

# Master of Arts in Theology

## Programme Specification



<b>1. Programme Title</b>	Master of Arts in Theology
<b>2. Awarding Institution</b>	Middlesex University
<b>3. Teaching Institution</b>	Oak Hill Theological College
<b>4. Details of Accreditation by Professional/Statutory/Regulatory Body</b>	N/a
<b>5. Final Qualification</b>	Master of Arts (MA)
<b>6. Year of Validation</b>	2015-16
<b>Year of Amendment</b>	Last updated: 9 November 2015
<b>7. Language of Study</b>	English
<b>8. Mode of Study</b>	Full-time / Part-Time

<b>9. Criteria for Admission to the Programme</b>
<p>The normal entrance requirement is a UK Honours degree in Theology (classified 2.2 or above). Normally, broader degrees in Religious Studies and other subjects will not provide an adequate grounding for this programme. Students without a degree in Theology <i>may</i> qualify for admission if they are able to demonstrate both academic ability and sufficient other theological background.</p> <p>Students wishing to take certain modules in Biblical Studies as part of their programme must demonstrate a proficiency in Greek or Hebrew at least to the standard of the pre-requisites identified for the relevant Oak Hill modules (as noted on the Module Narratives).</p> <p>Students must also satisfy the College that they have a sufficient command of spoken and written English to meet the demands of the programme. We require all overseas students or those whose first language is not English to take the British Council IELTS test and achieve a score of 7.0 or above, with no less than 6.5 in any individual category.</p> <p>Applications should be made through the Admissions Office. Exceptions to the normal entrance requirements are possible but rare, and are made by the Academic Vice Principal in consultation with the Admissions Office and the Director of Postgraduate Studies.</p>

## 10. Aims of the Programme

The programme aims to:

- Enable students to focus in appropriate depth on particular aspects of biblical, theological, pastoral and/or cross-cultural studies in which they have a prior interest; or enable students to explore new areas within the discipline, building on their prior knowledge and experience;
- Provide opportunity for students to reflect upon and integrate their prior theological studies and their experience of Christian ministry in the process of engaging critically with new learnings and to model this in the way in which teaching and learning are provided;
- Provide students with a rounded course of study, covering a range of biblical, theological and pastoral studies at postgraduate level, which are at, or informed by, the forefront of those fields of study;
- Strengthen and sharpen students' intellectual and practical skills and to develop in them the graces of the Christian theologian in order that they should be more effective in Christian ministry;
- Develop students as lifelong theological learners and equip them to harness and apply the fruits of such theological study in their diverse ministries;
- Provide an opportunity for sustained reflection on and engagement with a theological or ministerial topic through a research-based dissertation (or a shorter dissertation and project);
- Enable students to understand something of the demands and opportunities of theological research and equip them to begin such research if they would so choose.

## 11. Programme Outcomes

### A. Knowledge and Understanding

On completion of this programme the successful student will have:

- A1** An advanced and thorough understanding of parts of Scripture, their relation to the whole, and how to interpret them
- A2** A systematic and advanced understanding of selected doctrines of the Christian faith, and/or periods of church history and historical theology, and their significance for the contemporary church, both locally and globally
- A3** An advanced understanding of how the Christian faith engages with various contemporary ethical and pastoral issues
- A4** An advanced understanding of the interconnectedness of the various elements within the study of biblical studies and theology
- A5** A thorough understanding of the methodological, philosophical and hermeneutical models and assumptions used in the study of theology

### Teaching/Learning Methods

Students gain knowledge and understanding through:

