

Durham University

MA Theology and Ministry

in partnership with

Cranmer Hall
St John's College, Durham

Guide



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The MA in Theology and Ministry Guide

This Guide is designed to introduce our MA in Theology and Ministry, to give information that you will need to navigate your way through the course. More detailed information can be found in the MA Academic Handbook. The information in this Guide is correct, to the best of our knowledge, but we reserve the right to make mistakes and to make amendments! This Guide is not a substitute for personal conversation and we hope that you will feel able to ask any further questions which you may have.

Welcome

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Aims

Cranmer Hall offers two MA programmes, in Theology & Ministry (MATM) and Digital Theology (MADT). These programmes aim to develop lay and ordained Christians who will then be equipped to play a leading role in the development of Christian mission and ministry in the UK and internationally as practitioners, educators, and enablers of the whole people of God. Our ambition is to provide the best programmes in the UK for integrating high quality theological thinking with imaginative and disciplined ministerial training. Recent external examiner reports – see our website – indicate that we are realising our hopes.

This is achieved by a rigorous course of inter-disciplinary postgraduate level theological education, validated by Durham University, taught in Cranmer Hall with the Wesley Study Centre (a centre for Methodist research and scholarship within St John's College).

The aim of the programme itself assumes diversity among the potential student body. The programme attracts students with a range of different educational needs embraced within this overall aim including:

- Practitioners wanting to explore and extend a range of ministerial skills.
- Theological educators looking for a foundation from which to teach particular disciplines.
- Ordinands needing to fulfil the training requirements of the churches at postgraduate level.
- Research students wanting to lay a foundation for research to doctoral level in an area not covered by the Durham University Department of Theology's MA in Theology and Religion (such as Practical Theology or Missiology).

Ethos

At the heart of the MATM programme is the discipline of Practical Theology. **'Practical Theology' is the study of theology in the context of ministerial practice, such that the resources of the Scriptures, the theological tradition and the human sciences and arts are used as material for reflection upon practice and that practice itself generates new insights into Scripture and tradition. It is a disciplined engagement with the interface between theology and ministry.**

The MATM should not be narrowly construed as an MA in Applied or Pastoral or Empirical Theology but as embracing a broad range of interests and priorities both from our theological traditions and from contemporary experience. Within a comprehensive range of subjects, the degree's academic integrity is ensured through:

- The core module, common to all students on the MA and Postgraduate Diploma, which facilitates this central aim of reflection on the interface between theology and ministry.
- The dissertation, common to all students on the MA, which should explore this interface between theology and ministerial practice in a clearly defined field.
- The elective modules, which may be drawn from a wide range but which have in common an interface between some aspect of the theological tradition and practice in ministry and mission.

Doctor of Theology and Ministry

In collaboration with the Durham University Department of Theology and Religion, the partner institutions offer a DThM. Programme. This has replaced the DMin programme which was offered up to 2008. The DThM is designed to deliver doctoral level training and research opportunities for experienced practitioners to facilitate their ministries and their work as educators. At the heart of the DThM is the discipline of Practical Theology. It is normally undertaken as part-time study over 6 years and comprises 540 university credits (UCUs) of which 90 are taught at Master's level (Level 4), 90 are taught at doctoral level (Level 5) and 360 are for a 70,000 word doctoral thesis, supported by supervisors from the Department and the institutions.

A number of MATM students have progressed to the DThM programme and we anticipate that this will continue to be the case for the DThM programme. Students who enter the programme with a MATM already have considerable knowledge of practical theology and there is a pathway through phase 1 of the programme which takes this previous study into account.

A crucial element of the programme is the annual Summer School. This provides some of the essential teaching and research methods training in the early stages and a regular point of contact with others also engaged in practical theology research. It normally begins the academic year in September and takes place at St John's College.

Further details concerning the DThM programme can be obtained in the DThM Handbook, on the University of Durham website under Department of Theology and Religion or by contacting the Academic Dean, Dr Jocelyn Bryan.

