

MASTER IN THEOLOGY
ASPIRANT SCHOOL OF RELIGIONS, THEOLOGY AND ECUMENICS

Course title:	Masters Course for Ministerial Training
Degree award proposed:	Master in Theology
Duration of course:	Part-time Mode A: Three years, Part-time Mode B: Six years
First entry:	October 2009
Closing date for applications:	June 30 th
Minimum/Maximum Numbers:	Part-time Mode A, 10 EU per year Part-time Mode B 15 EU per year
School providing the course:	Aspirant School of Religions, Theology and Ecumenics,
Head of School:	Professor Linda Hogan)
Director of Teaching and Learning Postgraduate:	Dr Iain Atack
Date of Approval by School Committee:	Interim Executive, May 21 2008
Date of Review of Financial Element:	underway: in a sub-group comprised of representatives from the Church of Ireland and from TCD (Registrar, Dean AHSS, Head of School, School Accountant)
Date of Submission to Graduate Studies Committee:	June 12, 2008
Date of Submission to ARAM Taskforce:	Decision pending finalisation of financial arrangements

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1. Introduction

The Professional Course in Theology is a longstanding programme offered to the Christian churches by TCD and to date has solely run in association with the Church of Ireland. The original programme was at Diploma level and was subsequently extended to Ordinary and Honors Degree levels. In practice the Ordinary B.Th. became the normative qualification for ordained ministry in the Church of Ireland. This proposal continues the development of the Professional Course in Theology and develops it in line with much current practice worldwide. The degree of Master in Theology continues and expands the aims of the Professional Course in Theology which equips professional ministers (lay and ordained) for their role in contemporary society by developing key competencies in the areas of mission and ministry, through appropriate engagement with theology and biblical studies. The programme combines a strong academic emphasis which focuses on the foundational sources of Christian belief, namely scripture and the theological disciplines, with a practice-based model of learning.

The course stresses the role of the minister as a reflective practitioner who can articulate Christian belief within contemporary culture and who understands the challenges and opportunities which this presents. Within this framework the practice of ministry is explored in ways which enable an effective and creative response to the world in which we live. The course is ecumenical in its scope, is adaptable to the needs of other Christian denominations and to forms of ministry other than the ordained. The present course proposal is designed to meet the ministerial training needs of the Church of Ireland, (delivered through the Church of Ireland Theological Institute) although it is already planned to extend the course to training in a number of different denominations

2. Rationale

The M.Th is a proposed replacement of the current B.Th. degree, used by the Church of Ireland for the training of ordinands. The current course has been in existence in its current form since 1988 and requires review in the light of two principal changes: the level of qualification of candidates on application (85% of current and intended participants are now honors graduates); and the fact that the majority already has a level of experience and knowledge of ministry that fits them for study at postgraduate level. Consequently an M.Th. more effectively serves such a learning cohort by recognising this educational standard.

The M.Th. seeks to offer a distinctive learning experience based on the integration of the fields of theology, biblical studies and Christian practice. The professional nature of the MTh. emphasises the importance of the integration of the different fields of study, as well as a broad spectrum of approaches to teaching and learning. Students will engage critically with the intellectual challenges of ministry through the study of key themes in biblical, theological and ministerial studies. The programme is thus framed around a clear interaction between both theory and practice and across a variety of areas of ministerial formation. The M.Th. aims to maintain a rigorous academic core whilst also broadening the scope of content and assessment to include professional application. This is in line with ministerial training programmes in universities, colleges and seminaries worldwide.

The aims of the M.Th. are expressed as follows:

- To engage critically with the intellectual challenges of ministry as a result of the study of key themes in biblical, theological and ministerial studies.
- To assess and interpret the social and personal context in which contemporary Christian mission and ministry is exercised.
- To appreciate critically Christian and other identities and the tensions involved in defining identity.
- To equip graduates to give a reasoned account of the theology and practice of Christian ministry in their own denominational tradition.
- To have engaged with a learning environment which both models and critiques appropriate forms of community and collaborative learning, and which resources the integration of worship, theology and pastoral skills.
- To evaluate (biblical and other) models of leadership, and to demonstrate the ways that leadership

and power can be exercised, recognising that leadership can enable or disable others.

- To develop a foundation for lifelong academic and pastoral development and the encouragement of individual gifts.

The M.Th. is a 120 credit Masters programme which is within the ECTS framework for Masters students. Given that this is a professional degree, it is recognised that the academic requirements of the programme and the integration with professional practice requires this increased level of credit allocation.

3. Resourcing

There will be an agreed balance of teaching provision between the Aspirant School of Religions, Theology and Ecumenics, Trinity College and the Church of Ireland Theological Institute, (subsequently CITI). This will be agreed in accordance with the provisions for the governance of the partnership. All CITI students will be TCD students and have access to TCD facilities. In addition the Church of Ireland Theological Institute will provide accommodation, dedicated staff, additional library and IT facilities and administrative and management capability.

4. Admissions

The following access criteria have been agreed between TCD and the CITI and have been approved by the Dean of Graduate Studies:

All candidates will be required to successfully complete the Foundation Course.
In addition candidates will have either:

1. An Honors Degree in Theology or another discipline.
2. An appropriate qualification and at least 3 years ministerial experience or equivalent professional experience.
3. Otherwise satisfy the Course Admissions Committee that they have the ability to complete and benefit from the course.

Candidates will apply in the first instance to the CITI and applications will be considered by a joint Course Admissions Committee with equal representation from the Church of Ireland and TCD. On the basis of the decisions taken by the Course Admissions Committee, candidates entering the Foundation Course will receive a conditional place on the M.Th. programme, subject to the successful completion of the Foundation Course.

5. Assessment

70% and above	Distinction
60-69%	Merit
50-59%	Pass
0-49%	Fail

The pass mark for all modules is 50%.

All credit weightings are equal.

All work will be internally and externally marked.

An external examiner will be appointed for a fixed period and will mark all final work.

6. Governance

In November 2007, the following governance arrangements for the M.Th. were approved between the parties.

- ***Principle:***
Governance and management structures for the Masters in Theology should reflect the principle of partnership and should adequately express the shared responsibilities of the participating institutions and their respective roles.

- ***M.Th. Management Committee:***

The design and delivery of the programme and the day to day running of the course will be overseen by a Management Committee. Its composition should adequately reflect the balance of teaching for the course and the respective roles and responsibilities in the design, delivery and accreditation of the degree.

