



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

Department for Theology
Mission and Justice

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To all LWF Member Churches
21 July 2025

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. More than 4,000 women and men have been trained through the program. In its current form the LWF Scholarships support theological and diakonia/development-oriented education that transforms both individuals, the life of the churches and the world in which we live.

We are pleased to inform you that the new call for scholarship applications for 2026 will be opened on 23 July 2025.

- 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 leadership development, project management, gender awareness, food security, and more. Short-term scholarships may be granted for training programs lasting up to one year.

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. All applications must be endorsed by the churches including a description of planned future role beyond very general terms. A shared commitment between the church and applicant is required.

The LWF scholarship application process will be completed by using the LWF Scholarship online portal.

The procedure of the scholarships process is guided by following instructions:

- **July-August:** *Pre-screening processes in the churches.* Member churches are requested to disseminate information of LWF scholarship application phase 2025 widely within their churches and broader communities, including at the grassroots level. Each member church is requested to do 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.
- **September:** *Request to endorsing churches to review application.* After LWF has received the submitted application, the request is sent to the endorsing church for review, using the LWF Scholarship portal. The official church endorsement letter must be uploaded onto the review form.

We expect churches 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 in the category of theology and diakonia must be female and at least 20% must be youth (below the age of 30).

Kindly share the information on scholarship opportunities widely among your church members to ensure wide participation and inclusiveness. **Deadline for submission of applications is 1 October and for church review 10 October 2025.**

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
Department for Theology, Mission and Justice

Enclosures:

- **LWF Scholarship Implementing Guidelines**
- **The LWF Scholarship Portal Guidance**