



Master of Theology
Programme specification

Submitted to the University of Manchester

August 2012

Amended July 2015, February 2017, March 2018

1. Summary

Awarding body/institution

The University of Manchester

Teaching institution

Spurgeon's College, London

Name of the final award

Master of Theology in Advanced Christian Studies

Master of Theology in Applied Theology

Master of Theology in Biblical and Theological Studies

Master of Theology in Preaching

Master of Theology in Radical Free Church Movements

Postgraduate Diploma in Theology (in any of the five above fields)

Postgraduate Certificate in Theology

Exit awards

Postgraduate Certificate in Theology

Postgraduate Diploma in Theology (in any of the five above fields)

Programme title

Master of Theology

Master of Theology (Advanced Christian Studies)

Master of Theology (Biblical and Theological Studies)

Master of Theology (Preaching)

Master of Theology (Applied Theology)

Master of Theology (Radical Free Church Movements)

UCAS code

n/a

Framework for Higher Education Qualifications

Level 7

Role of the programme specification

This document tells prospective and current students about the aims and structure of the programme with its five pathways, and how the units contribute to the overall aims and Intended Learning Outcomes. It also sets out what knowledge, understanding and skills they can expect to have acquired when they graduate.

Date written

April 2012, last revised July 2015, February 2017, October 2017, February 2018

Further links

- College website: www.spurgeons.ac.uk
- Spurgeon's College Moodle page (including student handbook):
[http://spurgeons.moodle.webanywhere.co.uk/University of Manchester](http://spurgeons.moodle.webanywhere.co.uk/University%20of%20Manchester) website:
www.manchester.ac.uk/

2. Aims and intended learning outcomes

Programme aims

The programme aims to build on the students' previous academic and practical experience of Theology by deepening their understanding of specific areas of theological study and by bridging the gap between the demands of undergraduate study and postgraduate research.

Intended learning outcomes

On completion of the Postgraduate Certificate, candidates will begin to be able to

- engage critically and maturely with primary and secondary sources of theology;
- demonstrate familiarity with some major issues in theology and to evaluate them critically and constructively;
- give evidence of independent judgment in analysing evidence, producing critical reviews and constructing sustainable hypotheses;
- reflect theologically at postgraduate level;
- exercise their personal capacities to contribute to the flourishing of Church and society.

At the end of Part One of this programme (the Postgraduate Diploma – (in one of the five fields)) it is expected that candidates will be able to

- engage critically and maturely with the main primary and secondary sources of theology;
- demonstrate familiarity with the major issues in their chosen pathway and to evaluate them critically and constructively;
- give evidence of independent judgment in analysing evidence, producing critical reviews and constructing sustainable hypotheses;
- reflect theologically at postgraduate level;
- exercise their personal and professional capacities to contribute to the flourishing of Church and society.

Candidates on the Applied Theology and Preaching pathways will also show further personal and professional development in their ministries, especially in reflecting theologically on their practice in the light of developments in Church and society.

In addition, on completion of Part Two (the dissertation) students will be able to apply the basic principles and methods of research (as shown in the production of a coherent, cogently argued dissertation).

3. Teaching, learning and assessment methods

Teaching and learning

This programme is designed for graduates in Theology; a high degree of independence is therefore expected of students in pursuing their studies.

The pathways for Advanced Christian Studies and for Biblical and Theological Studies are taught pathways, on which students are supported by lectures, seminars and tutorials as appropriate to specific programme units. Students are encouraged to consider the application of their studies to their practice and to reflect together on the theological issues raised. During their period of taught study they are also expected to attend the weekly Research Seminar at which papers are presented by College staff, research students and visiting speakers. Teaching for some units may be provided in a blended mode entailing both face-to-face tutorials and online study.

Students on the Applied Theology and Preaching ('in-service') pathways learn primarily through distance learning, supplemented by brief residential periods at Spurgeon's College. These pathways can only be taken in part-time mode. Contact with peers and tutors is facilitated by Moodle and email. Since the ethos of these pathways involves the combination of academic theology with ministerial practice, students are expected to draw on their own experience and reflection in ministry as part of the learning process. The programme commences with a residential study period which enables students to meet one another and to develop a sense of common ownership of the study. It also provides a general introduction to the nature and objectives of the pathway, guidance in methods of study and in the selection of optional units, information concerning the availability and use of appropriate resources, and use of library facilities. Further residential study periods take place normally twice per year, with emphasis on tutorial guidance rather than on purely lecture input.

