



Call for Applications Salamanca Process Scholarships

The Salamanca Process in the CREATE Initiative

- The idea of the Salamanca Process (SP) emerged as the Order prepared for its 800th anniversary, remembering the historical example of the fruitful collaboration between friars out in the mission field and friars in the university;
- 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.
 - Between 2021 and 2023, the CREATE programme will focus on Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), but the CREATE methodology itself is flexible enough that it can operate on different levels – local, regional, global – as well as be applied to different particular issues: migration, social exclusion, vital Christian communities, integral human development, Church and media ...
- The Salamanca Process and the CREATE programme share a common approach: to allow those out in the mission field – those dealing directly with social problems – to get access to the thinking, resources and formation which the university – and, for CREATE, the City of Rome – can offer. Thanks to this shared approach, the CREATE programme includes a Salamanca Process activity. Over the 2021-2023 programme cycle, the activity will involve brothers and sisters from Central and Eastern Europe.

What are we offering?

2 full 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

Deadline for the submission of applications: Apr 18, 2021

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1. What are the Salamanca Process and the CREATE Initiative?

1.1 The Salamanca Process – was presented by the former Master of the Order, Bruno Cadoré, to the General Chapter in Trogir in the following way: “The aim is to **promote dialogue between theology and the secular sciences** taught in some of our university places, **starting from a concrete confrontation with pastoral experience** (Relatio de Statu Ordinis, n. 38), while in his letter accompanying the promulgation of the Acts of the same chapter, he said “The “Salamanca Process” would like to promote theological and interdisciplinary dialogue starting from pastoral situations in particularly vulnerable environments and the **exploitation of apostolic creativity in the new continent of the Internet ...**”

The General Chapter of Biên Hòa (2019) declared that “the expression Salamanca Process, by analogy with the meeting of the preachers of Hispaniola and theologians of Salamanca, refers to research based on the experience of situations where the equal dignity and the rights of persons and peoples are not respected or are endangered and aims to place theology at the service of law and respect for human, individual and social dignity” (ACG 2019, Biên Hòa, 315), and exhorted the brothers in charge of universities and other centres of study in the order “to organize regular activities in line with the Salamanca Process that **promote dialogue between academic work and the pastoral experience of brothers [and sisters]**, especially of those working in places where the rights of individuals and of peoples and the integrity of the creation are not respected or are threatened. This dialogue should also **be extended to bioethical issues, especially those related to the respect of life**” (ACG Biên Hòa 2019, Ch. VIII, n. 316).

On the basis of these texts, we can see that the Salamanca process is calling us to address the current social problems and challenges of our societies – especially where basic rights are not respected, including in the bioethical area, and in the new “continent” of the internet – through a dialogue between academic work and pastoral practice.



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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.

1.2 CREATE – 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 Activities 2021-2023

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]: 2 doctorate scholarships 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]: 1 doctorate and 1 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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2 The Salamanca Process (SP) Scholarships

2 full scholarships for the Doctorate programme in the Faculty of Social Sciences.

The selected Dominican students for the doctorate will come to Rome for a minimum of two years, in order to develop their doctoral research in the Social Sciences Faculty. 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.

Doctorate Scholarship holders will normally arrive in Rome in September 2021 in order to follow an intensive Italian language course and then start all the courses of their personalised study plan from October. It is also possible that they could arrive in January, follow the Italian language course together with CST Toolbox students and start their program in the second semester of 2021-2022.

3. Student Profile for SP

- Dominican brothers or sisters from Central and Eastern Europe (who belong to a province of the Central and Eastern European region, or are citizens of a country in the region and a member of a congregation of Dominican sisters)
- 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 especially interested in 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.
- 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;
- We do not set an age limit on applicants, but, other things being equal, we will favour younger candidates;

4. What costs are covered?

- Full board and lodging with the PUST community
- Allowance for personal expenses (2000 euros per year)
- All academic fees
- An intensive Italian course in September 2021 (or in January 2022)
- An annual allowance for books
- All costs associated with the publishing of the thesis and, if possible, of one or more events to promote the research completed
- A travel allowance covering one journey to and from Rome per year to the home province (or congregation for a sister)
- Health insurance if necessary (for those coming from outside the EU)



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5. Application Procedure and deadlines

Each candidate should produce the following documentation:

- Curriculum Vitae (if possible Europass format: <https://europa.eu/europass/en/create-europass-cv>); the CV must be dated and signed;
- Transcripts of academic formation so far
- Motivation letter, including ideas for the doctorate project and how these ideas relate to the Salamanca Process concept
- Letter of support from the Regent of the province and the provincial (or from the equivalent figures for a Dominican sister)
- 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

The selection will take place in order to assign scholarships by May 3 2021. Selection will be made on the basis of two types of indicator:

1. a set of non-numerical indicators: age, sex, country of provenance
2. 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 SP programme could have on their local situation (in the region and in the Dominican order).

Deadlines:

April 18, 2021	Deadline for the submission of an application
May 3, 2021	Official communication of the list of selected candidates
May 17, 2021	Deadline for the acceptance of the scholarship by candidates
September 5, 2021 (or January 9, 2022)	Arrival in Rome

Contacts: Candidates may address any additional request, as well their final documentation, to: fass@pust.it

Date: March 17, 2021

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