

## **Theological Education Fund for Women in the South (TESF) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

### **1. I would like to study theology but need a scholarship: can the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC) help me?**

WARC has two scholarship programmes:

- i) Theological Education Fund for Women in the South (TESF) - administered by the WARC Office for Church Renewal, Justice and Partnership  
(URL [http://warc.jalb.de/warcajsp/side.jsp?news\\_id=461&part\\_id=0&navi=29](http://warc.jalb.de/warcajsp/side.jsp?news_id=461&part_id=0&navi=29)  
email address: [crjp@warc.ch](mailto:crjp@warc.ch))
- ii) WARC Graduate Scholarship Programme - administered by the WARC Department of Theology (email address: [warc@warc.ch](mailto:warc@warc.ch))

### **2. Who can apply for these scholarships?**

Applicants must be members of WARC member churches. A list of WARC member churches is found on the WARC website: [http://www.warc.ch/list/church\\_list.html](http://www.warc.ch/list/church_list.html).

### **3. What is the difference between these two scholarship programmes?**

#### **Theological Education Fund for Women in the South (TESF)**

- i. Scholarships are for women who wish to study for a first degree/diploma in theology in preparation for ordained ministry.
- ii. Scholarships are for studies within the applicant's home country or region.
- iii. Priority will be given to students from WARC member churches with a low number of ordained women in the church.

#### **WARC Scholarship Programme :**

- i) The WARC scholarship programme is for graduate studies. Most scholarship grants are of one year's duration and lead to a Master's degree, so applicants should normally be graduate students or be on the point of graduating.
- ii) The scholarship programme links prospective graduate students with a number of Reformed seminaries, which offer places to WARC applicants.
- iii) The list of seminaries participating in this programme is sent to WARC member churches and can also be obtained from the WARC Department of Theology.

### **4. I am a male student – can I apply for a TEF scholarship?**

No, the TEF grants are only available to **women** students.

### **5. I would like to study overseas: can I apply for a TEF scholarship?**

In principle, TEF scholarships are for studies within the candidate's home country. If there is no suitable school of theology in the home country, a scholarship may be awarded for study and a school of theology in the region.

### **6. I would like to do a Masters degree or a Doctorate in theology – can I apply for a TEF scholarship?**

No: the TEF scholarships are for undergraduate studies in theology (a first degree/diploma in theology).

**7. I would like to study theology in order to teach; I do not plan to become an ordained minister in my church. Can I apply for a TESF scholarship?**

No: the TESF scholarships are for women who would like to become ordained ministers and whose churches have accepted them as candidates for the ordained ministry and support their studies.

**8. I would like to study theology but my church does not ordain woman as ministers of the sacrament – can I apply for a TESF scholarship?**

No: the TESF scholarships are for women whose churches have accepted them as candidates for the ordained ministry.

**9. How often are TESF scholarships awarded? And what is the deadline for applications to reach WARC?**

There is one scholarship selection each year. The deadline for the receipt of completed applications for the next competition is 15 March.

**10. I started studying theology two years ago – can I apply for a TESF scholarship to cover the past two years as well as my future study?**

No, TESF grants are not offered retroactively. If awarded, the scholarship grants will start from the first semester of study, which follows the 15 March deadline.

**11. Do TESF scholarships cover all of the student's costs?**

The scholarship support is based upon need and covers partial or full costs as provided by the theological school. However, it is not always possible to offer full scholarships, because of limited funds. In this case, it is expected that the church and other local sources will also contribute to the student's costs.

**12. I am a woman who would like to study theology in my home country and my church has accepted me as a candidate for ordained ministry: how do I apply for a scholarship?**

- i) Scholarship guidelines and application forms in English can be obtained from WARC member churches or by writing to the following email address: [crjp@warc.ch](mailto:crjp@warc.ch).
- ii) Applicants and their church leaders should read carefully the instructions for completing the application form and ensure that the items listed in the documentation check-list are included with the application.
- iii) Applications must be accompanied by an endorsement letter from the church's General Secretary or equivalent. This letter must confirm that the church accepts the student as a candidate for the ordained ministry and supports her studies.
- iv) The applicant's church should send the applications, together with ALL supporting documentation, to the WARC Office for Church Renewal, Justice and Partnership. Deadline for the receipt of applications: 15 March. Incomplete applications will not be considered by the WARC Selection Committee.