

## MA Biblical Studies Programme Specification

<b>1. Programme title</b>	MA Biblical Studies
<b>2. Awarding institution</b>	Middlesex University
<b>3a. Teaching institution</b> <b>3b. Language of study</b>	<i>London School of Theology</i> <i>English</i>
<b>4a. Valid intake dates</b> <b>4b. Mode of study</b> <b>4c. Delivery method</b>	<i>Autumn term (October)</i> <i>PT only</i> <input type="checkbox"/> On-campus/Blended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Distance Education
<b>5. Professional/Statutory/Regulatory body</b>	Not applicable
<b>6. Apprenticeship Standard</b>	Not applicable
<b>7. Final qualification(s) available</b>	<b>Entry Awards:</b> MA Biblical Studies PG Certificate Biblical Studies <b>Exit Awards:</b> MA Biblical Studies PG Diploma Biblical Studies PG Certificate Biblical Studies
<b>8. Year effective from</b>	<b>2023/24</b>

### 9. Criteria for admission to the programme

The normal entrance qualification will be a British Honours Degree in Theology at 2:1 level, though exceptions will be made in line with flexible learning principles and in conformity with the maintenance of proper academic standards. Applicants with a degree in a subject other than theology might be considered eligible for registration provided they can produce evidence of having reached a satisfactory standard in some previous theological study and offer evidence of an academic profile indicative of ability at 2:1 level in a British Honours Degree in Theology. This qualification might include applicants with:

- An Honours Degree in Theology from outside the UK;
- A Degree in another relevant discipline, plus a Diploma in Theology;
- A Diploma in Theology, with relevant practical experience;
- A Diploma in Higher Education in Theology.

Mature students, who lack the formal qualifications set out above may, nevertheless, be accepted for the MA programme if they are able to show satisfactory evidence of relevant practical experience together with an acceptable level of academic attainment in theology.

Those for whom English is not their first language are normally required to have a mark of 7.0 or better in the IELTS test (or equivalent in other tests).

## 10. Aims of the programme

The MA programme aims to:

1. Engage students with the complexities of contemporary Christian theology through a construct of critical engagement with biblical texts, contemporary thought and culture, and the practice of Christian ministry.
2. Develop mastery in the interpretation and application of Scripture and theology so as to encourage personal and spiritual growth and development.
3. Demonstrate through the dissertation that the student possesses the skills of critical enquiry and reflection on personal experience so as to enhance significantly their own practice of ministry and that of the global church.
4. Develop reflective practitioners who become agents of change within the church context both locally and globally.
5. Develop academic skills in preparation for further postgraduate study, personal study, and other vocational, ministerial, and professional engagement.

The Postgraduate Certificate Programme aims:

1. Engage students with the complexities of contemporary Christian theology through a construct of critical engagement with biblical texts, contemporary thought and culture, and the practice of Christian ministry.
2. To enhance skills in the interpretation and application of Scripture and theology so as to encourage personal and spiritual growth and development.
3. Develop reflective practitioners who become agents of change within the church context both locally and globally.
4. To provide opportunity for students to critically engage with one of the related disciplines of hermeneutics through the choice of the optional module.

## 11. Programme outcomes\*

### A. Knowledge and understanding

On completion of this programme the successful student will have knowledge and understanding of :

1. Hermeneutical theory and how this should be utilised in order to exegete and interpret biblical texts.
2. The application of contemporary methods of biblical interpretation, especially new literary and linguistic approaches to the exegesis of texts.
3. A range of core paradigms and trajectories which act as hermeneutical filters.
4. The challenges and practical issues arising from the idea of Scripture as a contextualised text.
5. The distinctive features of the student's own worldview and the interface between that and biblical interpretation.
6. The challenges, issues and benefits inherent in the creation of a contextualised theology.

### Teaching/learning methods

Students gain knowledge and understanding through

- Information gained through the module material on the VLE.
- Individual reading and research.
- Other multimedia input including online forum discussions.

