



SHOLARSHIPS FOR APPLICANTS FROM ESTONIA FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2020-2021

1. **Scholarships for short- and mid-term undergraduate and graduate students' studies** in all fields (duration of studies – **at least 2 months** per person). Total duration cannot exceed **10 months**.
2. **Scholarships for short- and mid-term postgraduate students' studies** in all fields (duration of studies – **3 to 10 months** per person). Total duration cannot exceed **10 months**.
3. **Research scholarships for university lecturers and researchers** (duration of research visit – **up to 1 month** per person). Total duration of research visits cannot exceed **3 months**.
4. **Scholarships for the Summer School of Slavonic Studies, i.e. Czech language and culture summer course** (2 vacancies available).

PART 1. DESCRIPTION

Scholarship programme under bilateral agreement is designed for advanced students, researchers and lecturers of higher education and research institutions of Estonia for studies or research visits at public higher education and research institutions of the Czech Republic. This scholarship programme is open to applicants from all fields of studies and research.

The scholarships are not intended for a full course of study, an academic degree or diploma cannot be obtained during the period covered by the scholarship, hence the applicants are not required to sit entrance examination. However, credits awarded during the scholarship may count towards the study undertaken in the home country (applicants should check with their home institutions).

The terms and conditions of admission and requirements concerning the language^{*)} of tuition are stipulated by the host university that takes an autonomous decision whether or not the applicant can be accepted within the framework of the Ministry's scholarship programme. Prospective applicants are **advised to contact the selected (preferred) university directly and request a letter of invitation** from the appropriate department. Although such a letter is not listed among obligatory attachments to the application form, its submission is recommended, since it may simplify and expedite the admission procedure. **Applicants are requested to point out to the selected university that they are applying for the Ministry's scholarship award under an international agreement.**

The study or research visit must take place from September 2020 to June/July 2021. The autumn semester in higher education and research institutions of the Czech Republic normally lasts from September until January and spring semester from February until June.

The Summer School of Slavonic Studies precedes the relevant academic year and takes place during the summer months of July or August, depending on the organizer.

**) Tuition-free study programs are predominantly held in Czech. The applicant can be accepted for a study program taught in a foreign language (English, German, French, Russian) only if the host university waives tuition and indicates its decision in the letter of acceptance.*

PART 2. FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

Czech language and culture summer courses participants will be provided with **free board and lodging, coverage of course fees (tuition and registration fee) and free access to cultural events** which are an integral part of the course programme.

Students accepted for their study visits will receive a scholarship, which **at the first level of higher education and for Master's studies amounts to CZK 9,000 per month, and CZK 9,500 per month for holders of a Master's degree or equivalent.** The scholarship award is notified by a **Decision issued by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic.**

Researchers and lecturers of all fields approved for the research visit will receive **521 CZK a day for meals and personal allowance.** *Accommodation will be provided and covered* by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic.

The scholarship is meant to cover the living expenses (to include accommodation) of only one person; any additional financial support for eventual accompanying members of the family is not available (accompanying family member must be approved by the receiving party, i.e. by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic). There is no legal claim to the scholarship award. The scholarship is not transferable to another person.

The scholarship has to be collected in person at the appropriate department of the respective Czech university (unless agreed otherwise). Any other fees such as student union fee, library membership fee, etc. shall be paid by scholarship holder.

Accommodation: upon request, the host institution provides the scholarship holder with a place in a dormitory or a university guesthouse. Requests for lodging at a student dormitory must be indicate in the submitted application form. Assistance with this is available from International Relations Office staff of the relevant higher education and research institutions. Alternatively, foreign students and researchers may consider renting an apartment privately. Accommodation costs shall be covered by the scholarship holder, except for Czech language and culture summer courses participants and research scholarship holders (lecturers and researchers).

Travel expenses to the Czech Republic (and upon the territory of the Czech Republic) and back has to be covered by a scholarship-holder.

PART 3. CZECH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE SUMMER COURSES

In 2020 the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic has reserved for applicants from Estonia **two vacancies** at the **Summer School of Slavonic (Czech) Studies** organized by **Masaryk University** in Brno, **Faculty of Arts**, Department of Czech for Foreigners. The Summer School will be held **in Brno** from **July 18 till August 15, 2020** (<https://kabcest.phil.muni.cz/en/study/summer-school>).

Scholarships can only be awarded to applicants who are **nominated by the competent authorities** (usually government agencies) of eligible countries. Application dossiers should reach the Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport by **31 March 2020 at latest.**

Application (available at <http://www.msmt.cz/file/49220/>) should be accompanied with an Academic CV written in Czech or English. The competent receiving authority may require other documents (such as cover letter, certificate on language skills etc.)

