

Scottish Episcopal Church International PhD Scholarships

Application form

Introduction

Please read the following notes before completing the application form. We also advise you to read the Terms & Conditions of the Scholarship, available on our website

<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/organisation/boards-and-committees/mission-board/global-partnerships/>.

The Global Partnership Committee of the Scottish Episcopal Church (SEC) has launched a scholarship scheme to support two students from the Anglican faith who wish to undertake a PhD in Divinity, Theology, or Religious Studies (or research in related topics) at a university in Scotland. The scholarships aim to foster ties between the Scottish Episcopal Church and the global Anglican Communion. The programme will support capacity building by enabling suitably qualified applicants to develop their knowledge and skills while undertaking doctoral studies whilst also contributing to the life of the Church and the theological community in Scotland.

Applicants are expected to act as ambassadors for their local Anglican community and should be active members of the Anglican Communion in the global south.

Each individual award provides up to £15,000 per annum for up to three years while studying full-time in Scotland and can be applied towards living costs. The Scholarship may be held in conjunction with other awards or grants. Further, the Scottish Episcopal Church will support the successful applicants by facilitating their engagement with, and participation in, the local SEC congregation and theological community, including the Scottish Episcopal Institute.

Eligibility Criteria

In order to be considered for this scholarship you must meet **all of the following criteria**:

- Have been offered a place on a PhD Programme in Theology, Divinity or Religious Studies (or research in related topics) at a university in Scotland. Please note that online programmes are excluded and the successful candidates must reside in Scotland during the tenure of the Scholarship.
- Be a national of a country in the Global South in the regions of:
 - Africa
 - Asia
 - Caribbean
 - Central and South America
 - Middle East

- Pacific.
- Be an active member of a church in the Anglican Communion. Preference will be given to ordained applicants.

Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed on the following criteria:

- Your personal background and commitment to the Christian faith
- Your motivations and aspirations in undertaking a PhD in Scotland
- Your willingness and ability to act as an ambassador for your local Anglican Community
- Your potential for enhanced contribution to the theological and church community development in your own region upon completion of your studies in Scotland

Timeline

31st March 2026: Closing date for applications

1st May 2026: Notification of outcome to applicants

Making an application

When completed, return your form and the **supporting documentation** to the following email address: GPC@scotland.anglican.org. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Supporting documentation

- Offer letter confirming acceptance of an eligible PhD programme for academic year 2025-26
- Evidence of secured funding for tuition fees e.g. letter of other grant, scholarships or awards.
- Two references, one academic from an individual familiar with your academic record and one from a member of your local Anglican community. References should be sent by the referees directly to the above email address by the closing date, clearly stating the applicant's name in the subject line.
- A letter of support from your local Bishop. This should be sent directly by the Bishop to the above email address, clearly stating the applicant's name in the subject line.
- It is the applicants' responsibility to ensure all supporting documentation is received by the closing date.

Part 1: Your details

Full name	
Address	
Country of residence	
Nationality	
Email address (we will use this email to contact you regarding your application)	

Part 2: Your education to date

Give details of your education to date, including theological training and starting with your secondary education. You can add more rows as necessary.

Name of school, university, or theological institution	Location (town and country)	Qualification obtained	Date attended (from/to MM/YYYY)

Part 3: Ordination

Are you an ordained in the Episcopal/Anglican Church (delete as appropriate)	Yes/No
Date and diocese of ordination	

Part 4: Work experience

List your work experience to date, including any relevant volunteer activities. You can add more rows as necessary.

Role or job title	Employer	Dates (from/to MM/YYYY)	Brief description of duties

Part 5: Doctoral studies in Scotland

In this section, you should provide details of the postgraduate research programme on which you have been offered a place to study. When submitting your application, you will need to provide a copy of the offer letter from the university in Scotland where you plan to study.

