2013  
Application Deadline**

### What students do we support?

In January, we announced another year of the SCHOLARSHIP program, under which ten million crowns will be awarded to the best students heading for prestigious universities abroad, primarily in the US or the UK. These universities' distinguished reputations and traditions of excellence – not just their rankings – indicate their quality. No particular degree program is excluded or given preference.

The application deadline for the SCHOLARSHIP program is May 15. The Selection Committee conducts interviews with top candidates (pictured) in September – when students are working on their university applications – in order to motivate promising students who might be hesitating to apply to prestigious universities, owing to financial uncertainty, to give it a shot. Our scholars can then take their university entrance exams, which are usually held in the autumn or winter, secure in the knowledge that financial concerns will not stand in the way of their studies. Students who have already been admitted to the university of their dreams can also apply for scholarships.



### Our First President's Plans

Just as the Czech Republic held its first direct presidential election this year, Bakala Scholars elected Dominik Miketa, a student at Oxford, as their president.

"Currently, I am at the point in my studies when you change your long-term plans on a daily basis. In five years, I'd like to apply for a doctoral program, but I have yet to decide whether it will be in physics or philosophy. My ambition is to learn to communicate more effectively, and to spread among Czech people the ideas that drove the major liberal social movements of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. As President of the Bakala Scholars, I will organize school visits and motivate young people to study. The 60 Bakala Scholars come from diverse secondary schools. But all of us together know how to present the Foundation to teachers and students."

How is your study at Oxford?

"As a physicist, my knowledge is constantly expanding; as a philosopher, I am becoming increasingly aware that I know only one thing: that I know nothing."



### Václav Havel Library Offers Events Not Only for Students

One of the items in Zdeňka Bakala's philanthropy portfolio is the Václav Havel Library (VHL), which aims to research and document modern Czech history, with an emphasis on Václav Havel's ideas and works.

Located in Řetězová Street, Prague, the VHL holds seminars, author readings, exhibitions, concerts, and theater performances. People who live outside Prague, including our scholars who are currently studying abroad, can watch many of these events on YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com/user/knihovnavaclavahavla>). The VHL also conducts an annual essay competition for secondary school students. Some of last year's entrants in the Best Student Essay Competition wrote about their ideal president (pictured is the award announcement in December 2012).