



Statutes for the Jesuit Formation Centre Munich



1. Goal and Overview of the Formation Centre

The purpose of the Formation Centre Munich is the formation of Jesuits who study in Munich. According to the Guidelines for Formation in the European Centres of the Society of Jesus and in order to achieve this goal, the Formation Centre takes responsibility for the following:

- Academic work
- A community life that promotes a further integration of scholastics into the life of the Society of Jesus
- The integrated development of the individual, particularly as regards life in the community, but also through a variety of specialized courses and other recourses
- A continuation of the process begun in the Novitiate of a deepening of the scholastic's appreciation for Ignatian spirituality (including an introduction to the basics of giving Ignatian retreats) and preparation for the priesthood in the Society of Jesus

The *Berchmanskolleg*, together with the communities in which Jesuits in formation live and the *Hochschule für Philosophie* (Munich School of Philosophy) comprise the Formation Centre.

The Formation Centre in the narrow sense comprises all Jesuits who are in the first studies in Munich. By 'first studies,' we mean all those who are in their first years of study after the Novitiate, regardless of their previous degrees. Novices on experiment in Munich and language students are also under the jurisdiction of the Formation Centre. In the broad sense, the Formation Centre comprises all other Jesuits who study in Munich. Graduate students normally live in the "group of the philosophers" which is part of the community of the *Berchmanskolleg*. It is also possible, when the responsible provincial agrees, to assign men in graduate studies to the Formation Centre in the narrow sense.

Responsibility for the Formation Centre ultimately rests with the Provincial of the German Province of Jesuits. He appoints those in charge of formation. In the narrow sense, those responsible for formation include the Moderator of the Formation Centre, the superiors and the formed Jesuits of the communities in which scholastics in the first studies live. In the broad sense, all the Jesuits who live in these communities as well as the professors and lecturers at the *Hochschule für Philosophie* are coresponsible for the formation of the Formation Centre.

2. Basic Structure of the Formation Centre

The Jesuits who make up the Formation Centre in the narrow sense (as defined above) live in communities that are especially structured for Jesuits in formation. Usually there are also Jesuits living in these communities who have fulltime apostolates. The particulars of community life as well as the care for the personal integration and academic work of the individual Jesuits in formation remain the responsibility of the respective superiors.

Besides the concern for community life and studies at the *Hochschule für Philosophie*, the Formation Centre provides opportunities for an all-encompassing Jesuit formation. The Moderator of the Formation Centre is responsible for organizing these activities.

The *Hochschule für Philosophie* has its own, separate administration and the Moderator of the Formation Centre is responsible for discussing all that pertains to course offerings and the necessities of Jesuit formation with the President of the *Hochschule für Philosophie*.

All the important questions concerning the life of the Formation Centre are regularly discussed in the Formation Centre Consultation Board.

According to the “Guidelines for Formation in the European Centres of the Society of Jesus” provinces which regularly are sending students to a centre should have a voice in its governing or consultative council. This happens especially during the visits of the provincials and formation delegates. If possible they should participate in a meeting of the Formation Centre Consultation Board and bring in their points of view and desires.

3. Definition of Responsibilities

3.1. Provincial

The Provincial of the German Province has ultimate responsibility for the Formation Centre and for its superiors. Therefore, he is informed of all important questions and decisions. He may then object or accept the proposals.

He is also responsible for choosing and filling the communities of the Formation Centre; this includes appointing all Jesuits who come to Munich for undergraduate or graduate studies. The novice master missions the novices for the “studies experiment”. Any requests or preferences in this area are handed over to him. The distribution of the scholastics is discussed in the Formation Centre Consultation Board. The Board then advises the Provincial.

3.2. The Superiors

In addition to their ordinary responsibilities as house superiors, the superiors of the Formation Centre have a particular responsibility for the *cura personalis* of the Jesuits in formation. The bi-annual account of conscience is one such responsibility. The superior also takes care to ensure that the scholastics find suitable spiritual directors, make their annual retreat, and renew their vows twice a year. The respective superior is also responsible for assigning and evaluating apostolates, for accompanying scholastics through their studies, and for helping them to find the appropriate balance between work and recreation.

