



Partial Document

9. Seminarian Scholarship

9.1. Purpose

This program was established to provide financial assistance to members of FECA member churches, on the basis of real financial need, as they receive basic theological training to become Christian ministers or missionaries. Our focus on Christian ministers and missionaries is due to the desperate need for committed ministers for pastoral ministry in the Chinese churches today and for missionaries who are willing to go where other people are not willing to go. When applying for such financial assistance, applicants should be willing to utilize their own financial resources (e.g., savings, to cover their expenses during the length of their theological training.) Besides theological education and character formation, it is also important and indispensable for applicants to learn the lesson of faith in financial matters during the formation process of becoming a servant of God.



9.2 Eligibility

9.2.1 The applicant must have received a clear call to full-time ministry and have corporate confirmation of it.

9.2.2 The applicant must have been an active member of an FECA member church for three consecutive years immediately prior to the time of application.

9.2.3 In line with the above stated purpose, financial aid is only provided to qualified applicants studying full-time toward a first theological degree (an MDiv degree or an MA degree) or a one-year diploma in theology.

9.2.4 The applicant must attend an accredited seminary within the vicinity of an FECA member church, unless an acceptable theological training is not available under that circumstance.

9.3 Application and Disbursement Procedures

9.3.1 The applicant needs to complete the financial aid application (Form 612-9-A or Form 612-9-B for return seminarian) and secure two references, one must be from his/her congregation pastor (Form 612-9-C) and one from his/her (previous) employer (Form 612-9-D), if possible, otherwise someone who knows him/her well from a work context. A recent photo of the applicant is to be attached to the application. A completed application must be submitted by June 30 for Fall admission or September 30 for Winter/Spring admission.

9.3.2 After an applicant's file is complete, he/she is to undergo a prescribed psychological testing (MMPI, 16PF and 2 interview sessions) to understand his /her suitability for full-time ministry. Applicants should call FECA office for referral information within two weeks from the time he/she hands in the application. A report based on the testing results by the person administering the tests should be sent to FECA office (Attn: Missions Director of FECA) within one month after the testing is completed. Since deep self-knowledge is essential for servants of God and FECA wants to encourage brothers and sisters to grow in this area, any cost involved in the testing will be paid for by the AMC. The information from the testing will be held in strict confidence. Applicants will be asked to sign a release form, allowing the Financial Aid Sub-committee to review for the purpose of qualifying for financial aid only. Each subcommittee member shall also sign a confidentiality agreement and will not disclose or discuss the contents of the report outside of the sub-committee meetings.

9.3.3 Upon receiving the completed file with the psychological testing report, an interview will be scheduled.

9.3.4 The applicant will be notified of the decision on his/her application in writing three months after his/her application is completed.

9.3.5 Once an application is approved, the annual level of support (excluding the summer quarter) shall not exceed 50% of the applicant's actual need. It is recommended that recipients either obtain a full-time internship at church or other full-time work during the summer time.



9.3.6 Financial aid disbursements will be made in installments prior to the beginning of each quarter or semester. The recipient must submit to the AMC a copy of his/her registration at the beginning of each quarter or semester.

9.3.7 All financial aid awards are renewable on an annual basis, up to four years for MDiv recipients or three years for MA recipients, unless special circumstances preclude the possibility of finishing in this timeframe. Decision shall be made by the AMC. Applications for renewal (Form 612-9-B) must be submitted by June 30, prior to the beginning of the next academic year.

9.4 Compliance Guidelines

9.4.1 A financial aid recipient is to serve as an intern under the supervision of and guidance by a member of the pastoral staff of an FECA member church. The stipend, if available, and required hours of the internship shall be determined by the church in which the recipient serves. All recipients are to participate in the Servanthood Formation Community.

9.4.2 The recipient is responsible for preparing an annual report summarizing the progress of his/her studies and ministry. The pastoral adviser will review this report and offer his/her comment. In addition, the pastoral adviser, the recipient and an FECA Spiritual and Ministry Formation staff will work together on a specific plan of growth for the recipient. The annual progress report and a copy of the growth plan should be forwarded to the AMC. They will be taken into consideration in approving the renewal of the applicant's aid or his/her future applications.

9.5 Repayment

9.5.1 Repayment of financial aid shall be waived if the recipient, upon graduation, immediately engages in full-time ministry for a minimum of four consecutive years. All other recipients will work out a repayment plan with the AMC.

9.5.2 A recipient who discontinues his/her studies due to non-extenuating circumstances is obliged to repay his/her financial aid according to a schedule determined by the AMC.