

## Training at Oak Hill: Frequently Asked Questions

This sheet answers some frequently asked questions about placements, accommodation and raising money for training. Fuller information is provided in enquiry packs in the following information sheets:

- Placements: Information for Prospective Students
- Accommodation and Study Spaces: Information for Prospective Students
- Raising Financial Support to Study at Oak Hill College
- Providing Financial Assurances to Oak Hill College

If you have not yet received an application form and enquiry pack for 2018 entry, please contact Rosie Cowan on [admissions@oakhill.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@oakhill.ac.uk) or 020 8449 0467 ext 206.

### How do placements work?

Placements are a core part of our training, integrating learning and application in real-life ministry situations, and the main vehicle for them is the Foundation Degree (FdA), which is a work based learning degree. A key purpose of placements is to give students experience of a different church in order to develop gifts, learn about other forms of ministry, and to see a different church in action. Placements are also the context in which assignments for some taught modules are completed.

In addition to weekly church placements, students at FdA-level have the opportunity to complete a summer block placement (in a church and a chaplaincy) or a cross-cultural placement in an overseas location, as well as a Mission.

It is College's responsibility to allocate placements, in consultation with each student, their sending church and any placement church.

### Does Oak Hill provide accommodation for students?

There is a limited supply of College-owned accommodation for full time students. Those who are offered a place on a full time programme will be given an accommodation application form with their offer letter. A person can be formally considered for allocation of accommodation once they have an 'Assured Place' at Oak Hill.

**Full time married students:** College-owned accommodation ranges from 1-bedroom flats through to 4-bedroom houses. Most of this is on site, except for four flats which are situated in Enfield (approximately 4 miles from College). The College's Accommodation Committee reviews accommodation applications and allocates properties in two broad phases:

- (i) April to mid-May: the committee considers accommodation application forms received by **12 April 2018**. It is anticipated that the vast majority of properties will be allocated in this phase.
- (ii) Late May to June: the committee considers applications received after 12 April 2018 along with applications from those not offered property in the first phase.

There is a limited supply of College-owned accommodation for married students which normally means that not all applications for accommodation are successful. If we are unable to allocate a College-owned property to an applicant, we will offer them a list of off-site properties that are available for rental from local landlords.

**Full time single students:** female students are normally accommodated in a shared flat on campus while male students are accommodated in either a shared flat on campus or a shared house that is a 10 minute walk from College. Oak Hill guarantees to accommodate all full time single students who both accept an

offer of a place to study here and return an accommodation application form by **14 May 2018**. After that date, while we will endeavour to provide accommodation, we recommend that an applicant make contingency plans in the event that we are unable to do so.

**Part time students:** Oak Hill is unable to allocate accommodation for part time students but we do provide the opportunity for part time students to book guest accommodation for the nights that they wish to stay in College. Details and prices are normally made available just before the start of each academic year.

## Is Student Finance support available for Oak Hill courses?

Some of our students qualify for support from the Student Loans Company for tuition fee and maintenance loans. As Oak Hill is an Alternative Provider, the government has capped tuition fee loans for full time undergraduate students at £6,165 per year per student, and for part time undergraduate students at £4,625 per year per student. Students taking a Master of Arts course over one year (full time) or two years (part time) may also qualify for the Postgraduate Loan, which currently stands at £10,280 (in total, not per year). Please visit the Student Finance website to find out more information: [www.gov.uk/student-finance](http://www.gov.uk/student-finance)

For applicants/students to be eligible for Student Loans Company funding, they must be studying on a designated course. Courses at Alternative Providers are designated each year by the Department for Education. Oak Hill College is an Alternative Provider and we have made an application for our undergraduate and Master of Arts courses to be designated for the 2018-19 academic year. We expect this process to be completed in early 2018. Please visit the HEFCE website for more information: [www.hefce.ac.uk/reg/desig/cdforstudents](http://www.hefce.ac.uk/reg/desig/cdforstudents)

Please do not apply for a student loan until we let you know that our courses have been successfully designated. Those applying too early may receive a generic response indicating they are not eligible.

## In addition to Student Finance, how have other students raised their funds?

Some of the main sources of financial support for Oak Hill students are:

- **Sending church:** many students find that their home church is a good source of raising funds; this could include individual sponsors within the church or funding from the church centrally
- **Trust funds:** there are a number of trusts funds that wish to support gospel ministry. Names of trusts can be found by searching the Charity Register which is available on the Charity Commission website: [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission). Unfortunately we are unable to provide a list of trusts.
- **Gift aid:** it is possible to reclaim tax on some of the gifts received from individuals (normally excluding immediate family members). Further information about this is available from Stewardship (<http://www.stewardship.org.uk>) and Impact Giving ([www.impactgiving.org.uk](http://www.impactgiving.org.uk)).
- **Government support:** students with dependants may be eligible for the Adult Dependants' Grant, the Parents' Learning Allowance and the Childcare Grant via the Student Loans Company. Additionally, if you have a long-term health condition or specific learning difficulty (such as dyslexia) you may be eligible for Disabled Students' Allowance.

## What is Oak Hill's Financial Assurances Process?

As part of the Admissions process, all applicants are asked to demonstrate appropriate planning for the funding of the first year of their studies. While applicants aren't required to have all funds in place before they start College, we ask to see evidence of sufficient financial planning, including both actual and pledged funds, so that when they start at Oak Hill they can focus on their training and are not faced with the possibility of being unable to pay their fees or rent. Any offer of a place to study at Oak Hill is conditional on the applicant satisfactorily completing and returning a Financial Assurances Form which then needs to be signed off by us before an Assured Place can be confirmed. This form is provided at offer stage.