

East Midland Baptist Association

MIT Training Grant (MITTG)

Guidance Notes



Introduction

The Minister in Training (MIT) Training Grant scheme is designed to benefit all those who are **preparing to train for Accredited Baptist Ministry, regardless of specialism, subject to the individual meeting the scheme's criteria.**

The scope of the scheme is, therefore, deliberately wide and includes:

- Those with no previous theological training and embarking on church-based training at a Baptist College (or a training institution approved by the BUGB Ministries Team)
- Those with existing theological qualifications who are required by Residential Selection Conference (RSC) or by the BUGB Ministries Team to pursue a programme of formation – for example, the Baptist Leadership Programme at Northern Baptist College (NBC).
- All those training for Accredited Baptist Ministry, irrespective of their specialism – experience indicates that the majority will be generalists, preparing to pastor churches, but the scheme would also benefit those called to specialisms such as Children's, Youth and Families Ministry, Evangelism, Pioneering or Chaplaincy.

Who can apply?

The focus of the grant is the training of the MIT and therefore it is the MIT themselves who applies to EMBA.

The MIT must meet all of the following criteria to be eligible to apply:

1. Be sent by an EMBA church
2. Have successfully gone through EMBA Ministerial Recognition Committee (MRC)
3. Be accepted by a Baptist College (or a training institution approved by the BUGB Ministries Team)
4. Be placed in an EMBA church or ministry setting

Expectations of a grant supported MIT

Throughout the MIT's period of ministerial training and subsequent settlement, the Regional Team are committed to encouraging, guiding and supporting both the MIT and placement church.

Whilst we do not want to be legalistic, we would ask that as part of our partnering together, the

MIT receiving a training grant would be actively involved in the life of EMBA as follows:

- Attend the annual Ministers' conference (*costs covered by the Association*)
- Demonstrate a willingness and commitment to serving in the Association*
For example:
 - Preaching in one EMBA church per term, outside of their placement church (as part of this they might promote Home Mission)
 - An additional placement in an EMBA church
 - Serve the wider association in some way .e.g. using their gifts at the Ministers' Conference, serving on an EMBA committee etc.

** flexibility so that the contribution of the MIT aligns with their gifts and calling.*

- At the end of their training, demonstrate a commitment to looking firstly at opportunities available in EMBA, before looking further afield.

Grant Application Process

Applications are to be completed and submitted by the MIT. However, the Association see the grant process as being underpinned by a commitment between the respective partners (MIT, sending church, placement Church and the EMBA) to each make a contribution to the training costs. Furthermore the process relies on moral obligation rather than detailed scrutiny; all parties answering honestly and contributing sacrificially where they are able to do so.

Applications will be considered at any point in the year, but it is recognised that in most cases a grant would need to be in place prior to a September college start.

Process

- The MIT wishing to apply for a training grant must first make contact with their Regional Minister (RM) for a full discussion about ministerial training and the grant application process. Following discussion, where appropriate, the RM will arrange for an application form to be sent to the MIT.
- The MIT will complete the application form and submit this by email, together with a copy of their college acceptance letter to Mrs Becky Nicholls (EMBA Grants Administrator) as soon as possible.
- Upon receipt of a completed application form, a Regional Minister commendation will be sought.
- MIT Training Grants will be considered outside of an EMBA Grants Group meeting and approved by an RM, RTL and EMBA Treasurer. Grants awarded will be reported to the EMBA Grants Group.

- Please note, a new application will need to be completed by the MIT for each year of training.

How are grants calculated and paid?

The grant awarded per year will contribute towards any shortfall of total specified costs, up to a maximum equivalent to ½ standard stipend.

Any training grant awarded will be to support the MIT during their training but this will be paid via the placement church who will then be responsible for making the appropriate payments.

Grants will be paid in 12 equal monthly amounts, (paid around the 15th of each month) and will start in September.

A grant will only be paid once the MIT's calling has been confirmed by the EMBA MRC and a college (and the college acceptance letter received by EMBA) and once a suitable placement has been agreed by a Regional Minister.

Please note:

- Grants will only be paid whilst the MIT is undertaking accredited Baptist ministry training. If the MIT's circumstances change, payment of the grant may be terminated.
- A limit has not been placed on the number of years for which funding will be offered. Normally it will be for three years, but it could be more for those pursuing lengthy part-time courses. In such cases, a review would be held at the end of the third year. For lengthy part-time courses the total amount of grant paid over the duration of the course would not normally exceed 3 x ½ standard stipend.
- If a church is already in receipt of a Training Grant for a MIT and applies for a further MIT Training Grant, then priority might be given to another EMBA church placement.

If you have any queries/questions relating to the MIT Training Grant Scheme please contact your Regional Minister or Becky Nicholls (EMBA Grants Administrator):
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