

THE COMMON AWARDS

Programme Specification

Postgraduate Certificate in Theology, Ministry
and Mission

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1. Name of programme

Postgraduate Certificate in Theology, Ministry and Mission

2. Department

Theology and Religion

AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

3. Educational and Formational Aims

The educational and formational aims of the programme are described in terms of the people for whom it is designed, the pedagogy it embodies and the purpose it is intended to fulfil.

People

The aim of this programme is to offer postgraduate education in theology, ministry and mission:

1. for candidates for public ministry who have already studied theology to degree level;
2. as continuing professional development at an advanced level for individuals engaged in ministry and mission;
3. for individuals wishing to pursue further study in theology, ministry and mission at postgraduate level.

The programme aims to offer education that is accessible to students with a wide range of professional and personal circumstances: many will be mature students, many will be employed and therefore studying part time, many will be in active ministry, while still others will be pursuing the programme as full time residential students. The programme will therefore be available in a variety of modes of learning and teaching, including traditional full time residential learning, part time and part residential learning, and distance learning supported by online and face to face engagement.

Pedagogy

The aim of this programme is to offer learning and teaching that

- enable students to pursue academic study and/or professional development in theology, ministry and mission at postgraduate level;
- offer academically rigorous and research-facing engagement with a range of disciplines within theology, ministry and mission that is oriented towards the realities of church and society;
- by their modes of assessment and methods of learning and teaching enable students to develop as lifelong reflective learners.

Purpose

The purpose of the programme is to offer personal and professional development for a range of Christian ministries as well as to satisfy the aspirations of those students who undertake their studies to enhance, broaden and deepen their discipleship and ministry in other contexts.

From a professional point of view, the aim of the programme is to

1. offer pathways of study that contribute to meeting the range of professional and vocational criteria for the public ministries for which students are being prepared;
2. satisfy the aspirations of those students who undertake their studies to enhance, broaden and deepen their discipleship and ministry in other contexts; and
3. provide a firm basis from which to pursue postgraduate research in theology, ministry and mission.

From a personal perspective, the aim of this programme is to develop dispositions that are congruent with and necessary for Christian discipleship, ministry and mission in the church and the world. The aims of the programme are that learners completing the programme will have become

1. open to the questions, insights and ongoing formation generated by engagement with research and thinking at the forefront of specialised areas of study or professional practice in theology, ministry and mission, and willing to go on being transformed by them;
2. aware of the critical skills and disposition needed to go on reading themselves, the church and the world in the light of Christian theology, ministry and mission, and to explore Christian theology, ministry and mission more deeply in the light of experience and practice;
3. more passionate, articulate and prayerful advocates for the mission of God;
4. more generous, open and empathetic in engaging and cooperating with others in and beyond the church, while, as appropriate, expressing their own identity with integrity and sensitivity.

4. Programme Learning Outcomes

Subject Specific Knowledge (SSK)

On successful completion of the programme, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding and knowledge of areas of study or of professional practice in theology, ministry and mission that is informed by research and original thinking at current boundaries of the subject.

AND AT LEAST ONE OF

2. Understand, assimilate and evaluate critically methodologies and findings of advanced scholarship and research in the chosen area(s) of theology, ministry and mission.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of a range of methods of analysis and enquiry in theology, ministry and mission.
4. Give a critical and comprehensive account of a range of methods for relating their chosen field of study to aspects of faith, church and society.

Subject Specific Skills (SSS)

On successful completion of the programme, students will meet AT LEAST TWO OF the following: they will be able to:

1. Apply their knowledge and professional competence so as to reach valid conclusions when confronted by new problems and situations and report these findings effectively within the conventions of the relevant academic or professional community.
2. Make professional or academic judgments which may involve others and which recognise the limits of their own competence.
3. Reflect theologically in a sophisticated and rigorous manner, exercising sound judgement when engaging systematically and creatively with complex, unpredictable and ambiguous realities in the church and the world today.

Key Skills (KS)

On successful completion of the programme, students will meet AT LEAST TWO OF the following: they will be able to:

1. Communicate complex information and detailed argument with clarity, sensitivity, fairness and imagination to specialist and non-specialist audiences.
2. Demonstrate initiative, self-direction and independence in tackling and solving problems, and in planning and implementing tasks.
3. Exercise their independent learning skills to pursue further professional development or academic study.

DELIVERY OF THE PROGRAMME

5. Learning and Teaching Methods

Teaching methods are to be specified by each TEI using the published guidance on modes of teaching and learning.

6. Summative Assessment Methods

Summative assessment to be specified by each TEI using the published guidance on assessment patterns for postgraduate modules.

7. Formative Assessment Policy

Formative assessment to be specified by each TEI using the published guidance on assessment patterns for postgraduate modules.

8. Assessment criteria

TEIs are required to use to the published Common Awards Assessment Criteria for all Common Awards programmes. The Common Awards specific assessment criteria is aligned to Durham University's generic assessment criteria and Level Descriptors.

STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAMME

9. Outline syllabus for the programme

Total credits overall:	Minimum credits at Level 7:	Maximum credits at Level 6, or biblical language modules at levels 4 and 5:
60 credits	40 credits	20 credits

This programme may be studied full time over half a year or part time over up to two years.

Each TEI will be responsible for developing pathways that ensure all students have the opportunity to achieve the programme learning outcomes.

10. Research training element of the programme

This short postgraduate programme does not include a compulsory research element, although students will engage with current scholarship and research as part of the study of their chosen subjects.

11. Indicate which modules are pre- / co-requisites within the programme

There are no pre- or co-requisites for modules in this programme.

TEIs are required to refer to the Common Awards core list of pre and co-requisites, and details of excluded module combinations, when designing their pathways.

12. Typical Admissions Requirements

Normally an upper second-class Honours degree or equivalent in a subject relevant to the proposed course of study. Normally students will need a good degree (or other level 6 qualification, such as a Graduate Diploma) in theology, although graduates (classed as first-class or 2:1 honours) in other disciplines with experience of Theology or Religious Studies to at least undergraduate Certificate level (awarded with credit or distinction, or with an overall mark of at least 60%) may also be admitted to the programme. However, especially for mature students, prior professional experience may be taken into account. Given its professional development orientation, students are likely to be preparing for a ministerial or related vocation or be actively engaged in such a profession.

In general, up to a maximum of 20 credits of accredited prior learning may be granted to students who have evidence of, or can demonstrate learning that fulfils, the relevant learning outcomes of the Postgraduate Certificate programme (by completing a portfolio of work, for example).

Students for whom English is their second language should have achieved a score of 7.0 with no component under 6.5 in an IELTS examination, or equivalent.

Each TEI has an Admissions Policy and is responsible for proposing its own specific entry requirements, in line with the generic entry requirements for Common Awards.

13. Field trips, placement and related opportunities

TEIs should refer to the published guidance on field trips, placements and other related opportunities.