

# Chinese Bible Church of Greater Boston Internship and Scholarship Policy

BOE-5, 13 Jul 2019

Supersedes Pastoral Staff-01 (Rev. 1) 08 Nov 2014

Supersedes BOE-x, 09 Jul 2011

## Guiding Principles

Scholarships and internships are available to members in good standing of CBCGB studying at approved ministries. Awards are not granted automatically but are reserved for those who – at the discretion of the pastoral staff – have demonstrated appropriate character, gifting, personal calling to ministry, commitment, need, and ministry experience. Scholarship and internship holders must maintain adequate levels of ministry involvement and an acceptable GPA, subject to review by pastoral staff.

## The Policy:

- prioritizes long-term CBCGB members;
- prioritizes primary graduate programs in theology, ministry, missions, or Christian counseling at accredited evangelical seminaries, undertaken with the intention of entering vocational Christian ministry;
- considers both prior ministry involvement and continuing involvement;
- differentiates full-time from part-time educational costs.

## Basic Guidelines

**Internship Fund** is for seminarians who hold a significant ministry position within CBCGB (e.g., two units of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary [“GCTS”] mentored ministry program, or equivalent). Those who are receiving the Internship Fund cannot receive the Seminary, Ministry, or Book Scholarship at the same time.

The Internship Fund is typically reserved for seminarians in their final year; however, in cases of special ministry needs and with recommendation by a sponsoring CBCGB pastor, exceptions can be made to allow non-final-year seminarians to receive this fund. These exceptions require a commitment of serving 10-20 hours per week and require review and approval by pastoral staff.

Support level: \$1050/month, \$700-\$1050/month for non-final year seminarians.

**Seminary Scholarship** is for those who have served in a ministry capacity at CBCGB for a minimum of two years just prior to beginning their studies. Support will continue for the normal duration of a full-time program, including for those attending seminaries not local to CBCGB whose membership may lapse during their seminary studies as a result.

Support level: \$350/month.

**Ministry Scholarship** is for those who serve in a ministry capacity at CBCGB during their studies (e.g. GCTS mentored ministry program or its equivalent, 10+ hours per week). Typically, Ministry Scholarship requires one semester prior involvement at CBCGB under Book Scholarship. Exceptions will be considered with recommendation by a sponsoring CBCGB pastor.

Support is annually renewable for a maximum of three years (academic year or calendar year, depending on the student's ministry involvement). Up to one additional year of scholarship may be considered, on a case-by-case basis.

Support level: \$700/month. Total scholarship shall not exceed the actual cost of tuition and fees (minus any other scholarships or grants from other organizations).

**Book Scholarship** is for active CBCGB members who enroll in any degree, diploma or certificate course at an accredited evangelical seminary, whether by extension or on-site, but who do not qualify for internship, seminary scholarship, or ministry scholarship.

Book Scholarship may also be granted (funds permitting) to former scholarship holders who continue fulltime graduate studies in theology, ministry, missions, or Christian counseling.

Support level: \$115/month for full-time, or \$58/month for part-time.

## **Resources**

**Internship Fund** is supported through a line item in the annual budget of the General Fund.

**Seminary Scholarship, Ministry Scholarship and Book Scholarship** are supported through a line item in the annual budget of the General Fund.

## **Procedures**

Applications should be submitted to the Senior Pastor six months before start of award to permit time for review and budgeting.

Scholarship awards are decided by the Senior Pastor, who then informs the BoE of decisions.

All scholarships are subject to annual reapplication and renewal and require the submission of an annual written report to the Board of Elders.

Scholarship is not a commitment to provide employment after graduation.

## Clarifications of Practice

**Approved seminaries include** (but may not be limited to): (a) North American: Alliance Theological Seminary, Columbia Biblical Seminary, Denver Seminary, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Dallas Theological Seminary, Logos Evangelical Seminary, Talbot School of Theology, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Westminster Theological Seminary; (b) Asian: China Evangelical Seminary, China Graduate School of Theology, Singapore Bible College; (Source: council policy revision, 5/19/05)

**Membership expectations:** In the past, CBCGB would support active participants of community and ministry even if not members of CBCGB; moving forward, scholarship holders are required to become members if they have been attending CBCGB for more than one year. They need not surrender their membership in a home church. (Source: pastoral staff meeting, 8/17/04)

**Ministry scholarship allocation:** Fall ministry scholarship covers the months of September through December; Winter ministry scholarship covers the month of January; Spring ministry scholarship covers the months of February through May; Summer ministry scholarship covers the months of June through August (or portions of the time); Allocation is granted only for those months when the holder is serving in ministry (except for Seminary and Book Scholarships). (Source: pastoral staff meeting, 5/17/05)

**Scholarship application process:** Candidates should approach pastoral staff for counsel early in the seminary application process; Pastoral staff will conduct the initial screening prior to the applicant's submission of their written CBCGB scholarship application; decision will be made before the semester begins; standing review will be conducted each semester based on ministry, class load, transcript, & mentor evaluation. (Source: pastoral staff meeting, 10/19/04 & 10/26/04)

**Church endorsement for seminary studies:** Provided by the Senior Pastor (in absence of senior, lead pastor of ministry), in consultation with pastoral staff; financial issues should be addressed when church endorsement or pastoral reference is sought. (Source: pastoral staff meeting, 10/19/04 & 10/26/04)

**Book Scholarship policies:** 'active CBCGB members' includes seminarians from out-of-town churches, who do not join CBCGB, after they have completed one year of active service, funds permitting; 'who enroll in any degree, diploma or certificate course': 'course' here refers not to individual subjects, but to a program of study issuing in some certificate, or the equivalent; 'at an accredited evangelical seminary': students engaged in fulfilling prerequisites qualify for book scholarship, funds permitting, with seminary scholarship to begin only once program formally begins (Source: pastoral staff meeting, 11/21/06)