



FURTHER STUDIES GRANTS

1. Introduction

These guidance notes apply to the academic year 2027-2028 and may change for the academic year 2028-2029.

The funds for further studies' grants are taken from the Home Mission appeal. **As far as you are able, please support and promote Home Mission so that we may continue to fund these grants** and other measures that support all our ministers.

The total amount available for each year is determined by the BUGB Trustees. The amount awarded to each recipient is decided by the Further Studies Grants Group (FSGG), acting on behalf of BUGB. The Ministries Team facilitates the FSGG, the application process, and the distribution of grants.

The FSGG is made up of the Ministries Team Leader or their representative, and one representative from each Baptist College, nominated by that college. The FSGG may also co-opt other members to strengthen diversity. The FSGG is chaired by one of the college representatives, as chosen by the FSGG members. There is no term length for either the members or the chair. Current FSGG members can be found at [The Baptist Union of Great Britain : Further study grants](#). Any concerns about the membership of the group should be raised with the Ministries Team Leader.

The Group usually meets once annually, in June, to consider applications for the forthcoming academic year, and additionally on rare occasions at the discretion of the Ministries Team Leader and the FSGG chair.

2. The Purpose of the Grants

Further Studies Grants are made to assist accredited Baptist ministers in a qualifying office to meet the costs incurred in studying for a higher degree (Masters or above) or

other approved qualification.

3. Applicants

To apply for a Further Studies Grant:

- You must be an accredited Baptist minister serving in a qualifying office as defined by the Ministerial Recognition Rules.
- You must be commended as suitable for the course by two referees, including your Regional Minister. Your referees will be asked to comment on your suitability for further academic study.
- You must submit evidence that you have been awarded a place on your chosen course.

4. Restrictions on applicants

- Normally you will not be awarded a grant if you already hold a higher degree in theology at the same level as your proposed course.
- If you complete a qualification with the support of the fund, the FSGG will not normally consider an application from you for study at the next academic level until three years have elapsed since the last award.
- If you are a Newly Accredited Minister, the Ministries Team will ask the College with whom you have a learning contract to approve your application and confirm your capacity for study for a higher degree. The College must be content that your study connects to your NAM learning contract and that you are not over-committing yourself. NAMs may not start to study for a higher degree until after they have completed their first year learning contract.
- You will not normally be awarded a grant if you are yourself a staff member of a Baptist college, as it is expected that your college would fund your further study. The Group may make an exceptions if you are a sessional or part-time staff member, depending on the circumstances.

5. Appropriate courses

Grants can be made towards the costs of higher degrees in theology and other approved courses. These must, in the opinion of the FSGG, advance your level of academic attainment and/or competence in some aspect of ministry. It is expected

that you are studying alongside the ministry you exercise in your qualifying office.

Preference will be given to courses offered by colleges affiliated to the Baptist Union of Great Britain. If you opt for a course at another institution, you must indicate the reason for your choice.

6. Grants

Grants shall be determined as follows:

- For a largely taught qualification (such as taught Masters or specialist Diplomas), all successful applicants receive a flat rate grant. The amount is determined by the FSGG. For 2026-27, this was £600.
- For a research degree, successful applicants are awarded a percentage of the tuition fees, which are capped. The cap is roughly 25% higher for those studying at a BUGB member college. (Bristol Baptist College, Cardiff Baptist College, Luther King Theological College, Regent's Park College, St Hild College.) For 2026/27, the cap was £2800 for a BUGB member college and £2300 for all other colleges.
- The percentage applied to the capped fees is determined by the FSGG and depends on the number of applicants and the amount of money in the fund after the flat rate payments for taught qualifications have been deducted.
- In exceptional circumstances, where a taught degree is undertaken as a deliberate or required step towards undertaking doctoral research, the FSGG may at its discretion award a proportional grant rather than a flat rate payment. It is expected that an affiliated college would (a) identify to the FSGG that the applicant is on this track and (b) agree to match fund any grant made by the FSGG, to indicate their commitment to supporting the applicant's academic development.

Grants for taught degrees are available for up to three years. Grants for research degrees are available for the planned duration of the programme (excluding writing-up time), but for not more than six years. These need not be consecutive years.

7. Applications

You must apply for an initial grant using a form supplied by the Ministries Team. You request this form by emailing ministries@baptist.org.uk.

You apply for grants for subsequent years using a simpler grant renewal form. The Ministries Team writes to you in March of each year to ask whether you wish to make a further application, and sends you the renewal form. In addition to the completed form, you must supply a report from a tutor or supervisor. It is important that you engage fully and promptly with the renewal process. Prolonged delays in responding may result no award being made that year.

All applications should be sent to Ministries Team at ministries@baptist.org.uk by 31 May before the commencement of the academic year for which the grant is requested.

8. On completion of your study

When you complete your studies, you should:

- Inform the Ministries Team of the qualification gained.
- Supply a hard copy of any thesis or dissertation to the Angus Library at Regent's Park College (the denominational archive). In order to avoid additional expense, the hard copy can be an "examination copy" in which any required minor amendments and typographical corrections have been made by hand.
- Send an electronic copy of any thesis or dissertation to the Ministries Team.

This is so we may build up a body of Baptist thinking and research. The Ministries Team will make ministers aware of the area of study on either the Baptists Together website or in CMD communications.

9. Accreditation and discipline

If for any reason you resign or have your BUGB accreditation removed during a year for which you have received a Further Studies Grant, BUGB will not seek to recover the grant, but you will not be awarded any further grants regardless of how far you have progressed in your studies.

If you are subject to a disciplinary or safeguarding investigation into your conduct, or if your accreditation is suspended whilst a grant application is in process, the application will normally be considered without prejudice. However, the Ministries Team, working in conjunction with the Moderator of the national Ministerial Recognition Committee, reserves the right to instruct the FSGG to deny or withhold a grant if an award poses a reputational risk to BUGB.



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