



This initiative honours the legacy of Saint John Paul II, whose profound connection to both institutions serves as a cornerstone of this partnership. An *alumnus* at the Angelicum in the 1940s, John Paul II later founded the PASS in 1994, embodying the shared values and scholarly aspirations that this programme seeks to advance. Through this initiative, we aim to foster academic excellence and deepen the ties between the institutions.

# The John Paul II Post-Doctoral Fellowship Programme

The 2025 JP II Cohort Project:  
The Church's Contribution to Integral Human Development

**Faculty of Social Sciences (FASS)**  
*in collaboration with the*  
**Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences (PASS)**

**Is your vocation calling you to use your skills in research and data analysis to serve the Church and address today's pressing social challenges?**

We are offering **five John Paul II Post-doc Scholarships** from **October 2025 to June 2026 in Rome**, managed by the Faculty of Social Sciences (FASS) at the Angelicum and supported by the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences (PASS). This programme is designed to harness the power of data literacy in the Church's social mission, in line with Catholic Social Teaching (CST).

Post-doc scholars will jointly conduct a major study that empirically examines how the Church's promotion of integral human development strengthens civil society. Quantitative analyses (primarily regressions) will assess the impact on society of the Church's work in education, health, social services, and pastoral outreach. This joint research will be presented at **two academic events** at the Angelicum and later at PASS.

The partnership between PASS and FASS offers scholars a rare opportunity to work alongside top experts in the fields of Catholic Social Teaching, social sciences, and data-driven analysis. The John Paul II Post-Doc Programme will focus on using data to understand and communicate the Church's role in addressing contemporary social problems, with special attention to marginalized populations.

## Individual Research Projects

In addition to the joint project, each scholar will also conduct **independent research** under the guidance of FASS and PASS professors. These individual research projects will be in an area of interest of the post-doc scholar, connecting in some way to **Catholic Social Teaching (CST)** and its application to contemporary global challenges, which may include migration, homelessness, and integral ecology. These research projects will not only contribute to the scholar's academic development but will also enhance the Church's capacity to respond to pressing social issues with data-backed insights.

A defined portion of the time will be dedicated to both joint and individual research projects. Postdoctoral researchers will allocate a minimum of 60% and a maximum of 80% of their working hours (around three to four days per week) to the main collaborative project. Final details regarding this division will be confirmed upon appointment, allowing flexibility according to the needs of the joint project and individual development goals.

Postdoctoral researchers will be required to engage in a select number of classes offered by the Faculty of Social Sciences (FASS). This will include a minimum set of courses in Catholic Social Teaching (CST) and the History of Christian Social Thought for those who have not previously covered these areas in their studies. Additional courses may also be assigned, depending on each applicant's academic background and the specific requirements of the programme.

## Why This Programme?

The Church's rich tradition of Catholic Social Teaching offers profound solutions to today's global challenges. However, in order to be responsive and effective, the Church must incorporate modern analytical tools, particularly data literacy, into pursuing its social mission. This programme will allow scholars to deepen their understanding of CST and build their analytical skills while contributing practical solutions to some of the world's most urgent problems.

The John Paul II Post-Doctoral Programme is designed for scholars who are not only academically accomplished but also committed to using their research to advance the Church's social mission. Through their participation in both the joint and individual research projects, scholars will contribute to a larger body of knowledge aimed at improving the Church's effectiveness in civil society and enhancing its engagement with contemporary social issues.

## Scholarship Benefits

- › **Accommodation/Housing:** Fully covered for 9 months
- › **Travel:** Round-trip airfare to Rome
- › **Health insurance** coverage
- › **Living expenses:** €400 monthly
- › **Academic fees covered for one academic year**
- › **Research publication** costs
- › Attending **PASS** academic events

## Who Can Apply?

- ▶ Applicants must hold a Doctorate in fields such as Sociology, Economics, Psychology, Ethics, Management, Political Science, or a related discipline.
- ▶ Applicants should demonstrate interest in CST and practical social action.
- ▶ English proficiency (B2 minimum) is required.
- ▶ Candidates with strong quantitative analytical skills and experience (especially regression analysis) are strongly encouraged to apply.

## Application Requirements

Candidates interested in applying for the John Paul II Post-Doctoral Programme are required to submit the following documents:

### 1. Postdoctoral Application Form

Complete the official Angelicum **Postdoctoral Application Form**, which includes basic details such as personal, academic, and ecclesiastical information, as well as agreement to work under a supervising professor at FASS and PASS.

### 2. Personal Statement of Motivation

Write a **Personal Statement of Motivation** explaining why you are applying for this programme. This statement should highlight your sense of vocation – how this post-doctoral opportunity aligns with your academic, professional, and personal calling – and why this particular programme and collaboration between PASS and FASS will help you fulfill that vocation.

### 3. Curriculum Vitae

Provide an updated **Curriculum Vitae** (maximum 4 pages) detailing your academic background, research experience (especially quantitative analytical skills and training), publications, and any relevant professional or ecclesial engagements.

### 4. Research Proposal

Submit a **Research Proposal** for the individual project you intend to pursue during this post-doc scholarship (1000-1500 words, 1.5 spacing, 12-point font) that includes:

- ▶ **Area of specialization and context analysis:** A brief description of your research focus and its relevance within your field.
- ▶ **Proposed contribution:** Outline how your research will contribute to the broader field of CST and address contemporary social issues.
- ▶ **Research activities:** Detail the methodology, key activities, and timeline for your research.
- ▶ **Project goals and expected outcomes:** Explain what you aim to achieve through your research, including expected outputs such as publications or practical applications.

### 5. Academic Letter of Recommendation

Provide an **Academic Letter of Recommendation** from a professor or academic mentor who can assess your commitment to research, academic strengths, and potential contribution to the programme.

\* In case of successful acceptance selected applicants will be asked to provide letter of presentation from a religious organization for enrollment to the university.

## Timeline

- › **April 16, 2025:** Deadline for submission of applications
- › **May 12, 2025:** Notification of selected candidates
- › **May 26, 2025:** Deadline for the acceptance of the scholarship by candidates
- › **June 2025 - September 2025:** Online preparatory meetings
- › **October 2025:** Post-doc scholars arrive in Rome

**For any inquiries or further details, please contact: [fass@pust.it](mailto:fass@pust.it)**

*Helen Alford, OP*

**Prof. Helen Alford, O.P.**

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Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas  
President of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences

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