

Connexio scholarship policy

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1. Introduction

A scholarship grant is a commitment involving 3 parties: the scholarship recipient, his/her church represented by that church's scholarship committee, the sponsoring church/institution. As a sponsoring agency Connexio deals with the partner church's scholarship committee, not with the scholarship candidates/recipients directly. The scholarship committee plays a vital role in ensuring that the persons selected for scholarships do fulfil a vital role within the church and that the funds invested in their education will generate a good return for the church. The scholarship committee is also responsible for maintaining a close relationship between the scholarship recipient and his/her church and for giving pastoral care to the scholarship recipient.

The responsibilities of each of the three parties are listed below:

2. Responsibilities

2.1 Responsibilities of scholarship recipient

- supply all information needed to take a decision on the grant
- furnish regular academic progress reports
- stay in touch with scholarship committee and report on personal situation and academic progress
- do his/her best to complete the studies within the time frame agreed
- return to his/her country of origin and serve the church for at least the number of years which were agreed before taking up studies

2.2 Responsibilities of scholarship committee of recipient's church

2.2.1 General responsibility:

- formulate a scholarship policy including issues such as the selection of candidates, responsibilities to the family of a scholarship recipient, the follow-up of scholarship recipients, reintegration of scholarship recipients, financial issues, travel, transportation of personal goods, maximum duration of study and measures to be taken in case of failure to make progress or to complete study within time frame agreed upon, measures to be taken in case scholarship recipient does not resume service within the church after completion of studies.

2.2.2 Responsibilities with regards to individual scholarship candidates/recipients

- select scholarship recipients in line with the church's missional priorities and taking into account the candidate's academic potential to successfully complete the proposed studies
- consider the candidate's personal situation in view of assuring the family's well-being during the absence of the scholarship recipient
- establish the overall budget for the time of study including cost of living for scholarship recipient and his/her family (if they are financially dependent on his/her income), tuition and fees, travel to and from country of residence, books, health insurance, contingency funds. Costs at the place of study must be based on written information supplied by the school/university where the candidate plans to study.
- supply application for scholarship grant to sponsoring church/agency including CV of candidate, description of his/her past activities within the church, plans for his/her future role within the church, detailed budget.
- establish a letter of agreement with the scholarship recipient listing both parties' responsibilities and naming measures to be taken in case responsibilities are not fulfilled.
- follow the academic progress of the scholarship recipient based on reports supplied by the school/university

- remain in touch with the scholarship recipient to make sure he/she remains emotionally/spiritually linked to his/her church and country of origin
- supply progress reports to sponsoring church upon which funds for continuation of study will be released
- ensure reintegration of scholarship recipient within the church
- supply final evaluation to sponsoring church
- decide on termination of scholarship in case recipient's academic progress is not sufficient to complete the studies
- enforce measures according to the church's policy in case a scholarship recipient does not return to service within the church

2.3 Responsibilities of sponsoring church

- examine scholarship application and decide on total funding
- send funds for first year
- release funds for following years based on satisfactory progress reports submitted by scholarship committee
- raise funds for scholarship based on information sent by scholarship committee
- evaluate scholarship grant upon completion of study and reintegration of recipient within his/her church

3. Application forms to be submitted to Connexio

The application form to be submitted by the scholarship committee to the sponsoring church/agency must include the following:

- CV of candidate including information of his/her family situation and level of education of spouse
- description of prior activities/service within the church
- plans for the candidate's family during his/her absence for study
- plans for candidate's future role within the church, including description of how that relates to the church's missional priorities
- field of study
- degree pursued
- maximum duration of study
- name and address of university/school where candidate plans to study, if possible letter of admission
- overall budget including cost of living for scholarship recipient and his/her family (if they are financially dependent on his/her income), tuition and fees, travel to and from country of residence, books, health insurance, contingency funds. Costs at the place of study must be based on written information supplied by the school/university where the candidate plans to study
- amount requested from sponsoring church/agency
- list of other incomes (personal contribution of candidate, contribution of his/her church, other sponsors)
- name and address (including telephone, e-mail) of chairperson/contact person of scholarship committee
- signatures of chairperson of scholarship committee and candidate

4. **Criteria for Connexio decision-making**

- Application will only be considered when it is complete (according to above list)
- Proposed study project must be in line with the church's missional priorities.
- Studies are to be undertaken in the country of origin and – when that is not possible – in a country in the region. Studies on other continents will be considered only as an exception.
- The scholarship candidate's family must be taken care of (either through means of their own or through support from their church or through means included in the scholarship grant ...)
- The proposed study project must not represent a potential burden for the candidate's marriage, i.e. the educational difference between the candidate and his/her spouse must remain within reasonable proportions. Alternatively, some education/training should be provided for the spouse. Connexio can consider applications for funding.
- During the first year of study the scholarship recipient's family must not accompany him/her abroad. After successful completion of the first year the scholarship committee may apply for additional funds allowing the spouse or family to join him/her.
- Connexio pays for an annual trip home for scholarship recipients whose spouse/family remains in the country of origin.
- Funding provided covers only the items and amounts listed in the budget. Requests for additional funding will only be considered if they are submitted through the scholarship committee.