Institutional Information

St John's College is an autonomous college within the University of Durham comprising two Halls. **Cranmer Hall**, within St John's, exists primarily for the training of ordinands for the Church of England. Cranmer Hall is unique among the theological colleges of the Church of England in that it is part of St John's College, which is a recognised, though independent, college of the University of Durham. The College is registered as a limited company and the Council acts as its Board. As the Council of the whole College it is answerable both to the Bishops of the Church of England and also to the Council of Durham University. It is therefore responsible for overall policy matters in the College as a whole and in its constituent parts. The Council has a subcommittee, the Cranmer Committee, which normally meets three times a year and oversees and reviews the life of Cranmer Hall. The Principal of St John's College is the Revd Prof. David Wilkinson. The Warden of Cranmer Hall is the Revd Dr Philip Plyming.

The **Wesley Study Centre** is a centre for Methodist Research and Scholarship. It is part of St John's College and its Director is the Revd Dr Liz Kent.

Cranmer Hall has a number of students preparing for lay ministry in different ways as well as ordinands. Both Cranmer Hall and the Wesley Study Centre is concerned to serve the Church in the wider region of the North East, across the UK and internationally by offering a range of different courses. The programmes described in this guide are validated by Durham University and on successful completion will lead to the award of a qualification of Durham University. Students registered on these programmes are registered to St John's College and to Durham University. The validation arrangement is overseen by a Management Committee, comprised of members of St John's College and Durham University and chaired by a senior member of the University Faculty of Arts and Humanities. The Management Committee is responsible to the Senate of the University for oversight and maintenance of the academic standards of the programmes.

Entry Requirements and Selection Procedures

MA in Theology and Ministry

The normal entrance requirement is a degree in Theology or Religious Studies or a related subject classed as a first or a good second class honours degree. Graduates in other disciplines and with experience of Theology or Religious Studies to at least Certificate level (with marks at credit or higher) may also be admitted to the programme. In addition to the appropriate academic qualifications, all candidates should have recent or current experience of the practice of Christian ministry.

Postgraduate Certificate/Diploma in Theology and Ministry

The normal entrance requirement is a degree in Theology or Religious Studies or a related subject. Graduates in other disciplines with experience of Theology or Religious Studies to at least Certificate level may be admitted to the programme with the agreement of the Chair of Management Committee. Suitably qualified mature students who have undertaken formal academic study to a similar level in non-accredited courses may also be admitted to the programme with the agreement of the Chair of the Management Committee.¹ In addition to the appropriate academic qualifications, all candidates should have recent or current experience of the practice of Christian ministry.

Candidates for whom English is not their first language, or who have not undertaken part or all of their earlier theological education in the medium of English, must satisfy the University of Durham's English language requirements.

Transfer from Postgraduate Certificate/Diploma to MA Degree

Candidates who obtain a mark of 50% or more in their first two taught modules at postgraduate level may be permitted to transfer to the MA Degree, subject to the approval of the Board of Examiners. In such cases the Postgraduate Diploma shall not be awarded unless the candidate fails to complete the requirements for the MA whilst satisfying those for the Postgraduate Diploma.

Stand-alone Modules

In principle, all modules are accessible to students who wish to take them on a 'stand-alone' basis. Some students, who do not otherwise have the requisite entrance qualifications but who successfully complete the summative assessment for an individual module *may* include this as evidence for admission to further elements of the validated courses. They would then be subject to the normal interview procedure AND special concession entry procedure through the University. The following special regulations have been agreed with the University for students who wish to use a stand-alone module subsequently as part of an application to join the full MATM programme.

Procedure to be followed in the case of a requested transfer onto the postgraduate programme in theology and ministry of a student who successfully completes the attendance and assessment requirements for one or more modules previously studied on a 'stand-alone' basis:

- 1 Students who successfully complete either one stand-alone module or two concurrently in the same academic year may apply for admission to the postgraduate programme **by concession** either in the following academic year *or*, by the latest, within twelve months of completion of the module(s) in question. All such applications will be considered individually on the basis of

¹ For example, many clergy who completed their initial training before the mid-1990s may have undertaken courses at seminaries or theological colleges similar to those presently undertaken but which were not university-validated.

the candidate's performance in the stand-alone module(s) in question, which will provide evidence of his/her ability successfully to undertake postgraduate study.

