

St Mary the Virgin, Nottingham



Choral Scholarship Scheme: Frequently Asked Questions

Here are a few questions which are commonly asked by prospective scholars. If the answers below do not answer all of your queries then please do not hesitate to contact us at the email address below.

1. Am I eligible to apply for a Scholarship?

Scholarships are available to Sopranos, Counter-tenors, Tenors and Basses of at least 18 years of age and in further or higher education. We typically take scholars from both Universities in Nottingham, including both undergraduates and postgraduates. Applications are warmly invited from those hoping to study at university in Nottingham in future years.

2. What do you expect from a Scholar?

Scholars must have a good, strong voice and be sufficiently confident to sing in small groups on limited rehearsal. Sight-reading ability is preferable and Scholars must be committed both in terms of attendance and producing an excellent standard of music.

3. What are the benefits of being a Scholar?

Each scholarship is worth at least £800 per annum, with a payment at the commencement of the scholarship and subsequently payments after each of the three academic terms. Additional payments are made for optional services at Christmas and Easter. We also offer subsidised singing lessons and master-classes and scholars participate in the various recordings, broadcasts and tours which the choir undertakes.

4. What commitment is expected of a Scholar?

Scholars sing the services of the church as required by the Director of Music, usually being a mid-week evensong (normally on a Wednesday), and Eucharist and Evensong on Sundays. There is also a practice on Friday evenings. Scholars will also be expected to sing on various Holy days and High days throughout the year and at concerts as required. Scholars may be absent for a limited number of services/rehearsals per term upon advanced notice.

5. Would I have to sing outside of the University term?

No, scholars are only expected to sing during the academic term, although they are always encouraged to sing out of term time if they wish.

6. When are auditions held?

Auditions are usually held in September or October of the academic year in which the scholarship is to start. However, auditions may be held at other times of the year where appropriate.

7. What will my audition consist of?

Auditions will include a piece of your own choice, some aural tests and a sight-reading exercise. You will also be asked about yourself and your application.

8. How many scholarship places are available?

We award up to ten scholarships a year strictly on merit. Current Scholars are usually invited to take up a scholarship in future years.

9. How do I apply?

Download the application form from www.stmaryschoirnottingham.com/recruitment, complete with your personal details, references and experience as required and return it to the email address set out below.

If you have any further questions about the Scholarships at St Mary's then please do not hesitate to contact Jonathan Stork, Chair of the Trustees, at scholarships@stmaryschoirnottingham.com.