Articles deemed to be essential reading during the course are made available via Moodle. Bibliographies are provided and further bibliographical support is available on demand. The unit tutors give ample feedback after the production of written work. Sessions on study skills for Master's students are offered throughout the year for taught students and on the opening residential period for in-service students.

The pathway Radical Free Church Movements is delivered entirely through web-based distance learning and is only available part-time. The programme materials are available via Moodle. Bibliographies are provided and further bibliographical support is available on demand. The unit tutors give ample feedback after the production of written work.

Not all pathways are necessarily offered in a particular year.

Assessment methods

As is customary in a master's programme in theology, most assessment takes the form of essays. Some units of the Advanced Christian Studies, Applied Theology and Preaching pathways are partly assessed by means of learning journals, written sermons, recordings of sermons, personal reflections and other appropriate methods which reflect the vocational outlook of these pathways. Units which involve learning a biblical language include a written examination. Details of the assessments can be found in the unit descriptors.

Feedback on assessment

For all formative assessments and assessed coursework, feedback will normally be provided within 15 working days after the submission deadline. For dissertations, feedback will normally be given within 30 working days after submission.

Students may request to see their exam scripts without charge, although they are not permitted to take the scripts away with them.

Entry requirements

Entry to the Masters programme requires a good first degree plus a score of 7 or over on the IELTS test for those who are not native English speakers; there is no specific help with the English language.

Entry to the Postgraduate Certificate is possible for candidates who provide evidence of ample prior learning, either formal or informal. Such candidates can apply for acceptance of Accredited Prior (Experiential) Learning and their cases will be discussed by the College's Admissions Committee in accordance with the College's policy on Applications for Accreditation of Prior Learning.

On successful completion of the Postgraduate Certificate, students can register for the Postgraduate Diploma (in one of the five fields). On successful completion of the Postgraduate Diploma (in one of the five fields), students can register for Part Two of the programme (the dissertation).

Student support

1. Every year updated handbooks are made available via Moodle.
2. The unit descriptors are likewise available via Moodle before the start of the academic year.
3. The Academic Director, the Principal as well as all other tutors are available to see students, if necessary without appointment.
4. A chaplain is available to all students. Any contacts between the chaplain and a student are confidential.
5. Students on the taught pathways Advanced Christian Studies and Biblical and Theological Studies begin with the Orientation Week in September which contains all the elements necessary to get students off to a good start including sessions on use of the library, study skills and avoiding plagiarism in coursework. On these taught pathways part-time students can start in February, in which case the elements of Orientation Week are offered in an appropriate manner.
Students on the Applied Theology and Preaching pathways receive all necessary information during the first residential period; students on the pathway Radical Free Church Movements are provided with introductory materials via Moodle.
6. A pastoral tutor is available to taught students for any further help on an individual basis; in-service students may contact the programme leader.
7. The librarian provides training on issues such as accessing electronic material and is accessible to all students.
8. The College has a Learning Support Department which offers help to those with particular learning needs
9. The College has a disability policy and disability officer.
10. Shared worship in the chapel on Mondays to Thursdays offers spiritual support for any students who wish to attend.

4. Programme structure

4.1 Parts One and Two

The programme consists of two parts, the first of which comprises three units of 30 credits each and two units of 15 credits each. The second part consists of a dissertation of no more than 15,000 words. Students must complete the first part of the programme before proceeding to the dissertation. Those who satisfactorily complete only the first part of the programme will be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma (in one of the five fields). Those who satisfactorily complete 60 credits will be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate in Theology.

Those who satisfactorily complete both parts will be awarded the degree of Master of Theology (in one of the five fields).

