

DATES

The *Equipped to Minister (EtM)* course consists of 12 modules over two years (two Saturdays per module). *EtM* modules will be held at Spurgeon's College (London), Histon Baptist Church (Cambridge) and BMS Wallis House (Birmingham) and run on Saturdays from 9am to 4pm. In London we run two separate *EtM* tracks on the same day – a track will be allocated to you depending on available space.

JOINING THE COURSE

If you are considering applying for the *Equipped to Minister* course but have some questions that this course leaflet has not answered then please do not hesitate to contact our admissions department (admissions@spurgeons.ac.uk). If you wish to apply immediately you will find a link to the electronic application form for *Equipped to Minister* on our website (www.spurgeons.ac.uk). After you have filled out the application form you will normally be invited to join the course within 8 weeks (if there is space). At the point you are invited to join you will be sent an email (via Eventbrite our bookings and payment provider) asking you to book in and pay for your first module.

BAPTIST UNION RECOGNITION AS A NATIONALLY RECOGNISED ('LAY') PREACHER OR PASTOR

If you are a member of a Baptist church and you are working towards Baptist Union recognition, then in addition to the training provided by this course you will also need to have your vocation assessed by a local Ministerial Recognition Committee. Ministerial Recognition Committees usually require candidates to be in a recognised role for two years (coincidentally the duration of this course). Participants seeking Baptist Union recognition are strongly urged to speak to their own minister and to contact their Regional Baptist Association at the earliest opportunity after they start this course to make the process of recognition less drawn out. Nationally recognised ('lay') preachers must complete a specific 8 modules of the *Equipped to Minister* Course whilst nationally recognised ('lay') pastors must complete all 12 modules of the course. For more details about module requirements for national recognition please contact the Course Director for *Equipped to Minister* (etm@spurgeons.ac.uk)



At Spurgeon's College our aim is to prepare men and women for Christian mission, ministry and leadership in the contemporary world. We hope that this information gives you a flavour of the range of courses we offer that have been specifically designed for students from a wide variety of backgrounds. Our admissions staff will be happy to advise and guide you if you have any questions. Alternatively, come and meet our academic staff at one of our Open Days or Open Evenings – see the website for dates.

Rev Prof Philip McCormack MBE
Principal



EQUIPPED TO MINISTER



Spurgeon's College
London

Histon Baptist Church
Cambridge

BMS Wallis House
Birmingham

Spurgeon's College, South Norwood Hill, London SE25 6DJ
Tel: 020 8653 0850 Email: enquiries@spurgeons.ac.uk www.spurgeons.ac.uk

Spurgeon's College is associated with the University of Manchester, a member college of the Baptist Union, a member of the Evangelical Alliance and a member of the Micah Network.
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Equipped to Minister is an established, popular and highly valued course at Spurgeon's College. It was launched in 2003 with the aim of providing high quality training for those serving in the local church.

In the 16 years the course has been in existence over 780 people have attended modules from the course and the course grows in popularity each year. Although the course initially was aimed at churches from the Baptist denomination we now have people from many different church streams attending the course to enable them to develop their ministry in the local church or to grow in their personal discipleship.

WHO IS THIS COURSE FOR?

Equipped to Minister is an ideal starting point for those who wish to deepen their understanding of the Bible, theology, mission, ministry and personal spiritual development, even if they are returning to study after a long break.

Many participants find the course a significant step towards developing their service to God in their churches. They also find their own personal discipleship is deepened through attending the course lectures.

Equipped to Minister has attracted local preachers, Bible study group leaders, lay church leaders, youth workers, pastoral carers and people from a variety of different ministries in the church.

COURSE FORMAT

The course is made up of 12 modules on a rolling programme. This means that you can join the course at the start of any module as each module is designed to be self-contained.

Eleven of the modules include face-to-face teaching consisting of twelve hours teaching split over two Saturdays in consecutive months. One of the modules is an independent study module consisting of guided reading.

Participants can choose to attend as many or as few of the modules as they wish. You can attend the whole course or just those modules that interest you.

COURSE LOCATIONS

The course is taught in the following locations:

Spurgeon's College, London – normally the second Saturday of each month

Histon Baptist Church, Nr Cambridge – normally the third Saturday of each month

BMS Wallis House, Birmingham – normally the fourth Saturday of each month

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

There is no need to write the assignments for the course. We have many people who pay to just attend the course lectures. However you will get the most from the course if you attempt the assignments.

Those who seek the Certificate of Achievement which is available for each module must submit the assignments for those modules and attend at least 50% of the teaching sessions.

The assignments vary from module to module which ensures their practical value to ministry and mission. Assignments include: essays, journals, reflective studies and practical work such as evaluations of preaching and leading worship. Generally there are two 1500 word assignments per module, apart from the History of Christianity module which requires three 2000 word assignment to be submitted.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

No previous qualifications are required to join the course. The course teaching is aimed at A-Level or 'Access' level standard.

COURSE RECOGNITION

The course leads to an internally validated Spurgeon's College certificate for each successfully completed module

(including assignments). An overall Spurgeon's College Certificate of Achievement is awarded on the successful completion of any eight modules, for which you have an attendance of at least two-thirds.

The course follows a curriculum agreed by all the UK Baptist Colleges and the Baptist Union. It is therefore acceptable to the Baptist Union, when accompanied by satisfactory Association ministerial recognition outcomes, as a pathway of training for those seeking Baptist Union recognition as preachers or lay pastors. More details about the specific modules required for Baptist Union recognition and the process of application can be requested from the Course Director.



WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The course is made up of twelve modules:

1. Reading and using the Bible Part 1 (OT)

Understanding the story of the Bible and engaging thoughtfully with it, including selected texts

2. Exploring Christian belief Part 1

The framework of Christian faith and belief and its relevance in the contemporary world.

3. Leading worship

A holistic approach to worship. The development of specific skills, including insights into music and all-age worship. The module includes a practical assignment in worship leading.

4. Reading and using the Bible Part 2 (NT)

Deepening our understanding of the Bible story and engaging thoughtfully with it, including further selected texts.

5. Evangelism and mission

Congregational, friendship, servant and relational evangelism in contemporary society.

6. Preaching

Different preaching skills and the theology behind them. The module includes a practical preaching assignment.

7. Spirituality

Exploring what is meant by spirituality with a look at selected texts from the spiritual traditions. Growing as a Christian believer.

8. Exploring Christian belief Part 2

A further exploration of core Christian doctrines and their implications for Christian living.

9. Pastoral care

The context of pastoral care today. Developing self-awareness and basic counselling skills. A look at particular pastoral issues.

10. Baptist history and principles

An exploration of where Baptists came from, of the Baptist way of being the church and of contemporary issues such as baptism, membership and the place of children.

11. Church management and leadership

Leadership and management in the church. The conduct of church meetings, funerals, weddings. Conflict skills and resolution.

12. History of Christianity: The story of God's people

This independent study module is assessed through three extended essays.