

**Call for Applications
CST Toolkit Scholarships**

The CST Toolkit in the CREATE Initiative

The CREATE Initiative, currently focused on Central and Eastern Europe, 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.

CST Toolkit is a semester-long program for CEE students in second or third cycle programmes, who are looking to deepen their knowledge of CST and of the connected Social Sciences disciplines while in Rome, thus being able to benefit from the presence of the central institutions of the Catholic Church and of some international organisations (Food and Agriculture Organisation, International Development Law Organisation, EU representation...).

We are offering 6 scholarships

for one semester (from January to June 2024)
at the Faculty of Social Sciences (FASS) of 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

NEW Deadline for the submission of applications: October 15, 2023

1. What is the CREATE Initiative?

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.

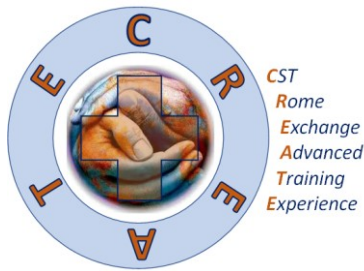
CREATE is an integrated set of 5 activities:

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]: 1 doctorate scholarship 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]: 5 doctorate and 2 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 2024) for six students at the masters or doctorate level.**

2. The CST Toolkit Scholarships

The selected candidates will arrive in Rome in January, after the Christmas break, in order to enter an intensive Italian language dedicated class. Programme Courses will start in February. Students will be hosted (in a residence or apartment) in Rome from January to June.

Each student will select courses of interest (30 credits) from all the FASS programmes and, potentially, from other Faculties at the Angelicum. 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.



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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.

Within the Expert Council group, we published:

- “*In a Different Voice: Reflections on Catholic Social Thought from and for Europe*”, edited by Helen Alford OP, with contributions from 7 countries of the CEE region and a preface from Michal Paluch OP, ed. AUP, Rome 2020;
- “*Catholic Universities of Central, Eastern and Western Europe in a Secularizing World. Experiences and Challenges*”, with contribution from 9 European Countries and a preface from Helen Alford OP and Volodymyr Turchynovskyy, ed. AUP, Rome 2022.

In the book series “CREATE Researchers” we are also publishing the best essays presented at the CREATE Prize annual editions:

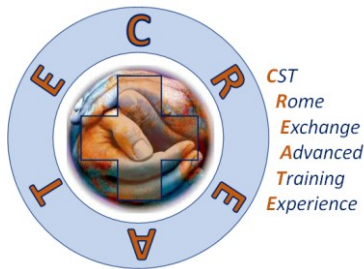
- 2021: “*Human Flourishing: Reflections from the Catholic Tradition in Central Europe*”, preface by Marian Kuna, ed. AUP, Rome 2022
- 2022: “*Catholic Social Teaching in European Institutions and Society*”, preface by Roland Ferenc Szilas, ed AUP, Rome 2023.

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, NQF 6). 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 cycle (NQF 7) or third cycle (doctorate, NQF 8) 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: during the TX Program, Italian language courses will be offered and students will be expected to follow academic courses in Italian.

4. What costs are covered?

- ✓ Lodging in a residence or apartment,
- ✓ Monthly Student Board of 400 euros,
- ✓ One A/R air travel,
- ✓ An intensive Italian language course in January: 80 hours, 4 hours/day, 5 days/week, 4 weeks and additional Italian language courses from February to May,
- ✓ 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.



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5. Programme and Courses

CREATE TX is a 30-credit programme that each student can customize under the guidance of the Programme Tutor and the approval of the Programme Director. Some courses are available in English, others in Italian. Exams will take place in the month of June.

Examples of available courses are: Catholic Social Teaching, History of Christian Social Thought, Leadership and Virtues, Theology of Economical Responsibility, etc.

Detailed information on Courses at the FASS is available at <https://angelicum.it/academics/social-sciences/courses/>

6. 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

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Candidate evaluation and selection will take place in September. 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.

Deadlines:

October 15, 2023	Deadline for the submission of an application
October 25, 2023	Official communication of the list of selected candidates
October 30, 2023	Deadline for the acceptance of the scholarship by candidates
November 25, 2023	Setup and acceptance of the personalised plan of study
January 13, 2024	Arrival in Rome
January 15, 2024	Italian intensive course start-up
February 12, 2024	Semester courses start-up

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

Date: July 6, 2023 / Updated September 15, 2023

Prof. Helen Alford, O.P.
Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences