

Preliminary remark: The Albertus Magnus scholarship programme attaches great importance to a culture of safeguarding and respectful treatment of other people, including by the scholarship holders. We would like to sensitise you to this with this document. If you are pursuing a part-time pastoral activity during your scholarship period, although this is only permitted to a limited extent, the scholarship programme provides the following declaration of commitment from the relevant (arch)diocese.

Declaration of Voluntary Commitment

(Surname)

(First name)

(Date of birth)

(Street)

(Postcode, Place of residence)

Background

The Catholic Church wants to offer all people, especially children, young people and adults in need of protection or help, living spaces in which they can develop their personality, abilities and talents. These should be protected places where they feel accepted and safe. Children and young people in particular need role models who respect and support them as independent personalities and whom they can trust. The responsibility for their protection lies with all employees in the overall field of church work. They are obliged to deal with their fellow human beings in a reflective manner and to promptly and appropriately address any violations of boundaries committed by colleagues or other persons. This is confirmed by signing this declaration of commitment.

Commitment

My dealings with all people, especially children, young people and adults in need of protection or assistance, are characterised by appreciation and trust. I respect their rights and their dignity.

1. I undertake to do everything in my power to ensure that no psychological, mental, physical or sexualised violence is inflicted on other persons.
2. I support other people, in particular children, young people and adults in need of protection or help, in their development into independent, faith-based and socially competent personalities. I empower them to effectively stand up for their right to mental and physical integrity and their right to help.
3. I handle closeness and distance carefully and responsibly. I respect people's privacy and personal boundaries of shame. I also observe this when dealing with social media, especially when using mobile phones and the internet.
4. I endeavour to be aware of any form of personal violation of boundaries. I take an active stance against discriminatory, violent and sexist behaviour, whether in word or deed. If I observe boundary violations, I immediately take action to protect the people concerned. I listen when people want to make me understand

that they are being subjected to psychological, sexualised and physical violence. I am aware that such violence is perpetrated by all genders and that not only female but also male people are often victims.

5. In the event of a justified suspicion that a person's welfare is at risk, I undertake to inform the competent authority immediately. I know the procedures and the relevant (first -) contact persons for my diocese, my association or my organisation. I know where I can seek advice or get help for clarification and support if necessary and will make use of it.

6. I endeavour to be mindful of my position of trust and authority. I act comprehensibly and honestly and do not exploit any dependencies.

7. I am aware that any sexualised acts carried out by me with and on persons under my protection will have disciplinary and/or criminal consequences.

8. I have been informed about issues of child and youth protection, taking into account the requirements of the regulations on the prevention of sexual abuse of my diocese, my association or my organisation by means of a handout, have read it carefully and am aware that i can always obtain up-to-date information on their websites about further and advanced training courses and practical prevention issues.

A guide to the declaration of voluntary commitment and further information from the Diocese of Limburg (= local diocese for the scholarship programme) can be found at <https://gegen-missbrauch.bistumlimburg.de> > Prävention > Verordnungen und Bestimmungen

9. I am aware of culture-specific differences and their effects when dealing with other people, especially with children, young people and adults in need of protection or assistance, and will take them into account accordingly.

10. I confirm that I have not been convicted of a criminal offence in connection with the neglect of minors or physical or sexualised violence¹ and that no preliminary proceedings have been initiated against me in this respect. In the event that an investigation is initiated against me in this regard, I undertake to inform the responsible HR manager, my scholarship provider and the scholarship programme immediately. I can also fulfil my obligation to notify by sending a corresponding notification to the office responsible for checking the extended certificate of good conduct in accordance with section 3 of the implementation provisions of the Prevention Regulations.

Place and date

Signature

¹ For the German legal area §§ 171, 174 bis 174c, 176 to 180a, 181a, 182 to 184g, 184i, 201a para. 3, 225, 232 to 233a, 234, 235 or 236 StGB (see <http://www.gesetze-im-internet.de> > Gesetze/Verordnungen > S > StGB for the respective valid version) as well as corresponding regulations of the country of origin.