The membership of the committee would consist of:

From the CITI side:

the Director of the CITI:	Dr Maurice Elliott
the Course co-ordinator of the M.Th. programme:	tbc
1 rep. from Biblical Studies:	tbc
1 rep. from Ministerial Studies:	tbc
1 rep. from Theological Studies:	tbc
1 rep. from the practical training:	tbc

From the TCD side:

Registrar:	Prof. Juergen Barkhoff
Director of Teaching & Learning Postgraduate of School of Religion, Theology & Ecumenics:	Dr Iain Atack
1 rep. from Theological Studies:	Dr Andrew Pierce
one further rep. from a relevant teaching area:	Dr Ben Wolde
3 student representatives, one from each year, one of which has to be a part-time Mode B student:	tbc

The Committee will have dual reporting lines: on the TCD side into the School Committee of the Aspirant School of Religion, Theology & Ecumenics, (and through this into the Graduate Studies Committee); on the CITI side into the Masters in Theology Advisory Board (and through this into the House of Bishops of the Church of Ireland).

- ***Masters in Theology Advisory Board***

The proposed Advisory Board will serve as an oversight body, liaising with the two sovereign parties of the agreement. It will monitor the working of the programme on matters of policy and strategy and will oversee the running of the programme and the cooperation between the partners. It will have equal representation (2+2) from the House of Bishops and the Board of Trinity College (incl. the Registrar). The Director of the CITI and the Head of the Aspirant School of Religion, Theology & Ecumenics are also suggested as members of the Advisory Board. It will have dual reporting lines to the Board of TCD and the House of Bishops of the Church of Ireland.

7. Structure Mode A: 120 Credits

STAGE	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
MODE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential Study • Practicum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential Study • Practicum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish Training • Independent Study • Residential Study
CONTENT	<p>The Bible and its Interpretation Text and Communities in Context:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. OT/Hebrew Bible - 5 credits 2. New Testament - 5 credits 	<p>The Bible and its Interpretation Communities of Interpretation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To the Enlightenment period – 5 credits 2. To the modern day – 5 credits 	<p>Ministry Portfolio 10 credits</p> <p>Dissertation 30 credits</p>
	<p>Theological Reflection and Christian Identity</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Christian Thinking about God – 5 credits 2. Jesus the Christ 5 credits 	<p>Theological Reflection and Christian Identity</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cosmology, Anthropology & the Church – 5 credits 2. Theology and Ethics – 5 credits 	
	<p>Christian Practice in Church and Society</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mission, Culture and Social Context – 5 credits 2. Pastoral Studies – 5 credits 	<p>Christian Practice in Church and Society</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Liturgy, Worship and Spirituality – 5 credits 2. Anglican Studies in an Irish Context – 5 credits 	
	<p>Electives – 1 of 3</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Church Music and Worship 2. Faith Nurture & Christian Education 3. Ministry for Reconciliation <p>Each 10 credits</p>	<p>Church Leadership Practicalities and Practice 10 credits</p>	

8. Structure Mode B: 120 Credits

STAG	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6
MODE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential • Study • Practicum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential • Study • Practicum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential • Study • Practicum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential • Study • Practicum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish Training Independent Study Residential Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish Training Independent Study Residential Study
CONTENT	<p>The Bible and its Interpretation</p> <p>Text and Communities in Context</p> <p>1. OT/Hebrew Bible 5 credits</p> <p>2. New Testament 5 credits</p>	<p>Christian Practice in Church and Society</p> <p>1. Mission, Culture and Social Context – 5 credits</p> <p>2. Pastoral Studies</p>	<p>The Bible and its Interpretation</p> <p>Communities of Interpretation</p> <p>1. To the Enlightenment period – 5 credits</p> <p>2. To the modern day – 5 credits</p>	<p>Christian Practice in Church and Society</p> <p>1. Liturgy, Worship and Spirituality – 5 credits</p> <p>2. Anglican Studies in Irish Context – 5 credits</p>	<p>Ministry Portfolio</p> <p>10 credits over 2 years</p> <p>Dissertation</p> <p>30 credits over 2 years</p>	<p>Ministry Portfolio</p> <p>10 credits over 2 years</p> <p>Dissertation</p> <p>30 credits over 2 years</p>
	<p>Theological Reflection and Christian Identity</p> <p>1. Christian Thinking about God – 5 credits</p> <p>2. Jesus the Christ 5 credits</p> <p>Christ 5 credits</p>	<p>Electives – 1 of 3</p> <p>1. Church Music and Worship or</p> <p>2. Faith Nurture & Christian Education or</p> <p>3. Ministry for Reconciliation</p> <p>10 credits</p>	<p>Theological Reflection and Christian Identity</p> <p>1. Cosmology, Anthropology & the Church – 5 credits</p> <p>2. Theology and Ethics – 5 credits</p>	<p>Church Leadership</p> <p>Practicalities and Practice</p> <p>10 credits</p>		

9. Module Descriptors

A) THE BIBLE AND ITS INTERPRETATION

Module 1

Texts and Communities in Context – Old Testament/Hebrew Bible

5 credits

Module Content:

1.1 Development of skills in biblical criticism with a particular focus on OT methods and bringing in NT methods for comparison and contrast

1.2 Responses to God

a) Study of the variety of responses contained in OT/Israel e.g. Law; Covenant; Narrative, Historical writing, Wisdom/Creation; Psalmody; Prophecy; Apocalyptic

b) Study of institutions of Ancient Israel as part of this response e.g. sacrifice and cult, holiness, priesthood, kingship.

1.3 A biblical theme - To be chosen from either of a) exile or b) religious reformers – including application to ministry and teaching/preaching.

1.4 Detailed study of selected texts (chosen in part to link with other topics studied in this module). An indicative list might include: Gen 1-11; Exodus 3; 12, 15, 19-24; Deuteronomy 5-6, Isaiah 40-55; parts of Amos; extracts from Jeremiah (comparing the prose and poetic passages); and a number of Psalms.

1.5 Theology and theologies of the Old Testament. i.e. An introduction to ways that scholars have sought to find a 'centre' in the Hebrew Bible/OT (e.g. Eichrodt 'covenant', von Rad, 'salvation history', Zimmerli, 'name of God' etc), evaluation of the benefits and limitations of such an approach, and reflection on this in relation to the use of the OT by Christians, particularly in relation to ministry.

1.6 OT and canon - Exploration of the beginning of the process of canonization and the key role that Deuteronomy and the Deuteronomic corpus play in this.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this module students will be able:

- To recognize and make use of the methods of interpretation appropriate to a selection of specific biblical texts.
- To recognize and analyse the interplay between the production of biblical texts and contexts in the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible.
- To evaluate the variety of ways in which Israel responds to God, and reflect on their implications for Christian ministry.
- To appreciate and evaluate the range of images used for God and for God's engagement with the world in the Hebrew Scriptures
- To demonstrate ways in which texts from the Hebrew Scriptures might be used appropriately in Christian ministry today.

