

Communication Scholarship Programme for Religious Sisters

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation (Catholic Sisters Initiative) in
collaboration with the Dicastery for Communication of the Holy See
and CAMECO

We are pleased to announce a special opportunity tailored to empower and equip religious sisters for impactful roles in media ministries within their congregations in the Global South.

The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation (Catholic Sisters Initiative) has partnered with the Dicastery for Communication of the Holy See and CAMECO to launch a special communication scholarship programme, endowed with \$100,000 this year.

Through the Cardinal Foley Scholarship Fund administered by CAMECO, this initiative specifically targets talented creatives, communicators, managers, and influencers among female congregations, secular institutes and societies of apostolic life in Africa, Asia, Oceania, Latin America and Central and Eastern Europe.

Here's what you need to know:

- **Target Group:** this initiative specifically targets talented creatives, communicators, managers, and influencers among female religious in congregations, secular institutes and societies of apostolic life in Africa, Asia, Oceania, Latin America and Central Eastern Europe that are going to take up important roles and responsibilities in the media ministries of their congregations, institutes or societies.
- **Focus and Impact:** The scholarship aims at raising communication and media capacities and skills of religious sisters and also raise the visibility of the enormous work that is done by religious sisters in Africa, Asia, Oceania, Latin America as well as Central and Eastern Europe and tell their stories that are inspiring hope, love, and solidarity across communities and societies and often in a challenging environment.

- **Education and Training:** Selected applicants will have the chance to pursue university scholarships and specialized courses in communication related subjects, ensuring they're equipped with the necessary skills to effectively communicate their stories and ministries to the world. Study subjects that can be chosen need however to have a clear link to the future responsibilities may it be running the social media presences, a TV or radio station, a publishing house, the pastoral or public communication activities, teaching communication in universities or media literacy in schools etc.
- **Application Process:** Interested applicants, congregations, institutes and societies can find more information and apply for the scholarship programme below.

This programme aligns with the "[Pentecost Project](#)" initiated by the Dicastery for Communication, aimed at amplifying the invaluable work done by religious sisters globally.

Since 2013, the Cardinal Foley Scholarship Fund has supported over 90 consecrated and lay students in Africa, Asia, Oceania, Latin America and Central and Eastern Europe, preparing them for leadership positions in social communication ministry.

How can you apply?

1. Who should be eligible for a scholarship?

Female religious in congregations, secular institutes and societies of apostolic life, supported by their bishop and/or religious superior, and with a proven capacity (including practical experience) and interest in working in communications. The application needs to be presented by the respective Church authority. Applications sent by candidates themselves cannot be considered. The application should be done entirely in digital format. No handwritten application will be accepted. You have to use the application form you find on our website. The budget should be filled-in using the Excel sheet which also must be downloaded from our website.

2. What type of studies will be supported?

Graduate and postgraduate programmes in (pastoral) communications – both in southern continents and in Europe/North America. However, applicants are encouraged to seek adequate and relevant study opportunities close to home, and half of the scholarships are foreseen for post-graduate courses at

universities in Africa, Asia, Latin America or Oceania. **Basic training (undergraduate studies) and professional courses in communications and related areas can also be supported.**

3. What are the criteria of selection?

- Proven capacity and interest of the candidate towards working in communications – including basic (academic) training in the region of origin, and experience in working in and through media.
- Committed support from the local bishop or from the superior of any order/congregation of which the candidate is a member – and a confirmation from the Bishops' Conference (and, if applicable, from the national communication coordinator) that the candidate's further training will be of benefit to the local Church.
- A clear perspective of the candidate's future task(s).
- A mutual (local Church and candidate) commitment to involve the candidate in the communication ministry for at least five years.
- There is no age limit for applicants. Preference will however be given to candidates that are able to use and further develop the obtained skills and knowledge for longer terms in their work for the local church – in leadership positions.
- We do not accept applications that have been written wholly or partially with the assistance of Artificial Intelligence tools (such as ChatGPT or Gemini). Applicants may use AI only for grammar correction, and any such use must be clearly stated, as applications will be reviewed using AI-detection tools. Please, note that using AI to draft content often results in similar responses, which limits our ability to understand each applicant's unique perspective and may affect their chances of being selected.

The Screening Committee aims at a good balance of candidates, in terms of geographical origin. It expects the selected candidates to achieve a high standard in their courses.

4. Accompaniment of scholarship holders

We consider a close accompaniment of the candidates during their studies an integral part of this scholarship programme. This includes a virtual network among students, to facilitate contacts, common reflection, and exchange of experiences and concerns. Later on, former scholarship holders should also keep in touch with one another, with the PCSC and donors, through the network.

5. Internship as part of the scholarship

During the period of studies, the partners involved in the scholarship fund will promote where possible the candidate's pursuit of an internship related to their future task in Catholic communications – in Catholic media, AV production centres, a press office or a news service, etc.

6. Consultation about the formation plans

A key concern of the fund is to support formation which responds to the specific needs of the local Church and the capacities and qualifications of the candidate. Therefore, as part of the application process, the fund may contact the candidate and their superior and enter into dialogue about the formation plans presented. This could include further consultation on suitable academic programmes and on complementary practical training (internship).

7. Funding

The amount of the scholarship grant will be determined according to the study fees of the university chosen, to reasonable adequate living costs, and to a fixed sum for expenses directly connected with studies.

For those selected, the screening committee will approve support for the entire duration of the academic programme to be attended.

Travel expenses to and from the place of study, pocket money as well as exceptionally high study fees and living costs are not financed by the Foley Fund. When applying for the scholarship, the candidate must verify that these expenses are covered by her/his diocese or congregation, or through their own resources.

The bursaries are paid in yearly instalments. Before a next instalment can be transferred, the candidates must present a progress report of their studies, giving evidence of the grades achieved, as well as presenting a statement from their tutor or professor.

Due to financial restrictions, the Cardinal Foley Scholarship Fund can only support scholarships of amounts between 5.000 and 15.000 EUR. The scholarship holder has to provide a detailed and reasonable budget.

Therefore, please consider choosing an institution within your own country or continent to keep costs low and reasonable. Such programs are likely already available and may also offer greater cultural awareness and relevance to your context.

A scholarship can be cancelled before its date of expiration, if serious violations of the conditions under which the scholarship has been granted have occurred.

8. Timeline

Deadline for the presentation of applications: 27th February, 2026. Written applications should be submitted to CAMECO, P.O. Box 102104, 52021 Aachen – Germany, exclusively in electronic format to: : scholarship@cameco.org.

The screening process in April might include further consultation and dialogue with the candidate and local stakeholders supporting their studies.

Candidates and their superiors will be informed about the final decision of the screening committee in May/June: this schedule should allow time for preparations (including language courses) to commence studies in the first term of the 2026/2027 academic year.