- Lectures: giving overall perspective; exemplary discussions of a topic; models for considering and assessing different views of a subject; and explanations of complicated material;
- Accompanying handouts;
- Interaction in the form of questions, discussion, dialogue and argument;
- Guided independent reading, some of which is discussed in class;
- Student-led seminars with questions and discussion;
- Dissertation/project supervisions;
- Practical exercises and simulations;
- Problem analysis, case studies and role play;
- Translation and exegetical exercises in class;
- Appropriate use of technology such as language software, keeping a blog etc.;
- Discussion of primary and secondary texts;
- Fieldwork and study trips;
- Organising an event and reflecting on it;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual written (and at times oral) feedback on written work;</li> <li>• The formative dimension of assessment.</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment Method</b> Students' knowledge and understanding are assessed by a combination of unseen written exams; assessed coursework in the form of essays, assignments, student-led seminars/presentations, and book reviews; exegesis; language tests/translation; fieldwork reports; group work; and applied research projects and/or dissertations.</p>
<p><b>B. Cognitive (Thinking) Skills</b> On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <p><b>B1</b> Demonstrate a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge within the discipline, along with an ability to choose the most appropriate techniques for any given task</p> <p><b>B2</b> Critically and reflectively evaluate advanced scholarship in the theological disciplines, applying a variety of critical methods, assessing views and theories and, where appropriate, proposing alternatives</p> <p><b>B3</b> Evaluate methodologies employed in the theological disciplines and develop appropriate critiques of them</p> <p><b>B4</b> Construct and articulate an integrative, coherent, well-informed, critically-engaged and sustained argument and develop original application of the knowledge and understanding it contains</p> <p><b>B5</b> Appreciate and be able to deal systematically and creatively with complex issues and make sound judgements, sometimes in the absence of complete data</p> <p><b>B6</b> Engage and interact at a high level with the material/subjects studied, demonstrating an ability to reflect critically on their own particular standpoint and to understand the methodological and hermeneutical issues involved</p> <p><b>B7</b> Demonstrate competence in postgraduate research skills through a substantial dissertation (or a short dissertation and a</p>	<p><b>Teaching/Learning Methods</b> Students learn cognitive skills through the teaching and learning methods outlined above. Each module, whatever the format of the teaching, involves discussion of key issues in order to develop the intellectual skills described.</p> <p>Additional methods of particular importance in the development of these intellectual skills are the deliberate modelling of these skills in lectures and classes; the individual feedback given on class contributions and assessed work; provision of special sessions on research skills and methodologies; and individual dissertation/project supervisions. Moreover, a number of the teaching and learning methods mentioned above are employed with the intention that they should especially contribute to the development of these skills. These include guided independent reading; student-led seminars/presentations with questions and discussion; practical exercises/simulations; problem analysis; class reading and discussion of primary and secondary texts; language work/translation; and role play.</p> <p><b>Assessment Method</b> The various assessment methods employed (see 'Knowledge and Understanding' – Assessment) all place great emphasis, as shown in the assessment criteria, on the learner's ability to demonstrate these skills. Both written pieces (e.g. essays, written examinations, dissertations) and oral presentations (e.g. student-led seminars, group activities) provide a vehicle for the demonstration of these skills.</p>

short project)	
<p><b>C. Practical Skills</b> On completion of the programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <p><b>C1</b> Articulate systematic and creative responses to typical issues arising in Christian theology and ministry, whether nationally, internationally or cross-culturally</p> <p><b>C2</b> Communicate those responses clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences, using an appropriate range of media</p> <p><b>C3</b> Take responsibility for their own independent learning, and be able and willing to learn new skills as part of a commitment to lifelong learning</p> <p><b>C4</b> Understand any ethical issues raised by their research and comply with relevant codes of practice</p> <p><b>C5</b> Demonstrate self-direction, initiative, independence and originality in planning and implementing a substantial dissertation (or a short dissertation and a short project)</p>	<p><b>Teaching/Learning Methods</b> Students learn practical skills across the teaching programme. With regard to project work, students receive research skills training, along with training in the principles of ethical research, and one-on-one tutorial supervision.</p> <p>Growing originality in the application of knowledge is modelled by Faculty, forms a key dimension in class discussions and debates, is cultivated in simulations, practical exercises and problem analysis, and constitutes a major component of the formative objectives of assessment.</p> <p><b>Assessment Method</b> Students' practical skills are assessed by essay, exam, student-led seminars, group activities, and in particular by an assessed applied research project/dissertation. Where relevant, their grasp of the ethical dimension of research is assessed through an ethical clearance procedure.</p>

<p><b>12. Programme Structure (Levels, Modules, Credits and Progression Requirements)</b></p>
<p><b>12.1 Overall Structure of the Programme</b></p>
<p>The MA is a postgraduate qualification of 180 credits, comprising four taught modules, worth 30 credits each, and a dissertation package worth 60 credits. It may be completed either as a full-time or part-time programme. If full-time, it normally runs for 12 months, comprised of three academic terms and one summer period. If part-time, it normally runs for 24 months, comprised of six academic terms and two summer periods. The maximum period of registration for full-time students will be 24 months, while the maximum period of registration for part-time students will be 48 months.</p> <p>Where approved by their diocese, there is provision for Anglican Ordinands who are already Theology graduates to study on the MA part-time: alongside their Level 7 modules, Ordinands will complete a suite of placements and will also study a selection of modules at Levels 4 and 5 to provide specific Anglican training (as approved by the Church of England). The normal period of registration for an Ordinand on the MA programme is 22 months, comprising six academic terms and one summer period. The student studies four 30-credit modules over six academic terms, together with dissertation preparation. Intensive dissertation work is allowed by the intervening summer period, but completion of the dissertation package is only <i>required</i> by the end of August of the second year. Further details about this pathway are available from the Admissions Office.</p>

**12.2 Levels and Modules**  
 Starting in academic year 2010/11 the University is changing the way it references modules to state the level of study in which these are delivered. This is to comply with the national Framework for Higher Education Qualifications. This implementation will be a gradual process whilst records are updated. Therefore the old coding is bracketed below.

