

Cultivate: What's involved?

Before deciding whether to apply for Cultivate, we want you to consider carefully whether you have the capacity to commit fully to the programme. Across the year you'll need to commit at least 3 days per month. The shape of those three days will vary across the year.

The time commitment works out at approx 24-30 hours per month in most months (6-8 hours per week), plus two 48-hour residential events per year, and a final fifth residential and celebration event at the conclusion of the second year. There is a significant element of reading and writing involved, which requires self-discipline and good time management.

We suggest that anyone in a demanding, full-time day job considers reducing their contractual work commitments by half or one day per week in order to have the time to make the most of the programme's learning and output opportunities. For those working in paid ministry roles, the immediate benefit from the programme may be such that your employer will be happy to incorporate your Cultivate commitments into your regular work pattern.

Monthly activity in Year One

- **Approx 380-450 pages of reading per month.** In year one this will be approximately half set texts and half elective reading. These will balance old and new works by Christian and non-Christian authors, and combine consideration of method (learning and teaching), theology, Christian life, and cultural engagement. Whilst individual reading speeds differ, and the set texts will vary in intensity, this should amount to roughly 18-22 hours of reading, to be completed at times that suit your schedule.
- **A two hour seminar group each month** in which reading is discussed (the date and time for the seminar group will be fixed by mutual agreement)
- **A short written or recorded reflection** on the month's reading, intended to communicate a key idea from your reading to a popular-level audience.

Monthly activity in Year two

- **Approx 380-450 pages of reading per month.** In year two as each participant starts to focus on elective specialisms, set reading will reduce but elective reading will increase.
- **A range of written and other output tasks.** In year two participants will be challenged to produce a variety of outputs of different forms, lengths and levels, to develop their communication skills and begin to create resources that serve their local church and the wider church.
- **A two hour seminar group each month.** In year two the focus will shift towards review of written and other outputs: reviewing drafts of work, providing each other with feedback and suggestions, and identifying new avenues of exploration and collaboration.

Residentials

- Residential sessions will include theological teaching and discussion, skills development workshops, and completing collaborative tasks as a peer group (e.g recording podcasts, writing articles, or mapping out training resources)
- Normally the first week of February and second week of September each year.
- **Residential 1: 29th - 31st January 2026** - in Newcastle.
- **Residential 2: w/c 14th September 2026** (to be confirmed) - in Newcastle.
- Accommodation and meals will be provided.

What do fees cover? What other costs are involved?

- Fees cover all tuition, mentoring, accommodation and meals.
- You will need to budget for travel to residential events.
- You will need a book budget of up to £200 per year to purchase set texts and additional texts related to your elective specialism. You may be able to borrow some texts; a few texts will be provided as PDFs free of charge.
- Cultivate students can have access to Perlego for £70 per year. This allows them to access a wealth of books, including some of the set texts and more specialist reading that will be completed across the two years.