

EMI: The Edinburgh Ministry Internship

In August 2007 the EMI (Edinburgh Ministry Internship) continues into a 2nd year in Edinburgh. The EMI is directed by Jim Purves Ph.D., pastor of Bristo Baptist Church and research tutor and lecturer in Applied Theology at the International Baptist Theological Seminary, Prague, assisted jointly by Craig Sayle M.Phil., pastor of Abbeyhill Baptist Church and Andrea Mill MBA, a deacon of Bristo Baptist Church. Bristo and Abbeyhill Baptist Churches will participate in the 2nd year. There will be 6 intern places (4 at Bristo, 2 at Abbeyhill) in 2007-08.

EMI introduces, in the British context, a new form of ministry training. The EMI is centred on the communal/societal aspect of human growth and development. It builds on the baptistic conviction that involvement in community life is fundamental for Christian development, helping to develop such attitudes as interdependence, willingness to share his/her life with others, openness/vulnerability and care/love. This is one of the reasons why participation in a local Christian community is crucial for the internship.

A vital dimension of the EMI is active participation in the ongoing mission of the local church, where stress is put on prayer, contextualisation and sharing God's love with others through friendship. EMI candidates will be committed to becoming fully integrated and involved in the fellowship, ministry and mission of the local congregation to which they are attached throughout the internship.

The last, but not least, area of personal growth is in forming a Christian understanding of work. A proper theology of work is shaped by reflection on the teaching of the Bible and practical application of this reflection. To achieve this goal an intern is expected to work part-time or voluntarily in NGO's, charities or similar organisations.

Sustained church ministry requires a maturation process of ongoing development. The main task of the EMI is to assist the intern in developing a discipline of holistic growth in every area of life. To fulfil this task every intern will be supervised by a mentor, who will help him/her develop such qualities of character as compassion, humility, discipline, faithfulness and the attitude of a servant. The mentor will also support the intern in his/her theological studies, supporting them on practical application of academic work and seeking to ensure its relevancy for life and church ministry.

The primary goal of the EMI is to provide, during the course of one year, a ministry environment and experience that will further the purposes of God's Kingdom in the life of both intern and local congregation. The intern will share with the local church pastor and other interns an environment where they will look to develop a holistic '24/7' approach to church ministry, focussed in four areas:

- personal spiritual formation
- interpersonal and social skills
- missional engagement
- work in the community

Academic study

The EMI will provide a church-based discipleship and training programme with integrated theological study and reflection. Candidates for the internship will be expected to commit themselves to at least two hours study and reflection per day and enrol for one of the following:

1. For those who already have a first degree in Theology, an MTh programme offered by the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Prague, the Czech Republic. This programme is accredited by the University of Wales and is available for intern candidates who have prior, theological training at Bachelor's level (or MDiv in North America). EMI candidates should expect to complete 50% of the academic requirements towards an MTh during the intern year.
2. For those who have no prior first degree in Theology, Modules towards an accredited and validated BD programme, provided by Spurgeon's College, London, the Scottish Baptist College, Paisley, or other approved institution. Again, EMI candidates should expect, during the course of the internship year, to gain credits towards a 50% equivalence of full-time, theological study and reflection.
3. For those who qualify, a PhD research programme in Theology with the International Baptist Theological Seminary or other research institution approved by the directors of the internship programme.

Other Practical information:

1. Who is eligible?

The internship is suitable for a Christian graduate looking to pursue his/her undergraduate or graduate theological studies, who wants to prepare for or explore the possibility of future ministry in the church (or Christian mission/organisation). The interns will be competent at speaking and writing in English (scoring 6 at least on the ILTS test) and will be residents of the European Union or a country whose citizens can gain visas to work and study in the UK.

2. How long is the internship?

The internship will normally run from the last week of August for 12 months.

3. How much does it cost?

The intern will be provided with accommodation, but will be expected to meet costs for their living expenses and such academic fees as charged by academic institutions. There is no charge for the internship, as such, as this is a ministry offered by the local church.

4. IBTS programmes (for details of programmes consult www.ibts.cz/academics link Programmes) IBTS offers an MTh accredited by the University of Wales in 4 areas:

1. MTh in Biblical Studies

Core module	Bible, Community and Context
Other modules	Old Testament Hebrew Texts
	Old Testament Narrative (Does not require Hebrew)
	New Testament Greek Texts

Biblical Ethics
New Testament Christology
Themes of Biblical Theology

2. MTh in Applied Theology

Core module Bible, Community and Context (or Church in Contemporary Society)
Other modules Spiritual Formation
Christian Learning and Leadership
Homiletics and Communication
The Church and Social Ethics
Church and the Environment
Practice of Ministry
Types of Systematic Theologies

3. MTh in Contextual Missiology

Core module Bible, Community and Context (or Introduction to Contextual Missiology)
Other modules Mission History
Theology of Evangelism
Theology of Mission
Contextual Theologies
Practice of Mission and Evangelism
Christian Presence and Witness among Muslims

4. MTh in Baptist and Anabaptist Studies

Core module The Origins and Early History of Anabaptism, or Baptist Origins and Development in Continental Europe
Other modules Anabaptist/Baptist Theology of the Church
Anabaptists, Authority and the Bible

Structure of each programme:

There are two parts to each MTh course (three taught modules of 40 credits each constituting part one, and a dissertation of 60 credits constituting part two). *EMI candidates would be expected, during the internship launch year, to take the modules in 'Bible, Community and Context' and 'Practice of Ministry'*. Most modules will be assessed on the basis of two written papers of between 4000 and 5000 words each.

All candidates for the MTh must also submit a dissertation, which will be not more than 20,000 words, including footnotes but excluding bibliographies.