

Evgenios Voulgaris Scholarship Program for Advanced Studies in Orthodox Spiritual Life and Theology

Scholarship Program

Invitation for applications 2020-2021

The St. Maxim the Greek Institute, with the support of the Holy and Great Monastery of Vatopedi, has established the Evgenios Voulgaris Scholarship Program for Advanced Studies in Orthodox Spiritual Life and Theology.

Evgenios Voulgaris (1716-1806) served as the head master of the Athoniados School, established by the Holy and Great Monastery of Vatopedi. Voulgaris was one of the most significant Greek scholars and educators of the 18th century, serving as one of the "brightest lights" of education amid the darkness of that era for much of the Greek people. Voulgaris was a noted theologian, philosopher, encyclopedist, poet, Church Father and pastoral "shepherd", considered an educator with a pan-Orthodox outreach.

The Evgenios Voulgaris Scholarship Program is addressed to:

- Orthodox theologians (up to 40 years of age), holders of doctorates or doctoral candidates. Duration: One year (1 Nov. – 31 Oct).
- Language of instruction: modern Greek

Prerequisites

- A very good knowledge of ancient Greek, modern Greek and English.
- A high level of knowledge related to theology and excellent academic qualifications.
- Sufficient proficiency in Microsoft Office applications and use of the Internet.

The Program's purpose

The purpose of the Evgenios Voulgaris Program is to promote the systematic and advanced level of study into Orthodox spiritual life and theology through its liturgical and spiritual tradition, as well as through experience in a life in Christ.

The Program will be hosted at the Holy and Great Monastery of Vatopedi, with scholarship recipients interacting with both representatives of monastic life, as well as with academics in the field of theology.

The theological method to be applied is experiential; derived from, and expressing the life and faith of the Orthodox Church, thereby rendering the Program absolutely consistent with the cognitive and interpretative principles of Orthodox Patristic theology.

The experiential method combines experience, scholarly knowledge and understanding. Every scholarship recipient is called upon to participate in the liturgical and spiritual life of the Monastery's brotherhood; to develop and deepen his theological studies, and to learn from the Fathers, who, as living expressors of the Church's tradition, offer themselves up as living examples, sharing their ecclesiastical and spiritual experience, as well as their personal spiritual and theological concerns. The program also aims to unify the "voice" of Orthodox theology towards a more compelling and common theological testament in the modern world.

The core of the Program is the study of Patristic literature, with an emphasis on the modern-day Fathers and Hesychasts, such as St. Silouanos, the Elder Sophrony, the Elder Joseph the Hesychast, the Elder Aimilianos Simonopetritis, St. Justin Popovich, St. Paisios of Mt. Athos, St. Porphyrios the Kapsokalyvite, St. Amphilochios Makris, St. Jacob Tsalikis, the Elder Philotheos Zervakos, the Elder Cleopa Ilie, St. Seraphim of Vyritsa, the Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnic, F. Seraphim Rose, and others.

Through the study of the aforementioned Fathers, the modern-day reality will be scrutinized and the solutions offered by the venerable Fathers, to deal with the major tribulations faced by man in our era, to be broached.

The concurrent participation of the scholarship recipients in the liturgical-spiritual life and traditions of the Church, via the Monastery's itinerary and rites, will comprise a living connection between experiential and academic theology.

Scholarship recipients will attend synaxes (assemblies) organized by the Holy and Great Monastery of Vatopedi, where distinguished academics, hierarchs, abbots and spiritual fathers, all noteworthy for their involvement in ecclesiastical life and scholarly work in theology, will participate. Every scholarship recipient will have the ability to communicate directly with any of the aforementioned personalities.

Scholarship recipients should expect to remain at the Monastery for six months out of 12 months - from October to November, February to March and May to June. The remaining

period of study, outside the Monastery, should be devoted to the submission of an end-of-Program thesis.

Intensive modern Greek language lessons

Lessons in modern Greek are made immediately available to non-Greek scholarship recipients. Instruction is conducted by educators specialized in teaching modern Greek to foreign students.

Intensive ancient Greek language lessons

The program also offers scholarship recipients ancient Greek instruction, taught by educators using selected Biblical, liturgical and patristic texts.

Monthly assignments

Every scholarship recipient is obliged to submit written assignments - six, in total - on specific topics. Conclusions of each assignment will be publicly presented before other members of the scholarship group, in a special assembly (synaxis), to be held during the last week of each relevant month.

Preparation of final Program thesis

Every scholarship recipient is obliged to submit, at the conclusion of his study, a thesis paper of at least 50 pages, and on a subject of his selection, taking into consideration the priorities / topics proposed under the Program. Selection of the subject matter on which the thesis paper will be based will be the product of consultation, and under the scholarly supervision of one of the overseeing professors. Presentation of the theses of all the scholarship recipients will take place at the Monastery's premises, while the evaluation will be conducted by two affiliated professors, one of whom will be the study supervisor. The thesis papers will be published in a special edition.

Diploma of study completion

The St. Maxim the Greek Institute will bestow a Diploma to the scholarship recipients who successfully complete the Program. This Diploma is not an academic title.

Scholarship particulars

The scholarship extends for one year, and includes a monthly stipend of 800 euros, as well as room and board at the Holy and Great Monastery of Vatopedi (single rooms). Special areas are set aside for study, along with lecture halls, a library and Internet access, in tandem with the active participation in the Monastery's liturgical and spiritual life. The Abbot of the Holy and Great Monastery of Vatopedi, **who is the chairman of the Program**, may decide - following a recommendation by the Director of the Program - to extend the scholarship for another year to valedictorians, with the intent of further research on Mount Athos, other Holy Monasteries or in international research centers.

