

# **Modules for BA (Hons) Theology, Mission and Ministry with Specialism in 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 Missional Leaders - 20 Credits - Compulsory**

This module provides a concise introduction to mission in the multicultural West. 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 missiological contexts also raises the importance of the use of methods, tools and practices that can be utilised to investigate society.

### **Mission and Ministry - 20 Credits - Compulsory**

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. The aim is to enable students to act as missional ministers at their work-based learning, using the insights derived from this module. This module explores some key theories regarding missional ministry in the context of the local church.

### **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**

### **Theology of Worship and Pneumatology - 20 Credits - Compulsory**

The first part of this module considers the role of the Holy Spirit in theology, the Old and New Testaments, the church, and spiritual gifts, and Pentecostalism. The second part of this module looks at worship the Old and New Testaments, the church, and worship in different church traditions. The module also looks at how worship and pneumatology combine.

### **Leading Teams and Forming Disciples - 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.

### **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.

### **Preaching - 20 Credits - Optional**

This module explores the importance of preaching, and the place of preaching in different church traditions. It compares different types and styles of preaching. It looks at communication and performance skills. It considers the exegetical, hermeneutical, theological and contextual skills that are needed to preach well.

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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.

### **Forming Missional Communities - 20 Credits - Compulsory**

This module explores the complex field of church growth and church planting. These include, the so-called missional church conversation, the emerging church, traditional approaches to church planting and new ways of conceiving what church growth strategies of the future may need to take into consideration. In addition to these, students will also be enabled to consider a variety of theories and methods used in the planting, establishing and running what are termed missional churches.

### **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.

## **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.

## **Change Management and Conflict Resolution - 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.