

CENTRE FOR CATHOLIC STUDIES (CCS)
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGION
DURHAM UNIVERSITY, UK

**CCS Bursary Funds for the
Distance Learning Programme in Catholic Theology**
in the Department of Theology and Religion
at Durham University, 2025-26

Information and Notes for Applicants

For bursaries for online distance learning programmes, as below.
For information about scholarships and bursaries for in person programmes, please contact theresa.phillips@durham.ac.uk

Only candidates applying to Durham University for the
MA (V8K807) / PG Diploma (V8K812) / PG Certificate (V8K814) /
Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Module (V8K118)
in Catholic Theology by Distance Learning
are eligible to apply ¹

Please note: All bursaries are towards tuition fees for the Distance Learning programmes in Catholic Theology only and will be awarded on the basis of demonstrated financial need, coupled with excellent academic performance.

An application form may be obtained from the CCS Manager, theresa.phillips@durham.ac.uk, or downloaded at [CCS Distance Learning Bursary Fund Application Form 2025-26](#) and must be returned to the CCS Manager **by the deadline** given below.

Before submitting an application, applicants must complete a standard DU application for postgraduate admission on-line (citing 'CCS Scholarship' in the Field of Study area and in the Finance/funding section). Applicants must have been formally offered a place on their chosen programme in Catholic Theology by Distance Learning before their application to the CCS Bursary Fund can be considered. The advised deadline for completing the online programme application with all supporting documents is given below. (For details on how to apply see [Application Process - Durham University](#))

THE CCS BURSARY FUND for DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMMES

(one-year, renewable)

The CCS at Durham University invites applications from full-time and part-time candidates for fixed-term bursaries for the MA / PG Diploma / PG Certificate / CPD module in Catholic Theology by Distance Learning.

The bursary funds available will be awarded on a competitive basis as partial support towards tuition fees. The total amount need not be awarded in a given year and may be split between candidates.

All bursaries will be awarded on the basis of demonstrated financial need, coupled with excellent academic performance and potential

Successful applicants need to be willing to contribute to the Centre for Catholic Studies as requested, specifically to help encourage awareness of the Distance Learning programme, and to help nurture donor

¹ Further eligibility criteria are contained in the following notes.

support for the CCS Bursary Fund. This might involve making a modest video or writing up a short article about their studies.

THE JANET ERSKINE STUART SCHOLARSHIP FUND

(one year, renewable)

In association with the Society of the Sacred Heart (RSCJ) donated funds from an endowment may be awarded on a competitive basis to full-time or part-time students on the MA / PG Diploma / PG Certificate / CPD module in Catholic Theology by Distance Learning. These funds may be awarded as full or partial support towards Home/UK level tuition fees.

The fund is intended primarily to support teachers or chaplains, and particular consideration will be given to applications from teachers and chaplains in the UK. Applications are especially invited from:

- Teachers of RE wishing to pursue an MA to enhance the quality of their subject knowledge.
- Teachers of any discipline who wish to retrain to teach RE.

Alongside academic excellence and potential, consideration will also be given to personal financial need.

In all cases, applicants are required to state their financial position and to update the [CCS Manager](#) of any changes to their financial situation after submitting their application and during the period of any award.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Before applying to the CCS Bursary Fund applicants must complete a standard DU application for the MA/Pg Diploma/PG Certificate/CPD in Catholic Theology by Distance Learning with all supporting documents by **Sunday 15 June 2025**.

Closing date for applications to the CCS Bursary Fund and the Janet Erskine Stuart Scholarship Fund for 2025/26 is **Sunday 6 July 2025**.

THE NOTES

Please read the notes below carefully before submitting your application to the CCS Bursary Fund for Distance Learning Programmes /Janet Erskine Stuart Scholarship Fund.

- (a) To be eligible for consideration, the applicant will be registered for either the MA in Catholic Theology by Distance Learning (V8K807), or the PG Diploma in Catholic Theology by Distance Learning (V8K812), or the PG Certificate in Catholic Theology by Distance Learning (V8K814), or the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) module in Catholic Theology by Distance Learning (V8K118).
- (b) It is important that applicants complete their online programme application by the deadlines given above as applicants must have been formally offered a place on a Catholic Theology by Distance Learning programme (V8K807, V8K812 or V8K814) before their application can be considered.
- (c) All tuition fee-only bursaries will be awarded on the basis of demonstrated financial need, coupled with excellent academic performance.
- (d) Receipt of any bursary from the CCS implies that recipients will be willing to contribute to the Centre for Catholic Studies as requested, specifically to help encourage awareness of the Distance Learning programme, and to help nurture donor support for the CCS Bursary Fund. This might involve making a modest video or writing up a short article about their studies.
- (e) Following application and during the period of any award, receipt of any other scholarship, bursary, or financial assistance towards the cost of tuition fees and/or associated living costs must be declared to the CCS Manager and may lead to a reduction in (and in extreme circumstances total cancellation of) the level of the bursary award. Failure to declare any such additional assistance will automatically carry the penalty of total cancellation of any CCS bursary or scholarship award.
- (f) Due to the limited funding available, support cannot be given towards maintenance costs, just assistance towards tuition fees.

- (g) Awards are made for one full academic year and do not imply commitment to renewal for future years of study.
- (h) That said, priority will be given, where possible, to students who have already been in receipt of a bursary from the CCS during the previous academic year and who have at least one further year of study to pursue. Further awards are subject both to sufficient funds being available and to a satisfactory progress report being received from the Course Director prior to the meeting of the CCS Scholarships Committee.

Please direct any queries to: Mrs Theresa Phillips, CCS Manager, Department of Theology and Religion
+44 (0) 191 334 3952 or theresa.phillips@durham.ac.uk

durham.ac.uk/theology.religion

centreforcatholicstudies.co.uk