

## Working with Chaplaincy

Pastoral care has long been a significant element of the student experience with chaplaincies placed to look at emotional and spiritual support within education institutions and as student numbers continue to rise and institutions have an increasingly diverse student population a well serviced chaplaincy is imperative

Many chaplains are not funded directly by institutions and instead are funded directly by the Church of England. This can mean only one model of pastoral support is available to students. To provide for other faith and beliefs larger chaplaincies often have volunteers from various faith communities.

While there has been some contention regarding whether Anglican chaplaincy models are fit for purpose there is no doubt that the type of support chaplaincies provide is vital for students of faith and belief and non-faith students alike, giving students vital service between advice and counselling.

### What do chaplains do?

While for the majority of their time the role of chaplains on your campus will be to provide informal spiritual and emotional support to students, because they are often the only faith representative on their campus, they can end up doing a variety of different tasks including:

- Guidance to staff on religious issues and spiritual development
- Advice on religious needs such as dietary requirements and prayer space
- Supporting vulnerable and isolated students
- Facilitating dialogue between different faith groups, and other societies and groups on campus
- Acting as an informal liaison with student support services and signposting students to these services

### Why are chaplaincies important?

As public institutions like universities and colleges continue to serve communities which are multicultural and spiritually diverse there is a clear necessity that institutions have to meet the needs of people of all faiths and beliefs. Chaplains provide an important role in ensuring the spiritual, emotional and religious welfare of both students and staff are met. Their work helps to ensure that institutions are aware of religious and cultural needs and provisions.

In some institutions chaplains are paid members of staff in others they work in a voluntary capacity depending on the size of the institution and the budget they have for student support services. Chaplains are members of their faith communities often appointed by their respective faith institutions, however this isn't always the case and while they come from a faith background they may have other experience such as that of a youth worker or in an advisory capacity.

### How can I work with chaplaincy?

Chaplains and faith advisers are often the first point of contact for students of faith and belief so they may be well placed to know of any issues students are facing such as around prayer space provision or conflict on campus.

Building strong relationships and partnerships with chaplaincy can benefit the student population for example by creating links between the support services that students can access.

Furthermore the chaplaincy can be an ally when campaigning to the institution for improved facilities.

### Further guidance

For FE specific advice see [LSC's Multi Faith Chaplaincy Guide](#) for further information about how colleges can establish a multi-faith facility for reflection, meditation or prayer.

A comprehensive study of university chaplaincy has been undertaken for the Church of England Board of Education by Jeremy Clines entitled [Faiths in Higher Education Chaplaincy](#).

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