



STUDY  
IN  
FRANCE

INSTITUT  
CATHOLIQUE  
DE PARIS

## *Fondation Catholique Anglaise*

During penal times, English Catholics established a number of Schools, Religious Houses and Seminaries in France. At the time of the French Revolution and the subsequent wars, these were lost to the Church in England. However in the late 19th century the French Government recognized that there was a debt due to the Catholic Church in England. It was not possible to return the original properties but a fund was set up to meet the cost of Religious Studies for Catholic students, primarily in Paris at *Saint Sulpice* and the *Institut Catholique* but also at other institutions in France. The fund has continued in existence to the present day: at present the capital of the fund is invested in three substantial properties in Paris.

### **What is the purpose of the fund?**

The fund's principal purpose is to provide grants to help English-speaking Catholics from British Commonwealth countries to study in France.

### **Who has control of the fund?**

The *Fondation Catholique Anglaise* is controlled and managed by a committee established by the French Government. There are representatives of the Catholic Church in England and Wales on this committee, including an English Auxiliary Bishop who is Vice-President, as well as Church and Government representatives from France.

### **Who can apply to the fund?**

English-speaking Catholics from British Commonwealth countries can apply to the fund for its bursaries. These applications can be made by priests, deacons, religious and consecrated persons, seminarians as well as lay people. The priority is given to seminarians and priests.

### **Where do you study?**

Normally the grants are available for courses which are offered at the *Institut Catholique* in Paris. However, grants are available for study in any Catholic university in France belonging to the International Federation of Catholic Universities. The *Institut Catholique* has a long history of offering courses, both long and short, and has expertise in helping students find accommodation in Paris for the duration of the course.

### **How much are the grants?**

Grants can be made available to prospective students for a full year or for part of a year (on a special course). At present, the full year grant is €10,000 and the short course grant is €1,800. Much will depend on the personal circumstances of the student but, as a rough guide, the grants from the *Fondation Catholique Anglaise* should cover about half of the total costs of study. The student will have to find the balance of costs from other sources.

### **What courses are eligible?**

Courses in the following disciplines are eligible for funding: Theology, Philosophy, Liturgy & Sacred Art, Ecclesiastical History, Catechesis, Interreligious dialogue, Ecumenical Studies, Canon Law; and other degrees which contain a significant number of courses in Ethics and/or Catholic Social Teaching. The *Institut Catholique* in Paris also offers a full seminary course in conjunction with the *Seminaire des Carmes* in Paris. Common popular short courses at the *Institut Catholique* include language study lasting six weeks.

### **What is the process for applying for a grant?**

Students should apply for a place on their desired course and, if accepted, then make an application to the *Fondation*. Applications should be made to the General Secretary of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. These should be made in writing by letter and posted (or emailed) to: CBCEW, 39 Eccleston Square, London, SW1V 1BX. [christopher.thomas@cbcew.org.uk](mailto:christopher.thomas@cbcew.org.uk)

The applications will be forwarded to the current English representative on the Committee of Administration so that it can be considered at the next meeting. The Committee normally meets twice a year - in the late autumn and in the spring. For a course starting in September, it would be helpful to ensure that an application arrives by early November of the previous year. This means that a provisional booking of a course needs to be arranged in the September-October of the previous year.

For those studying at the *Institut Catholique*, funds are normally paid from the Finance Office at the *Institut Catholique* when a student arrives in Paris.

### **Any other important information?**

A good standard of French is required before setting out on a course and students may find it helpful to complete the intensive language course offered by the *Institut Catholique* before undertaking other studies. French universities will require a certificate in competence in the French language as a condition for undertaking a course. Students will be required to fund their own accommodation whilst in Paris. Religious can frequently find a house of their Congregation in which to stay; and priests, deacons and seminarians studying in Paris can enquire to the Seminary and local parishes.

