

Modules for BA (Hons) Theology, Mission and Ministry with Specialism in Youth Ministry

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 Youth Mission - 20 Credits - Compulsory

This module provides a concise introduction to youth mission in the multicultural West. The module explores the relationship of socio-cultural studies and methods to practical theology and youth ministry. It also explores the context in which youth work is undertaken, for example the idea of youthhood as a sub-culture and the distinctiveness of youthhood as compared with other generations and life stages. The student will also learn how to use socio-cultural methods suited to their work-based learning context.

Mission and Youth Ministry - 20 Credits - Compulsory

The aim of missional youth ministry is to give a broad overview of some of the main tasks and debates in current youth work within the Christian church. The focus is to enable youth ministers to become missional ministers in their own right as a key ministry in the church. Too often youth ministry is considered to be a steppingstone to later work in adult ministry in the church. This module seeks to reinvest this discipline in ministry with the professional and theoretical insights that are needed to help youth ministers understand the importance of this ministry in its own right. This module also considers some ethical issues related to youth ministry.

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 - 20 Credits - Compulsory

This module aims to give an overview of the major missionary phases of Western 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 Youth Teams - 20 Credits - Compulsory

This module sets out to provide students with knowledge, understanding and skills required for effective participation in youth ministry teams. Team ministry is recognised as important in the provision of care, support, ministry and missional engagement with young people. A good team functions with each of its members providing support through their particular strengths whilst having their weaknesses complemented and compensated for by other team members with other strengths. This makes the topic of discipleship of vital importance. In this module, team ministry will be viewed as a means to equip and empower every believer to discover, develop and exercise their gifts and talents as followers of Christ.

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.

Leading and Forming Disciples in Youth Ministry - 20 Credits - Compulsory

The aim of intermediate youth ministry is to continue to develop the core skill areas that a youth minister needs to be proficient in to do their job in terms of catechesis and discipleship formation practices with young people. This will entail a consideration of youth work pastoral skills, communication skills, and Bible teaching theories and methods. It will also expose the student to the professional requisite knowledge, skills and understanding they need so that they can effectively deliver youth work services to their clients. This module also considers Christian youth work in schools.

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.

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Year 2 - Continued

Church and Youth Ministry - 20 Credits - Compulsory

This module explores the complex field of youth church and church growth. It explores the role of young adults in church and third culture kids. It considers new ways of conceiving what is church and enables students to consider a variety of theories and methods used in the planting, establishing and running what are termed missional churches involving youth. Important skills and methods used by experts in the field of youth ministry 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 and the young people themselves.

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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.

Missional Leadership in Youth Ministry - 20 Credits - Compulsory

This module considers the large range of challenges that young people face in the context of secular society. The difficult matters of developing a Christian identity whilst faced by the challenging environment of postmodernity makes up much of this module. The student will be equipped to develop missional leadership skills, attitudes and expectations that are sensitive, and ethically informed, to help congregations and communities respond in well informed ways to a changing society in relevant contextual ways. This module also looks at leading meetings, long-term health in youth ministry, and leading movements.

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

The missional youth leader will need to learn how 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 youth 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 explores, at a more critical and engaging level, the complexities of team leadership and working with a senior minister who is probably the youth worker's line manager and the expectations of other key parties such as parents, church leaders, parachurch organisations, and the young people themselves.