Are You Tempted by the Idea of Studying Abroad?

The Bakala Foundation is once again offering its Scholarship Program. Applications are now being accepted for the seventh year of this worthwhile program, which provides financial aid to young people interested in completing their undergraduate and graduate studies at prestigious universities abroad. The deadline for submission is May 31, 2016. Applications must be submitted electronically using the form available on the Bakala Foundation website. A key criterion for acceptance is the applicant’s essay, written in English, on a selected topic. Click here to see this year’s essay topics. The future Bakala Scholars will be chosen through a two-round selection process. During the first round, a panel of experts will evaluate all of the applications. The students submitting the best applications will be invited to a personal interview, to be held in September 2016, at which time the final scholarship recipients will be selected. In the past, students have shown great interest in the scholarship program. For example, last year 238 applications were submitted and 22 applicants were invited to participate in the interviews conducted by a selection committee comprising experts from various fields. The top 13 students were awarded a scholarship.

The official announcement of the scholarships awarded by the Bakala Foundation in September 2015. The selected students receive financial aid to support their studies at prestigious universities abroad. Photo: HerminaPress
Our Scholarship Recipients: Ján Michalčák, President of the Bakala Scholars

Ján Michalčák has been actively following political events since his childhood and is also interested in European history and economics. Since September 2014, he has been studying for his bachelor’s degree in politics and East European studies at Britain’s University College London. Thanks to the flexibility of his selected field of study, he is able to further develop all of his interests and has chosen economics and German to go along with the more traditional political science subjects. Ján also appreciates the emphasis placed on the former Soviet Bloc. Upon his return to the Czech Republic, he wants to become involved in improving the political environment. In addition to attending lectures, Ján is an active academic debater. He represented the Czech Republic at the World Schools Debating Championships held in Cape Town in 2012 and is now continuing his debating activities at the university level. He is an avid reader and a football fan.

In January 2016, his fellow scholarship recipients elected him to head the Bakala Scholars as their representative. The group elects a new president every year. Ján Michalčák was preceded in this position by Nikita Poljakov.

Newly elected Bakala Scholars President Ján Michalčák representing the scholarship recipients on the selection committee during the interviews with scholarship applicants.

Photo: HerminaPress

Newsletter 1/2016 © The Bakala Foundation
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Counseling Centre – The Student Hub

In late November the Bakala Foundation opened a counseling and support center for students interested in completing undergraduate and graduate study programs abroad. Lectures, prepared in cooperation with students and past Scholarship Program participants and covering all aspects of studying in a foreign country, are offered about three times a month. By prior arrangement, the centre also provides individual consultations. A recent addition is a library containing a wide range of publications and other material providing comprehensive information about the various aspects of the admission processes at foreign universities, such as the SAT and GRE testing requirements and the TOEFL/IELTS language exams.

Achilles Data IV

This is the fourth year the Bakala Foundation is holding a three-month course for students of journalism and other media-related fields. The aim is to familiarize the course participants with basic tools, current trends and in-depth journalism methods in a way that they will subsequently be able to apply over the course of their careers. The course is open to three- and four-member teams of journalism students and novice journalists in the Czech Republic. Each of the seven accepted teams will be assigned one mentor (a professional journalist), whom the team will regularly consult about the methodology they use for dealing with the selected topic. Applications may be submitted
until February 1, 2016 using the form available on the Bakala Foundation website. The course begins with a three-day series of workshops, which will be held February 17-19, 2016 at the American Center in Prague. The mentors and lecturers include Jana Ustohalová (MF DÍNĚS), Pavla Holcová (Czech Center for Investigative Journalism), Jindřich Šídlo (Hospodářské noviny), Tomáš Němeček (journalist), Markéta Dobíšová (Czech Television), David Macháček (Czech Television), Ondřej Kundra (Respekt), Jaroslav Spurný (Respekt), and Internet research specialist Paul Myers (Research Clinic, BBC Academy).
Past Events:

Just before Christmas, eighty junior high and high school students from various schools participated in the event Curious Christmas. Thanks to the nine workshops and the participation of the Bakala Scholars, the students could expand their knowledge in many areas, including space science, encryption, economic competition, quantum physics, and mental health. Photo: Eva Kořinková

On the first Monday in 2016, a group of more than fifty Bakala Foundation scholarship recipients got together at the annual gathering held at the Villa Grébovka. The Bakala Scholars enjoyed an afternoon packed with activities, including a lecture by Jan Vevera entitled “Burnout Syndrome, Acute and Chronic Stress and Mechanisms to Tackle Them”, and a panel discussion with Pepper de Callier, Josef Musil, Petr Svoboda and Radek Špicar on the topic of “Got a Job? Employment Perspectives Following Completion of Your Studies”. Photo: Eva Kořinková