

Bexley Seabury St. Marina Scholarship Application

The Bexley Seabury St. Marina Scholarship is a full three year scholarship granted each Fall. Funded by anonymous donors through the auspices of the Central Indiana Community Foundation, this scholarship is intended to cover tuition, books, travel, and other costs associated with the pursuit of the Master of Divinity degree. This scholarship may awarded to one entering MDiv student who meets the following *minimum* eligibility requirements.

Eligibility

Applicants for the St. Marina Scholarship must:

- be openly and publically “out” about their LGBTQ identity (although the seminary may be flexible in this regard in the case of international applicants);
- exhibit a *demonstrated* commitment to justice ministry in the Episcopal Church, with a specific emphasis on working for justice and equality on behalf of people marginalized both within the church and elsewhere, and particularly (but not exclusively) on behalf of those who are marginalized because of their sexual orientation or gender identity;
- have a GPA of B or above in their previous academic work;
- plan to study full time at Bexley Seabury for three consecutive years. (“Full time” is defined as a minimum of nine credits in the Fall and Spring Semesters and a minimum of three credits in the January and June terms; you must register for at least this number of credits per term, with plans to complete a total of 81 credits in three academic years)

Bexley Seabury will give preference to applicants who could not otherwise afford seminary, and who will thrive academically in the kind of contextual program that Bexley Seabury offers.

Application Procedure and Requirements

Applications for the Bexley Seabury St. Marina Scholarship must include the following and **must be submitted by June 15th** of the calendar year in which studies are to begin:

- At least two recommendations on behalf of the applicant, using the St. Marina Scholarship recommendation form (below) and submitted directly to Bexley Seabury by the recommenders. Recommendations may be made by individuals who have also submitted letters of recommendation for admission to the MDiv degree program.
- A personal essay (of approximately 1200 to 1500 words) that directly addresses qualifications to be a St. Marina scholarship recipient.
 - Please indicate that you intend to study at Bexley Seabury Seminary “full time” for three years, as described above.
 - Please identify the communities and contexts in which you have openly self-identified as an LGBTQ person. (in your family, at work, in your community of faith, etc.) We encourage you tell us something about your experience as an openly LGBTQ person and how this experience has intersected with your faith and your ministerial interests and commitments?
 - Please be specific in describing your work and passion for justice ministry; your previous leadership experience; and how you hope to live out your passion to serve marginalized people as a lay or ordained person in the Episcopal Church.
- A completed FAFSA form (for purposes of income verification);
- If you are a postulant or thinking about pursuing a possible call to holy orders in the Episcopal church you must also request to be submitted on your behalf a signed letter (on official letterhead) from your Bishop or the Chair of your Diocesan Commission on Ministry, indicating that they (1) know you to be someone who is publically open about your LGBTQ self-identification; (2) are aware of your application for admission to Bexley Seabury Seminary's MDiv program and of your plans to study full time here for three years; (3) are aware of your application to receive the St. Marina Scholarship awarded to LGBTQ persons committed to justice ministry; and (4) support (or do not oppose) your decision to study at Bexley Seabury Seminary as a St. Marina Scholar.

Please submit all scholarship application materials and direct any questions to:

Office of Admissions
Bexley Seabury Seminary, 1407 East 60th Street, Chicago, IL 60637
(773) 380-7045 admissions@bexleyseabury.edu

**Bexley Seabury St. Marina Scholarship Recommendation
Form**

(Must be submitted to Bexley Seabury no later than June 15th)

NAME of APPLICANT: _____

RECOMMENDED BY:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

Relationship to the Applicant: _____

Organization or Congregation: _____

Position or Title: _____

**Please read the St. Marina scholarship description and eligibility requirements below
and answer the following questions as fully as possible**

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1. How long have you known the applicant?

2. What is your relationship to the applicant?

3. In what contexts and under what circumstances have you learned that the applicant self-identifies openly and publically as an LGBTQ person?

4. Based on your personal knowledge, please describe in some detail how the applicant has demonstrated a commitment to justice ministry in or with the Episcopal Church.

4. Based on your knowledge and experience of the applicant, please explain why you believe they are a good candidate for the St. Marina Scholarship.