

## Introduction

- There are over 159 Higher Education Institutions in Great Britain educating about 2.27 million students
- 1.83 million are from the UK
- 125,500 are from the EU
- 312,000 are from non-EU countries
- 47% of young adults will participate in Higher Education
- 404,000 staff work in Higher Education
- Almost all Higher Education Institutions have some form of chaplaincy
- Most university chaplaincy work is ecumenical and increasingly multi-faith

## Exploring Further

About half of all young adults will study in higher education and for many this is a formative and life changing experience. In some universities many students live on or around the campus and there may be a Chaplaincy Centre on or near the campus. In other institutions there will be several campuses scattered around a city and no real focus for the work with large numbers of students travelling in each day. Most chaplaincies are linked in some way to a university department offering support services for students and this often includes providing multi-faith facilities and prayer rooms. University chaplaincy is very rarely about ministering to a congregation of students, where these do exist they are only a small part of the chaplain's work and often there is no settled group of students connected to the chaplaincy. Higher Education chaplains seek to minister and witness to the whole institution - students and staff, to build links between the university and faith communities, and to uncover the presence of God in the complicated world of the secular university. The university is a place where all ideas are open to challenge and change - this is a vibrant, diverse, international environment which can be very demanding.

## Getting Involved

There is a great variety in Higher Education Chaplaincy posts. Employed chaplains may be appointed by the Church, by the University, by an Ecumenical Organisation or by any combination of these. Most of the substantive posts are for presbyters or deacons, but there is an increasing number of lay chaplains and Student Workers, some of whom are employed by local churches or circuits. A Chaplaincy Assistant is usually a former student who works with the chaplaincy for a brief period before moving on - some chaplaincies also make use of volunteers. Increasingly chaplains work in teams with one person acting as the "co-ordinating chaplain". Chaplaincy teams will be ecumenical and most are now multi-faith. Employed chaplaincy posts would normally be advertised in the church press, whereas volunteers are more likely to be recruited directly by a chaplaincy team.

There are strong national, ecumenical and Methodist networks for chaplains. Each year the Churches Higher Education Liaison Group (CHELG) offers both a study day and a residential course for new chaplains. It is possible to attend these events to explore university chaplaincy work. Most university chaplains would be happy to meet with anyone with a genuine desire to know more about their work. Links with local churches are important for chaplaincies and prayerful support is always welcome.

## HE Chaplaincy Resources

### Information:

The Church of England Higher Education website hosts a number of shared resources for chaplains.

<http://www.churchofengland.org/education/colleges-universities/he/supporting-chaplaincy.aspx>

*Christianity and the University Experience in Contemporary England*: research project studying Christianity on the university campus <http://www.cueproject.org.uk/>

Brown, S., (2010) *University Chaplaincy as Wisdom in this Place*: a Methodist perspective on HE chaplaincy originally published in *The Epworth Review*  
<http://www.opensourcechaplaincy.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/Stan-Brown.pdf>

Clines, J.,(2008) *Faiths in Higher Education Chaplaincy: A Report Commissioned by the Church of England Board of Education*, Church of England Board of Education  
<http://www.churchofengland.org/education/colleges-universities/he/supporting-chaplaincy/faithsinhe.aspx>

Robinson, S. (2004) *Ministry Among Students: A Pastoral Theology and Handbook for Practice*, Norwich, Canterbury Press

Universities UK (2015) *Higher Education Facts and Figures*  
<http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/facts-and-stats/data-and-analysis/Pages/higher-education-facts-and-figures-2015.aspx>

### Organisations:

#### **Churches Higher Education Liaison Group (CHELG)**

An ecumenical group helping to co-ordinate university chaplaincy work. Arranges conferences and training for established and newly appointed chaplains.  
<http://www.churchofengland.org/education/colleges-universities/he/chelg.aspx>

#### **Methodist HE Chaplains Facebook Group**

A forum for Methodists involved in university chaplaincy – public content

#### **Methodist Higher Education Chaplaincy Group (MHEG)**

A small group elected by Methodist chaplains to co-ordinate their work.

#### **Universities UK**

Representative organisation for the UK's universities  
<http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/Pages/Default.aspx>

### Contacts:

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