The Chairman of the Program may also decide the immediate termination of a scholarship if it's ascertained that a recipient is not consistently complying with study obligations and with the rules and canons regarding residence at the Monastery.

Program Study Guide

The Program's Director of Studies is Protopresbyter Constantin Coman, a professor at the Theological School of the University of Bucharest.

Before the commencement of the 2020-2021 Program, the Institute's website (www.stmaximthegreek.org/evgeniosvoulgaris) will publish the following:

1. A complete catalogue of the distinguished individuals of ecclesiastic life and theology that will be active in the Program.
2. A presentation, in general terms, of the topics that visiting hierarchs, Fathers and academics will present.
3. A selected bibliography of works by contemporary Fathers, as well as literature on the latter's life, such as biographies, research papers and scholarly work.
4. A selected bibliography with the most important works of the lecturers who will participate in the Program.
5. A complete catalogue with the books, as well as liturgical and theological texts that will form the obligatory curriculum in the Program's ancient Greek module.
6. A general presentation of the liturgical and spiritual Program in which the scholarship recipients will participate.
7. A catalogue of topics that will comprise the object of brief monthly scholarly research and presentation of the methods of undertaking the research.
8. A catalogue of topics that will comprise the object of the end-of-Program thesis paper and presentation of the methods of undertaking the research.

Distinguished members of ecclesiastical life and theology

Regular lecturers of the Program for 2019-2020

1. Metropolitan of Limassol, Athanasios
2. Metropolitan of Nafpaktos and Aghios Vlassios, Ierotheos
3. Metropolitan-Bishop of Montenegro and the Littoral, Amphilochios
4. Metropolitan of Patras, Chrysostomos
5. Metropolitan of Nea Krini and Kalamaria, Ioustinos
6. Elder Archimandrite Ephraim, Abbot of the Holy and Great Monastery of Vatopedi
7. Elder Archimandrite Elisseos, Abbot of the Holy Monastery of Simonos Petra
8. Elder Archimandrite Zacharias Zacharou, Holy Monastery of St. John the Baptist – Essex, UK
9. Protopresbyter Constantin Coman, Professor, School of Theology, University of Bucharest
10. Protopresbyter Vassilios Kalliakmanis, Professor, School of Theology, University of Thessaloniki
11. Protopresbyter Nikolaos Loudovikos, Professor, University Ecclesiastical Academy of Thessaloniki
12. Georgios Mantzaridis, Professor, School of Theology, University of Thessaloniki
13. Christos Economou, Professor, School of Theology, University of Thessaloniki
14. Nikos Nikolaidis, Professor, School of Theology, University of Athens
15. Simeon Paschalis, Professor, School of Theology, University of Thessaloniki, Chairman, Pastoral and Social Theology Department
16. Panagiotis Skaltsis, Professor, School of Theology, University of Thessaloniki; Chairman, Theology Department
17. Constantinos Kornarakis, Professor, School of Theology, University of Athens

Lecturers for the 2020-2021 Scholarship Program will be announced on the website in the coming period.

Coordination committee members:

Nikolaos Gouraros – Director of Development, St. Maxim the Greek Institute

Georgios Manolis – Chief editor, section Orthodoxy, online magazine "Pemptousia"

Online submission of applications and selection of scholarship recipients

Candidates may submit their application by mail to the following address:

St. Maxim the Greek Institute

70-72, Panormou

Athens 115 23

Greece

or, by email to:

evgeniosvoulgaris@stmaximthegreek.org

Evaluation of the applications will be conducted in two phases:

- a) Assessment of the submitted application
- b) personal interview

Necessary documents

1. Letter of application addressed to the St. Maxim the Greek Institute
2. Photocopy of police-issued ID or passport
3. Proof of doctoral degree or enrollment in doctoral program
4. Degree in theology
5. Proof of proficiency in modern Greek and ancient Greek
6. Letter of recommendation by the spiritual father of the candidate
7. Letter of recommendation by two University professors
8. Two CVs, one brief and the other detailed
9. A brief cover letter, written in Greek, justifying the application (up to two pages)

Evaluation of the submitted applications will be overseen by a special committee under the supervision of Prof. Evangelos Chrysos, the President of the St. Maxim the Greek Institute, with final approval by the Chairman of the Program, the Abbot of the Holy and Great Monastery of Vatopedi, Elder Archimandrite Ephraim.

Significant date in the Program and document submission deadlines

17 Feb. 2020: The Institute announces the Scholarship Program and related prerequisites

15 March-1 August 2020: Submission of applications, accompanied by a file containing the necessary documentation requested

1 - 15 August 2020: Evaluation of applications and documentation by a special committee chaired by Prof. Evangelos Chrysos, President of the St. Maxim the Greek Institute.

20-30 August 2020: Personal interview with the candidates-applicants by members of the special committee, under the chairmanship of the Abbot of the Holy and Great Monastery of Vatopedi, Elder Archimandrite Ephraim.

5 September 2020: Results announced

1 Nov. 2020: Commencement of the Program.

For further information or clarifications regarding the Program, please send an email to evgeniosvoulgaris@stmaximthegreek.org or call at 210-6141171 -- business hours between 10.00 and 17.00 (08.00 GMT to 15.00 GMT).