

# Students' Bursary Fund

Supporting the next generation of ministers

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## What does training for the Presbyterian ministry involve and how long does it take?

*Rev. David Allen, Dean of Ministerial Studies and Development explains.*

Before being interviewed for Ordained Ministry, applicants are required to have completed the **Handling the Word** and **Accredited Preacher Courses**.

The formal process of interview begins with applicants being **commended by their Kirk Session** and **interviewed by their Presbytery**.

Next there is a **seven week placement** in a congregation, to observe how a minister functions, experience church life from that perspective and be assessed by the Supervising Minister.

After a **further interview with a panel appointed by the Council for Training in Ministry**, candidates for the ministry are approved by the General Assembly.

Normally **three years' full time study** follow, which most undertake at Union College - where **theological study** is complemented by **practical training**.

On successful completion of the course, the student is licensed and **continues training for at least a further 26 months** as a full time assistant minister.

So, after a total of **five to six years full-time training**

**and study**, they can be called to a congregation and ordained as a minister of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.



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“My name is **David Curran**, I am married to Trisha and I have four children the oldest is 24 and the youngest is 6. Before I began to study for the ministry I was a butcher, the student bursary has made it possible for me to study, without it, it would not have been possible to answer the call of God on my life. When people contribute to the bursary fund that’s exactly what they are doing, enabling people to respond to the call of God on their lives.”



“Hi, I’m **Joanne Smith**, I am so thankful for the bursary - it has been part of God’s wonderful provision for me as I study in Union, and has made a potentially crooked path very smooth - all the students are so appreciative for the generosity and support we receive.”

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**Part of the cost of training students for the ministry is met through the offerings at services to license students and at the ordination and installation of elders and ministers.**

It costs approx. £12,000 (€14,750) per year, usually for three years, to train each student, pay their course fees and provide them and their families with a living allowance.

**To help finance this we rely on your continued generosity. Thank you.**