

Marie-Christine Heinze

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To whom it may concern

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letter of reference

Dear Madam / Sir,

I have been a student of Arabic at the Center of Arabic Language and Eastern Studies (CALES) of the University of Science and Technology since November 11, 2008. Overall, I am planning to stay until May. Being a doctoral student at the University of Bielefeld, Germany, my knowledge of Arabic is already advanced and I therefore require high quality teaching. I can say that I am completely satisfied with the teaching abilities and the thorough knowledge of Arabic grammar of my teacher, who always comes to class well prepared and dedicated to catering to my specific needs. In my case, this means adapting to the research questions of my PhD by reading, translating and speaking about texts related to my topic in combination with grammar lessons designed to enhance my reading and writing capabilities as well as lessons in the Yemeni dialect in order to improve my listening and oral communication skills. I consider myself lucky to be at CALES, where not only my teacher, but its director (Jameel al-Bazili) as well as his assistant and the whole staff seems to be dedicated to facilitating my research and to providing any assistance possible. Every time I have had a specific question or have asked for a special service, it was catered to immediately.

Apart from the high quality of the training and assistance I receive, CALES has also quickly become a home I feel very comfortable in. The rooms are well equipped and clean and so are our shared kitchen and the bathrooms. I moreover enjoy the weekly activities that CALES offered as a fun and interesting alternative to my daily research and study. Last but not least, CALES is definitely situated perfectly in the heart of the Old City with its beautiful buildings and the hustle and bustle of Sanaani life, where practicing your Arabic becomes a joyful endeavour in the daily interaction with the friendly and welcoming, yet never obtrusive Yemenis.

I therefore highly recommend studying at CALES, you will be perfectly satisfied!

Marie-Christine Heinze