



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

Department for Theology
Mission and Justice

lutheranworld.org

RE: New Application Phase for LWF Scholarships To all LWF Member Churches, 21 June 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Warm greetings to You in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) accompanies its member churches in their calling to live out the gospel in service and care for the neighbor. It is my joy today to inform you about the new application phase and call for scholarships 2025.

This time *each LWF member church is eligible to apply 7 scholarships, 5 for regular and 2 for short-term scholarships in the area of theology and/or diakonia and development*. Applications can be for individual or group scholarships.

- **Regular scholarships in theology** include Diploma, Bachelor, Master, PhD programs in Theology (around 45 new candidates will be approved).
- **Regular** scholarships in Diakonia include Diploma, Bachelor, Master, PhD programs in development-oriented study fields, such as psychosocial support, counseling, social work, livelihood development, gender studies, food security, environmental management, climate justice, project management, peace and conflict studies, education and health care (around 50 new candidates will be approved).
- **Short-term** scholarships provide *church workers* with specific skills and apply to the immediate daily work of the church/church related institutions. Short-term scholarships may include a training, online course, workshop, seminar, or research project related to leadership development, project management, gender awareness, food security, etc.

The main criteria for a candidate's approval are that the proposed application responds to the strategic priorities and human capacity needs of the church in the area of theology and diakonia. All applications must be endorsed by the churches including a description of planned future role beyond very general terms. A shared commitment between the church and applicant is required.

The LWF scholarship application process will be completed by using the LWF Scholarship online portal.

The procedure of the scholarships process is guided by following instructions:

- **July-August: Pre-screening processes in the churches.** Member churches are requested to share the information of LWF scholarship application phase 2024 widely within their churches and wider communities, including the grassroots level. Each church or LWF national committee is expected to do a pre-screening of all applications through its internal committee or board. At the end of this process, each church selects up to 7 candidates (5 for regular and 2 for short-term scholarships) and shares the LWF Scholarship online portal link with them.
- **August-September: Submission of applications.** The candidates will fill out the LWF online application forms and submit the applications with the required documents.
- **August-September: Request to endorsing churches for reviewing of application.** After LWF has received the submitted application, the request is sent to the endorsing church for review, using the LWF Scholarship online portal. The official church endorsement letter has to be uploaded to the review form.

We expect churches to adhere to our joint LWF gender and youth quota if more than one candidate is being proposed. This means that at least 40% of the proposed candidates must be female, and at least 20% must be below the age of 30. These quotas will apply overall for all the proposed candidates, as well as for each of the proposed area of study (Theology and Diakonia).

Kindly share the information on scholarship opportunities widely among your church members to ensure wide participation and inclusiveness. Deadline for submission of **applications is 25 September** and for **church review 30 September 2024**.

The LWF Scholarship Implementing Guidelines will provide you with more detailed information. Kindly read the Guidelines before submitting the applications. Moreover, the LWF Scholarship Portal Guidance will help you go through each phase of the online application process. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get back to me.

With kind regards and blessings,



Rev. Katariina Kiilunen
Program Executive for Capacity Building and Leadership Development
Department for Theology, Mission and Justice

Enclosures:

- **LWF Scholarship Implementing Guidelines**
- **The LWF Scholarship Portal Guidance**