

Help! I've been recommended for training at the St Padarn's Institute 2025-26

What happens next?

We're delighted that you have been recommended for training. When we have received your sponsorship form from the bishop, we will be in touch more formally. However, this information may be useful in the meantime.



First of all, please ensure that you have the dates for next year in the diary, and that you book time off work for the summer school (or any other arrangements you need to make) and if necessary, do the same for the weekend residentials.

Week Summer school

16-17 August 2025 Induction for **All new** ministry candidates (St Padarn's Cardiff)

17-22 August 2025 Summer School for **All ministry candidates** (University of South Wales, Trefforest, Pontypridd)

Weekend Residentials

10-12 Oct 2025 Residential weekend Location TBC.

6-8 Feb 2026 Residential weekend Location TBC

8-10 May 2026 Residential weekend Location TBC

Normally the weekend residentials are held at various locations in Wales and often in north Wales to balance out the summer school being held in Pontypridd. Therefore bear in mind they could be a good few hours' journey from where you live, and they start with supper at 7pm.

We have three modes of training:

- Full-Time, St Padarn's Cardiff based
- Full-Time, Diocesan based
- Part-Time

and four 'building blocks' of training:

- residentials
- theological (academic) learning
- formational cells
- placement



If you are training for a **part-time ministry**, you would typically remain at home, study theology locally on the Theology for Life (BTh) Programme, attend the summer school and weekend residentials and formational cells. For more details about Theology for Life (BTh) programme, please visit our website.

If you are training for **full-time ministry**, normally you would follow the full-time

programme which has periods of residence in Cardiff (24 weeks of the year), as well as hub days (six a year) in your local area. You will attend the **Wednesday to Friday programme** at St Padarn's Cardiff, worshipping, eating, socialising, praying and learning together with others training for ministry. You will also attend hub days in one of three locations across Wales where you will see your tutor, attend your formational cell and worship and learn together. This is the structure from September onwards and so is different from the experience of those currently in training or what you might have read about previously. The (revised) schedule is:

Weeks 1–4 (lunchtime Wednesday to lunchtime Friday): Residential sessions in Cardiff (continuing the current pattern).

Week 5: A formational day at one of three regional hubs (North, South, or West).

Week 6: Dedicated private study time.

For the remainder of the week you will be doing a two-day placement, having your study day based at home as well as a day off.

The usual pattern is:

Sunday: placement

Monday: placement (or study day)

Tuesday: study day (or placement)

Wednesday: Cardiff

Thursday: Cardiff

Friday: Cardiff

Saturday: Day off



If you need advice, more information or to talk potential training options through please contact lyn.davies@stpadarns.ac.uk who will get one of the tutors to contact you for a conversation.

We consider training to be an important investment for the future, we are keen to ensure that the training we put together for you is challenging and takes you on to the next level in your ministry journey, however experienced or qualified you already are.



Decisions regarding length and nature of training are taken in consultation between St Padarn's and the bishop. Normally full-time training takes 3 years or sometimes 2 years. Part-time training normally takes 3 years. We take into account if you are already exercising a licensed ministry e.g., moving from being a Reader to being

ordained, or already have theological qualifications. We also try and be as flexible as we can with those who have significant caring responsibilities.

The nature of the qualification you will gain at the end will also play an important part in these decisions. Normally a bishop will want someone entering ordained ministry to have at least a diploma in theology. 6 years part-time and 3 years full-time leads to a degree, 4 years part-time, 2 years full-time, a diploma, and 1 year full-time, 2 years part time a certificate. Often candidates will have started the Theology for Life (BTh) course during the discernment process.

It is sometimes worth bearing in mind that it is much easier to move from part time to full-time study if you are at the end of a level. Finishing training at the same time as finishing a level (4,5, or 6) also means you gain a qualification, whether it is certificate, diploma or degree. If you are part time, if you start Theology for Life before training, you are then more able to gain (at least) a diploma. Please contact us to discuss this further.

Practical information:

Grants

The Church in Wales provides grants for people training for ministry. For more information, please visit [Candidate Grant Notes 2025-2026.pdf](#) to estimate the level of your grant.

If you have any queries about this, please contact Siân Trotman the Learner Services Manager on: Main: 029 2056 3379
Direct office line: 029 20 838070
sian.trotman@stpadarns.ac.uk

Expenses

For those candidates who will be travelling to Cardiff, Wednesday to Friday, together with placement travel expenses should be completed using a St Padarn's expenses form. Part-time candidates can claim for travel to residentials and travel to placements *outside* of the ministry area in which they live.

