

# PFI Scholarship Program

Prague  
Finance  
Institute



# Partners

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Prague  
Finance  
Institute

General scholarship partner

# ORIENTS

Partners





# Vision

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We want to support **Czech students** in gaining experience abroad at **leading universities** that offer study programs focused on economics and finance, in particular corporate finance, valuation, computer science with a relation to business or economics and other adjacent fields that can overlap with finance, investments, and economics.





# About PFI

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The Prague Finance Institute (PFI) is a non-profit organization under the auspices of CERGE-EI, leading Czech economics research center, whose executive and supervisory committee consist of Nobel laureates such as Joseph Stiglitz and Christopher A. Sims.

PFI provides an environment in which industry leaders and novices in finance and economics can interact. This is achieved through our activities which include, among others, lectures, semestral courses, panel discussions, networking events or expert interviews with leading personalities in their respective field.

# Selected Activities

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PFI offers unique content with a global reach, as per the following references:

- **Valuation and technical analysis courses:** the valuation course was created in cooperation with Professor Aswath Damodaran of New York University, one of the most respected experts in the field of valuations and investments globally
- **Live lectures and roundtable discussions:** such as two live performances by Professor Damodaran in Prague
- **PFI Talks:** interviews with globally recognized figures such as a world-renowned economist Jeffrey Sachs, a Nobel Prize-winning psychologist, economist Daniel Kahneman, and others

PFI board members are **professionals** with diverse backgrounds in finance and economics, particularly active in: private equity, asset management, M&A advisory, consulting, real estate, law and energy investments.

## Selected guests



Daniel  
Kahneman



Aswath  
Damodaran



Jeffrey  
Sachs



Peter  
Oppenheimer

# PFI Scholarship Idea & Goals

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Our goal is to **motivate** students at Czech universities to earn their master's degree abroad, broaden their educational horizons and experiences and to return to the Czech Republic and strengthen the community of experts locally.

The financial support provided to a selected student shall focus mainly on tuition fees and/or coverage of living expenses that are directly connected with studies abroad.

We wish to offer the selected students attractive working possibilities in the Czech Republic after their graduation from leading universities, in conjunction with our current and prospective partner institutions and / or sponsors.

**The aim is to support the first outgoing student in 2024.**





# Students

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PFI together with its partners aims to enable a student to study master's program at their chosen university abroad.

The amount of financial support will depend on a financial overview prepared by candidates demonstrating their economic situation and funds, reasonably necessary for their study abroad.

The support will be disbursed in parts before the start of each semester.

Selected and successful students will also become our partners by sharing their experience with the other candidates, helping an application process further on and further promoting the PFI Scholarship Program.

*Are you  
a motivated  
and talented  
student?*

*Do you desire to study  
economics or finance  
related fields at a leading  
university abroad?*

*Are you afraid that  
your economic  
situation will limit  
you in this pursuit?*

**PFI is here to  
support you.**



# Prerequisites

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Citizenship of the Czech Republic

Age below 26 (at the time of the deadline for submission of application)

Submission of application or admission<sup>1</sup> to a leading university chosen by a candidate<sup>2</sup>

Shortage of funds arising from student's economic situation

<sup>1</sup> Confirmation of admission will be necessary later in the selection process.

<sup>2</sup> The university must be in the top 100 in the current Shanghai Ranking's Global Ranking, U.S. News Global Rankings or QS World University Rankings.





# Selection Procedure

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## 1<sup>st</sup> round

submission of the application consisting of:

- CV in English language
- Motivational letter in written or video form in English language – we are keen to hear, among other things, what do you wish to study and why; what are your career plans, etc.
- Academic results for 2 last years of study
- Financial plan of expected expenses
- Proof of limiting/challenging economic situation

## 2<sup>nd</sup> round

interview with the Selection Committee  
(representatives of donors and selected PFI BoD Members)



# Evaluation criteria

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1

**Motivation** (with emphasis on the potential of the candidate's return to the Czech Republic) and prior academic results

2

**Choice** of university and program

3

**Social situation**





# Ex-post evaluation

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Reporting how studies progress including academic results after every semester

High-level report to PFI and donors stating how the support was used

Short summary, an article or other content which could be published on the PFI website or other communicational channels

Participations in lectures, discussions, or a workshop organized by PFI



# References by PFI Alumni



**Karolina Slavkovova, CMA**  
Investment Banking Analyst at  
**Lazard** (Paris)

“What I valued most was not only the high-quality content but also the passion and professionalism with which it was delivered. I was very grateful also for the opportunity to meet a lot of inspiring, like-minded people. PFI has definitely strengthened my conviction to pursue a career in Finance and I am very thankful to the organizing team for all the great work!”



**Martin Pavliš**  
Associate Analyst at **Moody's**  
Investors Service (London)

“PFI played an important role in my career development. Very well-structured seminars provide young professionals with a unique opportunity to apply academic knowledge on real life case studies with a guidance from more experienced investment and corporate finance professionals. As an PFI alumni you will belong with a broad network of similarly minded, motivated and successful finance professionals in the Czech Republic and abroad.”



**Gabriel Szuma**  
Vice President at **Oriens** PE fund  
(Prague, Budapest)

“I had a very good experience attending the Corporate Finance class organized by PFI in 2015. It gave me just the right amount of detail to understand the most important concepts in corporate finance and valuation. On top of that, it allowed me to get to know some very talented and ambitious young professionals.”

# Contact Information

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# Thank you

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“An investment in  
**knowledge** pays the  
best interest.”

*- Benjamin Franklin*

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