- 2 That normally no more than one module may be completed in this way and submitted for consideration as part of the postgraduate programme in Theology and Ministry *unless* the student has studied two stand-alone modules concurrently in the same academic year. Even in the case of concurrent study of more than one stand-alone module a maximum of two modules will be eligible for consideration within the postgraduate programme. Hence, if after completing one (maximum two concurrent) stand-alone module(s) a student then considers signing on for a further stand-alone module, it will be made clear to them that they will not be allowed to carry any such module in to the postgraduate programme.
- 3 In the case of students admitted to the postgraduate programme in Theology and Ministry through this facility the actual mark obtained for the stand-alone module(s) will be included in the eventual postgraduate qualification profile of marks.
- 4 It will be made clear to students admitted to the postgraduate programme in Theology and Ministry on the basis of their performance in (a) stand-alone module(s) that they may NOT use this as the basis for any future appeal on the grounds that they performed badly because they did not have the formal entry requirements for postgraduate study and should not have been admitted.

Selection Procedures

Candidates who are ordinands will be selected through the churches' normal routes.

Independent candidates will be invited to apply for a place on the MATM through Cranmer Hall and asked to complete an application form. Three references will be requested including at least two academic references, one reference commenting on ministerial experience and, for candidates in full-time employment or stipendiary ministry, a reference from their employer/denomination indicating support for the programme of study. Candidates will also be required to satisfy the Colleges that they are able to meet the fees for the programme.

All independent candidates will be interviewed by the Course Director or their nominee and, subject to their satisfying the above criteria, an offer of a place may be made.

Accredited Prior Learning

It is possible to apply for Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) for Certificated or Experiential Learning. Students are advised to consult closely with Programme Directors when considering an APL application and to study Durham University student guidelines (<http://www.dur.ac.uk/admissions/>). Key regulations include the following:

1. The award of APL is processed through the University Validation Office, to which all relevant documentation must be submitted, through the relevant Programme Directors, and is entirely at the discretion of the University, by concession.
2. The responsibility rests with the student to demonstrate that he/she has achieved the intended learning to outcomes of the module(s) in respect of which he/she is requesting APL.
3. A student may not normally be given APL in respect of more than one third of his/her total programme of study or modules to the value of a maximum of 60 credits at Level 4 for taught doctorates: i.e. no more than 20 credits for the Postgraduate Certificate, 40 credits for the Postgraduate Diploma and 60 credits for the MA. APL may not be sought for an optional module where a viable alternative module is available.

4. Applications for APL relate to study etc. prior to commencing a Durham programme.
5. Applications for APL may be made after a place has been offered but must be made prior to commencement of the programme.
6. Modules awarded by APL shall be recorded as a Pass.
7. If a student is given APL in respect of a module which contributes to his/her degree average, the average including the classification of distinction shall be made on the basis of the remaining modules studied at Durham.

Organisation, Design and Structure

There are three components within the MA in Theology and Ministry:

The Core Module: Theological and Practical Reflection upon Mission & Ministry	30 UCUs
Three elective modules chosen from those available	30 UCUs x 3
A 15,000 word dissertation	60 UCUs

A Postgraduate Diploma in Theology and Ministry may be awarded to candidates who successfully complete the Core Module and three taught modules (120 UCUs).

A Postgraduate Certificate in Theology and Ministry may be awarded to candidates who successfully complete any two taught modules (60 UCUs).

