

INFORMATION SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDIES ABROAD



1. Who can apply for a scholarship granted by Renovabis?

All catholic women and men (priests, deacons, candidates for the priesthood, religious and laity) from countries of Eastern-Central, Southeastern and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, who are planning to attend studies abroad to prepare for ministry in the Church in their home country or want to obtain further qualifications by studying abroad. Each application requires a recommendation by the bishop of the home diocese or, in the case of religious, by the Provincial Superior.

Members of other Christian denominations and other religions who want to do research or work in the field of ecumenism or interreligious dialogue also are eligible to apply for a scholarship. They also need a recommendation from their bishop (or, in the case of non-Christian applicants, the recommendation of the Catholic bishop of their home region).

2. 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 studying abroad enhances the study objective in an outstanding manner.

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

3. Which subjects are considered eligible for funding?

Scholarships can be granted for all subjects, as far as they are relevant for your later work and/or assignment.

4. Re-incorporation into the local church and return to the home country upon completion of studies

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 written statement included in the application. If the scholarship is granted, this statement is the basis of the project agreement.

5. Who is eligible to submit applications?

For priests, deacons and candidates for the priesthood: the bishop of the home diocese

For religious (m/f): the respective religious superior, in general the provincial superior

For laity¹ (m/f): In addition to the *bishop of the home diocese, leaders of church institutions*, such as social or educational institutions, and *religious superiors* can also apply for scholarships for laity. The decisive factor is that applicants can describe a specific perspective for their professional assignment in their home country after the planned studies. If the scholarship is approved, the applicant will also

¹ "Laity" here does not refer to the status of ordination, but means all persons who are not priests, deacons, candidates for the priesthood or members of the Consecrated Life.

be project sponsor, i.e. act as the contractual partner with Renovabis. If the home bishop is not the applicant in the case of applications for laity, Renovabis expects an additional letter of *recommendation from the bishop*.

6. Which countries are eligible for studies?

Eligible for studies are all countries except the own home country. A preference in on supporting studies in Germany.

Please note: In Germany, Renovabis primarily funds and supports studies of theology, philosophy and canon law. Renovabis may put forward suitable applicants to participate in the Albertus Magnus program (see separate information on our website). For the study of non-theological subjects in Germany please refer to the “East European Program” of the Catholic Academic Exchange Service (KAAD).

7. Place of residence during the studies

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

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

The scholarship is meant as a contribution towards the study and living costs abroad. An own participation in the costs is expected. Scholarships for courses of study with compulsory attendance are granted according to fixed rates based on the cost level of the country of study. Travel expenses from and to the home country principally must be borne by the scholarship holders themselves during courses of study with compulsory attendance.

Separate rules apply to distance learning, research stays, etc. Here, the application must always be accompanied by a budget plan, based on which the scholarship is individually calculated.

9. Does Renovabis fund the entire course of study?

Scholarships are generally granted for the duration of one 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.

10. How to apply for a scholarship?

To apply for a scholarship, please use the application form on the website of Renovabis. Please submit the application form along with the accompanying documents in German or English by mail until **March 31**.

11. Which documents must accompany the application?

- Short curriculum vitae
- Letter of recommendation issued by a professor from the home country of the current university to attest to the applicant’s scientific qualifications
- research proposal (2-3 pages)
- Copy of the high school diploma or similar graduations and/or proof of already completed university-level studies
- Certification of language courses or language exams relevant for the study abroad
- If the application has not been filed by the Bishop/Superior: letter of recommendation, issued by the diocesan bishop

- Institutional protection policy of the sending institution: describes measures taken in an organization to prevent sexual violence and standards for dealing with cases of sexual violence (e.g. naming contact persons and defining responsibilities, describing the reporting and complaint channels on site, the documentation and information obligation in cases of sexual violence)
- Letter of Good Standing issued by a qualified Church entity (e. g. Bishop, Rector of the seminary, Superior etc.): This document states whether disciplinary or canonical proceedings are ongoing in connection with the candidate for the scholarship or whether criminal charges have been brought against him or her.

The documents that have not been issued in German or English must be translated. A simple copy of diplomas and language certificates is sufficient; for recommendation letters, we request the signed original copy.

12. Rules for applications submitted to different funding bodies

In order to avoid double funding, you must state whether – and if so, from whom – you have already applied for grants and inform us about the status of these applications. Anyone who fails to meet this requirement will exclude themselves from being awarded a scholarship.

13. What does the selection and payment procedure look like? How to report about the progress of studies?

Due to the large number of incoming applications, the selection process, starting always from April 1, may take up to three months. A scholarship will be granted from the beginning of the following winter semester based on the time period mentioned in the application and standard study periods. The award notification and the project agreement are sent to the applying entity. The applicant informs the scholarship holder about the approval, signs the project agreement and requests the payment of the scholarship.

The **payment** is transferred once each academic year. After each academic year, the scholarship holder must submit a qualitative report about one's studies, transcripts of grades, 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). For priests and candidates for priesthood, an additional report 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 thesis (pdf-document), the new home address in your home country, as well as information about your activity and work in your home diocese or province. All documents and their respective translations must be sent to Renovabis in German, English or Italian.

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

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 their home country: If the scholarship holder has not returned from abroad within two years after completion of their studies funded by Renovabis and additional study periods financed through other funds, the granted scholarship will be considered a loan and must be fully repaid (if necessary, in installments).

In case of further questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.