



Introduction to the Nelson Anglican Ministry Education Scholarship Funding Process (2026–2027)

The Nelson Anglican Diocese is pleased to announce the Ministry Education Scholarship Funding Process for 2026 and 2027, made possible through the St John's College Trust Board (SJCTB).

This will support the Diocese commitment to resourcing leaders for the church through theological education, ministry development, and spiritual renewal, in alignment with the enduring purposes of the SJCTB Trust Deed. The funding is limited and therefore applications will be prioritised for those which directly impact the five key areas that were identified in the Revitalisation Project:

1. Growth in ministries with children, youth, young adults and families.
2. An increased confidence in evangelism and disciple-making.
3. Pioneering ways to connect meaningfully with society.
4. More women and lay people in church and community leadership.
5. Those on the pathway towards ordination for church leadership.

The fund is open to both ordained clergy and lay members of the Anglican Church in the Nelson Diocese, with the aim of growing the Church's leadership capacity for mission and ministry. Financial Support grants will only be given to those where there is a significant financial barrier to study.

Funding Overview

This funding is part of a St John's Trust Board two-year strategic transition to empower local bishops to align training and leadership development to the needs of their location. In the Nelson Diocese this will involve Bishopdale College and Diocese Ministry Education working closely together to process scholarships and advise the Bishop.

Scholarship Categories

The fund allows for scholarships in two distinct categories:

1. **Sabbatical Scholarships** – Financial support for clergy who are in licensed appointments in parishes or at Bishopdale College to undertake rest, renewal, and learning.
2. **Study Scholarships** – Financial support for any Anglican member of a Diocesan worshipping community, to do theological academic study within the key areas for revitalisation. The conditions in this category are:
 - Applicants are asked to bear in mind that funds are limited and not every application will be successful.
 - Study programs through Bishopdale College will be considered in favour of study through other institutions although these applications are welcome.

- Courses of study must be for academic credit from an approved institution.
- All applicants must consult with the Ministry Education Coordinator before completing the application.
- Applicants who intend to study at Bishopdale must have discussed it with the College Dean (Andrew Burgess) or Director (Simon Terrill) or Internship Coordinator (Jude Saxon) before completing the application.
- Applicants will be asked to give names of referees who will be contacted for a verbal reference.
- Applicants will be asked to describe their involvement in ministry, leadership and disciple making in their local context, and where their proposed course of study aligns with the mission and vision of the Diocese.
- Applicants will be asked how their study plan will have impact in mission and ministry.
- Applicants for whom finances are a barrier to undertake study will be given opportunity to discuss their need for extra financial support.

Governance and Process

Two dedicated committees—the Study Scholarship Committee and the Sabbatical Scholarship Committee—will consider applications.

The Bishop's Chaplain will act as administrator to develop and manage the process.

Final decisions will be made by the Bishop of Nelson based on committee recommendations.

Priority will be given to lay applicants studying for the purposes of:

1. Developing ministry with children, youth, young adults and families
2. Growing evangelism and disciple-making
3. Pioneering endeavours to connect with the community
4. Advancing women and laity in church and community leadership
5. Those on the pathway towards ordination for church leadership.

The type and duration of study will also be considered in the following order:

- a) Long Program – Multiple papers over multiple years
- b) Short Program – Multiple papers over one or two semesters
- c) Single Paper – A single paper taken in one semester
- d) Research – For postgraduate study like Masters, Doctorate

Applications must be submitted online by **5 pm, 30 September 2025**, for 2026 scholarships.

Decisions on scholarship applications will be by 13th October 2025.

Application Form:

There is single application form for both Sabbatical and Study Scholarships here:

<https://forms.gle/v9BB97bpPruKNjH7>