Methodology:

Part-time Mode A: This module will be taught through a series of lectures and student-led seminars.

Students will be required to participate and lead class seminars and also to take part in collaborative small groups and independent study which will focus on close textual readings.

There will be a joint seminar with each of the other two strands – Theology and Christian Practice in Church and Society

Part-time Mode B: This module will be taught through workbook and DVD lectures. Students will also contribute to online seminars and will be required to engage in independent study of set texts. Students will also be required to take part in collaborative small groups and independent study which will focus on close textual readings.

There will be a joint seminar with each of the other two strands – Theology and Christian Practice in Church and Society

Assessment: 2,500 words of coursework (e.g. essay, exegesis, sermon or project as agreed by course leader)

Contact Hours: 20

Student Work Load: 100 - 120 hrs

Module 2

Texts and Communities in Context –New Testament

5 credits

Module Content:

- 1.1. The historical, political, intellectual, social and religious background to ‘Christian origins’.
- 1.2 Overview of the Gospels drawing on modern critical methods.
- 1.3 Introduction to Pauline thought, comparing older and more recent approaches.
- 1.4 A New Testament theme, to be selected from a) Church and state b) mission and discipleship including its application to ministry and teaching/preaching.
- 1.5 Detailed study of selected texts (chosen in part to link with other topics studied in this module). An indicative list might include Mark’s passion narrative; John 1 (and ideally other parts of John’s Gospel too – perhaps comparing John’s passion with Mark); Matthew 5-7; Luke 4; Luke 15.1-32; Romans 5-8; the 3 narratives in Acts and one account in Galatians of Paul’s ‘conversion’; Hebrews 1.
- 1.6 Theology and theologies of the NT. An exploration of some key questions e.g. the theme of unity and diversity in the NT, the Partings of the Ways between Judaism and Christianity.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this module students will be able:

- To recognize and make use of the methods of interpretation appropriate to a selection of specific biblical texts.
- To recognize and analyse the interplay between the production of biblical texts and contexts in the New Testament.
- To appreciate the social, historical and intellectual origins of the early Jesus movement and responses to it in early Christian communities.
- To investigate the variety of interpretative stances within early Christian communities and to appreciate their importance for Christian ministry today.
- To demonstrate ways in which texts from the New Testament can be used appropriately in Christian ministry today.
- To appreciate the complexities of the relationship between the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament.

Methodology:

Part-time Mode A: This module will be taught through a series of lectures and student-led seminars.

Students will be required to participate and lead class seminars and also to take part in collaborative small groups and independent study which will focus on close textual readings.

There will be a joint seminar with each of the other two strands – Theology and Christian Practice in Church and Society.

Part-time Mode B: This module will be taught through workbook and DVD lectures. Students will also contribute to online seminars and will be required to engage in independent study of set texts. Students will also be required to take part in collaborative small groups and independent study which will focus on close textual readings.

There will be a joint seminar with each of the other two strands – Theology and Christian Practice in Church and Society.

Assessment: 2,500 words of coursework (e.g. essay, exegesis, sermon or project as agreed by course leader).

Contact Hours: 20

Student Work Load: 100 - 120 hrs

Module 3

Communities of Interpretation - To the Enlightenment Period

5 Credits

Module Content:

Although there is a focus in this module on the pre-1700 period – there will be points when there will need to be engagement with more recent biblical interpretation alongside it. Some examples of this are

given below.

1.1 Use of OT in the NT and in post-biblical Judaism.

1.2 Development of the canons of the Hebrew Scriptures and the NT. Place of the Apocrypha.

1.3 The theological relationship(s) between the OT and NT and implications for Christian-Jewish relationships.

1.4 Methods of interpretation of scripture in the patristic period.

1.5 An overview (using selected examples) of the influence of the Bible on the history, society, culture, art and literature of Europe during the period 400-1700 AD.

1.6 The impact of vernacular translations – and their importance for the Reformation.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this module students will be able:

- To evaluate the relationship between the biblical canon and the communities of faith.
- To reflect critically on the presuppositions and categories which inform and determine interpretation.
- To appreciate the process of biblical interpretation as a community based activity.
- To demonstrate an informed appreciation of how different methods of interpretation have been used in the past and present.
- To evaluate approaches to dealing with biblical texts which appear problematic for contemporary interpreters (i.e. it is the 'texts' not the 'approaches' which are problematic).
- To appreciate the Bible's impact on European culture.
- To appreciate the complexities of the relationship between the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament.
- To have developed a grounding for using the Bible in ministry.

Methodology:

Part-time Mode A: This module will be taught through a series of lectures and student-led seminars.

Students will be required to participate and lead class seminars and also to take part in collaborative small groups and independent study which will focus on close textual readings.

There will be a joint seminar with each of the other two strands – Theology and Christian Practice in Church and Society

Part-time Mode B: This module will be taught through workbook and DVD lectures. Students will also contribute to online seminars and will be required to engage in independent study of set texts. Students will also be required to take part in collaborative small groups and independent study which will focus on close textual readings.

There will be a joint seminar with each of the other two strands – Theology and Christian Practice in Church and Society

Assessment: 2,500 words of coursework (e.g. essay, exegesis, sermon or project as agreed by course leader)

Contact Hours: 20

Student Work Load: 100 - 120 hrs

Module 4

Communities of Interpretation - In the Modern Period and in the Church Today

5 Credits

Module Content:

1.1. An overview of the change in the understanding and interpretation of the Bible in the late 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries.

1.2. An exploration of the variety of ways in which our reading of the Bible has been affected by the political history of the 20th century – the world wars; Holocaust lens; liberation movements, Israel/Palestine, post-colonialism, developments in Europe etc.

1.3. Reading the Bible in a world of many faiths – 'scriptural reasoning'

1.4. The feminist and other 'ethical' challenges to biblical interpretation.

1.5. The use of the Bible in Church and ministry today.

1.6. The use of the Bible in preaching, including difficult texts.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this module students will be able:

- To understand the influence of the Enlightenment and post-modernism on biblical interpretation.
- To reflect critically on the presuppositions and categories which inform and determine interpretation.
- To appreciate the process of biblical interpretation as a community based activity.
- To begin to make biblical, theological and ministerial connections with the 21st century.
- To demonstrate an informed appreciation of how different methods of interpretation have been used in the past and present.
- To evaluate approaches to dealing with biblical texts which appear problematic for contemporary interpreters. (i.e. it is the 'texts' not the 'approaches' which are problematic).
- To appreciate the complexities of the relationship between the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and the New Testament.
- To have developed a basis for using the Bible in ministry.

Methodology:

Part-time Mode A: This module will be taught through a series of lectures and student-led seminars. Students will be required to participate and lead class seminars and also to take part in collaborative small groups and independent study which will focus on close textual readings.

