

Programme Specification

1. **Awarding Institution/Body:** University of Surrey
2. **Teaching Institution:** The Southern Theological Education and Training Scheme (STETS)
3. **Accrediting Authority:** An ecumenical panel constituted by the Education and Validation Sub-Committee of the Ministry Division of the Archbishops' Council of the Church of England
4. **Final Award:** Master of Arts
5. **Name of Route/Pathway or Field:** Theology for Christian Ministry and Mission
6. **UCAS Code:** N/A
7. **QAA Benchmarking Group:** N/A. Programme conforms to FHEQ Level M descriptors within the QAA framework for Higher Education Qualifications
8. **Date of Production/Revision:** Sep 2008

9. Main educational aims of programme

The programme aims to:

1. **educate** students to engage critically, creatively and autonomously with: the resources of the Christian tradition and its relationship with other systems of belief; the norms of Christian belief and practice; and their own place in the worship, life and mission of the Church;
2. **train** students to exercise a skilful, reflective, and innovative ministry marked by wisdom, empathy and initiative and exemplified in a capacity for collaborative leadership, co-responsibility and commitment to the growth, well-being and empowerment of others;
3. **form** students to participate responsibly in the mission of the Church by integrating their learning and ministry within the particularities, complexities and adversities of their own lives and the lives of their communities, and by offering strategic leadership.

10. Programme outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to achieve and demonstrate the following learning and educational outcomes:

Primary learning outcomes of programme

After completing this programme, students will be better **educated** to:

1. discern God's ways in the world;
2. understand the dynamics of Christian faith (expressed in texts and interpretative practices, norms of thought and practice, ecclesial worship and polity) in the worship, teaching, life and mission of the Church both in local situations and in global mission;
3. understand their own denomination in its breadth and diversity;
4. determine the place of Christian ministry in relation to particular contexts;
5. analyse the personal, social, cultural and institutional practices by which people are formed in ordinary life.

After completing this programme, students will be better **trained** to:

Teaching and learning strategies and methods

Outcomes 1-14 will be achieved through: distance learning modules to guide reading delivered via WebCT Vista and CDROM and on-line discussion list; seminars, including e-mail support; lectures; workshops; small group work; placement and supervised independent research.

Assessment

Outcomes 1-14 will be summatively assessed via written assignments (essay and non-essay based). All or part of these may include non-essay based components, including: presentations to church groups or the MA seminar, briefing papers, integrated assignments, placement reports and research

6. serve God's purposes in the world;
7. think of, experience and form Church life and ministry in theological, missiological and ecumenical terms;
8. discern the form of ministry which is theirs (with an understanding of its appropriate roles and boundaries), consider its responsibilities, prepare to practise it and to reflect upon its performance;
9. discover possibilities for Christian formation in and through the practices of ordinary life.

After completing this programme, students will be better **formed** to:

10. embody and express the ways of God in the life of the Church in the world;
11. draw on the resources of Church life, thought and worship for ministry and mission;
12. exemplify trust in God and expectancy for the kingdom of God through prayerfulness and Christian service;
13. order their lives, working co-operatively for the fuller realisation of God's mission in the world;
14. develop sound habits of reflective practice, contributing to growth in wisdom in Christian ministry and mission.

projects.

Formative assessment by module leaders, staff consultants, cohort tutor and placement supervisor.

Knowledge and understanding

After completing this programme, students will be better able to:

1. understand systematically key aspects of Christian theology, ministry and mission, with a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of the discipline;
2. A comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to advanced theological study in the field Christian ministry and mission.

Teaching and learning strategies and methods

Outcomes 1-2 will be achieved through: distance learning modules to guide reading delivered via WebCT Vista and CD Rom and on-line discussion list; seminars, including e-mail support; lectures; workshops; small group work; placement and supervised independent research.

Assessment

Outcomes summatively assessed via written assignments (essay and non-essay based). All or part of these may include non-essay based components, including: presentations to church groups or the MA seminar, briefing papers, integrated assignments, placement reports and research projects.

Formative assessment by module leaders, staff consultants, cohort tutor and placement supervisor.

Cognitive (thinking) skills

After completing this programme, students will be better able to:

1. devise and sustain arguments, and/or solve problems, using conceptual understanding that enables the student to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the field of theology for Christian ministry and mission
2. describe, and critically evaluate, a range of themes, debates and methods in theology for Christian ministry and mission; and, where appropriate, propose new hypotheses;
3. apply techniques with originality, and understand practically how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in theology for Christian ministry and mission;
4. access, evaluate and critically analyse various primary and secondary data sources relevant to all areas of research into theology for Christian ministry and mission.

Teaching and learning strategies and methods

Outcomes will be achieved through: distance learning modules to guide reading delivered via WebCT Vista and on-line discussion list; seminars, including e-mail support; lectures; workshops; small group work; placement and supervised independent research.

Assessment

Outcomes summatively assessed via written assignments (essay and non-essay based). All or part of these may include non-essay based components, including: presentations to church groups or the MA seminar, briefing papers, integrated assignments, placement reports and research projects.

Formative assessment by module leaders, staff consultants, cohort tutor and placement supervisor.