Level 7 (4)		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
Students must take all of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>BD6.4</b> (30 credits)</li> <li>• EITHER <b>RP6.4</b> (15,000 word Master's-Level Long Dissertation); OR <b>RP6.2</b> (7,500 word Master's-Level Short Dissertation) AND <b>RP6.3</b> (7,500 word Master's-Level Short Project)</li> <li>• 3 further elective taught modules (30 credits each)</li> <li>• Postgraduate Research Seminars (non-credit-bearing)</li> </ul>	Students must also bear the following in mind with regard to their elective taught modules: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least one of their elective taught modules must be at Specialist-Master's Level (code 6.x)</li> <li>• Students are encouraged to take modules from different subject areas but are not required to do so</li> </ul>	The pass mark is 12 on the postgraduate 15-point scale (see Appendix B for an explanation of grades)

**12.3 Non-Compensatable Modules** (note statement in 12.2 regarding FHEQ levels)  
 All modules for the MA are non-compensatable.

**13. Curriculum Map**  
 See attached.

**14. Information about Assessment Regulations**  
 See the current Student Programme Handbook, the latest edition of the Guidelines Booklet and the 'Progression Requirements' noted above.

**15. Placement Opportunities, Requirements and Support (if applicable)**  
 Generally not applicable. However, Church of England Ordinands registered on the MA will complete a suite of weekly and block placements alongside a selection of modules at Level 4 and Level 5 which provide specific Anglican training (as approved by the Church of England). Further details are available from the Admissions Office.

### 16. Future Careers (if applicable)

Christian ministry of various kinds (pastoral ministry, missions, counselling, youth work etc.) or progression towards academic teaching and research; to assist with the identification of future careers and/or continuing professional development, all postgraduates will take part in regular Personal Development Planning with their Personal Tutor or other appointed member of Faculty.

### 17. Particular Support for Learning (if applicable)

- Extensive theological library (24-hour access to over 55,000 volumes) and online access to journals and e-books
- IT resources: email, virtual learning environment, CD-Rom resources, Internet, off-site access to EBSCO database and other journal suppliers
- Monthly postgraduate research seminars
- Tuition sessions on postgraduate research skills
- One-to-one research dissertation/project supervisions
- Special provision for students with specific learning difficulties or whose first language is not English: see Student Programme Handbook for details
- Induction to College and academic life in 'Opening Week': to include postgraduate habits and skills, research methods and aspects of research ethics

### 18. JACS Code (or other relevant coding system)

V600 Theology & Religious Studies (JACS 3.0)

### 19. Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Group(s)

Theology & Religious Studies

### 20. Reference Points

- Bloom's Taxonomy of Educational Objectives – cognitive domains
- The UK Quality Code for Higher Education
- The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications
- Subject Benchmark Statement for Theology & Religious Studies
- Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Master's Degree Characteristics
- Quality in Formation Panel of the Archbishops' Council (Church of England)
- Church of England's Quality Advisor (reporting to the Quality in Formation Panel)
- Middlesex University Learning & Quality Enhancement Handbook
- Oak Hill College Learning, Teaching & Assessment Strategy
- Review events for the PGDip, MA and MTheol awards
- Student, Staff, External Examiner and Graduates' feedback and comments (particularly through Assessment Board, Academic Board and the Courses Evaluation Committee)

## 21. Other Information

The MA in Theology may be classified as Pass, Merit or Distinction:

- A student will be awarded a Pass on an MA in Theology once they have attained grade 12 or better in modules and dissertation(s) worth 180 credits at Level 7;
- A student may be awarded a Pass with Merit on an MA in Theology if they obtain a rounded average of 6.5 or better in the taught modules and dissertation(s), and grade(s) of 6 or better for the dissertation(s);
- A student may be awarded a Pass with Distinction on an MA in Theology if they obtain a rounded average grade of 3.5 or better in the taught modules and dissertation(s), and grade(s) of 3 or better for the dissertation(s).

