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**REPUBLIC OF CROATIA**

**CENTRAL STATE OFFICE FOR CROATS ABROAD**

Pursuant to Article 7 of the Regulations on the Award of Scholarships for Croatian Language Learning in the Republic of Croatia and for Online Croatian Language Learning (“Official Gazette", number 54/19, hereinafter: Regulations), in accordance with Articles 33 and 60 of the Act on the Relations between the Republic of Croatia and Croats Abroad (“Official Gazette ", no. l24/11 and 16/12), the Central State Office for Croats Abroad

hereby publishes the following:

**PUBLIC CALL**

for the Award of Scholarships for Croatian Language Learning for the academic year 2023/2024

**1.  TYPE AND CONTENT OF SCHOLARSHIP**

The Central State Office for Croats Abroad (hereinafter: The State Office) shall approve for the academic year 2023/2024:

* up to 500 scholarships for Croatian Language Learning in the Republic of Croatia (Zagreb, Split, Rijeka, Osijek, Zadar, Pula and Dubrovnik) that covers tuition fee of the Croatian language course, up to two subsidized meals a day, and an allowance for accommodation in the student hall of residence or in private accommodation.

Scholarships for Croatian Language Learning are awarded for all language levels for one (either winter or summer semester) or two semesters for the academic year 2023/2024. **The winter semester** takes place from the beginning of October 2023 until the end of January 2024, while **the summer semester** takes place from the beginning of March 2024 until June 2024.

The scholarship includes:

* Tuition fee for the Croatian language course in the Republic of Croatia
* Up to two subsidized meals a day (student card, *x-ica*)
* An allowance for accommodation in the student hall of residence or in private accommodation

in the amount of € 110,00 per month paid to all scholarship holders who submit the proof of regular course attendance and successful completion of their chosen course.

The scholarship does not include:

* The costs of travel to the Republic of Croatia
* The costs of public transportation in the city of the Course
* The costs of compulsory health insurance during the time the Croatian language course takes place in the Republic of Croatia

The scholarship may include:

* Subsidized accommodation in student residence halls in the city of the Course

**Note:**

**The number of available places in the student residence halls in the Republic of Croatia is limited** and it is approved by the Ministry of Science and Education, i.e. the competent student agency, and the scholarship holders who achieved higher scores **have the advantage when getting a place in the student residence halls. The applicants who are over 36 years of age on the expiry date for the application to this Public Call do not have the right to obtain accommodation in the student residence hall.**

**2.  ORGANIZATION AND LOCATIONS OF THE CROATIAN LANGUAGE COURSE**

The Course is organized by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb, Split, Rijeka, Osijek, Pula and Universities of Zadar and Dubrovnik. The scholarship requires regular class attendance in the city where the Course takes place in the Republic of Croatia. **Applicants who are awarded the scholarship shall come to the place where the Course is organized on the day of the official commencement of the Course at the latest, and preferably up to 7 days before the official start of the Course. If not it will be considered that the candidate has decided not to attend and the scholarship will be cancelled.**

Candidates must indicate in the application form their first and second choice of city of course attendance. When awarding the scholarships the State Office will respect the candidate's choice but also exercise the right to ensure the minimum number of the Course attendees in certain cities. In some cases, scholarship holders who achieved a higher score will have an advantage over others when their choice of city is approved.

**3. CONDITIONS AND CRITERIA FOR AWARDING THE SCHOLARSHIP**

1. **The conditions to award the scholarship are the following**:

l. The candidates are members of the Croatian people, their spouses as well as friends of the Croatian people and the Republic of Croatia who nurture the Croatian identity and promote Croatian cultural unity, who are not younger than 18 years of age and, who have at least a high school education diploma and residence outside the Republic of Croatia

or

2. the candidates are members of the Croatian people, their spouses as well as friends of the Croatian people and the Republic of Croatia who nurture the Croatian identity and promote Croatian cultural unity, who are not younger than 18 years of age and who have at least a high school education diploma and permanent or temporary residence in the Republic of Croatia for a period no longer than three years on the day this Public Call is published.

1. **The criteria to award the scholarship are the following**:

The scholarship will be granted based on the number of points earned by the followingcriteria:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| No. | CRITERIA | NUMBER OF POINTS |
| 1. | Achievements and motivation of the candidate a) low motivation  b) medium motivation  c) high motivation | 102030 |
| 2. | The candidate is a member of a Croatian community and has permanent residence in a country where his personal safety is compromised  | 20 |
| 3. | The candidate completed one semester-long Croatian language course in the Republic of Croatia in the previous academic year | 15 |
| 4. | The candidate is an active member of a community/association of a Croatian minority or of Croatian emigrants  | 10 |
| 5. | Residence of a close family member (spouse, child, parents, brother or sister) in the Republic of Croatia no longer than three years | 10 |
| 6. | The candidate completed a higher education program  | 5 |
| 7. | The candidate has a permanent residence outside the European territory  | 5 |

**4. CONTENTS OF THE APPLICATION**

MANDATORY DOCUMENTS

In order to prove that they meet the required conditions and criteria **candidates should submit the following documentation:**

**l.** complete e-application form submitted electronically at the link <https://eprijave-hrvatiizvanrh.gov.hr/> available at the Central State Office's website

*NOTE:* ***abovementioned e- application form shall be fully completed including a motivation letter***

1. copy of a valid travel document ( the candidate will use when entering the Republic of Croatia) issued outside the Republic of Croatia (main page with a photograph as well as the second page if it contains the relevant data not included in the main page)

*NOTE: candidates who are spouses should submit the above-mentioned documentation of themselves as well as their spouses*

1. copy of written evidence of membership in the Croatian people.

