

# **Oak Hill College**

## **Taught Postgraduate Programmes in Theological & Pastoral Studies**

### **Admission regulations, programme requirements & descriptions 2009/10**

This booklet provides details of the entrance regulations and programme requirements for Oak Hill's Master of Arts (MA) and Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) in Theological & Pastoral Studies (TPS). Also included are brief descriptions of the modules available in these programmes. The main Prospectus gives information about the overall ethos and individual aims of our programmes.

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## **Admission Regulations**

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### **MA and PGDip in TPS**

The normal entrance qualification is an Honours Degree in Theology at an Upper Second standard. Exceptions to this requirement are rarely made. The Academic Dean, advised by the Postgraduate Course Leader, will be responsible for ensuring that prospective students have the background and ability to maintain the required 2.1 standard throughout the programme.

Normally, broader degrees in Religious Studies and other subjects will not be an adequate grounding for these programmes. Students without a degree in theology *may* qualify for admission if they are able to demonstrate both academic ability and sufficient other theological background, for example, by having completed a degree in a cognate field and a diploma in theology. Students wishing to take certain modules in New Testament or Old Testament must have a knowledge of Greek or Hebrew at least to the standard of Oak Hill modules (GK1.1 or BH1.1 respectively) or their equivalents.

Applications should be made to the Dean (through Clare Osborne, the Admissions Officer), who may consult with the Postgraduate Course Leader before deciding that a candidate is qualified for admission. Eligible applicants will normally be interviewed by at least one member of staff before any place is offered.

### **Programme Requirements**

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Each academic year's work is divided into two semesters, which normally run from September to January and from February to June respectively. There are nevertheless three terms with breaks between them at Christmas and Easter.

Each taught module:

- lasts for one semester
- has four contact hours per week (this includes time for both lecture input and seminars)
- allows time for regular personal tutorials
- is worth 30 credits (towards the total of 180 required for the MA or 120 for the PGDip)

### **PGDip TPS Programme Requirements**

To be awarded a PGDip in TPS, students must pass four taught modules.

### **MA TPS Programme Requirements**

To be awarded an MA in TPS, students must pass four taught modules, plus **either** a long dissertation of max 15,000 words (LD6.1), worth 60 credits, **or** a short dissertation of max 7,500 words (SD6.1), and a short project of max 7,500 words (SP6.1), each worth 30 credits

## **Masters-level modules**

Masters-level modules are of two types, and are indicated with the code numbers 5 and 6 (for example, codes CM5.6 or NT6.9). Those with the code 5.x are termed 'Enhanced BA'; this is because the module is based on one taught at 'BA level 2' but with adjustments to make it appropriate for Masters level. Those modules with the code 6.x are termed 'Specialist Masters-level'. Classes for Enhanced BA modules may be shared with BA(Hons)-level students; Specialist M-level modules involve Masters-level students only.

Students on either programme must take at least two Specialist M-level modules (6.x). The remaining two modules can also be taken from the specialist M-level list, or from the list of Enhanced BA modules. Students can discuss their particular choice of modules with the Postgraduate Course Leader and/or Academic Registrar.

The modules available are: (not all modules are on offer every year)

### **Specialist M-level**

BS6.1 The Old Testament in Scripture	DH5.1 The Doctrine of God
NT6.9 The Theology of the Book of Acts	DN5.1 Justification
TM6.1 Christian Theology of World Religions	HM5.1 Puritan Perspectives on Ministry
	NT5.7 Hebrew & the General Epistles
	OT5.7 Hebrew Psalms & Poetry
	TM5.2 Establishing Churches across Cultures
	TM5.3 Theology in the non-Western world

### **Enhanced BA**

AP5.1 Apologetics for Mission	
BS5.1 Deuteronomy	
CM5.6 Advanced Christian Leadership	

## **Length of Study Period**

The normal length of study for the PGDip is two semesters (full-time) or four semesters (part-time).

The normal length of study for the full-time MA is 12 months, comprising two academic semesters and one summer period. A full-time student studies 60 credits (in taught modules) per semester, together with dissertation preparation, and then completes the dissertation package during the summer period. This completes the 12-month programme, normally September to August inclusive.

