StAR Scholarship Nomination Form

To apply for a Students at Risk (StAR) scholarship, a candidate must be nominated by an individual residing in Switzerland or by a legally recognized organization based in Switzerland. Candidates may not apply directly.

Information and the necessary documents regarding the nomination process are published on the StAR website.

Information for the Nominating Individual/Organization

What are the responsibilities of the nominating individual or organization?

The nominating institution or individual assumes responsibility for nominating a candidate for a StAR scholarship who, in addition to being personally at risk, also demonstrates good prospects for studying in Switzerland. This assessment must be fact-based and truthful.

The nominating institution or individual commits to supporting the student not only with the nomination but also with departure from his or her country of residence, as well as with arrival and integration in Switzerland (see letter of commitment).

Each nominating individual or organization may nominate a maximum of five students for a StAR scholarship.

Two StAR scholarships are expected to be awarded.

Submission of the Nomination

The completed nomination form, the required attachments (in a single PDF), and the signed letter of commitment must be submitted by email to studentsatrisk@vss-unes.ch to the StAR project manager by Monday, November 16, 2026.

More detailed information about the project and the nomination process can be found in the information sheet.

Information about the nominee	
First and last name (as listed in the passport)	
Date of birth (day/month/year)	
Place of residence and residency status	
Marital status	
Family members (spouse, children) and their current residence	
Nationality(ies)	
English proficiency (based on language proficiency level)	
Other relevant language skills	
Schools/universities attended (degree, year, location)	
Desired degree (field of study, academic degree, institution)	
Relevant Work Experience (Employer, Year, Location)	
Contact Information Address: Email: Phone number (with area code):	
Comments	

Information about the nominating organization/individual	
Name of the nominating organization	
Location (address) of the organization	
Information about the nominating organization (website, *social media,* etc.)	
First and last name of the nominating individual	
Contact person's information Email: Phone number:	

Confirmation of the risk situation
The nominating organization/individual hereby confirms that there is sufficient evidence that the nominated candidate is prevented from continuing their studies in their country of origin or residence due to one of the three criteria and thus meets the risk or threat status.
○ due to advocacy for fundamental or human rights ○ due to membership in a marginalized group, or ○ due to other external factors that effectively make it impossible or significantly more difficult to safely complete their studies.

Confirmation of Academic Eligibility
The nominating organization or individual hereby confirms that there is sufficient evidence that the nominated candidate meets the admission requirements for the desired study program at a Swiss university or university of applied sciences.
○ The required degree for the desired study program can be presented no later than the university admission deadline.
Date, Place:
Signature:

Required attachments

Letter of Commitment

The fully completed and signed letter of commitment regarding the support provided by the nominating institution/person must be submitted.

Academic Credentials

Certified translation into English[1] of academic credentials that qualify the applicant for admission to the intended study program. For a bachelor's degree, a high school diploma must be submitted; for a master's or doctoral program, the university degree(s) (bachelor's/master's or equivalent diploma) must be submitted.

The high school diploma must be accompanied by a list of the subjects taken and the corresponding grades for the last three years of high school; university diplomas must be accompanied by a complete list of all grades and/or credits earned during university studies (grade report/transcript). Applicants who have already begun a bachelor's program in their home country and wish to pursue a bachelor's degree in Switzerland must also submit a complete list of grades earned to date during their university studies (grade list/transcript).

[1] If academic transcripts are not submitted in one of Switzerland's official languages

Admission to the Program

If available, please submit an admission decision or an assessment of eligibility for admission from the relevant office at the university or university of applied sciences.

Language Proficiency

Proof of sufficient language proficiency for the intended study program[2] . As a general rule, applicants should submit proof of a completed degree in the language of instruction for the intended study program or a recognized language certificate[3] demonstrating a B2/C1 level in that language. Alternatively, applicants must provide evidence of concrete steps being taken toward admission to the intended degree program (e.g., a scheduled date for taking a language test).

Identity Documents

Copies of valid identity documents (relevant pages of the passport). The documents should be valid for at least 18 months after the planned date of entry, but ideally for three months beyond the planned end of the program.

Statement of Purpose

The statement of purpose (1–2 pages) is written by the students themselves. It explains their academic goals[4] and their future career plans. It must specify the particular study program and degree they are seeking. The statement describes their personal and professional motivation for choosing the study program as well as how they meet the admission criteria for the intended studies.

Specifically, the letter should outline the reasons for choosing the selected university and degree program in Switzerland. The applicant explains the significance of the program and the intended degree for his or her professional future and describes their plans after graduation. Additionally, previous stays and visa applications in Switzerland, as well as existing social contacts or institutional support networks in Switzerland, must be mentioned.

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[2] Language proficiency requirements vary depending on the degree program and can be found on the university's or institute's website.

[3] English language certificates that are generally accepted include: Cambridge Certificate, IELTS Academic, TOEFL, Cambridge Proficiency (CPE), and Cambridge Advanced (CAE). (https://www.perspektiven-studium.ch/sprache/#5a783efd66153).

[4] Applicants who wish to pursue a doctoral program in Switzerland may submit their research proposal in addition to their statement of purpose.

The following points should be considered:

1. The reason and motivation for choosing the study program
2. The relevance of the intended degree to the applicant's professional future
3. Previous stays in Switzerland and visa applications
4. Existing social contacts or institutional support networks in Switzerland

Letter describing the risk situation

The statement on the risk situation is also written by the students themselves (max. 5 pages). It should describe the restriction or denial of the right to education in the country of origin or residence, as well as the personal risk situation. In particular, the urgency of the situation should be emphasized. It must be explained whether the applicant has been specifically excluded from access to education and to what extent categories of discrimination—such as age, gender, sexual orientation, or disability—further exacerbate their vulnerability.

The situation of danger may be a result of restricted access to education (e.g., limitations on personal development) or a consequence of activitie, such as advocacy for fundamental and human rights, that lead to reprisals or deterrence strategies. The threatening situation can be substantiated by the following documents: written reports or letters describing the incidents, social media posts, witness statements, etc.