The MA in Theology (180 credits) is closely related to the PGDip in Theology (120 credits): the two programmes draw on the same selection of taught modules and require the same number and distribution of modules. An MA student who passes the four taught modules (120 credits), including the core module BD6.4, but not the research element (60 credits) of the programme, may be awarded the PGDip in Theology as an exit qualification.

Similarly, an MA student who passes two taught modules (60 credits), again including the core module BD6.4, but who does not meet the remaining programme requirements for the MA or the PGDip, may be awarded the PGCert in Theology as an exit qualification.

Please Note: Programme Specifications provide a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information about the programme can be found in the rest of your Programme Handbook and the University Regulations.



## **Appendix A: List of Modules for the MA by Subject Area and Level**

Listed below are all of the Level 7 modules (codes 5.x, 6.x) available for the MA programme. All are worth 30 credits each (except for RP6.4, which is worth 60 credits). There are four main subject areas for Level 7 modules, along with hybrid codes for modules which encompass two subject areas. These latter modules may count in *either* area but *not* both.<sup>1</sup> *Please note that the availability of elective modules may vary year upon year, and students should check precise module offerings with the Academic Registrar.*

### **Subject Areas**

<b>BS</b>	Biblical Studies	<b>BD</b>	Biblical Studies + Theology and Church History
<b>DH</b>	Theology and Church History <sup>2</sup>	<b>BW</b>	Biblical Studies + Practical Theology and Ministry
<b>CW</b>	Practical Theology and Ministry <sup>3</sup>	<b>DW</b>	Theology and Church History + Practical Theology and Ministry
<b>RP</b>	Research and Projects		

### **Biblical Studies**

BS5.2	Advanced Biblical Hebrew Reading
BS5.3	The Psalms
BS5.5	Wisdom Literature
BS5.7	Prophetic Literature
BS5.8	1 Corinthians
BS5.9	General Epistles
BS6.8	Biblical Geographies
BS6.9	The Theology of the Book of Acts

### **Theology and Church History**

DH5.1	Doctrine of God
DH5.6	The Puritans
DH5.7	Reading Historical Texts in English

### **Practical Theology and Ministry**

CW5.5	Magic and the Occult
CW5.7	Gospel-Driven Leadership
CW6.2	Advanced Islamic Studies
CW6.3	Science and Christianity

### **Biblical Studies and Theology and Church History**

BD5.1	Justification in the Bible and in Christian Doctrine
BD6.2	Theology in the Old Testament and Today
BD6.3	New Testament Theology
BD6.4	Hermeneutics, Epistemology and the Knowledge of God (compulsory)

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<sup>1</sup> For example, DW6.1 Christian Theology of World Religions may count as a module in *either* Theology and Church History *or* Practical Theology and Ministry but not both.

<sup>2</sup> The D in the module codes stands for Doctrine, part of the former title of Doctrine and Church History.

<sup>3</sup> The CW in the module codes stands for the former title of Church and World.



Theology and Church History **and** Practical Theology and Ministry

- DW5.2 Global Theology and Practice
- DW6.1 Christian Theology of World Religions
- DW6.2 Doctrine of Grace

Research and Projects/Reading Modules (Study area dependent on topic chosen by student)

- RP6.2 Master's-Level Short Dissertation
- RP6.3 Master's-Level Short Project
- RP6.4 Master's-Level Long Dissertation
- RP6.7 Master's-Level Guided Reading
- RP6.8 Master's-Level Guided Reading in a Biblical Language

## Appendix B: **Progressive Marking Scheme for Written Coursework and Examinations at Level 7**

### **The structure of the mark scheme:**

The scheme covers different aspects of a piece of work, from reading and research, through argumentation to presentational standards. Key criteria include: organisation; method; relevance; coverage of data; coverage of concepts; coverage of views; argumentation; independent judgement; writing style; presentation and apparatus.

### **The use of the mark scheme:**

- This scheme will be used in marking both written coursework and written examinations in all 5.x and 6.x modules, except for dissertations and for modules or part-modules which consist of language work. For dissertations it is used in conjunction with the dissertation mark sheet. Obviously not all of the criteria will be applicable to both the coursework and examination elements of assessment. Apparatus, for example, is not assessed in examinations.
- The mark scheme is to serve as an agreed guide for markers, and will be applied at the discretion of markers in the light of judgements made about suitable expectations for a particular piece of work. In some coursework, for example, there may be much less taught material or reading available than in others, and the scheme is intended to allow markers the flexibility to recognize such differing expectations. It is intended to guide marking, not to hold it to ransom. In particular, a marker will exercise his/her discretion in determining the weight between the criteria evident in a particular piece of work for determining the final mark.
- The criteria will be used cumulatively, so that a Level 7 piece of work will be required to meet the relevant positive criteria for work done at Levels 4, 5 and 6.

