



## Call for Applications Laudato Si' Scholarships

### The Laudato Si' in the CREATE Initiative

The CREATE Initiative provides ways for students and experts in Catholic social teaching (CST) to access resources and training in Rome, so as to develop their knowledge and their capability in using CST for resolving problems faced in their local reality.

Laudato Si' looks at young people graduated from the CEE region who will remain in their home Institution, but who will come to Rome regularly over a two-three-year period to work on a doctorate or on specific post-doc research and publication projects. This format allows participants to benefit from the formation we can offer and from contact with Roman institutions without the cost and disruption of moving to Rome itself and, at the same time, allowing them to be part of, and to strengthen, local institutions in the CEE region.

In particular, this initiative aims to select: 2 people who has already finished a doctorate program and who wishes to develop a post-doctoral research project under the guidance of one or more FASS Professors and 5 people with a previous academic degree who will study for a pontifical doctorate according to the TUTOR programme format (created to help working people study at the FASS).

#### What are we offering?

2 scholarships for a post-doc research at the Faculty of Social Sciences (2 years),

5 scholarships for the Doctorate programme at the Faculty of Social Sciences (2/3 years),  
starting September 2021 or January 2022.

*For more details, including who can apply and what documents are needed for the application, see pp. 3-4 of this Call. If you have any questions, please write to us at: [fass@pust.it](mailto:fass@pust.it)*

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### Deadline for the submission of applications: June 20, 2021

#### 1. What is the CREATE Initiative?

Catholic social teaching **Rome Exchange: Advanced Training Experience** – starts from two basic ideas: (1) Catholic social thought is a powerful resource in the mission of the Church today, but often it needs to be more widely known and better operationalised in practical situations; (2) Rome is a centre for the development Catholic social thought; by bring students and experts to Rome for short or longer stays, we can help them to improve their knowledge of CST and practical skills in implementing it, while ensuring that they stay connected with their home region.

CREATE is an integrated set of 5 activities:

1. Expert Council [EC]: a network of professors and experts from different Catholic Higher Education Institutions (CHEIs) in the region meeting once a year in Rome;
2. CREATE Prize [CP]: an annual competition starting in 2021, for an original essay by a young researcher/student from the CEE on some application of CST to society.
3. Salamanca Process Scholarships [SP]: 1 doctorate scholarship and 1 post-doc scholarship for Dominican candidates (sisters and brothers) from Central and Eastern Europe, as part of the Salamanca Process of the Dominican Order.
4. **Laudato Si' Scholarships [LS]: 5 doctorate and 2 post-doc scholarship for young people from the CEE region to develop their research in their home countries and institutions, with support from FASS professors. Laudato Si' scholars will come in Rome regularly over a 2-3-year period, in order to take advantage of the resources provided by the FASS and the central Catholic institutions in Rome.**
5. CST Toolkit Scholarships [TX]: a semester-long programme of courses in CST (January to June, starting in 2022) for 6 students at the masters or doctorate level.



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### ABOUT US

#### Historical Highlights

For over ten years, the Faculty of Social Sciences (FASS) at the Pontifical University of St Thomas (PUST) has been providing financial support to students from Central and Eastern Europe (CEE).

We provide training in Catholic social teaching (CST) and in Dominican social ethics (DSE) in dialogue with the main academic disciplines that help us understand modern social problems: law and international relations, sociology and psychology, economics and social communications, history and politics.

Students from the CEE who have studied with us have gone on to work:

- in the Vatican Curia (including the Pontifical Council of Justice and Peace, Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development);
- in civil society organisations (including Caritas internationalis, national Caritas in Belarus and Ukraine);
- in the UN system (including the UNDP Democratisation Programme in Ukraine);
- in secular (state and private) and Catholic higher education (such as a lecturer in political philosophy and Catholic Social Teaching in the LCC International University in Lithuania);
- and have co-founded Christian-inspired political parties (in Croatia) and Christian-inspired social enterprises (in Hungary and Ukraine).

From 2017, the FASS has started to expand its activities in the region. We ran a "baseline project" to find out what Catholic Social Thought was being taught in the Catholic Higher Education Institutions (CHEI) of Central and Eastern Europe.

To complement what was going on in the region, we started offering an annual summer school on CST for students and created an "Expert Council" to develop initiatives and to begin publishing research.

Our first book was published this year, with contributions from 7 countries of the CEE region and a preface from our Polish Rector, fr Michał Paluch OP: "In a Different Voice: Reflections on Catholic Social Thought from and for Europe", edited by Helen Alford OP and Marina Russo, Angelicum University Press, 2020.

## 2. The Laudato Si' Scholarships

- 2 scholarships for post-doc research
- 5 scholarships for the Doctorate programme at the Faculty of Social Sciences.

