

INFORMATION ON AWARDING OF SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDIES ABROAD



Who can receive a scholarship granted by Renovabis?

All women and men (priests, candidates for the priesthood, religious and laity) from the countries of Central, Southeastern and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, who are preparing for a ministry in the Church in their home country or wish to obtain further qualifications by studying abroad. This requires the proposal of the applicant made by the bishop of the home diocese or, in the case of religious, by the Provincial Superior.

Eligible to apply for a scholarship are also members of other Christian denominations and other religions, as far as they wish to research or become actively involved in the field of ecumenism or interreligious dialog. They must also submit a letter of recommendation from their bishop (or for non-Christian applicants, the letter of recommendation from the Catholic bishop of their home region).

Which types of studies are eligible?

- Advanced studies (master, licentiate, doctorate, habilitation)
- Further and advanced training (for example leadership training, etc.)
- Research stays in archives and libraries

In each case, the prerequisite is that no suitable training opportunities are available in the home country or that the study objective is especially promoted by studying abroad.

Preparatory language courses are not eligible. The language qualification required for enrollment (proof by appropriate certificates) must be obtained in advance at your own expense.

Which subjects are eligible for the scholarship?

Scholarship applications are eligible for all subjects, as far as they are relevant for your later work and / or assignment.

After completion of the studies, integration into the local church and return to the home country.

In addition to the academic suitability, the decisive selection criterion for awarding scholarships is that the studies must prepare for a specifically planned assignment in the home diocese (or for religious in the home province), i.e., for positions and / or functions in diocesan or religious structures, in church social and educational institutions, in Catholic lay associations or even in NGOs, which work for social renewal and social purposes in the sense of Catholic social teaching. Renovabis expects a meaningful written statement from both the applicants themselves and the local bishop or the religious superior. In case of granting the scholarship, this written statement is the basis of the project agreement.

The responsible **project holders** for all scholarship projects are always the bishops or religious superiors, and precisely in the light of the fact that the scholarships shall be understood less as a person-related funding, but rather as financial aid in the staff development for church structures.

Which countries are eligible for studies?

Eligible for studies are all countries, except your home country.

Special feature: Renovabis funds and supports in Germany primarily studies of theology, philosophy and canon law. Suitable applicants may be proposed and funded by Renovabis to participate in the Albertus Magnus program (see separate information on our homepage). For the study of non-theological subjects in Germany please refer to the "East European Program" of the Catholic Academic Exchange Service (KAAD).

What about the residence during the studies?

Renovabis principally funds courses of study with compulsory attendance, i.e., studies with permanent residence at the place of study abroad. Exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

What benefits does the scholarship include? Is an own contribution expected?

The scholarships shall be understood as a contribution towards the study and living costs abroad. A participation in the costs is expected. Scholarships for courses of study with compulsory attendance are awarded according to fixed rates based on the cost level of the destination country. Travel expenses from and to the home country principally must be borne by the scholarship holder himself/herself during courses of study with compulsory attendance.

For distance learning, in-service training, research stays, etc. own rules apply. Here, the application must always be accompanied by a budget plan, on the basis of which the scholarship is individually calculated.

Does Renovabis fund the entire course of study?

Scholarships are generally granted for the duration of a study period (for example licentiate or doctorate). Please indicate in the application the duration of the study period according to the standard period of study. New applications for additional study periods are possible.

How to apply for a scholarship?

To apply for a scholarship, please use the application form on the homepage of Renovabis. Please send us the application form together with the complete documents in German or English by mail **until 31st March**.

Rule for applications submitted to different scholarship providers

In order to avoid double funding, it must always be notified whether and where you have already applied for grants elsewhere and what the current state of these applications is. Those who ignore this requirement exclude themselves from the award of scholarships.

How are scholarships granted, paid and must be reported?

Due to the large number of incoming applications, the selection and decision-making process, starting always from 01 April, may take up to 3 months. A scholarship will be **granted** from the beginning of the following winter semester on the basis of the study period presented in the application based on standard study periods. The conclusion of a project agreement goes along with the Scholarship Award Letter. The Scholarship Award Letter and all accompanying documents are usually sent to the bishop of the home diocese or the religious superior. This person is responsible for notifying the scholarship holder the Scholarship Award Letter as well as for making the payment.

The **payment** is made per academic year. After each academic year, a content review by the scholarship holder, proof of performance, an assessment made by a professor, a certificate of enrollment for the following academic year, a financial statement on the total sum paid and all supporting documents regarding expenditure of an amount equivalent to at least 50% of the sum paid in original form (especially for rent, tuition fees, books, as well as any other receipts) must be submitted. For priests and candidates for the priesthood, an additional assessment by the Rector of the house in which they live is required. At the end of your studies, you must also submit copies of the diploma and the diploma thesis, the new home address in your home country, as well as information about the activity and the place of work in your home diocese or province. All documents and / or their respective translations must be sent to Renovabis in German, English or Italian.

Does Renovabis in certain cases require the repayment of the scholarship?

If the funded and supported persons do not comply with the terms and conditions set out in the project agreement, the already paid sum will be reclaimed by Renovabis. This also applies if the scholarship holder does not return to his/her home country: If the scholarship holder after completion of his/her studies funded by Renovabis and additional study periods financed with other funds as well as a transitional period of 2 years at most has not yet returned from abroad, the granted scholarship will be considered a loan and must be fully repaid (if necessary, in installments).

For further inquiries do not hesitate and contact our office. They will be pleased to answer all your questions.