



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

Department for Mission
and Development

LWF MEMBER CHURCHES,
NATIONAL COMMITTEES,

Geneva, 4 July 2018

lutheranworld.org

Re.: New Application Phase for LWF Scholarships – Human and Institutional Capacity Development (HICD) for LWF Member Churches

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Warm greetings from the LWF Communion Office in Geneva. I am writing you today to inform you about this year's application opportunity for LWF scholarships.

The LWF scholarship program is part of the Human and Institutional Capacity Development (HICD) program in the Department for Mission and Development (DMD). Through the LWF scholarships program the LWF works alongside its member churches in developing their capacity to serve effectively in their contexts. The scholarship program helps churches to acquire qualified personnel for spiritual care and diaconal work.

All member churches and national committees are invited to submit applications for LWF training support in fields of theology or diakonia/development. **Deadline for submission of applications is 1 October 2018.** Each church may submit a maximum of 5 applications.

Applications can be submitted for both regular and short-term scholarships:

- **Regular scholarships for study programs of at least 1 year:** The candidates are approved for at least 1 year of support to take up or complete their proposed study program.
- **Short-term scholarships for training of up to 6 months:** The candidates are approved for up to 6 months of support for a short-term training program (training course, workshop, exchange program or research project).

The LWF scholarship program encompasses two thematic areas: theology and diakonia/development. Main criteria for approval of candidates in both areas is that the proposed training responds well to the church's strategic human and institutional capacity needs. Selection of candidates will furthermore be guided by the following criteria and focuses in each area:

(1) LWF Scholarships for Diakonia/Development

- Only candidates from Africa, Asia and Latin America & the Caribbean are eligible to apply.
- The proposed study/training program and the candidate's future position in church and society must have clear development relevance. Possible fields of study may include health, education, human rights, development, food security, environmental management, sustainability, gender, etc.

- Around 50 to 70 new candidates will be approved for regular diakonia/development scholarships.
- This year, there is exceptional additional funding for short-term diakonia/development scholarships for up to 6 months. The proposed short-term training may be a training course, workshop, exchange program or research project which addresses specific thematic issues affecting the church's diaconal capacity.

(2) LWF Scholarships for Theology

- The theological scholarships are open to candidates from all regions and countries. Priority will be given to candidates from Africa, Asia, Latin America & the Caribbean, and Central Eastern Europe.
- The main focus of theological scholarships will be on enhancing strategic capacities of the member churches and related theological institutions. Priority will be given to candidates recommended for higher degrees (masters and doctoral degrees) to be engaged as educators, pastors and leaders.
- About 20 to 25 new candidates will be approved for regular and short-term theological scholarships.

Overall, we expect member churches to adhere to our joint LWF gender quota (at least 40% women) and youth quota (at least 20% youth below the age of 30) when proposing candidates. Member churches are furthermore encouraged to give visible space for candidates with disabilities.

The following documents are enclosed:

- **General Information about the LWF Scholarships Program:** This document includes more detailed information about the application and approval process, scholarship categories, eligibility and selection criteria.
- The new **Application Form for LWF Scholarships:** The form has been significantly revised since last year. Please do no longer use the old forms.
- The new **Step-by-Step Guidance on How to Complete the Application Form:** Please read this information carefully before completing the application form!
- **Human Resource Capacity Profile of the Applying Church:** Each applying church must submit an updated profile together with its applications.

Finally, I invite you to have a look at the new [LWF scholarships section](#) on the LWF webpage with further information for churches. We will spread the information about the new LWF scholarships application phase across the LWF networks and channels. Please share the information with your church members as well, and feel free to come back to me in case you have questions.

With kind regards,



Marina Dölker
Secretary for Diakonia and Development
Department for Mission and Development