

Preconditions for Application

-  You belong to an LWF member church.
-  You have a degree corresponding at least to a Bachelor degree at a German university (three years of higher education).
-  You have exam results to prove your knowledge of German or the language of study of your intended study program, at least B1 on application and B2 when starting the course abroad (these are levels of achievement on the CEFR scale). If a prospective international scholarship holder does not speak and understand German he or she can apply to the Scholarship Desk to participate in a preparatory German course at the Department of Protestant Theology in Sibiu (Romania).
-  A letter of recommendation from the bishop or executive body of your LWF member church.
-  You are no older than 35 when applying, although exceptions are possible.
-  You are willing to return to your country of origin after completing the period of study.

International applicants should not have been in Germany for longer than 15 months at the time of applying.

Application and Award

The closing date is 1st January of each year. Normally studies begin in the following winter semester. The decision on awarding scholarships is taken by the GNC/LWF Scholarship Committee.

Application Documents

Please ask the Scholarship Desk for the latest application form and a list of the other documents required.



THE LUTHERAN
WORLD FEDERATION
GERMAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is a global communion of 150 churches with over 77 million members. The **German National Committee of the Lutheran World Federation (GNC/LWF)** represents the eleven German LWF member churches. The GNC/LWF Scholarship Program is at the service of the Lutheran communion and its member churches.

The program is part of the joint scholarship work of the GNC/LWF and Bread for the World, based in Berlin. The staff of the Scholarship Desk will be pleased to advise you on your application.

Contact

German National Committee
of the Lutheran World Federation
Scholarship Desk

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Imprint

Editors: Dionisie Arion, Florian Hübner
Photos: DNK/LWB/D. Arion, A. Weyermüller

Deepening Communion – Strengthening Churches – Supporting Students

Theological Scholarship Program



THE LUTHERAN
WORLD FEDERATION
GERMAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Theological and Ecumenical Learning in the Service of the Global Lutheran Communion



Since 1952 the German National Committee of the Lutheran World Federation (GNC/LWF) has awarded scholarships to encourage the theological exchange between member churches of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF).

Through its Scholarship Program, the GNC/LWF enables international and German students and graduates to specialise, conduct research or obtain a degree abroad in academic fields relevant to the church. The aim is to build up and consolidate the Lutheran communion and strengthen worldwide ecumenism.

Eligible are students of theology and other church-related disciplines, who are advanced in their studies, and respective graduates. They must belong to an LWF member church in Germany or abroad. The Scholarship Program is divided into two areas – international applicants and German applicants – and a total of three funding lines.

International Applicants

Studying in Germany

For international applicants, the GNC/LWF offers full scholarships for studies in theology and church-related disciplines (religious education, church music, church social services, diakonia studies, Christian journalism, etc.).

The target group encompasses international advanced students and graduates from LWF member churches, church staff (trainee pastors, pastors, teachers of religion, social-diaconal workers), as well as staff of theological faculties.

The funding line focuses on promoting theological and subject-specific exchange, as well as on fostering ecumenical skills or even completing a degree. Doctoral scholarships are only funded in exceptional cases.

Ecumenical Studies in Rome and Sibiu

With a special funding line, the GNC/LWF offers a limited amount of full scholarships for Ecumenical Studies in two locations outside Germany. The Theological Study Year Rome at the Melancthon Centre for Ecumenical Studies focuses on Roman Catholic theology. The Ecumenical Semester at the Protestant Theological Institute of the Lucian-Blaga-University in Sibiu/Romania offers deep insights into Orthodox theology. In both locations, the acquisition of ecumenical experience and competence in the respective areas are the focus of the scholarship. They are available to applicants from LWF member churches outside Germany.

German Applicants

Studying Abroad

For applicants from Germany, the GNC/LWF offers partial grants for studies abroad in theology and church-related disciplines. The target group encompasses German advanced students and graduates from German LWF member churches. This funding line facilitates academic exchange, the acquisition of ecumenical and inter-religious competencies, qualifications, degrees as well as research abroad. The GNC/LWF has been cooperating in this area for decades with prestigious ecumenical and inter-religious study programs. However, the scholarships are not limited to those institutions.

Benefits and Duration of Support

International students will receive a full scholarship, students from Germany partial grants. In addition, they will be closely accompanied by the Scholarship Desk and benefit from accompanying seminars and the alumni program of the GNC/LWF and Bread for the World.

In all funding lines, scholarships can be granted for a minimum of one semester. For international students studying in Germany, the maximum duration is 3 years (36 months). For international students under the funding line Ecumenical Studies and for German students the maximum duration usually is one year, depending on the duration of the study program.