There will be a joint seminar with each of the other two strands – Theology and Christian Practice in Church and Society

Part-time Mode B: This module will be taught through workbook and DVD lectures. Students will also contribute to online seminars and will be required to engage in independent study of set texts. Students will also be required to take part in collaborative small groups and independent study which will focus on close textual readings.

There will be a joint seminar with each of the other two strands – Theology and Christian Practice in Church and Society

Assessment: 2,500 words of coursework (e.g. essay, exegesis, sermon or project as agreed by course leader)

Contact Hours: 20

Student Work Load: 100 - 120 hrs

B) THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION AND CHRISTIAN IDENTITY

Module 5

Christian Thinking About God

5 Credits

Module Content:

1.1 Talking about God

What does it mean to talk about God? How can we use human language to talk of God and God's existence? (Exploration of issues such as analogy, metaphor etc) How can we understand divine attributes such as omnipotence and omniscience? How can God act in our world? Are miracles possible? Can God answer prayer? Why does God allow suffering? These questions will be explored from philosophical, theological and existential perspectives.

1.2 Natural and revealed theology

The roots of theology ('natural theology') in Greek metaphysics and in the Hebrew wisdom traditions; traditional philosophical arguments for (and against) the existence of God and Christian remodelling of these arguments. The nature of revelation. Relating revelation, reason, experience and tradition. The distinction between natural and revealed theology, and 20th century debates about and reappraisal of this distinction. Attention to 'Celtic' spirituality/theology.

1.3 The development of Christian doctrine

Understanding doctrine and its functions. The process of development of classic Christian doctrine, especially the doctrine of the Trinity. Solutions – leading to more questions! Exploration of some modern systematic theologies and theologians.

1.4 Living doctrine.

The implications of Christian theology and doctrine for key issues facing the Church today eg the issue of inter-religious dialogue; the relationship between doctrine and ethics; Christianity's formative contribution to European culture and to modernity; acknowledgement of the shadow side of the Christian tradition.. Development of tools for personal 'theological reflection' (ie reflection on placements etc).

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this module students will be able:

- To recognise the possibilities and limitations of human discourse about God
- To analyse the issues raised by the relationship between natural theology and theologies based on revelation.
- To appreciate the range of factors and influences that led to classical Christian formulations of God
- To relate such formulations to a number of key contemporary issues
- To begin to use appropriate tools to reflect theologically on ministerial experience

Methodology:

Part-time Mode A: This module will be taught through a series of lectures and student-led seminars. Students will be required to participate and lead class seminars and also to take part in collaborative small groups and independent study.

There will be a joint seminar with each of the other two strands – Biblical Studies and Christian Practice in Church and Society

Part-time Mode B: This module will be taught through workbook and DVD lectures. Students will also contribute to online seminars and will be required to engage in independent study of set texts. Students will also be required to take part in collaborative small groups and independent study.

There will be a joint seminar with each of the other two strands – Biblical Studies and Christian Practice in Church and Society

Assessment: 2,500 words of coursework (e.g. essay or project as agreed by course leader)

Contact Hours: 20

Student Work Load: 100 - 120 hrs

Module 6

Jesus the Christ

5 Credits

Module Content:

1.1. Current Issues in Debate

The often-sensationalized quests of the 'historical Jesus'; Gnostic scriptures, canonicity, tensions between faith and history (or history and dogma)

1.2. The Identity of Jesus Christ in Classical Theology

Analysis of the issues at stake concerning the person of Christ (both doctrinal and non-doctrinal factors) in the formation of Nicene orthodoxy in 325 and 381.

1.3. The Work of Christ

Evaluation of a variety of theological models, together with their contextual possibilities and limitations, for exploring the significance – or 'work' – of Christ, including: Irenaeus of Lyons and Recapitulation; patristic theologies of the 'Divine Rights'; Anselmian satisfaction; Abelard and the exemplification of Divine love; Luther's theology of Justification; Kierkegaard's notion of contemporaneity with Christ; Schleiermacher's concept of Christ-consciousness; Nietzsche's Antichrist; liberation, feminist and eco-theological Christologies.

1.4. Themes in Christological Reconstruction

Analysis of the relationship between soteriology and Christology; critical reflection on metaphors and concepts exploring the meaning of 'salvation'; transhumanism: ethical questions for human perfection.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this module students will be able:

- To understand the theological issues, e.g., the tension between faith and history, raised by quests for the 'historical' Jesus.
- To analyze critically both the theological and non-doctrinal factors involved in the development of Christological dogma as far as the Chalcedonian definition (451), as well as the ways in which this doctrinal tradition may be interpreted by a later age.
- To explore the interrelationship of Christian faith and contemporary culture in the articulation of models for understanding soteriology.
- To engage in current Christological discussion on the identity and significance of Jesus Christ.
- To reflect critically on the possibilities and limitations of a range of theological understandings of 'salvation'.

Methodology:

Part-time Mode A: This module will be taught through a series of lectures and student-led seminars. Students will be required to participate and lead class seminars and also to take part in collaborative small groups and independent study

There will be a joint seminar with each of the other two strands – Biblical Studies and Christian Practice in Church and Society

Part-time Mode B: This module will be taught through workbook and DVD lectures. Students will also contribute to online seminars and will be required to engage in independent study of set texts. Students will also be required to take part in collaborative small groups and independent study.

There will be a joint seminar with each of the other two strands – Biblical Studies and Christian Practice in Church and Society

Assessment: 2,500 words of coursework (e.g. essay or project as agreed by course leader)

Contact Hours: 20

Student Work Load: 100 - 120 hrs

Module 7 Cosmology, Anthropology and the Church

5 Credits

Module Content:

1.1 Theologies of creation

Review of theologies of creation, ancient and modern. Theology, ecology and humanity in an age of global change.

1.2 Theological anthropology.

The nature of humanity as created and redeemed - in Greek, Hebrew and Christian understandings. Imago Dei. Freewill versus determinism; nature and grace in the Western Reformation (M Luther, J Calvin, Council of Trent); the theology of Deification in the Orthodox tradition; Cartesian dualism versus retrieval of embodied selfhood. The relationship between Christian theology and scientific enquiry in the modern age, and its implication for our understanding of humanity.

1.3 The Realm of God and the Church of Christ

Understanding the nature and role of the Church eschatologically in the light of creation and new creation. The church and the royal/priestly role of discerning order and ordering new creation creation; resisting anthropocentric and androcentric reductionisms of the Church. Key historical understandings of the Church and current proposals. Exploration of ministry and sacraments in the light of the eschatological dimension, to be done as a joint seminar with Liturgy, Worship and Spirituality.