1-3 – Excellent	4-6 – Very Good	7-9 – Good	10-12 – Satisfactory	13-15 – Fail
<p>Work submitted is excellent, demonstrating high levels of competence across a range of criteria and leaving very little or no room for improvement</p> <p>a. an entirely relevant answer to the question in which each of the component parts makes an integrated and clear contribution to the whole</p> <p>b. thorough knowledge of the obviously relevant sources and initiative in seeking out additional sources</p> <p>c. well-directed application of knowledge from, or informed by, the forefront of the relevant discipline with no relevant ground omitted</p> <p>d. advanced, sophisticated and integrated conceptual understanding</p> <p>e. outstanding analytical, synthetic management of sources</p> <p>f. the generation and clear articulation of independent critical insights</p> <p>g. originality or creativity in developing new perspectives, insights or arguments</p> <p>h. deployment of a wide and relevant range of disciplinary perspectives and methods</p> <p>i. clear, coherent, well-structured, logically well-formed, and sustained argument lucidly and elegantly expressed</p> <p>j. virtually flawless presentation and citation</p>	<p>Work submitted is very good but lacks characteristics of excellent work or across a range of criteria still leaves room for improvement</p> <p>k. a relevant and focussed answer to the question in which the component parts make a clear contribution to the whole</p> <p>l. thorough knowledge of the obviously relevant sources</p> <p>m. well-directed application of knowledge from, or informed by, the forefront of the relevant discipline</p> <p>n. advanced conceptual understanding</p> <p>o. very good analytical and synthetic management of sources</p> <p>p. some independent critical insight and/or the judicious application of sophisticated critical insight of others</p> <p>q. some originality or creativity in developing new perspectives, insights or arguments</p> <p>r. deployment of a relevant range of disciplinary perspectives and methods</p> <p>s. clear, coherent, well-structured, logically well-formed, and sustained argument which is very well-written</p> <p>t. very good presentation and citation</p>	<p>Work submitted is good but there is significant room for improvement across a range of criteria</p> <p>u. an answer to the question as set but with some relevant material missing and / or some irrelevant material included</p> <p>v. a good knowledge of the obviously relevant sources</p> <p>w. generally accurate application of knowledge informed by the forefront of the relevant discipline although acquired mostly in class or from set reading</p> <p>x. good conceptual understanding</p> <p>y. good analytical and synthetic management of sources</p> <p>z. little or no independent critical insight but good application of the critical insight of others though with a tendency to general argument</p> <p>aa. some originality or creativity in developing new perspectives, insights or arguments</p> <p>bb. deployment of the essential disciplinary perspectives and methods</p> <p>cc. an organised, coherent and well-written argument with a recognisable conclusion and supporting reasons</p> <p>dd. generally accurate presentation and good citation of sources</p>	<p>Work submitted is acceptable (it attains threshold standard) but it is either seriously defective in one or two respects or minimally acceptable across a range of criteria</p> <p>ee. an answer to the question is recognisable but with noticeable omissions and irrelevancies</p> <p>ff. an adequate knowledge of a reasonable proportion of the obviously relevant sources</p> <p>gg. unfocussed application of knowledge acquired only in class or from set reading</p> <p>hh. adequate understanding of key concepts</p> <p>ii. some endeavour to inhabit and integrate a variety of sources</p> <p>jj. little or no independent critical insight along with adequate - and not always pertinent - application of the critical insight of others though with a tendency to general argument</p> <p>kk. little or no independence or creativity shown</p> <p>ll. limited but adequate deployment of the essential disciplinary perspectives and methods</p> <p>mm. a recognisable argument, adequately organised but marked by logical errors and/or satisfactory rather than pleasing expression</p> <p>nn. adequate accurate presentation and good citation of sources</p>	<p>Work is submitted but is characterised by unacceptably low standards</p> <p>oo. the demands of the task have been barely addressed</p> <p>pp. insufficient knowledge of the relevant material</p> <p>qq. such knowledge as is shown is not used to answer the question</p> <p>rr. inadequate grasp of key concepts</p> <p>ss. use of sources is uncritical and not integrated</p> <p>tt. little or no critical engagement</p> <p>uu. entirely or almost entirely dependent and derivative</p> <p>vv. inadequate understanding and deployment of relevant methods</p> <p>ww. argument is either absent or incoherent and unstructured and is poorly expressed</p> <p>xx. many mistakes in presentation and failure to observe accepted norms of academic presentation in matters of citation of sources and bibliography</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <p>yy. Token or no submission</p>