Included in community life in the Formation Centre, among other things, are:

- community evening (once a week)
- community mass (at least once a week)
- community weekend (at least once a semester)
- community vacation (at least one week a year)

The scholastic’s own provincial or formation director assigns together with the respective superior the scholastic’s summer activities.

The superior has the responsibility for ensuring that the elective subjects that scholastics choose as part of the Bachelor program are meaningful for Jesuit formation. Such subjects include theology/spirituality, social science, and world religions and cultures.

As soon as a Jesuit comes into his community, the respective superior becomes responsible for concerns pertaining to visas and scholarships. The superior may delegate this responsibility.

Upon arrival in Munich, the scholastic's respective superior is also the contact person for the scholastic's provincial and formation director. The scholastic's provincial and/or formation director will receive an annual report from the superior. The Formation Centre will develop a standardized system for these reports. Before the end of his studies the scholastic writes an evaluation which he reviews with his superior and which is the starting point for the next stage of his formation.

3.3. The Moderator

The Moderator has the comprehensive and ultimate responsibility towards the provincial for questions concerning the Formation Centre as a whole. He is primarily responsible for the following formation events:

- The courses during the semester breaks. These courses are mandatory for the scholastics in first cycle studies. When a respective superior wishes to excuse a scholastic from attendance, the superior must inform the Moderator in a timely manner. The courses follow a three-year plan and cover the following themes: Ignatian retreats, spiritual direction, personal and emotional development, and the priesthood in the Society of Jesus.
- Periodic meetings at which the Jesuits in formation in the various communities get together. There should be at least one meeting with the Moderator and at least one meeting with only the scholastics per semester.
- The Installation of Lectors and Acolytes.
- The organization of the Formation Centre's language courses for international Jesuits. He also finds appropriate language schools for international Jesuits when the Formation Centre does not offer its own course.
- Working with the Novice Master on the preparations necessary for the "studies experiment" and other practical experiences.

The Moderator accompanies the cooperation of the scholastics with the Jesuit who is in charge of the spiritual program at the Hochschule.

The Moderator organizes the yearly common *Recollectio* of the Formation Centre.

The Moderator helps the Jesuits in formation with the documents needed for obtaining a visa (official invitation, proof of financial resources, etc.) and the admission for the Hochschule before the Jesuit arrives in Munich. After the Jesuit's arrival, the care for these matters passes to the respective superior.

The Moderator is also responsible for representing the Formation Centre, for advertisement and publicity, for public relations, for evaluations, etc.

3.4. The Formation Centre Consultation Board

The Moderator regularly calls meetings of the Formation Centre Consultation Board. The Moderator, the superiors of the communities of the Formation Centre Munich (in the narrow sense), the rector of Berchmanskolleg, the coordinator of the group of the philosophers and one scholastic from each community make up the Formation Centre Consultation Board. The scholastics are elected by the communities and represent the other scholastics.

The Formation Centre Consultation Board advises the Moderator on his decisions. Additionally, the board advises on general questions concerning the Formation Centre in the narrow sense and the standardization of vacations, finances, etc. The scholastics may bring their own interests and suggestions to the Board. The Board is the primary place for dialogue

between communities and discussions promoting the continued development of the Formation Centre.

The Formation Centre Consultation Board is also responsible for advising the Provincial when it comes to assigning scholastics to the different communities.

To the extent that it is possible, the Formation Centre Consultation Board will discuss all questions together with those scholastics chosen to represent their peers. But there should also be an opportunity for the Board to discuss sensitive issues confidentially. The Moderator decides which parts of the minutes for these meetings will be made available to the scholastics.

These Statutes are put into effect on June 20, 2012. They will be reviewed within three years.

Munich, June 20, 2012

P. Stefan Kiechle SJ
Provincial