1.4 Life in the Spirit.

Exploration of the Christian understanding of the Holy Spirit in creation and in the life of the Church. The relationship between the Holy Spirit and eschatology. Reflection on contemporary understandings of the manifestation of the Spirit.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this module students will be able:

- To reflect critically on a range of theological anthropologies and ecclesiologies that reflect renewed concern with creation as a theological theme.
- To engage critically with the doctrine of original sin and the legacy of Augustine of Hippo in the Western Church; and to understand the significance of the contesting of nature and grace in the

history of the church and in current theological debates.

- To reflect on the tensions between theologies of creation and of redemption, and to take account of the ecclesiological significance of this tension.
- To reflect on the interpretative challenge posed by eschatology, and to develop an understanding of how the realm of God is to be related to the institutional structures of the Church of Christ.
- To engage critically with the Christian doctrine of the Holy Spirit, particularly as it relates to creation, anthropology, and the life of the Church.

Methodology:

Part-time Mode A: This module will be taught through a series of lectures and student-led seminars. Students will be required to participate and lead class seminars and also to take part in collaborative small groups and independent study.

There will be a joint seminar with each of the other two strands – Biblical Studies and Christian Practice in Church and Society

Part-time Mode B: This module will be taught through workbook and DVD lectures. Students will also contribute to online seminars and will be required to engage in independent study of set texts. Students will also be required to take part in collaborative small groups and independent study.

There will be a joint seminar with each of the other two strands – Biblical Studies and Christian Practice in Church and Society

Assessment: 2,500 words of coursework (e.g. essay or project as agreed by course leader)

Contact Hours: 20

Student Work Load: 100 - 120 hrs

Module 8

Theology and Ethics

5 Credits

Module Content:

1.1 Understanding Current Challenges

Moral pluralism and its responses: between moral relativism, Christian fundamentalism and cynicism; the technological imperative, market economics and liberal individualism; the ambivalent role of religion in society : contradictory patterns of ‘secularisation’, the fragmentation of religious institutions, the increasing public profile of religion; violence and the legacy of conflict; the place and use of Scripture in contemporary ethics.

1.2 Approaches to Christian Ethics, with a focus on how different ethical approaches construe the relationships between the different sources of Christian moral understanding (bible, tradition, experience, exemplary practice): ecclesial communitarianism; virtue ethics; natural law, classical and revisionist; autonomous ethics; feminist ethics.

1.3 The Role of Christian Ethics in Public Debate With Particular Reference to the Irish Context;

The philosophical and theological positions of key contributors to the debate about the role of religious voices in public discourse including R Williams, J Habermas, P Ricoeur and J Rawls; the role of religious convictions in public reason; the churches as agents of and as a forum of debate in civil society on questions of justice and of human flourishing (for example on matters relating to the legalisation of same-sex relationships, abortion, etc.); the political contribution of the churches in dealing with the legacy of violence and conflict (*Hard Gospel, Moving Beyond Sectarianism*, etc.).

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this module students will be able:

- To analyse and evaluate the nature of the current challenges in and to Christian ethical discourse, with specific reference to the Irish context.
- To understand the different ways in which the sources of Christian moral understanding (bible, tradition, experience, exemplary practice) function within the Christian moral life.
- To recognize and make use of the different forms of ethical argumentation that are evident in different traditions of Christian ethics.
- To connect scriptural understanding with ethical decision making.

- To include a consideration of the relationship between preaching and ethical decision making.
- To recognize the manner in which the different forms of argumentation occur in contemporary ethical debates about personal and social ethics (as for example in relation to sexuality, bioethics, economics, etc.).
- To articulate and evaluate the criteria by which different Christian ethical traditions draw conclusions about moral norms in contemporary society.
- To appreciate and evaluate the different ways in which the church can participate in moral debate in contemporary society, with particular reference to the Irish context.

Methodology:

Part-time Mode A: This module will be taught through a series of lectures and student-led seminars. Students will be required to participate and lead class seminars and also to take part in collaborative small groups and independent study.

There will be a joint seminar with each of the other two strands – Biblical Studies and Christian Practice in Church and Society

Part-time Mode B: This module will be taught through workbook and DVD lectures. Students will also contribute to online seminars and will be required to engage in independent study of set texts. Students will also be required to take part in collaborative small groups and independent study

There will be a joint seminar with each of the other two strands – Biblical Studies and

Assessment: 2,500 words of coursework (e.g. essay or project as agreed by course leader)

Contact Hours: 20

Student Work Load: 100 - 120 hrs

C) CHRISTIAN PRACTICE IN CHURCH AND SOCIETY

Module 9

Mission, Culture and Social Context

5 Credit

Module Content:

1.1 Experience of church and mission

The missionary nature of the church; models of mission and recent studies on missiology (e.g. D Bosch, S Bevens etc); the Irish missionary heritage and its legacy.

1.2 The nature of practical theology: A theological discipline, with sub-disciplines that operate with different methods and secular partners.

Pastoral care – psychology; religious education – pedagogy; homiletics – rhetoric; liturgy – symbol theory; congregation building – models of community work; diakonia – social studies, advocacy.

1.3 The Role of Religion in Contemporary Irish Society

Defining and interpreting religion as a social reality: comparing guiding sociological frameworks, methods and types of enquiry; religion and modernity: secularization or individualization; deinstitutionalization and the cultural and civic roles of religion; globalization and religion.

1.4 The Church's Engagement in Mission in Contemporary Ireland

Resources for constructing 'local theologies' (R Schreiter) appropriate to Irish contexts; discernment of strategies of mission appropriate to contemporary Irish contexts.

1.5 Comparative Contexts for Christian Mission.

Understanding key differences in context between mission in Ireland, and in e.g., Britain, US, certain African and Asian contexts; the meaning of conversion; mission and advocacy concern; mission and evangelism; hospitality, encounter and conversion in an interfaith context.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this module students will be able:

- To appreciate a range of models of mission and to engage with a number of key recent missiological proposals.
- To understand the complex nature and multi-methodological dimensions of practical theology and to develop the skills necessary to articulate a 'local theology' to underpin Christian mission and ministry in contemporary Ireland.

- To analyse critically the role of religion in contemporary Irish society.
- To reflect on the church's understanding of its mission in contemporary Ireland.
- To understand the similarities and differences between the Church's mission in Ireland and in other countries.
- To connect biblical models of mission with mission as institution.

Methodology:

Part-time Mode A: This module will be taught through a series of lectures and student-led seminars. Students will be required to participate and lead class seminars and also to take part in collaborative small groups and independent study.

There will be a joint seminar with each of the other two strands – Biblical Studies and Theology.

