

**MODULE TITLE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES AND CONTEXTUAL THEOLOGY**

**MODULE CODE: FMM722**

**MODULE SUMMARY:**

This module requires you to research and critically evaluate methods and methodologies suited to the analysis of local contexts (e.g. quantitative and qualitative methods including questionnaires, structured and semi-structured interviews, action-research, focus groups and participant observation and literature review); explore approaches to the theory and practice of contextual theology; address and evaluate the nature of the Christian gospel in relation to practical contextual issues; evaluate and critique the theology of place and consider how imagination and creativity can provide greater effectiveness for practical engagement in local contexts; and examine and evaluate ways in which churches can relate to other local community bodies and political and economic structures to outwork their commitment to justice, and to consider and evaluate postcolonial and decolonising perspectives including engagement with non-Western sources and viewpoints by academics and scholars from the global south

**SEMESTER OF DELIVERY: 3**

**CATS VALUE: 20**

**ECTS VALUE: 10**

**CONTACT HOURS:**

Lectures 16 hours; Tutorials 4 hours.

Independent study: 180 hours (Directed learning 100 hours; Self-directed 80 hours)

Total hours for module: 200 hours.

**MODULE LEADER:** Ewen Robertson

**Tutors:** Andy Kingston-Smith, John Baxter-Brown, and Bev Thomas

**MODE OF DELIVERY:** Blended

**PROGRAMME(S) FOR WHICH THIS MODULE IS MANDATORY:**

MA Missional Leadership

MA Missional Leadership and Spirituality

MA Missional Leadership and European Studies

MA Missional Leadership and Social Entrepreneurship

MA Missional Leadership and Justice

MA Missional Leadership, Discipleship and Movements

PGDip Missional Leadership  
PGDip Missional Leadership and Spirituality  
PGDip Missional Leadership and European Studies  
PGDip Missional Leadership and Social Entrepreneurship  
PGDip Missional Leadership and Justice  
PGDip Missional Leadership, Discipleship and Movements

**PROGRAMMES WHERE THIS MODULE MAY BE TAKEN AS AN OPTION:**

PGCert Missional Leadership  
PGCert Missional Leadership and Spirituality  
PGCert Missional Leadership and European Studies  
PGCert Missional Leadership and Social Entrepreneurship  
PGCert Missional Leadership and Justice  
PGCert Missional Leadership, Discipleship and Movements

**NORMALLY AVAILABLE TO EXCHANGE STUDENTS:** No

**THE PRE-REQUIREMENT(S) FOR THIS MODULE ARE:** None

**THIS MODULE IS A PRE-REQUISITE FOR:** N/A

**RELEVANT BENCHMARKS/NATIONAL OCCUPATIONAL STANDARDS:**

- QAA Master's Degree Characteristics (February 2022):  
[https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/master's-degree-characteristics-statement.pdf?sfvrsn=86c5ca81\\_18](https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/master's-degree-characteristics-statement.pdf?sfvrsn=86c5ca81_18)
- Subject Benchmark Statement - Theology and Religious Studies (March 2022):  
<https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements/theology-and-religious-studies>

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

As a successful student you will be able to:

- Demonstrate independent study and teamworking.
- Engage in advanced critical thinking and analysis skills of contemporary approaches to the study of a variety of contextual and local theologies.
- Articulate your abilities for independent thought and judgement including appreciation of alternative perspectives and develop a deeper appreciation for and application of missional imagination for your context(s).
- Formulate, communicate, debate, and defend concepts, ideas, and practical application of contextual and local theology in class time.
- Articulate original thinking and to make new ideas to the field of contextual theology in terms of its theories, methods, and areas it investigates empirically.

**ASSESSMENT:**

- Component 1: 75% Research Project (3,750 words) chosen by you with guided parameters set by Programme Director.  
KIS Category: Coursework
- Component 2: 25% Personal Development Profile Assessment Task (1,250 words or equivalent) as set out in the PDP Handbook  
KIS Category: Coursework

### **READING STRATEGY:**

This research methods module is vital to the MA programme and to enhancing your ability to engage creatively in imaginative and original thinking. A reading strategy is not as such the way for you to develop these capacities without actual workshop-based inputs into your developing imaginations, which will inevitably arise from theological reflection derived from the use of the discipline of contextual theology. There are some tutors in the college who are experts in the field of contextual, practical, and empirical theology and research methods, in these related subject fields. You will be given opportunities to take part in tutorial-based workshops that will enable you to creatively explore contextual research methods, which in turn will encourage you to creatively brainstorm your emerging ideas for research. Hence the main strategy for reading in this module will be based on considering creative rather derivative published peer reviewed pieces of research. It is in these original pieces of research that you will be stimulated and encouraged to engage in posing your own research questions, which based on your own research might lead to some original contributions to the fields of missiology and missional practice.

### **INDICATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

Payne, J.D. (2022). *Apostolic Imagination*. Baker Academic  
 Bolton, G. & Delderfield, R. (2018). *Reflective Practice*. SAGE Publications Ltd  
 Walton, G. (2018). *Theological Reflection: Methods*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. SCM Press  
 Sodhi, G. (2020). *Research Methodology*. LAP Lambert Academic Publishing  
 Room, N. & Bennett, Z. eds. (2020). *Practical Theology in Progress*. Routledge  
 Ward, P. & Tveitereid, K. (2022). *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Theology and Qualitative Research*. Wiley Blackwell  
 Robinson, M. (2020). *The Place of the Parish*. SCM Press  
 Inge, J. (2017). *A Christian Theology of Place*. Routledge

### **Journals:**

Missiology - An International Review (American Society of Missiology)  
 Journal of Missional Practice  
 Missional Focus Journal  
 International Review of Mission (WCC)  
 Range of numerous other journals and e-books/articles on ATLA/EBSCO accessed through Moodle