

Reports, forum

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Zygmunt L. Ostrowski
Foundation of Saint Casimir

Scholarship granted by the Foundation of Saint Casimir

Existing since 1846, in Paris, the St Casimir Foundation, has decided to grant post-graduate scholarships in Paris for Polish students. Through these scholarships, we hope to strengthen the links between our two countries: France and Poland in the framework of a better collaboration in the European Union.

According to the current rules in Poland, the 3rd cycle of studies (doctorate) is planned for three years, with the possibility of taking place outside Poland. Candidates for these studies must select the topic of the PhD thesis and be guided by a supervisor in Poland.

Polish candidates can therefore follow a part of their doctoral studies in Paris, with easy access to the bibliographical sources, historic monuments as well as to follow specialized courses in French Institutions (ISEE, HEC, Camondo-decorative arts, School of Louvre...).

1. A History of St Casimir Foundation

Existing in Paris, the St Casimir Foundation was created by Poles arriving to France after the annexations of the country in 1794, and especially for veterans fighting for the liberation of the country: the November popular uprising in Warsaw 1830/31.

Due to the difficult conditions of immigrants, it was necessary to provide health care to children (orphans) and disabled soldiers from the Napoleon's army.

The first institution was created at the initiative of the "Hotel Lambert" Circle in Paris, and more specifically, by the princess Anna Czartoryska, in 1833. One should also mention the great support of the rich landowner Charles Norbert Erasmus Grocholski.

Due to the following uprisings in 1848 and 1863, the number of emigrants increased and found shelter and food through the Saint Casimir Foundation.

In June 16th, 1869 a Napoleon Decree gave the institution the status of a public institution, which meant receiving a regular subsidy from the French government budget.

During the French-Prussian War (1870–1871) and the siege of Paris, the Foundation experienced difficult moments, but not as a result of the war.

The Foundation already counted 35 veterans, 60 girls, 16 boys and 3 women.

The period of the Third Republic marked the deterioration of the financial situation of the Foundation. The French authorities reduced the government grant. In 1906, due to the difficult situation, a branch of the Institution in Juvisy, was sold.

However the charitable donations of the Polish aristocracy in Paris, in the second half of the 19th century, helped the Foundation to survive.

The French line of the Princes Poniatowski: especially, Prince Andrzej Poniatowski (1854–1954) and his son played a great role in the recent history of the institution.

During the Period of World War I, the Foundation survived unscathed. Many orphans of Polish soldiers fighting in the French army found refuge in Saint Casimir Foundation. Also, after the World War II, the Foundation accommodated young girls and old people.

During the 171 years of existence, the Foundation could carry on the charity work thanks to the Polish Sisters of Saint Vincent de Paul.

Today, the aim of the Foundation is to accompany very old people and to provide accommodation for students, especially Polish ones. The presence of young students is very stimulating for old people living together with them.

2. The Saint Casimir Foundation's Scholarship Grant

Every year, the Saint Casimir Foundation awards a scholarship to one or several students domiciled in Poland, in order to stay in Paris for a period of 3 to 12 months, as part of their studies.

This scholarship is designed only for students accessing third-cycle studies, namely the doctoral studies, to acquire expertise in a given field: history, literature, political science, law (in particular international law) and trade (in European Union), ecology, art, architecture, theology.

The candidate must know at least two foreign languages (preferably French) and must have a clean police record.

At the end of the scholarship in the Saint Casimir Foundation in Paris, the student must submit a short report on one's work in France, highlighting the link existing with the Saint Casimir Foundation and possibly its history. It is possible that a short oral presentation can be requested.

The student will receive a scholarship of 400 Euros per month and free accommodation, travel ticket, insurance and various services (including free lunch).

3. Conclusion

The creation of the St. Casimir Foundation Scholarship can be an example for other Polish organizations in the world to help Polish students find necessary scientific materials and to strengthen relationships between the country and Poland. In fact, the benefits are always double-sided: for Poland it is another opportunity to develop the international collaboration, and the country who receives a Polish student for a long-term, will be getting their best Ambassadors.

Œuvre de Saint Casimir
119, rue Chevaleret
75013 Paris, France