Part-time Mode B: This module will be taught through workbook and DVD lectures. Students will also contribute to online seminars and will be required to engage in independent study of set texts. Students will also be required to take part in collaborative small groups and independent study.

There will be a joint seminar with each of the other two strands – Biblical Studies and Theology

Assessment: 2,500 words of coursework (e.g. essay or project as agreed by course leader)

Contact Hours: 20 **Work Load:** 100 - 120 hrs

Module 10

Pastoral Studies

5 Credits

Module Content:

1.1 Offering and Receiving Ministry

Understanding and building on the 'stages of faith' (J Fowler) that characterize human growth and development; the role of the religious minister in rites of passage, e.g., confirmation, marriage, funerals etc.; forming and maintaining healthy relationships within the Christian community; distinctive and specialized ministries: chaplaincy, urban, team and youth ministry; one generation church, ecclesiology and evangelism.

1.2 Public and Private Ministry

Critically appreciating the skills of pastoral reflection and self-awareness as a pastoral practitioner; understanding the need for appropriate boundaries in public ministry and personal life; understanding the theory and practice of communication, including theory of education and the educational roles and responsibilities of the minister; ministry and media: developing competencies for interpreting liturgy in a wider context via mass media, in public and civic contexts.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this module students will be able:

- To engage critically with developmental approaches to faith and human growth.
- To understand the dynamics of community life and to show critical appreciation for skills in conflict resolution and mediation.
- To understand, as a reflective practitioner, the role of the minister in the public celebration of rites of passage within the Christian community.
- To appreciate a range of ways, other than parochial ministry, in which ministry may be offered to Church and to society.
- To understand the importance of education theory for pastoral ministry.
- To develop appropriate media skills.
- To recognise situations of conflict and to come to an understanding of conflict resolution and mediation.

Methodology:

Part-time Mode A: This module will be taught through a series of lectures and student-led seminars.

Students will be required to participate and lead class seminars and also to take part in collaborative small groups and independent study.

There will be a joint seminar with each of the other two strands – Biblical Studies and Theology.

Part-time Mode B: This module will be taught through workbook and DVD lectures. Students will also contribute to online seminars and will be required to engage in independent study of set texts. Students will also be required to take part in collaborative small groups and independent study. There will be a joint seminar with each of the other two strands – Biblical Studies and Theology.

Assessment: 2,500 words of coursework (e.g. essay or project as agreed by course leader)

Contact Hours: 20 **Work Load:** 100 - 120 hr

Module 11

Liturgy, Worship and Spirituality

5 Credits

Module Content:

1.1 Offering time.

The relationship between doctrines of creation/Trinity and Christian theology of worship and prayer. The development of the liturgical year and the daily office. Different traditions of prayer eg Benedictine, Franciscan, Reformation, contemporary. Patterns of prayer today (including all age worship, participation of children in worship, worship and youth).

1.2 Means of grace

The nature and theology of sacraments. Ritual and symbol. The theology and development of rites of Baptism and the Eucharist in the early Church, the Protestant Reformers, liturgical renewal among Catholics and Protestants in the 20th century. Ecumenical statements eg WCC Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry. Baptism and Eucharist in the contemporary life and mission of the Church. Worship and inculturation. Rites of passage eg Marriages, Funerals.

1.3 Making space

The Christian theology of space, and its implications for church buildings. The use of church buildings in relation to the mission of God expressed through the Church.

1.4 Worship and the Word

The Ministry of the Word. A critical grasp of the history of homiletics, including close study of examples eg Augustine, Thomas Cranmer, Lancelot Andrewes, John Wesley, Martin Luther King. Patterns and models of homiletics for the context of 21st century Ireland. The 'Word' expressed in music and art. The relationship between Word and Sacrament.

1.5 Ministers of faith

Theology of the whole people of God, and within that the theology of ordination. How such theology is expressed in rites of ordination, historical and contemporary. The minister as person, private, public and holy. Spirituality for ministry; the practice of spiritual direction, in history and contemporary examples; gender, spirituality and ministry.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this module students will be able:

- To understand and appropriate the history, theology and liturgical praxis of baptism, eucharist and ministry.
- To appreciate the significance of both time and place in Christian worship and mission
- To be able to articulate the way in which liturgies can both reflect and challenge social norms
- To engage critically with the history of homiletics in the creation and delivery of sermons.
- To display knowledge of the diversity of approaches to spirituality found in the history of the Church; to appreciate the theory and practice of spiritual direction against the background of the history of Christian spirituality; to show awareness of the relationship between different personality types and different paths in Christian spirituality; to demonstrate appreciation of the need for a minister to develop a personal spiritual discipline.

Methodology:

Part-time Mode A: This module will be taught through a series of lectures and student-led seminars.

Students will be required to participate and lead class seminars and also to take part in collaborative small

groups and independent study.

There will be a joint seminar with each of the other two strands – Biblical Studies and Theology.

Part-time Mode B: This module will be taught through workbook and DVD lectures. Students will also contribute to online seminars and will be required to engage in independent study of set texts. Students will also be required to take part in collaborative small groups and independent study.

There will be a joint seminar with each of the other two strands – Biblical Studies and Theology

Assessment: 2,500 words of coursework (e.g. essay or project as agreed by course leader)

Contact Hours: 20 Student Work Load: 100 - 120 hr

Module 12

Anglican Studies in an Irish Context

5 Credits

Module Content:

1.1 Christianity and Conflict in Ireland

Acknowledging the conflicting interpretations of key moments in Irish church history: the mission of Patrick and early Irish Christianity; state-sponsored reform of the English and Irish churches in the sixteenth century; the Elizabethan and Caroline Settlements; Christianity and nationalisms; partition, conflict and peace; the Good Friday/Belfast Agreement and its consequences.

1.2 The 'Anglican Way' in Ireland

Anglican responses to the *Missio Dei*: Scripture, Worship and Communion as defining themes in contemporary Anglican self-understanding; contextual understanding of the emergence, role and authority of the Book of Common Prayer, the Homilies, Articles of Religion, the Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral and the emergence of an Anglican Covenant; Anglicanism, ecumenical engagement and interreligious dialogue.

1.3 Reconciliation in an Irish Context

Theologies of reconciliation and the challenges of divided societies (M Volf, R Schreiter, J de Gruchy); postcolonial biblical exegesis and liberation theology in contemporary global Anglicanism; understanding sectarianism and transforming societies; a reflection on the Hard Gospel Project.

