



LWF Scholarships for Theology and Diakonia/Development

The next call for applications LWF Scholarships **opens** on **1 August 2023**. Each LWF member church is eligible to apply for maximum 7 scholarships - **5 regular and 2 short-term scholarships**. Applications can be for individual or group scholarships and include studies in theology and/or diakonia/ development.

The LWF scholarship application process will be completed online, through the LWF Scholarship portal. The link to the online portal will be sent to each member church by email together with “*LWF Scholarship portal*” manual for giving explanation how to fill out an application form and a church review form.

Eligibility

- Only applications from active members of LWF member churches are considered. No applications submitted by individuals without church pre-selection and endorsement will be considered.
- Only candidates from developing countries are eligible for scholarships in fields of diakonia/development. The theological education scholarships are open to candidates from all regions and countries.
- The following age limits are in place, depending on the pursued degree and with certain exceptions, particularly for female applicants*:

| Degree | Maximum age at the time of application* |
|------------------------|---|
| Bachelor degrees | 35 |
| Master degrees | 40 |
| Doctorate | 45 |
| Post-doctoral/research | 50 |

Overview of the Application and Approval Process

Each candidate is responsible for filling out an online application form and submitting the application with required documents.

Scholarship Categories and Degrees

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| Theology | Diploma, Bachelor, Master and PhD programs and short-term trainings |
| Diakonia/ Development | Diploma, Bachelor, Master and PhD programs and short-term-trainings in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diaconal studies - Education, health, medicine and social studies - Study programs related to food security, sustainable development and agriculture, basic social services, climate change - Study programs that deal with democracy promotion human rights, peace research and non-violent conflict transformation, migration, psychosocial support, and counseling - Gender studies and law related to women’s right - Information and communication technology |

LWF Scholarship Application Schedule

| Month | Week 1 | Week 2 | Week 3 | Week 4 |
|------------------|---|--|--|--|
| July | | | Scholarship application Introduction meeting for member churches' focal persons on scholarships | Call for scholarship applications is sent to LWF member churches |
| August | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Online application portal opens - Member Churches share information with church members regarding the LWF scholarships and churches internal application process | Internal application process of member churches -> Churches share application link with the selected candidates of their churches -> Selected candidates submit their applications | Internal application process of member churches -> Churches share application link with the selected candidates of their churches -> Selected candidates submit their applications | Internal application process of member churches -> Churches share application link with the selected candidates of their churches -> Selected candidates submit their applications |
| September | → → → → → → → | → → → → → → → | → → → → → → → | → → → → → → → |
| October | -1 October: Deadline to submit applications -Church review opens | 15 October: Deadline of church review | Application screening in Geneva | → → → → → → → |
| November | → → → → → → → | → → → → → → → | → → → → → → → | → → → → → → → |
| December | Prepare short-listed candidates in Geneva | Candidates approved by Scholarship Committee | | |
| January | -LWF informs churches on scholarship results -Churches inform outcomes to candidates | Scholarship activation from January onwards | → → → → → → → | → → → → → → → |

Selection Criteria

- A proposed study field and degree must respond to strategic priorities and human resource needs of the church in the area of theology and diakonia.
- All candidates are expected to serve the church and/or community as employees or volunteers. There must be a clear commitment by the church to engage the candidate as employee or volunteer in an area related to the proposed training after completion of the candidate's studies/training.
- The candidate must demonstrate convincingly his/her commitment, ability and motivation to pursue the training. The candidate must show strong commitment to support the church after completion of studies and to contribute to the life of church and local communities.
- The LWF encourages candidates to study in their home country or home region. In case a study or training program abroad is proposed, valid reasons must be provided in the application.
- The LWF shall ensure that candidates from different regions, countries and churches are supported. Available budget shall be fairly distributed across applying churches.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 40% of the candidates of endorsing church must be female; at least 20% youth below the age of 30 years. For each applying church, these quotas must be met for both in the area of theology and diakonia. |
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