

East Midland Baptist Association

MIT Training Grant (MITTG)

Guidance Notes

September 2025



Introduction

The Minister in Training (MIT) Training Grant scheme is designed to benefit all those who are **preparing to train for Accredited Baptist Ministry, regardless of specialism, subject to the individual meeting the scheme's criteria.**

The scope of the scheme is, therefore, deliberately wide and includes:

- Those with no previous theological training and embarking on church-based training at a Baptist College (or a training institution approved by the BUGB Ministries Team)
- Those with existing theological qualifications who are required by Residential Selection Conference (RSC) or by the BUGB Ministries Team to pursue a programme of Baptist ministerial formation at one of our Baptist Colleges
- All those training for Accredited Baptist Ministry, irrespective of their specialism.

Who can apply?

The focus of the grant is the training of the MIT and therefore it is the MIT themselves who applies to EMBA.

The MIT must meet all of the following criteria to be eligible to apply:

1. Be sent by an EMBA church
2. Have successfully gone through EMBA Ministerial Recognition Committee (MRC)
3. Be accepted as a Baptist MIT by a Baptist College
4. Be placed in an EMBA church or ministry setting

Expectations of a grant supported MIT

Throughout the MIT's period of ministerial training and subsequent settlement, the Regional Team are committed to encouraging, guiding and supporting both the MIT and placement church.

Whilst we do not want to be legalistic, we would ask that as part of our partnering together, the MIT receiving a training grant would be actively involved in the life of EMBA as follows:

- Attend the annual Ministers' conference

- Demonstrate a willingness and commitment to the wider Association* for example by:
 - Preaching in one EMBA church per term, outside of their placement church
 - Attend the annual EMBA Gathering
 - Participate in training events run by the Association such as Rooted.
 - Being prepared to share their story and how the EMBA has supported them in their training

** flexibility so that the contribution of the MIT aligns with their gifts and calling.*

- At the end of their training, demonstrate a commitment to looking firstly at opportunities available in EMBA, before looking further afield.

Grant Application Process

Applications are to be completed and submitted by the MIT. However, the Association see the grant process as being underpinned by a commitment between the respective partners (MIT, sending church, placement Church and the EMBA) to each make a contribution to the training costs. Furthermore the process relies on moral obligation rather than detailed scrutiny; all parties answering honestly and contributing sacrificially where they are able to do so.

Applications will be considered at any point in the year, but it is recognised that in most cases a grant would need to be in place prior to a September college start. Grant payments are therefore made on a monthly basis from September to August for each academic year and cannot be paid retrospectively.

Process

- The MIT wishing to apply for a training grant must first make contact with their Regional Minister (RM) for a full discussion about the grant application process.
- Following a successful MRC interview and once a placement church/ministerial setting has been agreed, the RM will then arrange for an MIT Training Grant application form to be sent to the ministerial candidate for completion. *(Please note, MIT Training Grant applications will not normally be considered before a successful MRC interview and a suitable placement church/ministerial setting has been agreed.)*
- The MIT will complete the application form and submit this by email, together with a copy of their college acceptance letter to Mrs Becky Nicholls (EMBA Grants Administrator) as soon as possible. If timing means that you are still awaiting college interview, then the application can be submitted without the college acceptance letter but any grant agreed will be in principle only and subject to receipt of this letter from an appropriate college.
- Upon receipt of a completed application form, a Regional Minister commendation will be sought.

- MIT Training Grants will be considered by the EMBA Grants Group.
- Please note, an update and feedback form will need to be completed by the MIT at the end of each academic year and sent into the EMBA.
- Failure to meet the expectations of the grant as outlined above could result in termination of the grant.

How are grants calculated and paid?

The grant awarded will normally amount to £6,000 per year for three years, paid in 12 equal monthly amounts from September to August. *(Please note, in the case of a late grant application retrospective payments will not be paid).*

Any training grant awarded will be to support the MIT during their training, but this will be paid via the placement church who will then be responsible for making the appropriate payments. The grant follows the MIT and therefore if the MIT moves, the grant goes with them.

A grant will only be paid once the MIT's calling has been confirmed by the Association MRC and a college acceptance letter received and once a suitable placement has been agreed by the college and the Regional Minister.

Please note:

- Grants will only be paid whilst the MIT is undertaking accredited Baptist ministry training. If the MIT's circumstances change, payment of the grant may be terminated.
- If a church or a member of the church has been in receipt of one of the three EMBA Partnership Grants available, then that church or any member of the church would not normally be able to apply for a further Partnership Grant for a period of three years from the end of the previous grant.

If you have any queries/questions relating to the MIT Training Grant Scheme please contact your Regional Minister or Becky Nicholls (EMBA Grants Administrator):
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