

Equipped to Pioneer

Equipped to Pioneer is a part time training course for those involved in church planting or pioneer ministry in Baptist Churches. It is intended to enable people to be recognised by the churches of the Baptist Union as trained pioneers. The course consists of a range of modules designed to provide a biblical and theological understanding of mission in today's context, along with personal development.



EQUIPPED TO PIONEER COURSE

Equipped to Pioneer (EtP) is a part-time training course for anyone in Baptist churches involved in pioneer ministry and church planting. Developed in 2012, it aims to meet the changing scene of church life where local mission opportunities often require a range of new skills, and new churches come in a variety of expressions. It is intended to enable people to be recognised by the churches of the Baptist Union as trained pioneers. The course consists of a range of modules designed to provide a biblical and theological understanding of mission in today's context, along with personal development. Other modules help develop the skills needed for different forms of pioneering mission and for creating new expressions of church.



The EtP modules are delivered by different agencies. The core modules are offered by Baptist Colleges (sometimes in conjunction with associations) and by the Crucible course run by Urban Expression and partners. The optional modules are delivered by Colleges and by the CMS Pioneer Mission Leadership Training Course, sometimes with the help of other agencies. People wanting to follow the complete EtP course for recognition as a Baptist Pioneer will be supervised through a Baptist College in a similar way to those who train as Lay Pastors. The process of recognition will be similar to that for Lay Pastors, involving the local church and association.

EtP modules may be taken in any order and will normally take a minimum of two to three years to complete. Most modules require attendance for two Saturdays, a series of evenings or a complete weekend. Assessments of differing types must be undertaken to complete the module. A part-time church planting or pioneering mission involvement is expected during most of the two to three years of the course. If you need help regarding a part-time placement, your association, Crucible, the Incarnate Network or Urban Expression could help you. Crucible can also help with the provision of a mentor. (Assessment and placement supervision is optional for students taking individual modules.)

If you want to be recognised as a Pioneer by the Baptist Union of Great Britain, then you should speak to your Regional Minister as soon as possible who will explain the association process to you and discuss a suitable part-time placement. You must make it clear to the Colleges and to Crucible and CMS that you need the modules to be assessed. It will then be necessary to register with one of the five Baptist Colleges in membership with BUGB. In addition, it is the responsibility of the student to maintain a portfolio of evidence of courses, placements etc completed. A template of this will be provided. It is your responsibility to book and pay for appropriate modules. Students undertaking a Foundation Degree in Pioneering should negotiate credits with their overseeing Baptist College.

Equip to Pioneer Course Summary

For EtP recognition, twelve modules need to be completed; ten normally form the core course and two more may be selected from six options. Some modules are the same as in the course for Lay Pastors and these are delivered by Baptist Colleges. The remainder of the core modules are delivered by the Crucible course run by Urban Expression and partners, or by CMS.

The ten core modules:

- 1 Understanding the Bible
- 2 Understanding the Bible
- 3 Baptist Belief and Practice
- 4 Doing Theology
- 5 Personal Development and Formation

For each of these modules, it is normally necessary to book with a Baptist College¹. (There may be a variation in the titles.)

- 6 Culture, Mission and the Kingdom
- 7 What Shape the Church?
- 8 Making Missional Disciples
- 9 Evangelism and Communication
- 10 Restoring Hope / Becoming Human

For these modules, it is necessary to book for all six weekends of the Crucible course² (offered over two years). The titles are different but the weekends cover the contents of these modules. Inform Crucible that you are taking their modules as part of the EtP course. Doing these modules with Crucible will enable you to network with other pioneers.



Core element:

Placement in pioneering situation new to the student for up to a week, ideally to take place in the first year, with a report from the mentor

Agree this placement and its assessment with the College overseeing your course. A placement may be found through the Incarnate Network³ or Urban Expression.⁴

Choose two further options from these six:

Pioneering Leadership

Missional Entrepreneurship Week (CMS)

Two weekends on CMS ReSource weekends

Book with the CMS Pioneer Mission Leadership Training⁵ saying that you are part of the BUGB Equipped to Pioneer course.



History of Pioneers

Pastoral Care

Theology and History

For each of these modules, it is necessary to book with a Baptist College⁶. (There may be a variation in the titles.)



- 1 www.baptist.org.uk/baptist-colleges.html
- 2 www.cruciblecourse.org.uk
- 3 www.incarnate-network.eu
- 6 www.urbanexpression.org.uk
- 5 <http://pioneer.cms-uk.org/training/>
- 6 www.baptist.org.uk/baptist-colleges.html

Cost: The cost of a College or Crucible module varies between £50 and £80, plus accommodation when required. A small additional charge may be made for the assessment. Please check the CMS costs directly. Bursaries may be available from your association towards this course.

All individual modules are open to anyone to attend. Booking and payment should be made directly to whichever Baptist College or agency is providing the course.