University name	
Details of the programme Please include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- details of your proposed research- perceived benefit of the outcome of your studies	
Start date	
Do you have an offer to study on this programme (delete as appropriate)	Yes/No

Part 6: Personal statement

This section is an opportunity for you to tell the selection committee a bit more about you, your background, motivations to undertake a PhD in Scotland, engagement with the Christian faith, and how you envisage engaging with the Scottish Episcopal Church, including the Scottish Episcopal Institute, and how you can act as an ambassador for your community while in Scotland.

Question 1: Tell us about your background. Why do you wish to undertake a PhD in Scotland? Why have you chosen this particular course, topic of research, and university?

Questions 2: SEC International Scholars are expected to act as Ambassadors for their home church/diocese while studying in Scotland. Please explain how you envisage fulfilling this role.

Question 3: How would you envisage contributing to the life of the Scottish Episcopal Church? Please explain what specific attributes, skills or experience you will bring to the role.

Question 4: How do you envisage contributing to the theological training, ministerial formation, and community life of the Scottish Episcopal Institute? Please explain what relevant experience, qualifications and skills you bring.

Part 7: Finances

Give details of any other scholarships or grants you have applied for to support your doctoral studies.

Source of funding (organisation name)	Amount applied for	Decision if known, or expected by (MM/YYYY)

If you plan to cover some of the costs yourself, provide details here (for example, through savings, loans etc.)	
Detail of any additional support (family or friends for example)	

Part 8: References and letter of support

List the names and positions of two referees, one of whom is qualified to comment on your capacity to benefit from your proposed study in the UK and another who can attest to your commitment to the Christian faith in your local church community. Neither referee can be related to you, and you should seek their permission before listing them in your application.

The Scottish Episcopal Church will not approach referees directly. Referees must email their references by the closing date to the email address listed on this form, clearly stating the applicant's name in the subject line.

Your application will be considered ineligible unless it is accompanied by two references. It is your responsibility to ensure that each of your referees has received your request for a reference and that each is able to send the reference by the closing date for applications.

First referee	
Full name	
Relationship to you	
Role or position	
Email address	
The above person has agreed to act as a referee	YES/NO
Second referee	
Full name	
Relationship to you	
Role or position	
Email address	

The above person has agreed to act as a referee	YES/NO
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Letter of support from your Bishop

In addition to the references, each application must be endorsed by the local Bishop in the applicant’s home country. Your Bishop should write their letter on letterheaded paper and email it to the email address listed above by the closing date for applications, with the applicant’s name clearly stated in the subject line. It is your responsibility to request a letter of support from your local Bishop.

Name of Bishop	
Diocese	
Email address	
The above person has agreed to support my application	YES/NO

Part 9: Declaration and undertakings

Privacy statement

The information that you provide on this form and that is obtained from other relevant sources such as your referees will be used to process your Scholarship application. The personal information that you provide will also be used lawfully and in accordance with our [Privacy policy](#). If you are successful in your application and accept the Scholarship, the information we obtain as a result of the selection process will be used in the administration of your Scholarship during the lifetime of the award. We may also use this information if there is a complaint or a legal challenge relevant to this selection process. We may check the information collected with third parties or against other information held by us. By signing the application, we will assume that you agree to the processing of sensitive personal data (as described above). If you are unsuccessful in your application your application form and any other personal data gathered as part of the selection process, including references, may be held for up to 12 months. In the event that you wish to withdraw your consent to us processing your personal data at any point please contact the General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church.

In submitting this application by email, you are confirming the following statements:

- I have read and understood the above Privacy statement.
- I confirm that all information and documents submitted are, to the best of my knowledge, genuine and accurate.

- I understand that the provision of false information may lead to the withdrawal of any Scholarship award.
- I have read, understand and accept the eligibility criteria and terms & conditions of award that came with this application form and agree to abide by them if an award is made.
- I agree that you can check the information in this application form and any supporting documents with other people and organisations named in the form.
- I understand that all the information contained in this form will be treated confidentially and will only be used for the purpose of determining the outcome of my application.
- I understand that any successful award of this scholarship will not lead to other benefits, such as housing and part-time employment in the SEC.
- I understand that if I am awarded a scholarship, the General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church may use this information for academic and/or promotional issues in reference to the scholarship.

Full name	
Date	
Signature	