Ecclesiastical Insurance has once again opened its popular Ministry Bursary Awards (MBAs) to applications for 2020 clergy sabbaticals.

The MBAs, which have been running for more than 30 years, are open to all members of the clergy from Anglican Christian faiths and provide financial support for sabbatical breaks and projects.

Since launch, the MBAs have supported more than a thousand members of the clergy, funding a wide range of projects. In 2018, 70 applicants received a grant of between £200 and £1,500 to help fund their 2019 sabbatical breaks. At Ecclesiastical, we see the contribution clergy make to our communities and it is invaluable. However, it can also come with a huge amount of personal responsibility.

The fundamental purpose of a sabbatical is to have time for soulful rest and refreshment for the applicant that is purposeful and balanced. Over the years, we have seen a diverse range of projects from ministerial development, pilgrimages to the pursuit of lifelong dreams. The 2019 awards are supporting a number of interesting sabbatical projects, including pilgrimages to the Holy Land, academic studies and trips to other dioceses to share learnings, as well as opportunities to work on personal projects such as art, poetry and book writing.

All applications for a Bursary Award must complete the application forms, which are then considered by our judging panel. The criteria for sabbaticals being taken in 2020 is as follows:

 **Entries for an award must fulfil the following criteria:**

* Awards are open to individual clergy in the Anglican Church in England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland
* All clergy applying must be in stipendiary ministry
* All clergy must have been ordained for at least 10 years and not taken a sabbatical in the previous 7 years of applying
* Applications are also open to Archdeacons, Bishops, Deans and Assistants1
* Awards are provided for extended study leave only (fees for a course during the extended study leave may be considered)
* Entries must be made using the forms provided.

**We do not support:**

* Long-term courses such as PhD or university fees
* An extended holiday/family holiday
* Doing the same job in a different location
* Solely used for academic study.

**Judging Criteria:**
Judging of the 2020 entries will take place during November 2019 and awards will be made in December 2019. The amount of the individual awards will be judged on the following criteria:

* Value to the individual applicant
* Benefit to the wider church
* Financial support already committed from other sources
* The strength of the endorsement from a Bishop or Archdeacon supporting your plans

For more information including eligibility criteria and to download an application form please visit www.ecclesiastical.com/mba

Ecclesiastical’s Ministry Bursary Awards are now open for applications, for those wishing to take a sabbatical during 2020. The closing date is 30 September 2019.

We look forward to receiving application forms.

With best wishes.

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1Assistants are classified as Assistant Curates, Deacons and Licensed Lay Workers including Church Army Evangelists engaged in the parochial ministry. Source: GS Misc 1148 published by the Archbishops’ Council 2016