1.4 Christianity and Reconciliation

Analysis of Anglicanism's capacities to contribute to public debates on reconciliation, and social and ecological justice; exploration of new ways for Anglicans to be church (e.g., L Mudge, R Page, M Grey); challenges facing the communion of global Anglicanism.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this module students will be able:

- To understand critically the historical contexts that have shaped the current expressions of Irish Christianity.
- To engage with the ways in which Anglican identity is articulated, especially through the liturgical life of the Church.
- To recognize the distinctive challenges facing Irish Anglicans in articulating the 'gospel of reconciliation'.
- To engage critically with concerns of Anglicans in the Global South over the nature of Anglican koinonia.
- To reflect on new proposals of how to be church.

Methodology:

Part-time Mode A: This module will be taught through a series of lectures and student-led seminars.

Students will be required to participate and lead class seminars and also to take part in collaborative small groups and independent study.

There will be a joint seminar with each of the other two strands – Biblical Studies and Theology.

Part-time Mode B: This module will be taught through workbook and DVD lectures. Students will also contribute to online seminars and will be required to engage in independent study of set texts. Students will also be required to take part in collaborative small groups and independent study.

There will be a joint seminar with each of the other two strands – Biblical Studies and Theology

Assessment: 2,500 words of coursework (e.g. essay or project as agreed by course leader)

Contact Hours: 20

Student Work Load: 100 - 120 hours

D) CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Module 13

Practice and Practicalities

10 Credits

Module Content:

This module aims to provide students with a range of skills and tools to enable them to lead, motivate, enthuse and inspire groups of people effectively in a church setting. It aims to make students aware of their own leadership styles and to understand the potential impact of that style on others. This module will aim to ground these principles biblically and integrate them theologically. Students will be expected to put their classroom teaching into practice in their internship settings and to reflect on them subsequently both theologically and practically with their tutors.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this module students will be able:

- Understand the role of vision in motivating groups, how it is constructed, refined and delivered.
- Articulate an understanding of their own leadership styles.
- Have demonstrated an understanding of and applied an effective methodology of conflict resolution between individuals and groups.
- Understand and, where appropriate, have applied the principles of effective delegation and staff management.
- Understand authority in the church and the giving and receiving of permission in a church that is episcopally led and synodically governed.
- Have led a key focussed ministry initiative in a parish setting and have reflected on results and feedback.

Methodology:

Part-time Mode A: This module will be taught through a series of lectures and student-led seminars. Students will be required to participate and lead class seminars and also to take part in collaborative small groups and independent study. There will also be practical demonstrations and leadership style assessments.

Part-time Mode B: This module will be taught through workbook and DVD lectures. Students will also contribute to online seminars and will be required to engage in independent study of set texts. Students will also be required to take part in collaborative small groups and independent study. There will also be practical demonstrations and leadership style assessments.

Assessment:

This module is assessed by coursework totalling 5,000 words.

Contact Hours: 40

Student Work Load: 200 - 250 hrs

E) ELECTIVE MODULES

Students take a total of **one of three** elective modules.

Module 14

Music and Worship

10 Credits

Module Content:

This module covers a consideration of the role of music in Christian worship with reference to historical

and contemporary styles and influences. It also provides a practical introduction to simple teaching and performance skills in enabling congregational musical participation and the enrichment of worship. Students will be enabled to understand the underlying doctrine and theology of what is being sung and will learn how to connect sung worship with the lectionary. Students will also be introduced to a range of sung worship styles.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this module students will be able:

- Explain the role of music in Christian worship.
- Recognise the theological content and historical context of hymnody.
- Identify opportunities for music in worship, both formal and informal,
- Describe some of the key influences and genres in the Church's music,
- Demonstrate basic competence in vocal or instrumental performance for use in worship,
- Choose music for worship in seasons of the church's year and for particular occasions,
- Learn how to preside effectively and enable others to lead worship,

Methodology:

Part-time Mode A: This module will be taught through a series of lectures and student-led seminars. Students will be required to participate and lead class seminars and also to take part in collaborative small groups and independent study. There will also be practical demonstrations and performance related work.

Part-time Mode B: This module will be taught through workbook and DVD lectures. Students will also contribute to online seminars and will be required to engage in independent study of set texts. Students will also be required to take part in collaborative small groups and independent study. There will also be practical demonstrations and performance related work.

Assessment:

This module is assessed by coursework totalling 5,000 words.

Contact Hours: 40

Student Work Load: 200 - 250 hrs

Module 15

Faith Nurture and Christian Education

10 Credits

Module Content:

This module examines the subject of faith development including various models of Stages of Faith. The module explores the implications of these models for parish education and catechetical programmes including considerations of cognitive, affective and active knowing. The programme examines the issues across the age range and also includes a practical introduction to children's ministry programmes, youth ministry activities, adult learning and continuing education in parishes and other local ecclesial communities. Also considered is a review of resources in these areas together with a consideration of the role of the minister in facilitating the nurturing of faith with Christian education in the parish. The module also explores the connection between the nurturing of faith and preaching

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this module students will be able:

- To describe the major models of Stages of Faith and to articulate their practical implications for faith development.
- To have a clear awareness of the different requirements of particular age groups and the teaching methods appropriate to each.
- To integrate faith nurture and Christian education into worship.
- To critically assess some popular parish programmes of faith nurture and education in the light of the content of the module.
- To evidence familiarity with key resources in the area of faith development across the age range.
- To devise a short programme of faith development for a specified age group.

Part-time Mode A: This module will be taught through a series of lectures and student-led seminars.

Students will be required to participate and lead class seminars and also to take part in collaborative small groups and independent study. There will also be practical demonstrations.

Part-time Mode B: This module will be taught through workbook and DVD lectures. Students will also contribute to online seminars and will be required to engage in independent study of set texts. Students will also be required to take part in collaborative small groups and independent study. There will also be practical demonstrations.

Assessment:

This module is assessed by coursework totalling 5,000 words. Possible fields of assessment would include devising a programme of faith, nurture and education for a specific age group in the parish; outlining an across the age range programme on a particular theme; devising a programme for a particular season of the year on either Easter or Pentecost with resources, outcomes etc.

Contact Hours: 40

Student Work Load: 200 - 250 hrs

Module 16

Ministry for Reconciliation

10 Credits

Module Content:

Parish ministry is usually carried out amid differences in terms of age, social background, theological perspectives and political views. Ministry in Ireland, North and South, is also carried out amid the legacy of sectarian division and the reality of increasing racial and ethnic diversity. How shall the challenge of the Gospel - loving God and *all* of one's neighbours – be lived out in ministry? This module examines biblical models of peace-building and reconciliation leading to community transformation. It explores critically practical approaches for handling conflict in parish and society, assesses the findings and suggestions of the *Hard Gospel* and identifies resources for ministry amid difference and division.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this module students will be able to:

- Identify the key issues in sectarianism in Ireland within an historical, political and cultural context.
- Critique sectarianism from a theological and biblical perspective and examine options for moving beyond sectarianism.
- Devise and substantiate practical initiatives in reconciliation for a parish.
- Discern opportunities for collaborative peace-building in the community within which a parish is set.
- Describe the challenges presented in the *Hard Gospel Report* and identify some of its key challenges for a Christian ministry of social transformation.
- Articulate a constructive Christian vision for reconciliation.
- Evidence an awareness of practical skills in the recognition and management of conflict.
- Identify key resources that can help address conflict and promote community transformation in parish ministry.

