

## Further Degrees for Clergy

- Grants are available for clergy who wish, as part of their ministerial development to undertake further study leading to an academic award.
- A limited number of Diocesan grants are available each year. Clergy should make an application for funding before finalising arrangements with a college or university to ensure that they understand what funds are available from the diocese
- Unless there are special circumstances, stipendiary curates will not be able to complete or begin degrees during the first year of curacy as there are significant demands in adapting to a new role in public ministry and in participating in the IME 4-7 programme at this time. Curates contemplating further study will need to discuss this with the Director of IME 4-7 at the earliest opportunity and the agreement of the Director of Clergy Development and the Bishop of Taunton will need to be obtained. An award will be made conditional on an agreement being made with the Training Incumbent for a reasonable allocation of study time in addition to what is required in the IME 4-7 programme.
- The Director of Clergy Development can point all clergy planning further degrees to grant making bodies that might be able to provide support..
- Diocesan grants usually cover up to one third of the cost of fees, residentials and necessary travel, but not books or course materials with a maximum of £650 in any one year.
- In offering a Diocesan grant, it is assumed that the candidate will pay one third of the cost themselves and if appropriate and possible that the candidate's parish or sector puts up the remaining third. This arrangement would underline the fact that this investment is a joint one which all three parties will benefit from.
- Grants are made for the whole length of the course, up to a maximum of three years. Funding is conditional each year on communication from the institution through which study is taking place that satisfactory progress is being made.
- Funding of PhDs and MPhils will be considered on a case by case basis.
- Funding will not continue where someone leaves the Diocese.
- Funding for further degrees is overseen by the Director of Clergy Development, in conjunction with the Bishop of Taunton and the Archdeacon for the person applying.
- It is envisaged that study will involve up to a day a week.
- Bishop's Staff will be kept up to date annually on those who are doing further study.

If you are thinking about further study you should in the first instance contact the Director of Clergy Development to discuss your plans.

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