Practical/ key/ transferable skills

After completing this programme, students will be better able to:

1. demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level;
2. continue to advance their knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level;
3. deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgments in the absence of complete data;
4. communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences;
5. exercise initiative and personal responsibility;
6. make decisions in complex and unpredictable contexts;
7. display such learning ability as is needed to undertake appropriate further professional training;
8. work collaboratively with others and critically reflect on group processes;
9. communicate clearly and effectively, using a variety of media, including written text;
10. identify issues for and methods of effective preaching;
11. make intelligent and appropriate use of library

Teaching and learning strategies and methods

Outcomes 1-14 will be achieved through: distance learning modules to guide reading delivered via WebCT Vista and CD Rom and on-line discussion list; seminars, including e-mail support; lectures; workshops; small group work; placement and supervised independent research.

The following additional particular strategies and methods will be used to achieve the outcomes numbered below:

Outcomes 1-2 and 12: independent study and research;
Outcome 4: seminars;
Outcome 6: extended placement;
Outcome 7: independent study and research;
Outcomes 8 and 13: seminars; workshops; peer feedback;
Outcome 9: feedback from module leader, cohort tutor, peers and placement supervisor;
Outcomes 11-12: research methods and dissertation.

resources;

12. make intelligent and appropriate use of IT resources;

13. demonstrate independence of thought and critical self-awareness about their own beliefs, commitments and prejudices;

14. articulate accurately, reflect on and courteously engage with the ideas and arguments of others.

Assessment

The following particular assessment methods will be used:

Summative assessment

Outcomes 1-7 and 9-13: assessed via assignments.

Outcomes 1-2,7 and 12: particularly assessed through the assignment for the Research Project and Dissertation.

Outcome 6: also particularly assessed through the assignment for the Placement module.

Formative assessment

Outcome 6: assessed via placement supervisors.

Outcome 8: assessed by module leaders, staff consultants, cohort tutor and placement supervisor, and via peer feedback.

11. Route/Pathway/Field requirements, levels, modules, credits and awards

The Programme will be offered initially in part-time mode only, via a combination of distance-learning, reflective practice and residential training at weekends. Potential exit points are indicated below,

All modules are offered at M-Level. Unless otherwise stated, each is rated at 15 credits.

The majority of our students registered for the MA should be able to complete the degree as three years of part-time study is the normal period set by the Church of England and the United Reformed Church for training for ordination or nationally-accredited lay ministry. Those who commence the course later in their ordination training may complete the degree as part of the continuing ministerial education.

Subsidiary exit points:

Post Graduate Certificate

Awarded on the accrual of 60 credits, usually after one year of part-time study.

Post-Graduate Diploma

Awarded on the accrual of 120 credits, usually after two years of part-time study. This exit point may suit some students. All Methodist students are required to undergo a period of vocational discernment as part of their Foundation training, which includes the completion of 120 credits at HE1. For suitably qualified students this could be at M-level. After Foundation Training some of these students exit from the programme. In addition, some Church of England students from the Diocese of Salisbury training for Ordained Local Ministry or to serve as lay Readers only register for an award of 120 credits. This exit point may also suit students who transfer to the MA after a year of studying at HE1 during the pre-ordination phase.

Credit Level 3. Potential Award – MA degree

Compulsory modules

Research Project and Dissertation
M10
(50 credits)

Research Methods M9
(10 credits)

Optional modules

**Award requirements
MA**

180 credits at M-level

Credit Level 2. Potential Award – Postgraduate Diploma

**Four of the following modules
(four will have been completed at
credit level one):**

**Placement: Liberating the
Dynamics of God's Kingdom in the
Unfamiliar** M8

**The Emerging Church: Now and
Not Yet** M7

**The Acts of the Apostles in the 21st
Century** M5

**Speaking of a Personal God:
Theism in Late-Modernity** M6

**Studying Local Churches in
Interdisciplinary Perspective** M4

**God's Life in Christ:
Reassessing Christology in
relation to Christian Living** M3

**Contemporary Approaches to
History and Ethics in the Hebrew
Bible** M2

**Karl Barth and the Nature of
Theology** M1

**Progression/award
requirements**

**Postgraduate
Diploma of Higher
Education**

120 credits at M-level

Credit Level 1. Potential Award – Postgraduate Certificate

Four of the following modules:

**Studying Local Churches in
Interdisciplinary Perspective** M4

**God's Life in Christ: Reassessing
Christology in relation to Christian
Living** M3

**Contemporary Approaches to
History and Ethics in the Hebrew
Bible** M2

**Karl Barth and the Nature of
Theology** M1

**Placement: Liberating the
Dynamics of God's Kingdom in
the Unfamiliar** M8

**The Emerging Church: Now and
Not Yet** M7

**The Acts of the Apostles in the
21st Century** M5

**Speaking of a Personal God:
Theism in Late-Modernity** M6

**Progression/award
requirements**

**Postgraduate
Certificate**

60 credits at M-level

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Annex to Programme Specification

TITLES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR INTERMEDIATE AWARDS

Post Graduate Certificate/ Diploma in Theology for Christian Ministry and Mission

Students completing the Post Graduate Certificate (after the accrual of 60 credits) and Post-Graduate Diploma (after the accrual of 120 credits) are required to demonstrate the achievement of the same learning outcomes as for the MA, with the exception of being able to undertake an extended research project successfully through the completion of the Research Project and Dissertation.