

# INFORMATION ON AWARDING OF SCHOLARSHIPS FOR LANGUAGE COURSES ABROAD



## 1. Why does Renovabis award scholarships for language courses?

The solidarity initiative of the German Catholics with the people in Central and Eastern Europe sees the award of scholarships for language courses abroad (preferably in Germany) as a chance to promote the qualification of partners and to stimulate and enhance the exchange within the universal church at the same time.

## 2. Who can receive a scholarship for a language course?

Renovabis awards scholarships for language courses to priests, deacons, candidates for the priesthood, religious and laity from Central and Eastern European countries, who either wish to acquire language skills

a) for better performance of their **ministry or vocation in their home country** (not: In preparation for pastoral ministry / mission abroad), or

b) need language skills for research **as part of their studies either in their home country or, where applicable, in a third country**. Important: Renovabis cannot grant scholarships for preparatory language courses for studies abroad.

For a better understanding, we will explain it with 3 examples:

1.) A person who comes from Poland and is enrolled at a university in Poland, but needs English literature for his/her research, is eligible to apply for a scholarship for a language course, for example, in Ireland.

2.) A person who comes from Croatia and studies theology in Italy, but needs to work with German-language literature for his/her research is eligible to apply for a scholarship for language course in Germany.

3.) A person who comes from Belarus and plans to study in Italy, but does not yet fulfill the necessary language requirements and therefore wishes to do a preparatory language course, is not eligible to apply for a scholarship for a language course. A scholarship application is only possible for time of the actual studies, after finishing the language preparation.

## 3. Who is entitled to submit applications?

For priests, deacons and candidates for the priesthood: the bishop of the home diocese

For religious (m/f): the respective religious superior, in general the provincial superior

For laity<sup>1</sup> (m/f): In addition to the *bishop of the home diocese, leaders of church institutions*, such as social or educational institutions, and *religious superiors* can also apply for scholarships for laity. The decisive factor is that applicants can describe a specific perspective for their professional assignment in their home country after the planned studies. If the scholarship is approved, the applicant will also be project holder, i.e. act as a contractual partner with Renovabis. If the home bishop is not the

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<sup>1</sup> "Laity" here does not refer to the status of ordination, but means all persons who are not priests, deacons, candidates for the priesthood or members of the Consecrated Life.

applicant in the case of applications for laity, Renovabis expects an additional letter of *recommendation from the bishop*.

#### **4. Is a participation in the costs expected?**

The scholarships for language course cannot cover all costs. An appropriate cost sharing of the diocese or the province and the scholarship holder is expected. The sum must be stated in the application.

#### **5. Are travel expenses borne?**

Travel expenses are not borne by Renovabis. They are part of the own contribution.

#### **6. How to apply for a scholarship?**

To apply for a scholarship, please use the appropriate application form on the Renovabis homepage. The application written in German or English must be received by mail not later than three months before the start of the course at the registered office of Renovabis.

#### **7. Institutional protection policy of the sending institution and ‘Letter of Good Standing’**

The institutional protection policy of the sending institution describes the measures taken in the organization to prevent sexual violence and standards for dealing with cases of sexual violence (e.g. naming contact persons and defining responsibilities, describing the reporting and complaint channels on site, the documentation and information obligation in cases of sexual violence).

A Letter of Good Standing is issued by a qualified Church entity (e. g. Bishop, Rector of the seminary, Superior etc.) and states whether disciplinary or canonical proceedings are ongoing in connection with the candidate for the scholarship or whether criminal charges have been brought against him/her.

#### **8. How are scholarships granted and paid?**

The **Scholarship Award Letter** is usually sent to the applicant (see 3.). He/she will be responsible for notifying the scholarship holder, sign the project agreement and request the payment from Renovabis. The **payment** is made in one installment. After completion of the language course, you must submit a copy of the proficiency certificate obtained after completion of the course, a financial statement as well as all original supporting documents regarding expenditure for the course fee, accommodation and travel expenses. All documents and/ or their respective translations must be sent in German, English or Italian to Renovabis.

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*For further inquiries do not hesitate and contact our office. We will be pleased to answer all your questions.*