

Modules for BA (Hons) Theology, Mission and Ministry with Specialism in European Missional Leadership

Year 1

Reading and Interpreting the Old Testament - 20 Credits - Compulsory

The module introduces students to the Old Testament, its contents, context, and literary genres, and to the methodologies of biblical reading, study and interpretation. It focuses on cultural forces that shaped a variety of biblical texts and the communities it was written for. It introduces students to a variety of interpretive methodologies used to examine a text, enabling them to work through some of the complex issues involved in discovering their contemporary relevance in the contemporary cultural situations they find themselves working in.

Introduction to Christian Theology - 20 Credits - Compulsory

The study of Christian theology is fundamental to any ministry or mission programme that seeks to equip students with the knowledge, understanding and skills to be able to analyse their faith traditions. Systematic theology (also known as dogmatic theology) provides important methods for the systematic categorisation of a variety of theological ideas that almost every Christian tradition interacts with as part of its beliefs that informs its key practices. In this module, students will learn the core ideas of Christian theology.

Culture and Sociology for European Mission - 20 Credits - Compulsory

This module provides a concise introduction to mission in multicultural Europe and post-Communist contexts in Eastern and Central Europe. The module explores the relationship of socio-cultural studies and methods to practical theology. The student will also learn how to use socio-cultural methods suited to their work-based learning context. The use of methods such as sociology and cultural anthropology to aid theological reflection on European missiological contexts also raises the importance of the use of methods, tools and practices that can be utilised to investigate European society.

European Mission and Ministry - 20 Credits - Compulsory

This module introduces students to missional ministry, within the context of Central and Eastern Europe. Students who engage in this module will explore missional ministry and the importance of the so-called 'five-fold ministries' in terms of missiology, which includes the roles of apostle, prophet, evangelist, shepherd and teacher. The 'five-fold ministries' offer a starting point for critical engagement with other views of ministry and leadership. This module explores some key theories regarding missional ministry in the context of the local church in Europe. Students are also enabled to apply theories to ministry praxis in this environment.

Reading and Interpreting the New Testament - 20 Credits - Compulsory

The module introduces students to the New Testament, its contents, context and literary genres and to the methodologies of biblical reading, study and interpretation. It also covers contextual biblical interpretation, with a focus on the New Testament. It introduces students to a variety of interpretive methodologies used to examine a text, enabling them to work through some of the complex issues involved in discovering their contemporary relevance in the contemporary cultural situations they find themselves working in.

Mission History of the Church in Europe - 20 Credits - Compulsory

This module aims to give an overview of the major missionary phases of church history from the first to the Twenty-First Century. The approach will be to consider the major theological and missionary paradigm shifts which have characterised the emergence of the most significant missional movements in church history and society.

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Year 2

Ecclesiology and Pneumatology - 20 Credits - Compulsory

This module explores critically various ecclesiological perspectives in the light of the concept of a missional Trinitarian theology, which shapes Christian church life and spiritual practices. Students are encouraged to explore their own spiritual practices in the context of their founding ecclesial traditions. A variety of pneumatological themes will be explored, and their relevance will be considered in a late-modern multi-cultural context.

Leading Teams and Forming Disciples in European Contexts - 20 Credits - Compulsory

Missional ministry is based on the importance of leadership that is put into practice through teams, as well as the importance of missional ministers being able to communicate Christian ideas to those they work among, through preaching and narrative communication. A key area for reflection is how to empower people in the church to discover their callings in relationship to their vocations. The work of missional ministry will be considered including how it functions to equip people on them to empower those they serve, to be able to discover and exercise their gifts in the church and broader society. This module critically examines key theories and practices used in team ministry ecclesial contexts in Central and Eastern Europe.

Intermediate Biblical Studies - 20 Credits - Compulsory

This module explores the importance of reading biblical texts from a narrative theological perspective. There is an emphasis on an increased engagement with literary approaches to reading texts, gaining an understanding of the key motifs and frameworks which formulate the biblical story which assist the student to discover the value of the biblical story and stories contained within its writings. It will also build on student knowledge and understanding of how narrative structures function in the Bible, and how narratives create a framework of understanding for believers and their faith-communities to make sense of their lives. This module will also make use of some select biblical and historical case studies (motifs), focusing on a variety of narrative frameworks to help to inform mission and ministry.

Pastoral Counselling - 20 Credits - Optional

The aim of this module is to offer participants understanding of the issues of pastoral counselling and skills which are needed in order to help people to explore, understand and take action in order to relate to their life situations more effectively. A single module in pastoral counselling of this type will not equip students or ministers to become professional counsellors, but it does offer a broad critical understanding of what professionally trained counsellors consider best practice when they seek to assess which approaches might help people deal with crisis situations in their lives. The module will help participants to understand the issues of developing referral networks to send people to for professional counselling or other specialist help, as well as, introducing students to the matters of confidentiality and supportive frameworks for them to practise as pastors and ministers within.

