

As of: July 2015

## **SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME FOR THE SPONSORSHIP OF THEOLOGICAL DOCTORATES**

Application information

### **1. The programme**

By awarding scholarships, Brot für die Welt - Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst (Bread for the World - Protestant Development Service) works on behalf of the Protestant Church in Germany to sponsor worldwide theological exchange, the qualification of employees from the ecclesiastical and academic theological sectors, and the creation of ecumenical and academic networks. With the scholarship program for the sponsorship of theological doctorates, the organization aims to meet the institutional needs of its partners and to contribute to the improvement of theological research and education in the realm of the churches with which it cooperates.

The doctoral scholarship has the following goals:

- The encouragement of academic reflection and exploration of theologically relevant questions and problems. In doing so, churches should predominantly become qualified in the areas of social ethics, diakonia, practical theology, social responsibility and development cooperation;
- The encouragement and intensifying of ecumenical and intercultural discussion and the consolidation of ecclesiastical, academic and development-aid collaboration;
- The support of partner churches, church organisations and theological educational institutions for the academic qualification and training of its personnel;
- The expansion and reinforcement of academic capacities, in particular for teaching in the home countries of the nominating institutions;
- The promotion of the personal development of the scholarship holders, the intensifying of their scientific knowledge and abilities, and consolidation of their ecumenical skills.

### **2. Nominating institutions**

To apply for the programme, a written nomination from one of the following institutions is required:

- As a general rule, churches from Eastern Europe, the Middle East, the Caucasus region, the sponsored countries in the south (including the Asia and Pacific region, Africa, Latin America) which are members of the World Council of Churches
- Church organisations from the domain of these churches
- Brot für die Welt – Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst partner organizations
- Church institutes of higher education and theological faculties in the domain of the aforementioned churches.

If the nominating institution is not a church, the candidate must also submit a letter of recommendation from the church authority responsible.

The nominating institution must remain in contact with the candidate during the doctorate and must declare to be willing to employ him or her in a position which corresponds to his or her acquired skills at the end of the doctorate.

### 3. Application requirements

**Sponsored subjects:** Theology, in justified cases also interdisciplinary theological research projects.

Doctorates in fields of work where the churches or theological educational institutions in the home country cannot offer the same opportunity.

The matriculation for the doctoral study course in Germany must be in a Protestant faculty.

**Acad. requirements:**

- Degree course completed with a good to very good performance which justifies a doctorate in Germany
- Knowledge of the German language to a level which justifies the admission to a doctoral study course at the university in question. In the case of doctoral courses held in the English language, the student's German skills must be at least at B1 level. *It is possible to firstly submit an application for another Brot für die Welt scholarship programme to acquire the missing language skills.*
- Proof of knowledge of classical languages is required for admission
- Exposé, time and work schedule

**Other requirements:**

- Written acceptance from an academic adviser
- A willingness to return to the nominating institution in the home country at the end of the scholarship
- A willingness to enter into a contractual agreement with the nominating institution
- Not older than 35 years of age at the time of approval. Exceptions are possible in justified cases.

### 4. Application process and criteria

**Application deadlines:** Either 1st July / 1st January, as appropriate

**Notification:** November or May, following the Theological Scholarship Committee meeting

**Scholarship commencement:** In the subsequent semester

**Regular scholarship duration:** A maximum of four years from the start of the doctorate. Each scholarship is awarded for 12 months. An extension is decided by the Theological Scholarship Committee under the inclusion of the nominating institution.

**Completion scholarships:** Not possible

## 5. Application documents required

1. Application form/personal information form with passport photograph;
2. A curriculum vitae in tabular form outlining all personal details, school and other academic education, vocational and other activities and knowledge (max. 3 pages). See also page 2 of the application form;
3. A personal statement about your envisaged objectives, motivation, possibly an indication of which universities you would like to attend, main topics and future prospects (max. 2 pages); *it is imperative that you provide an original signature*;
4. Original letter of nomination from the institution  
This must include: - An explanation of the candidate selection process
  - A short illustration of the institution's ecumenical commitment and its ecumenical involvement (memberships, partnerships, co-operations), in the case of faculties and research facilities, possibly references to current projects with an ecumenical and/or inter-denominational focus
  - Relation between the application and the content-related work done by the institution
  - Relation between the doctoral thesis and the personal requirements of the institution
  - Confirmation of willingness to employ the person in the scope of his or her qualification at the end of the scholarship.
5. *If the nominating institution is not a church*: an (original) letter of recommendation from the church authority responsible;
6. University degree certificate which provides proof of that the person qualifies for the doctoral study programme (a certified copy of degree certificates, lists of grades, etc.);
7. Written acceptance from an academic adviser. *Upon prior request, the Scholarship Desk can provide advice and support in the search for an academic adviser*;
8. At least 2 positive academic letters of recommendation (original documents), *one of which must have been written by the academic adviser*;
9. A level of German skills which entitles the applicant to admission in a doctoral study course at the university in question. In the case of doctoral courses held in the English language, the student's German skills must be at least at B1 level. *It is possible to firstly submit an application for another Brot für die Welt sponsorship programme to acquire the missing language skills*;
10. Proof of the language skills required for admission (normally at least 2 of the following languages: Hebrew, Greek, Latin or another cultural language. *It is possible to firstly submit an application for another Brot für die Welt sponsorship programme to acquire the missing language skills*;
11. Exposé (max. 10 pages);
12. Work and time schedule (max. 3 pages);
13. Admission to a doctoral study course at a German university;
14. A-level certificate/school-leaving certificate/secondary-school diploma;

15. Proof of membership of a Christian church;
16. Other certificates;
17. Current certificate of health;

**Additional documents (optional):**

18. Copy of the passport or personal identity card;
19. Health insurance certificate (if available); the health insurance must be valid in the EU.

**Please note:**

- A certified copy of all **certificates** must be submitted in German, English or French
- We would ask you to submit all **letters of recommendation/expert assessments** as the original document in German, English or French (and they must not be older than 6 months at the time when the application is submitted).

**6. Important information for applicants**

- You have no legal claim to sponsorship
- Please understand that we cannot provide information regarding individual reasons for rejection
- Brot für die Welt – Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst is pleased to receive applications from women and asks the delegating churches and organizations to take this aspect into consideration when making their suggestions
- A family scholarship is generally not possible.

For all other questions, please contact the Scholarship Desk of the Ecumenical Theological Scholarship Team. We will be pleased to provide you with the advice you need.