4.2 Units in Part One

All students follow the two 15-credit core units 402 Theological Enquiry and Interpretation and 403 Theological Research. Ministerial students take the two Professional Ministry and Practice units, which are 15 credits each (7307a and 7307b). The other units all have 30 credits; students take three units to the value of 90 credits according to their chosen pathway from the following list. Not all optional units are offered in any one year. Student preferences will be taken into consideration in respect of the units offered.

Unit number and name	ACS	BTS	ATh	P	RFCM
7307a Professional Ministry and Practice (a)	0	--	--	--	--
7307b Professional Ministry and Practice (b)	0	-	-	-	-
401 Biblical Hermeneutics	0	C	0	0	--
402 Theological Enquiry and Interpretation	C	C	C	C	C
403 Theological Research	C	C	C	C	C
404 The Mission of Justice and the Theology of Law	0	0	--	--	--
405 Theological Aesthetics	0	0	--	--	--
410 Advanced Hebrew Texts	0	0	--	--	--
411 Old Testament Theology	0	0	--	--	--
412 Old Testament Narrative	0	0	--	--	--
414 Hebrew from Scratch	0	0	--	--	--
416 Jeremiah	0	0	--	--	--
420 New Testament Greek Texts (Acts)	0	0	--	--	--
424 Greek from Scratch	0	0	--	--	--
425 New Testament Theology (Romans)	0	0	--	--	--
426 The Book of Revelation	0	0	--	--	--
431 Doctrines of Ministry and Sacraments	0	0	--	--	--
434 Comparative Ecclesiology	0	0	--	--	--
435 The Doctrine of Creation	0	0	--	--	--
436 Contemporary Issues in Theology	0	0	--	--	--
438 Feminist Theology	0	0	--	--	0
448 Baptist History and Principles	0	--	--	--	--
449 The History of Evangelicalism	0	--	--	--	0
455 Trans-cultural Missiology in Theory and Practice	0	--	--	--	--
456 Worship, Preaching and Pastoral Care	0	--	--	--	--
465 Theologies of Mission	0	0	--	--	--
467 Christian Spirituality	0	--	0	--	--
468 Prophetic Theology	0	--	--	0	--
472 Urban Mission	0	--	0	--	--
474 Church Planting and Pioneer Ministry	0	--	0	--	--
475 Chaplaincy	0	--	0	--	--
482 Islam	0	--	--	--	--
490 Dissertation	C	C	C	C	C
476 Theology in the Public Sphere	0	0	0	-	-
477 Multicultural Churches	0	0	0	0	-

Unit number and name	ACS	BTS	ATh	P	RFCM
721 The Origins and Early History of Anabaptism	0	--	--	--	0
722 Anabaptist and Baptist Theology of the Church	--	--	--	--	0
724 The Life and Ministry of C. H. Spurgeon	0	--	--	--	0
725 Radical Christian Movements in the 19th Century	--	--	--	--	0
726 19th Century Nonconformist Female Spirituality	--	--	--	--	0
728 Restorationism	0	--	--	--	0
729 Evangelical Spirituality	--	--	--	--	0
741 Preaching - Theology and Practice	--	--	0	C	--
742 The Gospel and Contemporary Thought and Culture	--	--	0	0	--
743 The Gospel and Film	--	--	0	0	--
745 v2 Preaching and Narrative	--	--	--	0	--
746 Personal and Corporate Aspects of Preaching	--	--	--	0	--
747 Preaching, Worship and Mission	--	--	0	0	--
748 Historical Roots of Contemporary Preaching	--	--	--	0	0
760 Mission and Ministry in Contemporary Society	--	--	C	0	--
761 Ethics and the Christian Community	0	--	0	--	--
762 Christian Leadership	--	--	0	--	--
766 Issues in Cross-cultural Missiology	--	--	0	--	--
769 Supervision and Mentoring	0	--	0	--	--
771 Parish Nursing	--	--	0	--	--

4.3 Progression

Students will be considered for progression against The University of Manchester Degree Regulations.

Students will not be permitted to commence work on the dissertation until their research proposal has been formally approved by the programme leader.

The dissertation may be in any area of theology as covered by the student's pathway, provided that in other ways it meets the criteria of the programme. The dissertation will be the result of the student's own research and is expected to provide evidence of a person's analytical, evaluative and creative abilities. Dissertation titles will be drafted as part of unit 403 and will be approved by the programme leader who will make sure that the contents of the dissertation will not overlap with any work previously produced by the candidate. A supervisor will be allocated to each student.