Theology of Worship and Narrative Preaching - 20 Credits - Optional

The first part of this module is based on contextual theological application and reflection on worship theory related to practice. The student will explore a range of theological and ecclesiastical views on worship. The second part of this module focuses on narrative preaching and communication in a postmodern context. Upon the completion of this module, participants will have a broader informed understanding of a range of theological views of worship and how these might enrich their own traditions and/or be used to enhance the missional engagement of their organisation with a variety of worship beliefs, practices and values.

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Year 2 - continued

Apologetics and Missional Ethics - 20 Credits - Compulsory

In this module the student will be enabled to analyse and evaluate a variety of themes and perspectives in contemporary apologetic debate. It will also help students to formulate their own responses to key arguments for and against belief in God, dogmatic theological assertions made about Christian truth/s and the claims to certainty or uncertainty about such dogma/s that arise from these assertions. The second half of this module provides an introduction to Christian ethics. This module will help students explore both personal ethics and social ethics, reflecting on how each of these impacts Christians' mission and witness in society. The module uses a case study approach that emphasises ethical dilemmas in intercultural and real-life missional contexts.

Revitalising the Church in Europe - 20 Credits - Compulsory

This module explores the life of churches in Central and Eastern Europe. It considers their contexts, history, and culture. It considers their needs and their future. It includes traditional approaches to church and new ways of conceiving church. Important skills and methods used by experts in the field of church growth studies will be considered and the participants in this module will have opportunities to critique them and to reflect on how they might be applied in their context.

Research Skills - 0 Credits - Compulsory

This is a short additional Year 2 module which introduces students to research methods in preparation for their Year 3 research project. It explores research design (positivism and interpretivism). It considers qualitative and quantitative methods, such as interview, questionnaires and participant observation. It considers desk-based research, and skills used to find and review written resources. It contains research ethics and limitations. Throughout all of this it considers theological and missiological research.

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Year 3

Dissertation - 40 Credits - Compulsory

The dissertation module enables the student to undertake a piece of missiological ethnographic research, or literature-based research. The aim is to investigate an area of interest using learning from the research methods found in the Dissertation Handbook and sources. If undertaking ethnographic research, the types of research methods will involve qualitative and quantitative methods as appropriate. As this is the most advanced module for the honours degree, the aim is to apply rigorous ethical practices to how research is conducted.

Scripture from a Missional Perspective - 20 Credits - Compulsory

This module has been designed to enable missional leaders to use literary cultural analysis to critically reflect on passages in the New Testament. It also acts as a primary learning process that will enable emerging missional leaders to critically reflect how the early church faced cross-cultural challenges and conflicts, as the Christian message crossed the Jewish cultural boundary into the Greco-Roman sphere. The aim here is to provide the student with transferable learning of how cross-cultural conflict occurs and how this can operate in the multicultural context. The overall aim of this module is for missional leaders to be able to use Biblical sources to enable their mission teams to formulate understandings of what challenges and conflicts they will face when engaged with other sub-cultures.

Missio Dei and Contextual Theology - 20 Credits - Compulsory

This first part of this module has been designed to engage emergent missional leaders in critical study of a range of views on missio Dei theology. The second part of this module explores contextual theology. The third part of this module explores theology that emerges from a variety of global perspectives and the implications of this for mission. This module engages with decolonial perspectives, and the desire for a decolonialised curriculum.

European Missional Leadership - 20 Credits - Compulsory

A missional leader may be defined as a person who intentionally and consciously seeks to equip and motivate others to engage in a variety of missionary endeavours suited to a community's or organisation's context. Leaders of this kind seek to help members of a group to identify their own sense of calling, skills, abilities and capacities so that they might meaningfully and effectively engage in ministry and service to others. This module will enable students to reflectively consider themselves in the light of theories and models of leadership. This module will consider the use and abuse of leadership, longevity in leadership, emotional intelligence, and mental health in leadership. This module considers these topics in the contexts of Central and Eastern Europe.

Change Management and Conflict Resolution in European Ministry - 20 Credits - Compulsory

This module draws from theories and methodologies that come from other fields of study, for example contemporary business studies and organisational studies. The missional leader needs to develop knowledge, understanding, abilities and skills to guide people through the process of change and transition and the conflict that this often brings, both to the leader and to the team and organisation. In addition, the missional leader will need to be able to identify different types of change and know how to approach the different challenges that are posed by technical and adaptive change processes. It also explores conflict resolution, justice, peace-making and reconciliation with the post-Communist contexts of Central and Eastern Europe.