In order to prove their belonging to the Croatian people, the candidate **must enclose only one** of the documents listed below, which refers to the candidate or to their blood relative (ancestor). Evidence of belonging to the Croatian people shall be submitted in order of importance of the documents, document a) being the most important one. If the candidate cannot provide document a) then they should submit document b), and so consecutively to document e).

1. *Document in which it is explicitly stated that the person concerned (the candidate or their ancestor) belongs to the Croatian people.*

*b) Document proving that the candidate or their blood relative (ancestor) has Croatian citizenship (Decision of acquisition of Croatian citizenship, Certificate of citizenship, Croatian passport or Croatian ID card)*

*c) Document proving that the candidate or their blood relative (ancestor) left the motherland or a document proving their immigration to another country.*

1. *Written statement by the head of the competent diplomatic mission/consular office of the Republic of Croatia or Croatian Catholic Mission or association of Croatian minority/emigrants.*

*e) Excerpt (published in the printed press, books and brochures or on the Internet), in which the person concerned (candidate or their ancestor) speaks in a trustworthy manner of their Croatian origin or of their participation and commitment to the Croatian people.*

*NOTE: Should the candidate submit one of the above-mentioned documents relating to their blood relative(s), it is mandatory to submit additional evidence of the candidate's blood relation with that person (birth certificate or similar document).*

Candidates who are spouses must enclose:

*f) evidence of belonging to the Croatian people of their spouse as well as evidence of that spouse’s residence abroad.*

Candidates who are friends of the Croatian people must also enclose:

1. *a written statement or recommendation by the head of the competent diplomatic mission/consular office of the Republic of Croatia or association of Croatian emigrants and /or evidence of membership in Croatian organizations which gives evidence of their commitment in nurturing the Croatian identity and promoting Croatian cultural unity.*
2. evidence of residence outside the Republic of Croatia (only if the residence is not visible in the documents from point 2)
3. evidence of permanent/temporary residence in the Republic of Croatia (only for candidates who have declared permanent/temporary residence in the Republic of Croatia, but no longer than three years, in accordance with point 3.1.2. of this Public Call).
4. copy of educational qualifications certificate
5. copy of marriage certificate (only for candidates who are spouses)
6. copy of a certificate issued by the competent administrative or judicial body of the country of residence, stating that the applicant is not subject to criminal proceedings and/or a copy of a certificate that states that the candidate has not been convicted of committing a criminal offense, no older than six (6) months on the day this Public Call is published. All candidates who stay in the Republic of Croatia longer than 6 months on the day this Public Call is published shall submit the above-mentioned certificate which is issued in the Republic of Croatia.

**OPTIONAL DOCUMENTS**

**The candidates can also enclose the following documentation in order to acquire additional points:**

1. Copy of the certificate of the last completed Croatian language course in the Republic of Croatia
2. Copy of the certificate in which it is stated that the candidate is an active member of an association of Croatian minorities or Croatian emigrants, or of a Croatian community
3. Copy of the document which proves the residence of a close family member in the Republic of Croatia

**5. HOW TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS AND DEADLINE**

1. Application to the Public Call is to be submitted electronically by an e-application form at <https://eprijave-hrvatiizvanrh.gov.hr/> available at the Central State Office's website.

When the online application form is completed and all required and additional attachments are uploaded

at the assigned place, the application can be saved and submitted.

The deadline for the submission of the applications is 30 (thirty) days counting from the day this Public Call was published on the website of the State Office, and it lasts until **17th of June, 2023**. After that online application cannot be submitted or any documentation uploaded.

Incomplete applications, applications sent after the deadline and applications which are not completed in the manner described in this Public Call will not be considered.

**6. PRELIMINARY SCORE SHEET AND THE DECISION**

After reviewing and considering all the received applications for the Public Call, a designated Commission proposes a score sheet for Croatian language learning in the Republic of Croatia.

The preliminary score sheet for Croatian language learning in the Republic of Croatia is published on the web page of the State Office within 30 (thirty) days from the deadline for the submission of applications and it contains the following data: name and surname of the candidate, birth year, country of permanent residence, the city where the Course will be attended, which semester the candidate is enrolled in and a total number of points achieved.

Within 8 (eight) days from the day of the publication of the preliminary score sheet for Croatian language learning in the Republic of Croatia, the candidate can file a written complaint to the State Office.

The Commission considers complaints received within the stipulated period of time and, within 30 (thirty) days from the deadline for complaints and the final score sheet for Croatian language learning in the Republic of Croatia is proposed to the head of the State Office.

After completing the procedure of the received complaints, on the advice of the Commission, the head of the Central Office reaches a Decision on the award of scholarships for Croatian language learning in the Republic of Croatia, whose main component is the final score sheet for Croatian language learning in the Republic of Croatia and on the basis of which the winner of the scholarship concludes a contract for the scholarship which stipulates the rights and obligations of the scholarship providers and recipients.

**7. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

The candidates who apply to this Public Call give consent by submitting their application form to the collection, processing and publication of the personal data required by this Public Call and Regulations.

The candidates who apply to this Public Call, under penalty of perjury, vouch by submitting their application form for the correctness and accuracy of all data that were submitted by the e-application form.

For more information related to this Public Call, candidates are encouraged to send their written inquiries to : tecaj-hrvatskog-jezika@hrvatiizvanrh.hr before the deadline for application submission or phone numbers: +385 (0)1/6444-673, +385 (0)1/6444-683, during working hours 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

KLASA: 015-09/23-03/23

URBROJ: 537-02-01/3-23-1

Zagreb, 18th of May 2023.

**STATE SECRETARY**

Zvonko Milas