



Call for Applications CREATE Post-doc Scholarships

Does your **faith inspire you to look for solutions** to today's **social problems**?

Would you like to develop innovative research projects about
human dignity, solidarity & subsidiarity?

Are you interested in how **the Holy See works** & its **role in international relations**?

Then the **CREATE Post-Doctoral Programme** at FASS is for you!

The CREATE Initiative provides to access resources and training in Rome in Catholic social teaching (CST) for students from Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), so they can develop their knowledge and their capability in using CST for resolving problems faced in their local context.

The CREATE Post-doctoral (PD) Program aims to promote research in the fields of civil economy, social enterprises, business ethics, ethical leadership & management, or any other topic with a direct connection to the issues of prime concern of Pope Francis, including, but not limited to: integral ecology and care for our common home, care of migrants, addressing homelessness and the socially excluded. The PD program offers the opportunity to young scholars (aged 25-40) who have completed doctoral studies to continue their research in a specific area of study within our Faculty, in collaboration with the other Faculties (Canon Law, Philosophy, Theology) and with the Institutes associated with the University (Ecumenical, Historical, Spirituality, Thomistic, Religious Sciences). The post-docs are able to benefit from the presence in Rome of the central institutions of the Catholic Church and of some international organisations (Food and Agriculture Organisation, Embassies to the Holy See, EU representation...).

We are offering 6 CREATE PD scholarships

from February 2025 until February 2026

managed by the Faculty of Social Sciences (FASS) of the Pontifical University of St Thomas Aquinas in Rome.

For more details, including who can apply and what documents are needed for the application, see pp. 2-3 of this Call. If you have any questions, please write to us at fass@pust.it

Deadline for the submission of applications: November 15, 2024

1. What is the CREATE Initiative?

Catholic social teaching Rome Exchange: Advanced Training Experience has two main goals:

1. Firstly, that the Christian tradition become a greater force for inclusion and social innovation in Europe, and especially in the CEE region, by means of a wider and deeper knowledge of Catholic social thought and, in particular, through developing public intellectuals.
2. Secondly, that the countries of the CEE should grow in solidarity, so as to create a stronger regional identity.

2. The CREATE PD Scholarships

The selected researchers will develop their research in their home countries and institutions, in collaboration with FASS professors, and will come to Rome for 4 visits of 1 week, in order to take advantage of the resources provided by the FASS and the central Catholic Institutions of Rome. Each post-doctoral research project will last 1 year (from February to the February of the following year) and at the end it will be published and presented at a public event to be organised in Rome and/or in the home country of the post-doc. The 4 weeks of activities in Rome will be in February, June, November and February of the following year. During the week in Rome, researchers will:



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- A. Set up/refine their project, together with the FASS professor guiding their research, and meet the other CREATE researchers sharing different topics and perspectives;
- B. Participate in a specific visit program to the main Vatican and International Institutions in Rome, with private meetings with leaders and main experts;
- C. Participate in Angelicum Academic events and, where it makes sense, meet other professors/researchers from other Faculties and Institutes.

3. Student Profile for CREATE PD

- Young graduates from Central and Eastern Europe (usually aged 25-40);
- A doctorate and 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 degree in theology or philosophy, but we would expect the optional courses taken by such a student to demonstrate an interest in social questions. We would also be interested in other subject areas, such as engineers working on AI, or natural scientists working on bio-ethics...
- Demonstrated interest in practical social action in the fields of politics, economics, technology, communications, or a similar field, in line with CST and the magisterium of Pope Francis;
- A proposed post-doc research project in the fields of civil economics; social enterprises; business ethics; ethical leadership and management, or other topics especially connected to the prime concerns of Pope Francis including, but not limited to: connecting with, and outreach to, the socially excluded; addressing homelessness; care of migrants; an integral ecology and care for our common home, etc.
- English at B1 (better if B2) level.

4. What costs are covered?

- ✓ Post-doctoral Research living expenses (4000 euros)
- ✓ Payment of Angelicum Academic Fees
- ✓ Payment of FASS Professor to lead each research project
- ✓ The cost for accommodation in B&B / hotel (5 nights, 4 times per year) and of the catering for lunch during the meetings in Rome;
- ✓ A modest fund to cover travel expenses and all other eventual costs in Rome
- ✓ Publication of the research
- ✓ Institutional event in which the PD's research will be presented.

ABOUT US: *Historical Highlights*

For fifteen 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. From 2021 to 2024 the CREATE initiative involved: 18 students in the Toolbox program; 2 doctorands and 8 post-doctorands from Laudato Si’ and Salamanca programs; 5 Experts from CEE Catholic Universities and Institutions; several participants in the annual CREATE Prize.

5 books have published in the CREATE Researchers Book Series; another 4 books are planned by the end of 2024.



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5. Application Procedure and deadlines

Each candidate should produce the following documentation:

1. Angelicum Postdoctoral Application form
2. Curriculum Vitae (4 pages maximum)
3. Application Essay (1000-1500 words, 1.5 spacing, 12 point-form) describing:
 - a. Area of specialization and context analysis
 - b. Proposed contribution
 - c. Research activities
 - d. Project goal / input
4. Original Transcripts and Diplomas of academic formation so far;
5. Identification: Copy of Passport; ID-card; Residential permit; Fiscal code..
6. Academic Letter of Recommendation
7. Ecclesial Letter of Presentation (on letterhead, signed, sealed):
 - a. Priests: a letter from their Ordinary
 - b. Religious: a letter from their Major Superior
 - c. Lay: a letter from a Priest/Bishop
8. Motivation letter;
9. If possible, letter of support from civil society organizations / public institutions in the region with whom the candidate has cooperated, or been in contact in some way.

Candidate evaluation and selection will take place in November. Selection will be made based on two types of indicators:

- a set of non-numerical indicators which allow us to create a diverse group: age, gender, country of provenance, country of previous empirical field work, especially to promote regional solidarity;
- 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 (we may add others): academic level and background of the candidate (type of studies completed and results; quality of supporting documents submitted); the candidate's motivation; the clarity of their ideas about their proposed area of research (academic relevance, originality and innovation, coherence with CST - of the proposal); their degree of insertion in, and/or knowledge of, local networks of social action (esp. those for social inclusion and social innovation); the prospects they see for the impact that their formation in the CREATE programme could have on their local situation, and on local Catholic Higher Education Institutions (CHEI) in particular.

CREATE PD winners will agree their research project plan and timeline together with the FASS Professor(s) who will follow their research.

Deadlines:

November 15, 2024	Deadline for the submission of an application
December 10, 2024	Official communication of the list of selected candidates
December 16, 2024	Deadline for the acceptance of the scholarship by candidates
January 10, 2025	Registration on Angelicum Students' Portal, and completion of admin activities
January 17, 2025	Set-up of the research project with the selected FASS Professor
February 24-28, 2025	First week in Rome (<i>dates to be confirmed</i>)

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

Date: September 24, 2024

Prof. Helen Alford, O.P.
Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences
Director of CREATE Programme