Each scholarship consists of **free board and lodging, coverage of course fees (tuition and registration fee) and free access to cultural events** which are scheduled as an integral part of the course programme.

Successful candidates will be contacted directly by the Summer School organizers.

A scholarship holder is obliged, once s/he obtains information on acceptance, to confirm his/her attendance at the Summer School. If an admitted scholarship-holder cannot attend the Summer School concerned, s/he is obliged to inform immediately the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports or the relevant contact person at the Summer School.

The MEYS reserves the right to change the place and term of the Summer School course covered by the scholarship. Scholarship holders are not guaranteed to be placed at the Summer School requested in her/his application.

PART 4. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

4.1. List of documents to be submitted (in the order given):

4.1.1. Undergraduate and graduate student studies:

1. Printed and signed application form (the form is available to download on the website of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, section EU and International Affairs, Scholarships for the Academic Year 2020/20201);
2. Academic CV;
3. Motivation Letter;
4. Certified photocopies of HEI-Diploma, including Diploma Supplement, or transcript of records, if studies are not finished yet;
5. Copy of certificate of proficiency in Czech (or another language acceptable for the host institution, preferably English);
NB1. Minimal knowledge of Czech on B2 level of CEFR is a prerequisite for admission to most fields of studies, unless otherwise specified. Knowledge of Czech on C1 (C2) level of CEFR may be required for some art academies' programs; for more details please contact a selected university/academy.
NB2. TOEFL, IELTS, CPE or other widely recognized exams of English proficiency are acceptable. If the candidate does not hold any of those certificates, then a signed letter confirming the proficiency in the language from the home university's professor of English is also acceptable.
6. Official letter of acceptance/ invitation letter from the host HEI institution in the Czech Republic (not obligatory, however, recommended).
7. Copy of the passport of other valid identity document.

4.1.2. Postgraduate student studies or research work:

1. Printed and signed application form;
2. Academic CV and list of scientific publications;
3. Motivation Letter or Research plan for research work in the Czech Republic (max. 3 pages);
4. Certified photocopies of Master Diploma (including Diploma Supplement) or of PhD Diploma;
5. Official letter of acceptance/ invitation letter from the host HEI institution in the Czech Republic;
NB3. Applicants for research scholarships – this letter must contain information on the chosen field of research.
6. Copy of the passport of other valid identity document.

4.1.3. Summer School of Slavonic Studies:

1. Printed and signed application form (available at <http://www.msmt.cz/file/49220/>);
2. Academic CV.
NB4. The competent receiving authority may require other documents (such as cover letter, certificate on language skills etc.)

4.2. Documents must be:

1. Completed in English or Czech (or translated into one of these languages). Submitted in two (2) identical sets (one original set and one copy of the original set). Every set must be put into plastic sheet or envelope. Incomplete applications or postmarked after the deadline will not be considered.
2. Typed and printed (handwritten documents will not be accepted).
3. Application form, Academic CV, Motivation Letter and Research plan must be dated and signed. Application documents will not be returned.

PART 5. IMPORTANT DATES

Applications must be sent by ordinary or registered post to the *Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic, Department for International Relations* (<http://www.msmt.cz/eu-and-international-affairs>)

- by **31 of March 2020** for nominations for the Summer School of Slavonic Studies;
- by **30 of April 2020** for nominations for short- and mid-term scholarships;
- **no later than 2 months** before the proposed date of the research visit.

All applications will be evaluated and the final decision on granting scholarships will be made by the evaluation committee of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic. Awarded candidates will be informed personally by e-mail and by post and notification will be sent to the Archimedes Foundation by:

- **30th of June, 2020** – notification of the results for the Summer School of Slavonic Studies and for study scholarships;
- **no later than 30 days** before the scheduled beginning of the research visit.

PART 6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Information about studies and research possibilities for foreigners is available either at Czech institutions of higher education and research or via interactive programme finder available at <https://portal.studyin.cz/>. The list of public higher education and research institutions of the Czech Republic can be found on the website <http://www.msmt.cz/areas-of-work/tertiary-education/public-higher-education-institutions-websites> or <https://portal.studyin.cz/find-your-institution/>.
- In order to arrange a study or research visit in the Czech Republic and receive an official letter of acceptance/ invitation letter, a candidate is advised to contact directly the International Office of the chosen Czech Higher Education Institution.

Information for the Archimedes Foundation:

Applications shall be assessed and the list of recommended candidates together with their documents submitted to:

Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic
Department for International Relations
Karmelitská 529/5
118 12 Prague 1
Czech Republic

Contact:

- Ivana Ryšková, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic, Department of International Relations, Ivana.Ryskova@msmt.cz