

Damien Scholarship Criteria

Prof. Raymond F. Collins

Candidates for financial aid in the form of a Damien Community scholarship should be pursuing graduate studies in the fields of Theology, Religious Studies, Philosophy, or Canon Law at either the Catholic University of Leuven or its sister university at Louvain-la-neuve. Awards will be granted by a committee, based at the University of Leuven and comprised principally of faculty members teaching in the afore-mentioned disciplines.

Candidates may be male or female, religious or lay, Roman Catholic or not. In keeping with the history of the American College, primary consideration in the awarding of these scholarships will be given to residents of the United States or Canada; but the committee will consider applications from residents of other countries.

Those who are receiving such financial aid are expected to reside in the American College of Leuven during the course of their studies and the writing of their theses and regularly participate in the activities of the Damien Community housed at the college. It is understood that research demands may occasionally require scholarship recipients to spend time away from Leuven/Louvain as they pursue their degrees.

Candidates for scholarship funds should submit a request to Prof. xxx, chair of the committee, before April 1 of the year or semester for which they are seeking funds. The letter should be accompanied by a transcript of college grades and two letters of recommendation. The letter should include a brief biography, a narrative of why the applicant wants to study at Leuven/Louvain, why he/she wants to study in one of the fore-mentioned fields, and what she/he intends to do after completing studies in Leuven/Louvain. The letter should also mention the applicant's previous college-level studies in his/her chosen field as well as any pertinent "research" papers composed in this field. Finally, the letter should mention the applicant's present research interests, as well as her/his knowledge of languages other than English.

Damien community financial aid is available for one semester or one academic year. It is renewable for a period up to a total of five academic years. Letters requesting renewal of the financial aid are to be addressed to the chair of the afore-mentioned committee and be endorsed by the candidate's major mentor. Such letters should be accompanied by a transcript of grades given by Leuven/Louvain faculty for the current academic year. They should be submitted to the chair of the committee as soon as possible after the conclusion of the academic year.