



University of the
Highlands and Islands
Highland Theological
College

Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd
agus nan Eilean
Colaiste Dhiadhachd
na Gàidhealtachd



Ministry Apprenticeship Programme

A Community of Faith and Scholarship

Apprenticeship schemes are widely used in lots of professions. The young apprentice learns his or her trade from the experienced worker. In a church setting, apprenticeship schemes provide an opportunity for ‘trying out’ whether full-time gospel ministry is right for the apprentice or can be a first step into full-time gospel ministry. We just have to read Paul’s letters to Timothy for an example of early church apprenticeship.

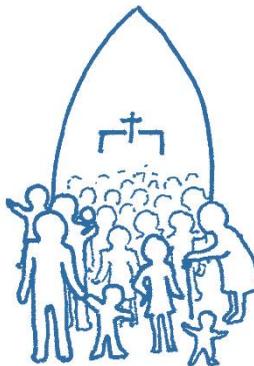
Church apprenticeships are commonly 1 or 2 year placements where someone is engaged in gospel ministry and can experience something of the sort of Christian work they feel God is calling them into. The apprentice learns as they serve, and the congregation nurtures and supports them along the way while they are trained and mentored by the pastor.

HTC has teamed up with a number of local bible-teaching churches to offer a new **Ministry Apprenticeship Programme** to people investigating Christian work. The programme has four components

- **leadership**
- **study**
- **ministry**
- **practical tasks**

with much of the study element being offered through HTC.

Church-based programme



Stepping stone to church leadership



Teaching provided through HTC

Skills for life



Are you wondering how best you can serve God? Exploring whether full-time Christian employment is right for you? Unsure what to do next?



Who is it for? Can I be an apprentice? Do you feel called to some kind of Christian work? Are you ready to work hard as you learn the ropes? Do you have a servant heart? Apprentices can be school-leavers, graduates, people taking a 'gap year', early retirees, or anyone looking for a career change.

What will I get out of it? As an apprentice, you'll become fully involved in the life and witness of a congregation. You'll be mentored by an experienced minister and nurtured by the congregation as you receive training in four main areas (leadership, study, ministry and practical tasks). At the end of your apprenticeship you'll have a good understanding of ministry in that local context and be well-equipped to apply for church-related employment or even to progress to training for pastoral ministry or other forms of Christian service.

Is it expensive? The congregation will make a contribution towards the cost of your training and we can give some advice about applying for grants too. The more support you can raise from friends, family and grants the less you will need to contribute towards your training and expenses. Specific costs will depend on the local situation.

Which churches are participating? The list is growing! Keep an eye on the website to see which congregations are looking for an apprentice then contact us to let us know which congregation you'd like to serve in. All churches participating in the programme are bible-teaching, mission-focused churches whose aim is to glorify God and lead people to Jesus.

I want to be part of this! What do I do now?

Applications from committed, motivated individuals are being accepted now to start late August/early Sept. For more information please contact us.



www.htc.uhi.ac.uk/apprenticeships

My name is Robin Gray, I'm 39 years old and I come from the town of Lanark. Before taking up this apprenticeship in 2015 I worked in television for 15 years, first in news and current affairs journalism at STV, then in a range of programmes at STV, the BBC and several independent production companies.

I became a Christian in 2014. My life had become almost unliveable but in that time of deep darkness God reached in and showed me that Jesus is indeed the way, the truth and the life. After some time of struggle I realised I had to leave my old life behind and I moved to Inverness.

After spending some time studying God's word, my minister began asking me to prepare short sermons on different texts. I enjoyed these assignments, and later was given some opportunities to preach the Gospel. At this time I sensed God's call to pastoral ministry. My minister proposed a ministry apprenticeship as a good way of testing that call, and the church agreed.

Through this programme of study at HTC and practical service in my church, I hope to grow in understanding and communicating the truths of the Christian faith.

I'm based at the Free North church in Inverness city centre, which is a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland. The church also runs the Madras Street Mission in the Merkinch area of the city, where two addictions support workers are based. It's a great privilege to serve both these congregations.



I'm finding the study component of the apprenticeship a great blessing. Studying God's word under good teachers in a worshipping, evangelical environment has been of great benefit to me and has helped my work in the church. It's my prayer that these studies will continue to enrich all the other aspects of my apprenticeship.

Once I've completed this programme I hope to go on to train for the pastoral ministry in the Free Church.

I'm Fiona Waite and I'm from Inverness. After leaving school I fulfilled part of my dream to train as a professional dancer by studying at the Scottish School of Contemporary Dance in Dundee, however my training only lasted a year as I felt God say that he had a different plan for me. This led me to a Christian Leadership gap year in Watford with Soul Survivor.

Throughout my year in Watford I learnt a lot about working in a church, about preaching the Gospel, being sensitive to the needs of others and reaching out to those who haven't heard about Jesus. Although many of the skills I gained have equipped me for living life as a Christian in any vocation, I had a strong sense that God would like to use me in a church. Following this calling, I received information about doing an apprenticeship with Hilton Church in Inverness. After prayer and consideration, I decided that it was the right thing to do.

I'd learnt a lot on my gap year but knew there are huge amounts more for me to learn. I want to learn how to handle the word of God faithfully and communicate it well to people from all generations and all walks of life and to grow in my ability to reach out to others who don't know God. Through my studies at HTC I hope to gain a greater understanding of the Bible, leading me further in love with God and better equipped to talk about him.

The church side of the apprenticeship is great! There is a good balance of responsibility and shadowing. I'm able to learn through both jumping in at the deep end and watching those who are more experienced. During the week I spend time in the local schools helping run Scripture Union Groups and a lunchtime 'drop-in' club for children to come and hang out in. This is great for getting to know children and young people in the area.

It's fantastic to be able to seek God's vision for the church and the community and to be given the space and freedom to follow wherever He leads. Having the chance to preach regularly is a privilege. The encouragement I receive from the church makes it a very safe environment to learn.

Studying alongside the more practical side of the apprenticeship creates a great balance and at church there's always an opportunity to practise what you've learnt at college. It's crucial to have an understanding of the bible and an ability to engage with it in order to faithfully handle it. You're never without a book to read, sharpening your perspective and forcing you to engage your mind in theological arguments. One of our modules 'Handling the word for preaching and teaching' is particularly helpful.

At the moment I'm not sure of my plans for when I finish. The apprenticeship is for two years so I intend to work as hard as I can at what I am doing but be praying about the future as well. Ultimately my prayers are that I will never cease to seek God's plans for my life and attempt to make my own plans instead! From experience, I know that that doesn't work.



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- **Leadership**
 - **Study**
 - **Ministry**
 - **Practical**



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