

**LWF Department for Mission and Development
Human Resources Development (HRD)**

INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The International Scholarship Program is the main instrument for human resources development offered by the Department for Mission and Development (DMD).

The program provides support to member churches for short- and long-term, academic and non-academic/practice-oriented programs in theological and other areas of study, responding to the needs of the member churches. Most candidates for theological studies will serve in pastoral ministries. Candidates for study programs at the doctoral level are foreseen as future teachers in various theological training institutions.

As a general rule, the program supports studies in the candidate's home country or continent whenever this is possible, and only for specific programs will overseas studies be supported.

In the distribution of funds for scholarships, the program seeks to reach a gender balance. For this reason, a minimum of 40% of the funds is earmarked each year for women candidates. If this level cannot be met in a given year, the balance of funds is reserved for allocation in following years.

Strengthening Educational Institutions

The program also aims at strengthening educational institutions in the South. By sending students with secured financial support to schools or universities in the South, the program contributes to stabilizing the economy of these institutions. In this way, the program also contributes to upgrading the academic credentials of current teachers in these institutions and training future teachers in order to make the educational institutions in the South independent and competitive in terms of human resources. In the distribution of LWF scholarships, the program includes scholarships for higher levels of study, where clear plans exist for future service of the candidates.

Administration and Application

Each year, application forms are sent by the HRD desk to all LWF member churches and national committees. It is their responsibility to select the candidates for meeting their identified human resource needs. Application forms are only available through the LWF member church in the home country of a candidate.

Since the scholarships offered to the churches aim at strengthening the member churches in their various ministries, the application form asks the churches to explain their needs for the study programs in relation to the work of the church.

Applications must be screened and endorsed by a member church or an LWF national committee, and must be listed in a clear order of priority. All applications must be sent to the

HRD desk in Geneva, to arrive by an October 15 deadline. Applications submitted by individuals will not be accepted.

The screening of applications is normally completed in December. The decisions regarding the approval of scholarships will be communicated to the respective member churches and national committees during the month of January. Support for approved study programs will begin only for the following academic year.

Please note that scholarships for students from countries in the North will be given only for up to one academic year for studies in Africa, Asia, or Latin America.

In providing this information, we are in no sense committing LWF member churches or national committees to anything. Long-term planning and the process of identifying appropriate human resources needed within churches will determine which candidates will be given application forms for completion and further screening by church authorities.

Applications for this program require endorsement by an LWF member church.

For further information please contact:

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