The MA can also be studied part-time by students in two broad categories:

- 1) Anglican Ordinands who are already Theology graduates. Normally, their overall programme is technically full-time, lasts two academic years, and comprises
  - a) the MA part-time
  - b) the Certificate in Ministry
  - c) modules from the DipHE in TPS set, to provide specific Anglican training
- 2) Those who have a good first degree in theology, ordained or lay, whose programme is 'truly' part-time; i.e. they are doing no other Oak Hill study alongside the MA

The normal length of study for a part-time Category 1) student is 22 months (September to June inclusive), comprising four academic semesters and one summer period. The student studies 30 credits (in M-level taught modules) per semester, together with dissertation preparation. Intensive dissertation work is allowed by the intervening summer period, but completion of the dissertation package is only *required* by the end of the fourth semester.

The normal length of study for a part-time Category 2) student is 24 months (normally September to August inclusive), comprising four academic semesters and two summer periods. The student studies 30 credits in taught modules per semester, together with dissertation preparation. Intensive dissertation work, and finalisation, is allowed by the two summer periods.

### **Dissertations (applicable to MA only)**

The requirements for dissertations are:

- the dissertation or project should reflect a mature grasp of theology. It will be expected to show the ability to assess views and theories critically, to review evidence, validate conclusions and demonstrate competence in the chosen field of scholarship. It is not required to make a significant, original contribution to theology, but to show independence in pursuing relevant lines of enquiry.
- the dissertation or project offers the opportunity for study in Church ministry or practice, or of wider issues of theological import. This would involve researching and analysing Church experience, ministerial formation or cultural challenge.
- students have the opportunity to present a dissertation in the form of a practical-based project. Any such project will have an outcome: this may be a change in Church practice or vision, a pastoral initiative, some recommendations or proposals in ministerial or church formation.

There are strict requirements governing preparation of the dissertation package, summarised by the following tables.

#### **Full-time students:**

<b>Action Required</b>	<b>Timing</b>
Proposal Form, signed by Postgraduate Course Leader and potential Supervisor, passed on to External Examiner for approval	by Semester 1 Assessment Board (February); exact deadline will be notified
At least first two (of three) Supervisions (organising and recording Supervisions is student's responsibility)	before end of second semester (June; i.e. end of Exam Week)
Third (last) Supervision	During a week over the summer period, arranged with the supervisor (at the second Supervision at the latest)
Submission of dissertation and project where applicable	by end of August; exact deadline will be notified

#### **Part-time, Category 1) students:**

<b>Action Required</b>	<b>Timing</b>
Proposal Form, signed by Postgraduate Course Leader and potential Supervisor, passed on to External Examiner for approval	by Semester 2 Assessment Board (June) of 1 <sup>st</sup> year; exact deadline will be notified
At least first two (of three) Supervisions (organising and recording Supervisions is student's responsibility)	by end of spring term (March) of 2 <sup>nd</sup> year; exact deadline will be notified
Submission of dissertation and project where applicable	by Semester 2 Assessment Board (June) of 2 <sup>nd</sup> year; exact deadline will be notified

### Part-time, Category 2) students:

Action Required	Timing for September start	Timing for February start
Proposal Form, signed by Postgraduate Course Leader and potential Supervisor, passed on to External Examiner for approval	by Semester 2 Assessment Board (June) of 1 <sup>st</sup> year; exact deadline will be notified	by Assessment Board (February) of second year of course; exact deadline will be notified
At least first two (of three) Supervisions (organising and recording Supervisions is student's responsibility)	by end of spring term (March or April) of 2 <sup>nd</sup> year; exact deadline will be notified	by end of August before fourth semester of course; exact deadline will be notified
Third (last) Supervision	before the end of summer term (June) of 2 <sup>nd</sup> year; exact deadline will be notified	by end of autumn term (December) of 2 <sup>nd</sup> year; exact deadline will be notified
Submission of dissertation and project where applicable	by end of August of 2 <sup>nd</sup> year; exact deadline will be notified	by Assessment Board (February) of fourth semester; exact deadline will be notified

## Masters-level Modules

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### Specialist Masters-level Modules

#### **BS6.1 The Old Testament in Scripture**

Lecturer: P. Woodbridge

The relationship of the OT to the NT; Jewish methods of exegesis in the first century AD; the re-interpretation of Biblical traditions with the OT and the NT; the NT use of OT texts (especially Matthew, John, Acts, Paul, Hebrews); use of OT today in various hermeneutical traditions and their application to preaching and teaching.

