



DOUAI ABBEY

Choral Scholarship Scheme 2026-2027

Douai Abbey (RG7 5TQ) is offering four choral scholarships for promising young singers (aged 18-26) to join the celebrated Douai Singers for the academic year 2026-2027.

Each singer (one each of soprano, alto/counter-tenor, tenor and bass) will be awarded £2,500 for the year*, for which they will be required to sing for up to 25 services between September 2026 and July 2027. While the majority of choral services are on Sunday mornings (9.15am rehearsal, 10.30am service), singers will also be expected to sing for services from Thursday to Sunday during Holy Week, as well as on Christmas Eve and Christmas morning. Scholars will also occasionally act as cantor for Sunday services which do not include the choir.

*Sung commitments will be communicated well in advance, but where absences are unavoidable singers are financially responsible for their replacement (up to £80 per service). The £2,500 includes a contribution to scholars' travel expenses, and where services run later than 8pm, accommodation will be available free of charge in the Abbey guesthouse. Candidates do not need to be Roman Catholic, however we are looking for candidates who are in sympathy with Douai's ethos and values.

These scholarships are primarily for singers who wish to develop their ability to sing within an ambitious choral setting, and to gain experience of contributing to Catholic liturgical practice. Candidates should show some familiarity with liturgical choral music and developing confidence in leading the singing of hymns and responsorial psalms. They should be good sight-readers and be able to lead a vocal line without support. The Director of Music will offer substantial musical support and guidance during the year, though scholars should be willing to prepare music independently.

Applicants should apply by sending a CV and cover letter (detailing all relevant experience) to the Abbey's Director of Music, Mr Oliver Walker, at music@douaiabbey.org.uk. Please feel free to contact Oliver if you have any queries about the scholarships, or the Abbey's music-making.