*Laudato Si' scholarship holders will come to Rome several times, depending on their specific programs (post-doc research or doctorate).*

(LS-PD) The post-doc researchers will come to Rome a first time, in October 2021 (or in January 2022), in order to setup his/her Research project, meet the selected FASS Professor and develop a project plan. After that, the scholarship will support up to 5 additional weeks/travels to Rome during the two years of the Research. During these two years the researchers can chose one course a year from those offered by the Faculty.

(LS-DO) They will arrive in Rome in October 2021 in order to follow FASS doctoral courses according to the Tutor Program (one Saturday per month from October to May and one week in June in the first year; three weeks in the second year, as in the LS-PD program).

(LS-LDO) Holy See requires that students have a pontifical licence before they begin a doctorate: for those who do not have a Pontifical Licentiate, the scholarship will cover an additional year of studies in order for them to receive the licentiate. It will be a short programme, in which they can produce a licentiate thesis which would normally be a kind of status quaestionis of the literature regarding the problem that they want to study in their doctorate. During this year they will come to Rome one Saturday per month from October to May and one week in June (Tutor Program).



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### 3. Student Profile for LS

- Young graduates from Central and Eastern Europe (age 25-40)
- A completed second cycle degree (120 credits) in one of the following areas (if more than one area is covered, it is an advantage):
  - Ethics/CST, Sociology, Psychology, Anthropology, Economics, Business, Social Communications, Political Science, History, Law, International Relations;
  - It is possible to consider someone with a second degree in theology or philosophy, but we would expect the optional courses taken by such a student to demonstrate an interest in social questions;
  - If the candidates already have a pontifical Licentiate, the programme will last for two years; if they do not have a pontifical Licentiate, they will need an extra year to obtain one and, in that case, the scholarship will last for three years.
- Demonstrated interest in practical social action: politics, economics, social problems, church action . . .
- We are looking at students who have shown interest in the issues of prime concern to Pope Francis: connecting with, and outreach to, the socially excluded; addressing homelessness; care of migrants; an integral ecology and care for our common home.
- Post-doc researches mainly in the fields of civil economy, social enterprises, business ethics, ethical leadership and management, etc.
- English at B1 level; ideally, B1 competence in at least one other language of the CEE; some capacity in Italian is an advantage, but not necessary.

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### 4. What costs are covered?

|   | LS-(L)DO | LS-PD |
|---|----------|-------|
| B&B lodging and meals (each time they will be required in Rome)                     | X        | X     |
| A/R air/travel (each time they will be required in Rome)                            | X        | X     |
| Online basic Italian course (40 hours per year)                                     | X        | X     |
| The payment of all the required academic fees, some academic expenses (e. g. books) | X        | -     |
| The final certificates of studies.  | X        | -     |
| The payment of required academic fees for annual elective course                    | -        | X     |
| The payment for a FASS Professor to support the doctorate/research                  | X        | X     |
| Printing of the doctoral thesis   | X        | -     |
| Publishing of the Research  | X        | X     |
| Public event to be organized in the Researcher's Country                            | -        | X     |
| Researcher annual Fee   | -        | X     |

### 5. Application Procedure and deadlines

Each candidate should produce the following documentation:

- a) Admission request with motivation letter;
- b) Curriculum Vitae (if possible Europass format); the CV must be dated and signed;
- c) Transcripts of academic formation so far;
- d) Proposal for the doctorate project or the post-doctoral research;
- e) Letter of presentation from a Bishop (lay applicants) or from a religious Superior;
- f) Letter of presentation from a CEE CHEI Professor;
- g) Where possible, letters of support from one or more civil society organizations in the region with whom the candidate has been in contact in some way.



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The selection will take place in order to assign scholarships by July 2021. Selection will be made on the basis of two types of indicator:

- a set of non-numerical indicators: age, sex, country of provenance;
- a set of numerical indicators which allow us to put the candidates in an order of preference for the scholarships. These indicators will cover at least the following areas: the academic level and background of the candidate (type of studies completed and/or currently being followed and results achieved so far; quality of supporting documents submitted), the candidate's motivation; the clarity of their ideas about their proposed area of research; their degree of insertion in, and/or knowledge of, local networks of social action; the prospects they see for the impact that their formation in the LS programme could have on their local situation.

### Deadlines:

June 20, 2021

Deadline for the submission of an application

July 5, 2021

Official communication of the list of selected candidates

July 12, 2021

Deadline for the acceptance of the scholarship by candidates

September 13, 2021

Setup and acceptance of the personalised plan of study

October, 2021 (or February, 2022)

Arrival in Rome

**Contacts:** Candidates may address any additional request, as well their final documentation, to: [fass@pust.it](mailto:fass@pust.it)

Date: May 14, 2021

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Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences

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