Students who have started a unit but submitted no work for over a year, or completed a unit and not started another for over a year, may be deemed to have withdrawn from the programme, unless there are extenuating circumstances. Where there are unforeseen or unavoidable circumstances which are preventing or hindering progress, students should discuss the situation with the unit tutor or the programme leader at the earliest opportunity.

Students exiting with a Postgraduate Diploma (in one of the five fields) (or Postgraduate Certificate) may be permitted to rescind this award and 'upgrade' to a Masters (or Postgraduate Diploma (in one of the five fields)) by successfully completing the appropriate further component of the programme providing the following conditions are met:

- The rescinding occurs within five years of the student's initial award, subject to the programme still being available.
- An overall pass, at the appropriate standard to assure admission to the MTh, was obtained for the Postgraduate Diploma (in one of the five fields) (or Postgraduate Certificate) including any capped or compensated grades.

4.4 Programme duration

Full-time

The full-time mode of the programme lasts for two calendar years. Work for Part One of the programme, the taught units, will normally be completed by the end of May in the first year. Once a student has qualified for Part Two by passing Part One, they may complete the dissertation either over the summer or over the subsequent year.

The full-time Postgraduate Certificate programme lasts for a semester; the full-time Postgraduate Diploma programme lasts for two semesters.

The full-time mode of study is not available to students on the in-service pathways Applied Theology and Preaching, or the distance learning pathway Radical Free Church Movements.

Part-time

The part-time mode of the programme lasts for four calendar years. Within this maximum limit, it is important that those who are studying part-time progress at a consistent rate throughout the course. For example, if the required 120 credits of taught units are completed over the course of two years, it is normally expected that the dissertation worth 60 credits will be completed in one further year.

Students registered part-time for the Postgraduate Certificate have a year to complete their course; students registered part-time for the Postgraduate Diploma (in one of the five fields) have two years to complete.

In-service

Students on the in-service pathways Applied Theology and Preaching attempt the four units of Part One over two years. They are expected to commit an average of twelve hours per week to self-directed study. Once a student has qualified for Part Two of the programme by passing the first part, they may complete their dissertation during the remaining period of registration. The maximum period of registration of in-service candidates is four calendar years.

Students registered for the Postgraduate Certificate attempt the two units over one year; students registered for the Postgraduate Diploma (in one of the five fields) have two years to complete their units.

4.5 Exit awards

Students registered for the MTh who satisfactorily complete only Part One of the programme (120 credits) are awarded a Postgraduate Diploma (in one of the five fields). Those who satisfactorily complete 60 credits are awarded a Postgraduate Certificate in Theology.

4.6 Suspension of studies

A candidature may be suspended, or a time-limit extended, on compassionate grounds or in case of illness, serious domestic difficulty or because of exceptional professional commitments which can be demonstrated to have affected the candidate adversely. A full and reasoned case, supported by appropriate, satisfactory, medical or other independent evidence must be submitted. The College will then apply for the suspension to the University. A student should not assume that a suspension will be granted and should continue their studies under their registration until they are informed in writing of the outcome of the application for suspension.

5. Programme evaluation, monitoring and revision

At the end of each unit, students are asked to evaluate the teaching and other aspects of it. The completed evaluation forms are sent to the unit tutors who add their comments; they are subsequently scrutinised by the programme leader and the Quality Assurance Committee which reports to the Academic Board. The students are represented on both committees and any significant outcomes are shared with the Student - Staff Liaison Committee.

At the end of each year, students are asked to comment on their experiences on the programme as a whole and the support they have received.

The programme monitoring procedures form a continual process of review by the teaching staff team, with a rolling action plan in response to data about the quality of teaching, learning and achievement and the student experience.

The programme leader provides an annual report to the Academic Board and the University.

The programme is part of the College's internal scheme of periodic reviews. Every five years the University carries out a review of the entirety of the validated programmes.

Programme revision can be initiated by the College's teaching staff or the Academic Board as well as by the University. Students can address their representatives on the Academic Board.