The majority of students will undertake the MATM through part-time study over two or three years. The distribution of work for full and part-time students will *normally* be as follows. The postgraduate Certificate and Diploma can be taken part time over 2 years.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
One Year FT	Core Module Three Electives Dissertation 180 UCU		
Two Year PT	Core Module Two Electives 90 UCU	One Elective Dissertation 90 UCU	
Three Year PT	Core Module One Elective 60 UCU	Two Electives 60 UCU	Dissertation 60 UCU

Full Module List

The current full list of elective modules (details of which are available on the University website at <https://www.dur.ac.uk/postgraduate/modules/>) is:

THMN 40230	Preaching from the Old Testament
THMN 40330	Mission and Ministry in the Acts of the Apostles
THMN 40430	The History and Theology of the Charismatic Movement
THMN 40530	Issues of Authority within Anglicanism
THMN 41030	Intellect and Imagination: Apologetics in the Mass Media
THMN 41230	Psychology and Christian Ministry
THMN 41330	Chaplaincy
THMN 41830	Preaching from the Synoptic Gospels
THMN 41930	The Quest for the Jesus of History and the Mission of the Church
THMN 42230	Leadership in Christian Ministry
THMN 42630	Theological Approaches to Spiritual Direction
THMN 42930	The Dialogue of Science and Theology in Mission and Ministry
THMN 43630	Mission and Ecclesiology: Critical Frameworks for Pioneering
THMN 44130	Biblical Literacy in a Media Culture
THMN 44230	Growth and Decline in British Christianity from 1945 to the present day
THMN 44330	Forgiveness and Pastoral Ministry Today
THMN 44730	Ministerial Development in Trinitarian Perspective
THMN 44830	Advanced Old Testament Studies
THMN 44930	Digitally Mediated Christianity: Aspects of Digital Theology
THMN 45030	Digital Theology: Theological Reflection on Digital Culture
THMN 45230	Mission and Ministry in the Johannine Literature
THMN 45330	Consultancy for Mission and Ministry
THMN 45430	Early Christian Perspectives on Mission and Ministry

Some modules in the programme will be offered annually, others two out of three years and others in alternate years. The **current** module availability sheet is available on request. Module availability is subject to revision depending on staff availability and student numbers. The Institutions reserve the right not to offer a module should student numbers fall below six.

Relationship with Durham University MA Programmes

Students on the MATM and Postgraduate Diploma are eligible to take 30 UCUs from MA programmes offered by other departments in the University, including the Department of Theology and Religion; in addition, students may take one further module (30 UCUs) from the Department of Theology and Religion.

Theology and Religion

Students from the MATM and Postgraduate Diploma are eligible to take up to two modules (60 UCUs) at Master's level from the Department in Theology and Religion as part of their course. We have agreed with the Department of Theology and Religion that their MA students will be eligible to take two taught modules from the MATM syllabus.

Other MA Programmes in the University

The School of Applied Social Sciences offers modules in research methods (at 15 UCUs or 30 UCUs) which we believe will be very useful to students wishing to specialise in Practical Theology, and a range of 'half-modules' (15 UCUs) in Youth Work from which students can choose two (as indicated below). Students for the MA and the Postgraduate Diploma may substitute taught modules up to the value of 30 UCUs from these or any other MA programme within Durham University subject to the approval of the relevant Board of Studies and the Director of Studies of the MA in Theology and Ministry.

The current list of available postgraduate modules in the Department in Theology and Religion and other University programmes is available at <https://www.dur.ac.uk/postgraduate/modules/>.

The Delivery of the Programme

Key Skills

Three/four days of lectures, seminars and practical instruction to develop key skills in research, IT, and presentation of work

Core Module

One half day of lectures at the beginning of the academic year will cover an introduction to the methodology of theological and practical reflection. For term-time students, a further eight seminars in the first term will develop these themes. The second half of the course comprises student led Theological and Practical Reflection (TPR) Seminars. For 'block teaching' students, there will be two further periods of residence lasting 48 hours: typically in January, and at the end of the Epiphany Term for the student led TPR seminars. The first ninety minutes of each TPR seminar will be student led followed by fifteen minutes of reflection facilitated by the course teachers. In preparation for the seminars students will be expected to engage with and research a wide range of reading and other materials which will include both reflection from contemporary culture and insights from Scripture and the theological tradition. The module is assessed in part through the student led seminars on the basis of content, educational process and quality of theological reflection and in part on a written piece of work. (Further details will be given in the TPR Seminar Pack.)

