

# Stichting Fundament / Iránytű alapítvány

## Studying Theology in the Netherlands

The Fundament Foundation offers the possibility to theologians from the Reformed Church in Central and Eastern Europe to get a scholarship for a theological academic year at the Reformed Theological University in Kampen (TUK) ([www.tukampen.nl](http://www.tukampen.nl)) or possibly at the Theological University in Apeldoorn (TUA) ([www.tua.nl](http://www.tua.nl)). The Fundament Foundation usually cooperates with the Kampen Theological University.

This scholarship is meant for those students who already acquired a masters degree in theology, and are already serving in congregational work as a pastor, or are otherwise active in the service of the church; students who are still inscribed at a theological faculty usually have the possibility to study abroad within the Erasmus program of the European Union or with the help of a scholarship from the synod of the Reformed Church in Hungary. The scholarship, offered by Fundament, is therefore a so-called post-gradual scholarship. This scholarship is unique in the sense that it offers the possibility that also the family of the earner of the scholarship can stay in Kampen during the study time.

Fundament provides housing, livelihoods and helps in finding a school for the children.

Such a study aims broadly to the following:

- To be enrolled in a masters study (MA), as enrichment for the accomplishment of the daily work of the student (usually a pastor) in his home congregation.
- In some cases facilitating a part of a promotion study.
- To get a more nuanced view on church and pastoral approaches.
- Discovery of the ecclesiastical and social culture in Netherlands.

As to the theme of the different ecclesiastical culture, examples are differences in the tasks for a pastor, development of pastoral care, the assignment of elders, etc. In this respect, the academic year is more than just a transfer of academic knowledge from the Netherlands. It is also a form of intercultural Christian exchange. A year of study in Kampen is therefore more than a soloist career-planning.

The primary goal of the scholarship is to serve the Reformed Church in Central and Eastern Europe by offering study possibilities for persons who are already in active church service.

To achieve this aim, the student needs a good preparatory training, intelligence, motivation, curiosity and language knowledge. In the selection procedure and in the supervision of students, the Fundament Foundation will pay attention to these basic skills. Fundament expects that admitted students will complete their studies with the earning of a masters degree, when the student has signed up for a masters study.

When facilitating a promotion study or study for habilitation, the goal of this study, together with a trajectory of regular progress reports will be agreed upon individually with the student.

## Requirements for Language Knowledge

The TUK requires "sufficient knowledge of English". This means that a student has demonstrated to possess a sufficient level of knowledge of the English language by successfully passing an internationally recognized English language test (at choice TOEFL or IELTS). These language exams can be completed in the home-country of the student on internet, or at an office of TOEFL or IELTS. The required minimum results of these tests consists of the following: IELTS-Academic: 6,5 points or higher; TOEFL iBT: 79 points or higher; TOEFL cBT 213 or higher. In case the student applies for a study or research on the field of Dutch theology, a Dutch language exam is required at the level NT2-II. This requirement must be met before the student is admitted to the study. See also the website of the Theological University Kampen for actual information:

<http://www.tukampen.nl/portal-informatieprogramma/how-to-apply-for-a-masters-programme>

Fundament takes this condition of the TUK as condition-in-advance. Before they can formally sign up to be eligible for a scholarship, students have to fulfil these requirements of language knowledge. The cost of the examination (language test) shall be refunded by the Foundation. Next to these requirements from the TUK, Fundament would like a student to have basic knowledge of the Dutch language. In this way, a student will be able to acquire a better view of ecclesiastical, theological, and social circumstances in the Netherlands. In order to attain this, a private language course is offered. This course is provided by a recognized language institute. The student will have to finish this course with a certificate of Dutch as a Second Language (NT2), if possible on level B1. The examination for this certificate can be taken during the academic year in the Netherlands. If internet connections make this possible, the course starts as a rule already in the country of origin, a half year before the beginning of the study in Kampen. The costs of the course will be paid by Fundament.

