

Guidelines for the awarding of scholarships

The budget which our Foundation is able to allocate for scholarships is limited and cannot meet all the requests which we receive. Therefore, we have had to set the following criteria to scale down the group of persons eligible for a scholarship:

– *General* –

1. AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED grants scholarships in the form of partial scholarships to priests, religious and lay-people who come from Developing Countries or from Eastern Europe, enabling them to do specialized studies at ecclesiastical faculties and universities, primarily in Europe, that cannot be pursued in their own countries or their continent.
2. After completion of studies, the future place of work of a candidate must be in his/her home diocese or home province (return to home diocese/home province after completion of studies).
3. We do not grant scholarships to members of religious orders and congregations that have their place of work in Western Europe or North America or to priests who are assigned to dioceses in Western Europe or North America.
4. Principal target groups: besides the principal target groups referred to in the paragraphs *Priests* and *Religious sisters* – **lecturers in major seminaries, novice mistresses** – (see points 10 and 13) further priorities for our section are scholarships for future **specialists in canon law** – especially for the initial establishment of an ecclesiastical tribunal, or to remedy the lack of trained canon lawyers within an ecclesiastical province – as well as for those intended to assume responsibilities in the areas of **abuse prevention and the protection of children and vulnerable adults**.
5. The request – *completely* filled-in application form as well as *all* other necessary documents – must be made by the bishop or by the religious superior and must reach our office by **1st March** at the latest and before the scholarship candidate has left his/her own country to take up a course of study in Europe or North America.
6. In his request letter, the bishop or the superior must justify the need of the studies, specifying clearly and in a detailed manner the necessity of the planned course of study, the present pastoral challenges, and the – concrete – responsibilities the scholarship candidate will have on completion of his/her studies.



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7. The type of course to be studied must be in keeping with the pastoral character of our foundation and with the future activities of the scholarship candidate. We do not promote studies which do not have an inherent pastoral goal. The only exception to this rule is for refugee lay students. For further information, see paragraph *Academic degrees and study fields*.

8. We can only take into consideration one application for scholarship per academic year from the same diocese or religious province. This is without any commitment on our part.

9. The student must not be over the age of 40, one-year refresher courses in spirituality being the only exception.

– *Priests* –

10. Our priority is the formation of permanently employed future formators and lecturers in major seminaries. – For other areas, see point 4.

11. The scholarship candidate must have at least two years of pastoral experience following ordination (as of the date of the request).

12. Candidates for the priestly ministry: as a matter of principle, scholarships will not be awarded for basic studies in philosophy or theology (baccalaureate, STB), i.e. we do not give scholarships for seminarians. Basic studies in philosophy or theology must have already been completed in the home country/region.

– *Religious sisters* –

13. Our priority is the preparation of religious sisters to the function of novice mistresses who are responsible for the formation of future members of the congregation. Furthermore, we subsidize their preparation for the specialized apostolate through their studies in Europe, in case that such a formation is not possible in their own country/region. – For other areas, see point 4.

14. Ideally, the scholarship candidate should have taken her permanent vows, but at the very least she must have taken her temporary vows.

15. For religious sisters we are also prepared to grant scholarships for basic studies in philosophy or theology (baccalaureate, STB), especially for those designated for a future role as formator (novice mistress).



– *Laypersons* –

16. Lay students who are not refugees can obtain a scholarship only if they have been sent by their bishop to study in Europe with a view to taking up specific tasks within their own diocese.

17. We require a declaration by the local ordinary of an intended appointment by the diocese for at least five years, following the conclusion of the studies concerned.

– *Academic degrees and study fields* –

18. Licentiate and doctoral degree. If necessary, we may consider other kinds of degrees for specific courses of study (e.g. Diploma in Safeguarding of Minors) or for specific study contents (e.g. refresher course in spirituality, see point 9).

19. As a matter of principle, scholarships will not be awarded for basic studies in philosophy or theology (baccalaureate, STB). These studies must have already been completed in the home country/region. – Exceptions: members of female orders and congregations (see point 15).

20. Range of studies considered: in the first instance, all areas of study in the fields of philosophy and theology that are actually taught in the major seminary. Psychology, from a Christian perspective (Gregorian University in Rome, IFHIM in Montréal (Canada)). Studies in the field of abuse prevention and protection of children and vulnerable adults (e.g. *Institute of Anthropology* (IADC) at the Gregorian University in Rome). Courses of study for the specialized apostolate (see point 13).

21. No scholarships will be awarded to gain a canonical degree that has already been acquired in former studies. Exceptions will be considered where a diocese urgently requires a specialist in a specific field, especially for work as a lecturer or formator in a seminary, but has too few priests to be able to nominate another suitable candidate.

22. No scholarships awarded for a second field of study.

23. Doctorates: Only for specialists in canon law for work at the ecclesiastical tribunal, or for permanently employed lecturers in major seminaries and only where the candidate concerned can demonstrate already some experience as a seminary lecturer in the respective area and will be continuing to work as a seminary lecturer or else if a doctorate is absolutely necessary. In particular where there is a recommendation from the Congregation for Catholic Education for a doctorate for purposes of affiliation.

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24. Additional support for doctorate after support has already been given for a licentiate: in principle, once a grant has been awarded for a licentiate/Masters, it is not possible to extend this immediately after having gained the licentiate/Masters degree to include a doctorate. A further grant for the obtaining of a doctorate can only be considered once the candidate has acquired at least 2 to 3 years teaching experience and where there is a well-grounded need for such further studies (recommendation by the Congregation for Catholic Education, etc.).

25. Scholarships are only awarded for courses in Catholic faculties or, if possible, Catholic universities (consideration will be given, where relevant, to the specific situation in the country concerned).

– Extent and length of scholarships, no granting of double subsidies and no scholarships following on from completed scholarships from other organisations –

26. Our scholarships are partial scholarships, intended to help cover the costs of study and accommodation/upkeep. There are standard, set scholarship levels according to the country where the studies are undertaken; they cannot be adapted to individual circumstances.

27. It is very important to stress that the scholarships that our organisation can grant, are unlikely to cover the total cost of the studies. We are aware of the fact that this results in a great financial burden for the diocese or religious province concerned. Our Foundation cannot grant higher scholarships since it is trying to help as many students as possible with the limited means available.

28. We do not finance language courses.

29. Travelling expenses must be borne wholly by the respective diocese or religious province.

30. If the student is being subsidized by another organisation, this must be indicated so that the granting of double subsidies can be avoided, since there are so many students who receive aid from no-one.

31. The bishop or the superior is requested to indicate clearly the qualification the student is meant to obtain (licentiate, doctorate, etc.) as well as the number of terms (semesters) that he is meant to study. An extension of the scholarship beyond the period originally stated can only be approved with sufficient reasons (e.g. as in the case of illness etc.). Should this be the case, we require a written justification from

the bishop or the superior.

32. As a rule continuing scholarships will not be granted (i.e. scholarships following on from completed scholarship studies offered by other organisations).

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Section Scholarships