

Guidelines for the awarding of scholarships for the Licentiate in Theology – Global Church Leadership

According to its statutes, missio-Munich carries out its work in specific territories: Africa, Asia, and Oceania. Also, the available funding for scholarships is limited and cannot cover all requests. The following criteria have therefore been set to determine eligibility for a scholarship:

– General –

1. missio Munich grants scholarships to clerics, religious, and lay people from Africa, Asia, and Oceania. These scholarships enable recipients to undertake a Licentiate in Global Church Leadership at LMU's Professorship of Global Church Leadership.
2. After completing their studies, candidates must work in their home diocese or home province (i.e., return to their home diocese/home province after completing their studies).
3. The main target groups are clerics, religious, and lay people who are already in, or are destined to assume, leadership roles at various levels within particular churches, religious orders, and church institutions. [see „3. Beneficiaries“, in „Scholarship Programme for the Licentiate in Global Church Leadership“].
4. The completed application form and the recommendation letter from the diocesan bishop or religious superior must be sent to the specified E-Mail addresses before the deadline.
5. In his recommendation letter, the bishop or superior will justify the need for the studies, clearly specifying the concrete responsibilities that the scholarship candidate will assume upon completion of her/his studies.
6. Only one application per academic year will be considered for a scholarship from the same diocese or religious province.

– Laypersons –

7. Lay students can obtain a missio-scholarship. Apart from a recommendation letter from the local Ordinary, an intended appointment or at least close collaboration with the diocese following the conclusion of the studies will also be required.

– Female Religious –

8. We aim to prepare religious sisters for the role of novice mistress, which involves forming future members of the congregation, as well as future community superiors and administrators of the temporal goods of communities.
9. Ideally, the scholarship candidate should have taken her final vows. At the very least, however, she must have taken her temporary vows.

– Clerics –

10. Our priority is to provide high-quality training for clerics who will take on leadership roles within particular churches, as well as for those who will be employed permanently as formators and lecturers in major seminaries.
11. Having pastoral experience after being ordained will be advantageous.

– Academic requirements –

12. As a matter of principle, scholarships will only be awarded to those who fulfil the admission conditions for the Licentiate in Global Church Leadership programme. This involves completing a full course of study in Catholic theology and obtaining a theology degree.
13. Candidates without a degree in Catholic theology, who can therefore only enrol in the Global Church Leadership certificate programme, are not eligible for the scholarship. However, exceptions may be made for female religious and lay people with specific motivation from their superior or local Ordinary, provided they are to take on a leadership role upon completion of their studies.
14. The selection of scholarship recipients is based on several criteria. Professional qualifications are assessed with particular attention to academic performance, including the overall grade point average and the progression of grades, as well as the chosen course of study. Relevant internships and, where applicable, professional experience are also taken into consideration.
15. Furthermore, the applicant's overall potential plays an important role. This includes the motivation for staying in Germany, both from a professional and a personal perspective. The prospects of the stay are also assessed, especially with regard to its significance for the applicant's further academic, professional, and personal development, as well as its potential impact on the local church and the applicant's home community. Finally, the applicant's commitment is taken into account, including extracurricular knowledge and skills, as well as social or church-related engagement.

– Others –

16. Additional support for a doctorate after support has already been given for the licentiate is not possible. In effect, it is not possible to extend a licentiate scholarship to include a doctorate.
17. It is not possible to receive two scholarships, i.e., candidates should not apply for a missio-scholarship in addition to another one.
18. If, while on a missio-scholarship, a student is awarded another grant by a different organisation, this must be indicated to avoid the granting of double subsidies, given that many students receive no aid at all.
19. Although the missio-scholarships are full scholarships, they are intended to help cover the costs of study and accommodation/maintenance. They are standardised according to the German social context and cannot be adapted to individual circumstances. The scholarships

are equal for all beneficiaries, to provide equal opportunities for all beneficiaries from the limited funds available.

20. Language courses: Scholarship holders are encouraged to actively interact with and engage in religious, cultural, and academic exchange in Germany. Therefore, it is recommended (not for the research stay but for two-year studies) that persons who do not speak German already at Level B1 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages complete an intensive course (4-6 months) before starting their studies in Germany. The costs for the language classes at our partner institute (timeframe to be specified according to the existing level of proficiency), including board and accommodation, health insurance, and pocket money, are covered in addition to the regular scholarship period.

Stand: 05/2026