Taught Elective Modules

Thirty hours of contact time in a variety of modes.

- seminars over two terms
- seminars taught in one term
- over 2 or 3 residential weekends
- block residence, comprising two blocks of 48 hours
- entirely on-line
- one week summer school

See the current timetable sheet for details, which is available on request.

Dissertation

The subject of the 15,000-word dissertation must be related to the theology and practice of Christian ministry and must be approved by the Board of Examiners. Learning is largely through individual research supported by the key skills element of the programme followed by (normally) four individual sessions of supervision.

Timetable

Considerable thought has been given to the question of time-tabling so as to meet the needs of both internal and external students. Our normal rhythm is:

1. The first year will begin with two days of induction to the programme and postgraduate study skills.
2. Each June we will offer a training day on dissertation writing. For full-time students a similar exercise will be offered in October (see below).
3. The core module and selected elective modules will be offered on Thursdays spaced through the first two terms of the academic year.
4. The core module and other St John's modules will also be delivered via block teaching.
5. Two modules (THMN42930 & THMN41030) are delivered entirely online.
6. Notice of timetable changes will be given well in advance of the start of the programme, although some flexibility will be retained in order to avoid clashes in Thursday teaching.

We believe the timetable offers both access and choice for full and part-time students and for local and distance students. Full time students or part time students close to Durham will also in practice be able to access a wider range of modules from the MATR, Applied Social Sciences and Community and Youth Work courses.

All the modules will be ecumenical in the sense that they will be open to all students on the programme. The institutions will be open to suggestions from students or the University to offering modules more frequently should there be the demand or should choice appear unduly restricted in any pathway.

Induction Days

There will be three days of induction/key skills throughout the programme. These will be offered each year but undertaken in different years by different groups. The structure of the days will be as follows:

Day 1	Induction to the MATM programme Research and Presentation skills at postgraduate level (Part 1)
Day 2	Core Module orientation and introduction, IT introduction
Day 3	Research and Presentation skills at postgraduate level (Part 2) Including special reference to developing a dissertation proposal and writing a dissertation.

Interdisciplinary Teaching and Learning

Interdisciplinary teaching and learning will occur throughout the programme. The core module in particular aims to provide students with a range of methodologies and tools for engagement in interdisciplinary work (see module outline). The elective modules include the opportunity to engage with cultural and communication studies; history; social sciences; psychology; the sciences; art and music as indicated in the module outlines.

Assessment

All modules incorporate formative and summative assessments. Generally speaking these are written essays or portfolios, and the core module also incorporates an assessed seminar. Full details of the marking criteria to be used throughout the MA follow the Durham University postgraduate marking scale and are found in the MA Academic Handbook. Additional information about assessment of the seminar in the core module is appended to the module description. Any other assessment criteria that are specific to a particular module are issued at the beginning of the module by the module leader.

Welfare & Student Support

In the MATM the role of academic advisor is fulfilled in various ways depending on the status of the student. *Anglican ordinands* are part of the full-time training community and provided for through the tutorial system. Other *full-time students* will be assigned an academic advisor, either the Director or another nominated member of staff. *Part-time students* are invited to ask for annual assistance in the form of a review of their progress and consideration of academic issues arising. This should take place during the Easter (i.e. summer) Term each year or certainly before the beginning of the next academic year. All students have access to the worship and social life and social and welfare provision within Cranmer Hall and St John's College.

Special Educational Needs (SENDA)

St John's College has adopted the University's policy on Equality and Diversity. If you have special needs or learning difficulties that you wish to disclose they will be handled in confidence, and our

aim is to provide the support you need to pursue successfully the courses we offer and reach your full potential. In relevant cases we liaise closely with Disability Services in order to ensure our courses are accessible to all, including developing and circulating requests for reasonable adjustment. If you wish to discuss support before applying or beginning the course, please contact the MA Programme Director.

Any Other Questions?

We hope that this Guide is useful and informative, and we are grateful for your interest in our programmes. If you have any further questions or would value a conversation, please do not hesitate to contact the MA Programme Director (details on p. 1).