## In Summary

1. Students must timely possess sufficient knowledge of English, i.e. before the application for a scholarship. This knowledge has to be demonstrated by a recently obtained certificate which is recognized by the Theological University Kampen.
2. If the student wants to study a specifically Dutch subject, knowledge of the Dutch language is required rather than English. In such a case, the student has to meet the language requirements of the Theological University Kampen.
3. The assessment of an application for scholarship will take place in the autumn prior to the academic year. Part of the assessment will be that the applicant meets the requirements of language knowledge.
4. In addition, Fundament requires that students also learn Dutch at a basic level. This will be professionally supervised before and during the scholarship. The Dutch course is offered by and paid for by Fundament.

## Procedure

The procedure of applying for a scholarship of the Fundament Foundation comprises the following:

- a. Request for a scholarship addressed at email-address of the secretary of Fundament: at the latest in September of the year before the required academic year. See the website of the Fundament Foundation, [www.stichting-fundament.nl/contact/](http://www.stichting-fundament.nl/contact/)
- b. A letter of recommendation from a professor of the theological institute in which the applicant has earned his degree has to be attached to the application.
- c. A study-plan, or a choice from the doctoral modules of the TUK, e.g. Missionary Master, Master of Intercultural Reformed Theology (MIRT), has to be attached to the application. For study possibilities, see [www.tukampen.nl](http://www.tukampen.nl).
- d. The latest term for the language exam will be February of the year in which the required academic year begins. The certificate of the language exam has to be sent to the Fundament Foundation.
- e. Assessment of the application by the board of the Fundament Foundation: autumn of the year before the required academic year. The decision will be dependent on the results of the language exam, the availability of professors at the TUK, the program of choice, the motivation letter and the received recommendations.
- f. Consultation between Fundament and the theological university about the possible admission and about the practical aspects of the required study-program: at the latest in March before the beginning of a new academic year.
- g. Final decision by the board of the Fundament Foundation about the granting of the scholarship based on received information and consultation with the Theological University.

This process can be accelerated if the applicant sends the needed information adequately and in time.

## Questionnaire for Theologians Who Wish to be Eligible for a Scholarship at the Theological University Kampen

In order to make a good selection from among candidates who wish to be eligible for a scholarship, Fundament will need the following information. We ask you to answer these questions:

- Do you have a recently issued certificate attesting that you meet the language requirements as required by the Theological University Kampen. Please specify to the Fundament Foundation the following information: Institute which issued the certificate (TOEFL or IELTS), date of the certificate, level of language knowledge, achieved results in the test.
- Are you prepared to follow a course in Dutch language, as offered by Fundament.
- At which University did you have finish your previous studies, and in what field of study.
- Do you have a Bachelors and Masters degree in theology?(If the University where you studied does not give a Bachelors degree, do you have a Masters degree in theology?)
- Did you previously study at another (foreign) university, if so, which university and on which theme?
- Where do you currently work as a pastor?
- In case you are currently doing other work, what kind of work?
- Please, specify the subjects that you would like to study at the Theological University Kampen.
- What is the direct aim of this study?
- How does this study fit within the whole of your further study plans?
- How can the Reformed Church in your country benefit from your planned study? What would be the added value of your study for the church?
- Why are you choosing the Theological University Kampen?
- From whom did you hear about the Fundament Foundation?
- When would you like to begin and to finish your study in Kampen? (duration of studies and study start)
- Please include a letter of recommendation addressed to the Fundament Foundation from one of your present or former professors.
- Personal information:
  - o name
  - o age
  - o married/unmarried
  - o children, age
  - o current address
  - o email address
- Are you willing to contribute to the long-term strengthening of the relationships between the churches in Central and Eastern Europe and the Fundament Foundation, if so, how do you envision this?
- Other information which you consider important for your application in order to offer the Fundament Foundation a clear view of the background and goal of your application.