



Funding your studies with the Open Bible Institute



The Open Bible Institute aims to provide courses at a price that most people can afford.

It's our policy to make our courses as accessible as we can. However, we do realise that some people on low incomes may find it difficult to fund their studies. If you fall into that category, why not think about investigating one (or more) of the following options:

Discount Rates

The college offers discount rates to those in:

- Full time education
- Full time voluntary work
- Plus those on certain state benefits such as:
 - Income support
 - Unemployment benefit
 - Incapacity benefit
 - Pension

If you feel you might qualify for such a discount on your course fees, please do contact the Student Services office for a full list of terms and conditions. Some proof of circumstances (e.g. a letter from the benefits agency) may be needed.

Local Church Funding

If you are undertaking your course of study in order to help you in your roles within the local church, then clearly the local church is going to benefit from your participation in the course. This will be particularly true if you hold or are about to start a role that involves teaching or pastoral work. It may be that your local church might want to invest in you! They are, of course, under no obligation to pay for you but they might ►

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◀ want to support you as you get to know the Scriptures better, so it is worth asking your Minister / Church Council...whoever is appropriate.

Inter-Church Funding

There have been a few instances where wealthier churches have helped to fund groups of students who are in situations where money is tight. E.g. churches in Britain funding groups of potential church leaders in Africa. It may be that your church leader knows people who would be willing to help fund you and others studying with you. Again, there are no guarantees (and please note that the Open Bible Institute does not carry a list of potential donors) but you may want to investigate possibilities with church leaders whom you know.

Trusts and Grants

There are a number of trusts and grant making bodies that are able to support students. A quick surf of the web or a trip to the library to investigate the “Directory of Grant Making Trusts” will provide you with names of suitable organisations. If you are applying to study a validated course, you may also like to investigate the Department of Education and Skills website to see if you are eligible for a statutory grant or even a student loan!

If none of these options prove fruitful, please do contact the Student Services office for details of our bursary scheme.

If you experience difficulties meeting your fees at any point during your studies, please talk to the Student Services team at the earliest possible opportunity... we are here to help and encourage you as you progress through the course!

