



## Call for Applications CST Toolbox Scholarships

Does your **faith inspire you to look for solutions** to today's **social problems**?  
Would you like to know more about **human dignity, solidarity & subsidiarity**?  
Are you interested in how **the Holy See works & its role in international relations**?  
Then **the CST Toolbox** in the CREATE Initiative **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.

CST Toolbox (TX) is a programme of 4 months for CEE students, aged 22-40, who are looking to deepen their knowledge of CST and of relevant social sciences as part of a programme in Rome, allowing them to benefit from the presence 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 CST TX scholarships

from mid-February to mid-June 2025

at 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](mailto:fass@pust.it)*

**Deadline for the submission of applications: November 15, 2024**

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## 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 CST Toolbox Scholarships

The selected candidates will come to Rome for 4 months (15 February to 15 June 2025), to follow a specific programme in English on CST and its applications (30 credits of courses offered by the Social Sciences Faculty and, potentially, also from the other of the Angelicum's Faculties). They will follow courses with other students and will take all the exams in the summer session. At the end, they will receive the relevant certification of their studies. The CST Toolbox is composed of:

- A. 30 credits of Courses (Monday to Thursday, 20 hours per week, 12 weeks, from mid-February to mid-June) on:
  1. History of CST, Modern Period, 24 hours, 3 credits
  2. Catholic Social Teaching, 48 hours, 6 credits
  3. Leadership and Virtues, 48 hours, 6 credits
  4. Human Rights, 48 hours, 6 credits
  5. The Challenge of Modern Technology, 24 hours, 3 credits
  6. Thomism and Economics (*course name to be confirmed*), 48 hours, 6 credits
- B. Visit program to the main Vatican and International Institutions in Rome (one per week)
- C. Events/conferences to exchange research topics and experiences with post-doc fellows and other researchers working on CST and its application to real-life issues.



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### 3. Student Profile for TX

- Students from Central and Eastern Europe (normally between the ages of 22 and 40);
- With a completed first cycle degree (180 credits). If the first cycle degree is in one of the following areas, it is an advantage (but we would still be interested in other subject areas, such as engineers working on AI, or natural scientists working on vaccines): Sociology, Psychology, Anthropology, Economics, Business, Social Communications, Political Science, History, Law, International Relations;
- Currently studying at the second or third cycle (doctorate) level, with the need to know and understand CST and related subjects in the social sciences in order to develop the proposed master's/licence/doctorate thesis;
- Demonstrated interest in practical social action is a clear advantage; it may be in any social field, including politics, economics, civil society, 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; welcoming migrants; promoting an integral ecology and care for our common home; post-war reconstruction and conflict resolution...;
- English at B1 level; ideally, B1 competence in at least one other language of the CEE. Some capacity in Italian is an advantage to interact with the other students in the Faculty of Social Science.

### 4. What costs are covered?

- ✓ Lodging in a residence or apartment,
- ✓ Monthly Student Board of 400 euros,
- ✓ One A/R air travel,
- ✓ The payment of one semester academic fee and other academic expenses (e.g. books),
- ✓ The final certificate of studies,
- ✓ If necessary (non-EU citizens): health insurance.

### 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:

- a) Admission request with motivation letter (the motivation letter is very important);
- b) Transcripts of academic formation so far;
- c) Documentation on the current programme of studies, including courses, and grades so far (if any);
- d) Academic presentation of the proposed thesis, showing the relevance of the TX programme to the thesis topic;
- e) Curriculum Vitae (if possible Europass format); the CV must be dated and signed;
- f) Letter of presentation from a Bishop (lay applicants) or from a religious Superior;
- g) Letter of presentation from a professor in the CEE region;
- h) If possible, letters of support from 1/2 CEE civil society organisations with whom the candidate has cooperated

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, and especially to promote regional solidarity through the selection of candidates from a range of countries: age, sex, country of provenance;
- 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 first cycle studies followed and final grade; quality of supporting documents); year of study; the candidate's motivation and its connection to the important themes of the social magisterium of Pope Francis; the quality of the presentation of the thesis subject and the degree of relevance of the TX programme to it demonstrated; the degree of insertion of the candidate in, and/or knowledge of, local networks of social action; the potential impact that the TX formation could have on their local situation.

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#### Deadlines:

November 15, 2024	Deadline for the submission of an application
November 25, 2024	Official communication of the list of selected candidates
November 30, 2024	Deadline for the acceptance of the scholarship by candidates
February 15, 2025	Arrival in Rome
February 17, 2025	Semester courses start-up

**Contacts:** Candidates may address any additional request, as well their final documentation, to: [fass@pust.it](mailto:fass@pust.it)

Date: September 24, 2024

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

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