#### **NT6.9 The Theology of the Book of Acts**

Lecturer: M. Sleeman

Luke's theological enterprise, unity, structure and emphases. Narrative-critical approaches to the study of Acts. Salvation and eschatology in Acts. The Christology of Acts. The use of Scripture in Acts. The role of the apostles in Acts. Mission and witness in Acts. The work of the Holy Spirit in Acts. Jews and Gentiles and the plan of God. The doctrine of the Church in Acts. The preaching of Peter in Acts. The preaching and defence of Paul in Acts. The purpose of Acts.

#### **TM6.1 Christian Theology of World Religions**

Lecturer: D. Strange

Survey of historical and theological Christian approaches to other religions looking in particular at soteriology and revelation. Analysing several representative theologians. Focusing on recent evangelical theologies of religions. Using biblical theology and systematic theology to construct a theology of religions with the study of two Dutch Reformed missiologists, Hendrik Kraemer and J.H. Bavinck. Examine a number of common missiological themes concerning evangelism, dialogue, contextualisation and possible co-belligerence.

## **Enhanced BA Modules**

### **AP5.1 Apologetics for Mission**

Lecturers: M. Ovey, K. Birkett

Biblical foundations for apologetics in mission; examination of beliefs as systems of thought and value; analysis of prominent contemporary systems of thought (especially aspects of postmodernism); techniques of appropriation from non-Christian systems of thought; deployment of argument in local church settings.

### **BS5.1 Deuteronomy**

Lecturer: J. Robson

Translation, exegesis and theology of Deuteronomy, with attention to contemporary application.

### **CM5.6 Advanced Christian Leadership**

Lecturer: C. Green

Leadership and management theory and skills, secular and Christian, teams, coaching, small group structures, Cell Church, Church Growth theories, urban, suburban and rural church patterns, denominational habits of growth and decline, critiques of vision, strategy and planning, with particular examples. Study involves audio/video tapes.

### **DH5.1 The Doctrine of God**

Lecturers: M. Ovey, N. Tucker

The doctrines of classical theism, the Holy Trinity, their alternatives, development and biblical basis. Particular attention will be paid to at least one major historical primary text on the doctrine of the Trinity.

### **DN5.1 Justification**

Lecturers: M. Ovey, P. O'Brien

A combination of biblical studies and historical and systematic theology in which we examine the exegesis of key biblical texts relating to Justification, and explore their implications and application.

### **HM5.1 Puritan Perspectives on Ministry**

Lecturer: G. McGrath

Historical background. Introduction to the life and thought of leading seventeenth century puritan divines. Puritan perspectives on aspects of Christian life and ministry such as family life, civil government, work and leisure, spirituality, church government, and worship.

### **NT5.7 Hebrews & the General Epistles**

Lecturers: C. Anderson, M. Sleeman

Introduction to Hebrews and 1 Peter; study of set texts (amounting to about 230 verses); textual criticism; examination of key theological themes; study of advanced Greek grammar.

### **OT5.7 Hebrew Psalms & Poetry**

Lecturers: B. Howell

Hebrew Poetry; Methods of Classification; Translation, Exegesis and Theology of selected Psalms from different genres; Formation and Message of the book of Psalms; Theological topics arising from the book of Psalms with particular attention to Christology; Contemporary use of the Psalms.

### **TM5.2 Establishing Churches across Cultures**

Lecturer: R. Porter

Missiological ecclesiologies biblically and historically. The practices of denominational and non-denominational missions in establishing overseas churches will be studied. Comparisons will be drawn with other social structures in specific countries and an evaluation made of the contextualisation of the ecclesiastical structures. Pastoral styles as related to cultures will be studied and practical issues of working in a church with differing cultural backgrounds will be addressed and analysed.

### **TM5.3 Theology in the Non-Western World**

Lecturer: R. Porter

Investigation of the writings of major non-Western theologians. These will include theologians from a variety of dogmatic and cultural backgrounds. Particular attention will be given to Japanese, Chinese, Indian, African and Latin American theologians of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. There will be a study of creeds that have been produced to meet the cultural and religious questions of non-Western nations. Students will examine these theologies in the light of scripture and assess their contribution to the world church.