

UPPER SOUTH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Carey Baptist College Scholarship 2026

Aim

To encourage and resource the training of theological students for the Upper South Baptist Association Churches. The Upper South Baptist Association, by partnering in the provision of this scholarship funding seeks to grow the leadership opportunities for our churches in the Association. The USBA seeks to partner with the local church, and supportive third parties, to create a 'third by third by third' scholarship to an upper limit of \$10,000 per scholarship for the year 2026. This would normally look like \$3333 per partner per scholarship.

This scholarship model will be assessed annually in conjunction with the USBA-BRL annual letter of expectations.

Scope

The education and training must be sourced through Carey Baptist College in the first instance. Other tertiary theological providers may be considered, but on a case by case basis, at the discretion of the funding committee.

- Study may be at any level offered by Carey Baptist College, including micro, diploma, degree, and post grad, on site or distance.
- Support may be for full time or part-time programmes, amounts available being variable depending on reserves, application rates, and feedback on progress, at the discretion of the funding committee.
- Funding is provided primarily for costs of tuition (fees, activities, travel) but might include other living costs, at the discretion of the funding committee.
- Priority would be given to those who have matched funding: one third from church, one third from a private donor, one third from the USBA to a total maximum amount of \$10,000 per scholarship, depending on the factors listed above. Other iterations of the scholarship may be considered if partners are not forthcoming, at the discretion of the funding committee. This may include larger scholarships in certain circumstances.

Process

- Applicants must have the support and endorsement of the leadership of their local church.
- Selection will be through an application process which includes completion of an application form, provision of supporting material, and deliberation of the USBA-appointed selection committee. If successful, the committee will determine the amount and the conditions which will apply.
- The USBA will be responsible for administration and monitoring of scholarships.
- The granting of scholarships will be made through a recommendation of the committee to the Association Board for final approval.

Scholarships available

In any given year, scholarship opportunities will be advertised before October, and amounts offered will be based upon the funding stream available at that time. The scholarship model will be assessed annually in conjunction with the USBA-BRL annual letter of expectations.

Timeframes

Applications open- October, following advertisement to the churches.

Applications close- February the following year, just prior to the commencement of the academic year.

Decisions- Applicants will be considered on a monthly basis (Oct-Nov-Dec-Jan-Feb).

Payments- Disbursements will be discussed and agreed upon depending on the circumstances of the applicant, the cashflow projections of the USBA, and the circumstances of the other partners.

Application

In the first instance, a letter of interest shall be sent to the Regional Leader.

This shall include:

1. An outline of the study being pursued and the reasons for undertaking it.
2. The applicant's ability to bring other funding partners to the table or a request for help in this process.
3. The support of the local church at which the applicant is a member, or a clear pathway to membership of the supporting church.
4. A willingness to engage with the USBA in terms of discernment of any call to ministry, assessment of progress, and feedback on the scholarship.
5. Any additional supporting material.