For more information, look at the website



<https://www.stpadarns.ac.uk/en/ministry/formation-licensed-ministry/>

Theological learning

For those training full-time, the theology modules are taught during the Wednesday to Friday programme. For those training part-time, you will join other part time students all over Wales studying on the Theology for Life (BTh programme). More information about the course can be found on the St Padarn's website under Theology for Life.



<https://www.stpadarns.ac.uk/en/courses/theology-life/> On the part-time programme, you will attend two teaching sessions each term, one at the beginning, on Zoom, and the other in the middle of the term.

There is further information on our website. Please look out for our open days and taster courses – more information will be on our social media or get in touch. As we are developing a new grants system for next academic year as well as a new pattern for full time training, the website will be being updated over the coming months to reflect this, so do check back regularly.



Dates for 2025-26

Date	What	Who
16-24 August 2025	Induction and Summer school	All Full and Part-time candidates
10-12 Sept 2025	Full-time week 1	All full-time candidates
17-19 Sept 2025	Full-time week 2	All full-time candidates
24-26 Sept 2025	Full-time week 3	All full-time candidates
1-3 Oct 2025	Full-time week 4	All full-time candidates
8-10 Oct 2025	Formational week 1 Day per week in North, West and South	All full-time candidates PT Candidates welcome evening
10-12 October 2025	Autumn Residential	All Full and Part-time candidates
15-17 Oct 2025	Full-time week 1	All full-time candidates
22-24 Oct 2025	Full-time week 2	All full-time candidates
27-31 Oct 2025	Independent Learning Week/ Half term	All Full and Part-time candidates
5-7 Nov 2025	Full-time week 3	All full-time candidates
12-14 Nov 2025	Full-time week 4	All full-time candidates
19-21 Nov 2025	Formational week 1 Day per week in North, West and South	All full-time candidates PT Candidates welcome evening
26-28 Nov 2025	Full-time week 1	All full-time candidates
3-5 Dec 2025	Full-time week 2	All full-time candidates
10-12 Dec 2025	Full-time week 3	All full-time candidates
17-19 Dec 2025	Independent Learning Week	All full-time candidates
24-26-Dec 2025	Christmas Break	All Full and Part-time candidates
31 Dec-2 Jan 2026	Christmas Break	All Full and Part-time candidates
7-9 Jan 2026	Formational week1 Day per week in North, West and South	All full-time candidates PT Candidates welcome evening
14-16 Jan 2026	Full-time week 4	All full-time candidates
21-23 Jan 2026	Full-time week 1	All full-time candidates
28-30 Jan 2026	Full-time week 2	All full-time candidates
4-6 Feb 2026	Full-time week 3	All full-time candidates P
6-8 Feb 2026	Winter Residential	All Full and Part-time candidates
11-13 Feb 2026	Formational week1 Day per week in North, West and South	All full-time candidates PT Candidates welcome evening
16-20 Feb 2026	Independent Learning Week/ Half term	All Full and Part-time candidates
25-27 Feb 2026	Full-time week 4	All full-time candidates
4-6 March 2026	Full-time week 1	All full-time candidates
11-13 March 2026	Full-time week 2	All full-time candidates
18-20 March 2026	Full-time week 3	All full-time candidates

25-27 March 2026	Formational week 1 Day per week in North, West and South	All full-time candidates PT Candidates welcome evening
1-3 April 2026	Holy week	All Full and Part-time candidates
8-10 April 2026	Easter	All Full and Part-time candidates
15-17 April 2026	Full-time week 4	All full-time candidates
22-24 April 2026	Full-time week 1	All full-time candidates
29 April- 1 May 2026	Full-time week 2	All full-time candidates
6-8 May 2026	Formational week 1 Day per week in North, West and South	All full-time candidates
8-10 May 2026	Spring Residential	All Full and Part-time candidates
13-15 May 2026	Full-time week 3	All full-time candidates
20-22 May 2026	Full-time week 4 (Leaver's week)	All full-time candidates
27-29 May 2026	Independent Learning Week/ Half term	All Full and Part-time candidates
30 June- 5 July 2026	Mission Week	All returning full-time candidates