



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

Department for Theology
Mission and Justice

lutheranworld.org

To all LWF Member Churches
7 July 2026

RE: New Application Phase for LWF Scholarships

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

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

LWF has been supporting good quality education in member churches through the scholarship program since the 1950s. In its current form the LWF Scholarships support theological and diakonia/development-oriented education that transforms individuals, the life of the churches and the world in which we live.

We are pleased to announce the new call for LWF scholarship applications for 2027. The online application portal will open on **3 August 2026**. We encourage you to begin your church's internal selection process now, so that candidates are ready to apply as soon as the portal opens.

Scholarship Categories

- Each LWF member church is eligible to apply for **up to seven scholarships: five regular and two short-term** scholarships, in the areas of theology and/or diakonia and development. **Please note that scholarships are awarded to individuals only.**
- Regular scholarships in theology include Diploma, Bachelor, Master, PhD programs in Theology (around 45 new candidates will be approved).
- Regular scholarships in diakonia/development 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 45 new candidates will be approved).
- Short-term scholarships in theology and diakonia/development are designed to equip church workers with specific skills that can be directly applied to their daily work within the church or church-related institutions. These scholarships may cover training programs, online courses, workshops, seminars, or research projects related to areas such as theology, leadership development, project management, gender awareness, food security, and more. Short-term scholarships may be granted for training programs and research projects lasting up to one year.

Selection Criteria

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. Every application must be endorsed by the church including a description of candidate's planned future role. A shared commitment between the church and applicant is required.

We expect every member church to adhere to our joint LWF gender and youth quota if more than one candidate is being endorsed. For each applying church, at least 40% of the candidates both theology and diakonia categories must be female, and at least 20% must be youth (below the age of 30).

Procedure for the Application Process

- **July-August:** *Pre-screening processes in the churches.* Member churches are requested to disseminate information of LWF scholarship application phase widely within their churches and broader communities, including at the grassroots level. Each member church is requested to carry out a pre-screening 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 portal link with them.
- **August-September:** *Submission of applications.* The candidate will fill out the LWF online application form and submit the application with required documents.
- **October:** *Request to each endorsing church to review application.* Once LWF Communion Office has received the submitted application, the request is sent to the endorsing church for review via the LWF Scholarship portal. The official church endorsement letter must be uploaded to the review form.

The LWF scholarship application process is carried out entirely through the LWF Scholarship online portal.

https://webportalapp.com/sp/lutheran_individual

Kindly share the information on scholarship opportunities widely among your church members to ensure wide participation and inclusiveness. **Deadline for submission of applications is 2 October and for church review 16 October 2026.**

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 Transformative Leadership
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Enclosures:

- LWF Scholarship Implementing Guidelines
- The LWF Scholarship Portal Guidance