It is a pleasure to write this letter of recommendation on behalf of Ms. ??? for a scholarship of the Foundation for ???. ??? is a brilliant student who is currently writing her MA thesis in the department of Biblical Studies at Tel Aviv University under my supervision. I strongly believe that this scholarship would make a significant contribution to her current MA studies and the next level of her PhD research.

I have gotten to know ???, while she was a BA student in my classes in the department of biblical studies. She has impressed me with her skills in class assignments, distinguishing herself early on as an exceptionally intelligent and bright student. I would rank her in the top 1% of students I have taught with respect to her wide knowledge of biblical scholarship and analytical abilities. In order to gain well-grounded philological and literary-critical expertise, ??? spent the last years by studying classical Greek, Septuagintal Greek, as well as elementary Akkadian and German. In all of these languages she achieved the highest degrees. The philological tools she acquired during the last years, and particularly the knowledge of Greek dialects, will give her the essential tools for her current MA investigation, which is related to the Hellenistic period.

Her current MA project entitled “Day of YHWH Prophecies in Second Zechariah (Zech 12–14) and Their Place in Biblical Thought” is dedicated to one of the most interesting cases in the prophetic literature. There is general agreement among biblical scholars that the book of Zechariah contains two distinct parts: chapters 1-8 containing the prophecies of a prophet belonged to the Persian period, while chapters 9–14 is a separate collection of prophecies which tremendously differ from the former part in its style, language, areas of interest, ideological and theological concepts. While the first part of the book of Zechariah has received extensive attention in scholarship alongside studies that discuss the Persian period in general, the second part remains obscure and studied to a lesser extent. Many questions remain open, such as what the date of the prophecies is, whether they belong to the Hellenistic period (as they stand after Zechariah of the Persian period) or to an earlier prophet, as well as what are the circumstances they have been formed. ???? seeks to shed light on these questions from her work on “the day of YHWH” prophecies in Zechariah 12–14” while clarifying their message and their background in light of the knowledge we possess today of the history of biblical worldviews. This research is of great importance not only for understanding Zechariah and the prophetic literature but also for the study of a period of the beginning of the Hellenistic period in the Land of Israel, which is regarded as “black hole” in biblical research. Her investigation will thus shed new light on these focal questions, giving us a clearer insight into and understanding of the literary facts and evidence.

Since Tel Aviv University does not have the financial resources to fully sponsor MA students in the Humanities, the scholarship of the Foundation for ??? would enable her to make serious progress towards completing her MA thesis and continue to her next level of her studies. I would strongly and without reservation recommend Ms. ??? for this scholarship. If I can be of any further assistance in your decision, please feel free to contact me.