



**EUROPEAN  
MISSION  
FELLOWSHIP**

# **EMF Training Fund: Objectives, Criteria and Process**

**Steven Bowers, Mission Director**

**April 2019**

## 1 Background and Objectives of the EMF Training Fund

European Mission Fellowship has, throughout its history, had a keen interest in training men and women to work on the mission field in Europe and amongst European people, building on a thorough understanding of God's revelation in scripture. The closure of the School of Biblical Studies in 2018 and the sale of the Guessens property in 2019 did not signal an end to this interest, but rather a significant change in the mode. The Trustees decided that the proceeds from the sale of the property be invested in a long-term fund, 50% of the income from that fund should be dedicated to on-going training of men and women called to mission work amongst European people.

In April 2019 the EMF Training Fund was established with the objectives of providing an ongoing income to be used for the training of men and women called to mission work amongst European (non-UK) people. This training would make use of external Bible-based training colleges or seminaries, which shared EMF's basis of faith, reflecting historical evangelical Christianity. Those chosen to be supported by the fund would need to have a strong sense of calling to the European mission field and there should be a reasonable intention on both sides that the training would equip the candidate to go to the mission field in Europe as part of the EMF family. This, however, would not be a firm commitment from either side, and agreement to go as an EMF-supported missionary would only be considered towards the end of training, following the usual process. The fund would also be used to support existing missionaries supported by EMF looking to expand their outreach.

The focus of the EMF Training Fund would reflect EMF's wider focus and priority, which to summarise could be stated as:

- Supporting the work of the Gospel in European (non-UK) countries and /or amongst European (non-UK) people;
- Working with churches local to these communities;
- Primarily through planting, establishing and growing local churches, but also through other means such as publishing, literature distribution, children's work.

This document is intended to make clear the objectives of the Training Fund, the criteria used to select students and the process for that selection and for developing the students' relationship with EMF.

## 2 Terminology

In this discussion we'll use the following terminology: -

- **Home Church:** The home church of the candidate student – or 'sending' church. This could be a UK-based church or a church in mainland Europe.
- **Destination Church:** The church in mainland Europe from which the potential mission work of the student would be led, after completion of study. For example, if the intended work is church planting in a region of Barcelona, this would be the Destination Church in Barcelona. The Destination Church and Home Church could be the same church, where the candidate student is being proposed by a church with a view to coming back to working in that church.
- **Supporting Churches:** Other churches who are supporting the prospective student in prayer or financially.

## **3 Criteria for selection of student**

### **3.1 Support of Home church**

An important consideration is whether the candidate student has strong support from their Home Church, backing their call to ministry. This would need to include the endorsement of the leadership of the church as well as a level of financial support.

**Specific criteria:**

- a. The candidate must be an evangelical Christian, male or female, with gifts and abilities recognised by the leadership of their Home Church, and
- b. The Home Church must be committed to supporting the candidate both in their student course and in their subsequent missionary work, in prayer and financially. The Home Church must be willing to provide a level of funding for the candidate for the period of their studentship. The amount would depend on the situation of the Home Church, but EMF would expect the contribution to be consistent with church's situation and income.

### **3.2 Calling to the European mission field**

A second important area is the candidate's calling to work within the European mission field, recognising that the training is intended to be focused on equipping the candidate for the work of mission.

**Specific criteria:**

- a. The candidate needs to have a strong sense of calling to a specific area of work in Europe or amongst European people, supported by his/her Home church.  
This would be expected to be specific with regard to the nature of work (for example church planting, pastoral work, youth and children's work, publishing, translation) and to the region or people. In a model scenario, there would be agreement with a Destination church with regard to the role the candidate would play in the gospel activity. However, it is understood that not every detail would need to be known and agreed up-front.
- b. The calling of the candidate must be consistent with biblical principles for roles within a local church, with regard to the role of the candidate in a Destination church after training. This would apply, for example, to male and female roles and also to qualifications for leadership roles.

**EMF Focus:**

EMF would particularly favour European (non-UK) people reaching European (non-UK) people. This, however, could include working within UK, for example with expatriate European communities. Regarding the nature of the work, EMF would particularly favour church planting or church leadership work.

EMF would, however, consider other scenarios if there was a particularly strong and clear calling and/or gospel opportunity.

### **3.3 Selection of the training course**

The third area relates to the selection of the training course, which must be suitable for the equipping of the candidate for the work, and consistent with EMF's doctrinal basis. EMF, however, does not have a pre-defined list of training courses it would limit candidates to. With regard to the length of the course, EMF would normally expect a 1 to 2-year course but would not exclude supporting students on longer courses if this could be justified by the training needed.

**Specific criteria:**

The selection of the training course would need to be mutually acceptable to both the candidate student (and his/her Home church) and to EMF and would need to adhere to a doctrinal basis consistent with that of EMF. The selection of the training course would be based on both its ability to equip the candidate for the proposed work on the mission field, and on its cost effectiveness.

Note that the award of a recognised academic qualification is not deemed to be an important factor, apart from exceptional circumstances.

**EMF Focus:**

EMF has an historic link to London Seminary and seeks to continue this partnership in the gospel; however, training courses would not be limited to London Seminary only, and the selection of the training course would be based on its ability and cost effectiveness to equip the candidate for the proposed work on the mission field.

## **4 Selection process**

While applications are invited at any stage during the year, and early engagement with EMF to discuss proposals is encouraged, there would be a single deadline for applications for training beginning in September.

**Deadline for applications for 1<sup>st</sup> year (2019):** **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May**

**Deadline for applications for subsequent years:** **31<sup>st</sup> March**

Please note that applications are invited at any stage of the year for training not starting in September; also, EMF would be willing to fast-track late applications where there was a particularly strong case for support.

Applications would be made to the Mission Director and assessed by the EMF Training Fund Sub-Committee.

Applicants would need to submit an application form, with input from the candidate and representatives of their Home Church, along with a letter of endorsement from their Home Church.

## **5 Becoming part of the EMF Family**

The selected student would be expected to spend time working with the Mission Director and other EMF Trustees and staff members to familiarise themselves with the EMF vision, organisation and operation, and to develop further the proposed mission activity they would engage in after training. They would also be expected to take part in developing church links with UK supporting churches during their period of study.

Document Version 1.1

26<sup>th</sup> April 2019