Methodology:

Part-time Mode A: This module will be taught through a series of lectures and student-led seminars.

Students will be required to participate and lead class seminars and also to take part in collaborative small groups and independent study. There will also be practical demonstrations.

Part-time Mode B: This module will be taught through workbook and DVD lectures. Students will also contribute to online seminars and will be required to engage in independent study of set texts. Students will also be required to take part in collaborative small groups and independent study. There will also be practical demonstrations.

Assessment:

This module is assessed by coursework totalling 5000 words.

Contact Hours: 40 **Student Work Load:** 200 - 250 hrs

Module 17

Ministry Portfolio

10 Credits

Students will be required to maintain a Ministry Portfolio throughout the M.Th. course. Throughout the course there will be the opportunity for practical activities which will require biblical, theological and ministerial reflection on that practice. The Ministry Portfolio will be a significant locus for assessing how students are faring in bringing together practice and learning. This will be of particular concern during the Internship year but it will contain the reflection on practice throughout the M.Th. course. Students will be encouraged to begin this process during the Foundation Course so that the principles of theological Reflection will be built into their approach to their studies.

Contact Hours: 10 – 16

Student Work Load: 200 - 250 hrs

Module 18

Dissertation

30 Credits

The aim of this module will be to enable students to produce a sustained piece of theological reflection on a topic related to mission and ministry. The dissertation may be focused on any one of the three strands of the M.Th., namely biblical, theological or ministerial studies, and should explore the interface between the theological tradition and the practice of Christian mission and ministry.

As part of the dissertation module students will receive training in research methods.

Students will explore various approaches to doing research in the field of ministerial studies. The approaches considered will include theological, philosophical, historical, ethnographic, and sociological methods of research. Individual classes will also introduce training in research skills including: research methodologies, referencing, selection and use of style-sheets, compilation of bibliographies; use of library resources, electronic data and other bibliographical guides.

Learning Outcomes;

By the end of this module students will be able:

- To apply the skills of research, study and reflection required in a sustained piece of academic work.
- To integrate the biblical, theological and ministerial strands of the programme which form part of the M.Th.
- To demonstrate a thorough expertise in their chosen area of research.

In addition to research methods training students will normally have four supervision sessions with a supervisor appointed by the Course Director. Feedback to students will comprise comments on draft proposals from the supervisor.

Assessment: Students will produce a dissertation of 18,000 – 20,000 words.

Contact Hours: 12 – 16

Student Work Load: 400 -500 hours

APPENDIX I

Calendar part 2 entry for 2009

1.1 *Introduction*

The M.Th. offers a distinctive learning experience based on the integration of the fields of theology, biblical studies and Christian practice. Students will engage critically with the intellectual challenges of ministry through the study of key themes in biblical, theological and ministerial studies. The programme is thus framed around a clear interaction between both theory and practice and across a variety of areas of ministerial formation. The M.Th. aims to maintain a rigorous academic core whilst also broadening the scope of content and assessment to include professional application.

1.2 *Admission Requirements*

All candidates will be required to successfully complete the Foundation Course.

In addition candidates will have either:

An Honors Degree in Theology or another discipline

An appropriate qualification and at least 3 years ministerial experience or equivalent professional experience

Otherwise satisfy the Course Admissions Committee that they have the ability to complete and benefit from the course.

Candidates will apply in the first instance to the CITI and applications will be considered by a joint Course Admissions Committee.

1.3 *Duration*

Three years part-time Mode A, six years part-time Mode B

1.4 *Course Structure*

Students are required to take 80 ECTS from the taught modules, 70 of which are core, 10 of which are elective. Students are also required to prepare a Ministry Portfolio of 10 ECTS and a 30 ECTS dissertation. The taught modules are:

Core Modules:

The Bible and its Interpretation

Texts and Communities in Context – Old Testament/Hebrew Bible 5 ECTS

Texts and Communities in Context –New Testament 5 ECTS

Communities of Interpretation - To the Enlightenment Period 5 ECTS

Communities of Interpretation - In the Modern Period and in the Church Today 5 ECTS

Theological Reflection and Christian Identity

Christian Thinking About God 5 ECTS

Jesus the Christ 5 ECTS

Cosmology, Anthropology and the Church 5 ECTS

Theology and Ethics 5 ECTS

Christian Practice in Church and Society

Mission, Culture and Social Context 5 ECTS

Pastoral Studies 5 ECTS

Liturgy, Worship and Spirituality 5 ECTS

Anglican Studies in an Irish Context 5 ECTS

Church Leadership

Practice and Practicalities 10 ECTS

Elective Modules:

Students take a total of one of three elective modules.

Music and Worship 10 ECTS

Faith, Nurture and Christian Education 10 ECTS

Ministry for Reconciliation 10 ECTS

1.5 *Assessment procedure*

Each 5 credit module will be assessed through course-work of 2,5000 words. 10 credit modules will be assessed through coursework comprising 5,000 words. Students will also be required to complete a Ministry Portfolio and a dissertation of 18,000-20,000 words.

1.6 *Course Co-ordinator*

Rev. Dr. Maurice Elliott, Director, Church of Ireland Theological Institute

APPENDIX II
Prospectus entry for 2009

MASTER IN THEOLOGY (MTh.)

Masters Course for Ministerial Training

Course Co-ordinator: Rev. Dr. Maurice Elliott, Director, Church of Ireland Theological Institute

Duration: Three years part-time Mode A, six years part-time Mode B

Closing Date: June 30th. Candidates should apply in the first instance to the Church of Ireland Theological Institute, Braemor Park, Dublin 6.

Telephone : +353-1-4923506

Email: maurice.elliott@lineone.net

This M.Th. for ministerial training offers a distinctive learning experience based on the integration of the fields of theology, biblical studies and Christian practice. Students will engage critically with the intellectual challenges of ministry through the study of key themes in biblical, theological and ministerial studies. The programme is thus framed around a clear interaction between both theory and practice and across a variety of areas of ministerial formation. This masters programme. aims to maintain a rigorous academic core whilst also broadening the scope of content and assessment to include professional application.

This programme is offered only in the part-time mode, with two options: Mode A which runs for three years (40 ECTS per year), and Mode B which runs for 6 years (20 ECTS per year). Candidates are assessed by a combination of course work, ministry portfolio and dissertation.