### Assessment methods

Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by:

- Essays
- Book Reviews
- Exegetical Projects
- Oral Presentation
- Critical Reflection
- Dissertation

### B. Skills

On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:

### Teaching/learning methods

Students learn skills through

- Methods taught and modelled in module material on the VLE.
- Forum debate and discussion

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Engage critically with biblical texts in order to develop understanding of their message in a historical-critical context.</li> <li>2. Analyse, evaluate, compare and contrast hermeneutical methodologies that apply biblical and theological insights to issues within the contemporary world.</li> <li>3. Engage critically with the historical and contemporary literature on biblical interpretation and integrate it with thought and practice in the student's own ministry and the wider work of the church.</li> <li>4. Determine effective strategies for a critically aware utilisation of biblical texts and their application to a contextualised theology as it relates to the contemporary world.</li> <li>5. Demonstrate that within their own ministerial and professional context the student possesses the skills to reflect theologically in a creative and independent manner.</li> <li>6. Apply hermeneutical theories to the biblical texts and demonstrate how these can be used to understand the contemporary world in general and more specifically the student's own ministerial and profession context.</li> <li>7. Write sustained discourse in a variety of styles that conveys insights derived from critically valid biblical interpretation based on the hermeneutical tools gained through study of the course.</li> <li>8. Apply analytical and reflective skills in the construction of a coherent large-scale piece of work within the dissertation.</li> <li>9. Appropriately apply skills gained in the discipline of life-long learning with contemporary global contexts and the student's own ministerial or professional context.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critical reading, theological reflection and research.</li> <li>• Written assignments.</li> <li>• Oral Presentations.</li> <li>• Reflection on praxis within the student's own context.</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment methods</b></p> <p>Students' skills are assessed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essays</li> <li>• Book Reviews</li> <li>• Exegetical Projects</li> <li>• Critical Reflection</li> <li>• Oral Presentation</li> <li>• Dissertation</li> </ul>
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## 12. Programme structure (levels, modules, credits and progression requirements)

### 12.1 Overall structure of the programme

The PGCert Biblical Studies (60 credits) lays the foundation for the study of hermeneutics (Core Module) and allows the student to engage in further hermeneutical study through one optional module. The PGCert is comprised of Core Module: Hermeneutics (40 credits) and one optional module (20 credits).

The MA Biblical Studies (180 credits) significantly develops the student's scope and interests in hermeneutical study by means of a broader range of modules and provides the student with the opportunity to undertake research in a specific area of interest. The MA is comprised of three Core Modules: Core Module 1: Hermeneutics (40 credits); Core Module 2: Dissertation Preparation (20 credits); Core Module 3: Dissertation (60 credits); and three Optional Modules (20 credits each for a total of 60 credits). The Old Testament Theology module provides the option for the student to study the module either as a 20 credit module (1 optional module) or as a 40 credit module (2 optional modules)

The MA programme is studied part-time (students will normally complete 180 credits in 2 or 3 years). The PGCert is studied in 1 year (60 credits). The programme is only available as an online programme.

#### MA Part-Time — over 2 years — 80 credits year 1; 100 credits year 2

Year 1 – Terms 1,2, & 3 + summer	Year 2 – Terms 1 & 2	Year 2 – Term 3 & summer
Hermeneutics (40 credits) Optional Modules 1 & 2 (40 credits)	Optional module 3 (20 credits) Dissertation Preparation Module (20 credits)	Dissertation (60 credits)

#### MA Part-Time — over 3 years — 60 credits per year

Year 1 – Term 1	Year 1 – Term 2	Year 1 – Term 3	Year 2 – Term 1	Year 2 – Term 2
Hermeneutics Part 1 (20 credits)	Hermeneutics Part 2 (20 credits)	Optional Module 1 (20 credits)	Optional Module 2 (20 credits)	Optional Module 3 (20 credits)

Year 2 – Term 3	Year 3—Terms 1,2, 3 & summer
Dissertation Preparation Module (20 credits)	Dissertation

#### PGCert Part-Time Study — 60 credits—one year

Term 1: October-December	Term 2: January-March	Term 3: April-June
Hermeneutics (20 credits)	Hermeneutics (20 credits)	Optional Module (20 credits)

12.2 Levels and modules		
PG Certificate Biblical Interpretation		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL *	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
Students must take all of the following:  Hermeneutics (MA7101)	Students must also choose 1 module from the following:  Women and the Bible (MA7204)  Race and the Bible (MA 7203)  The Bible and the Environment (MA7202)  Old Testament Theology in Context (MA7103)  The Theology of Romans: A Case Study in Hermeneutics (MA7104)	
MA Biblical Studies (Part 1)		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL *	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
Students must take all of the following:  Hermeneutics (MA7101)  Dissertation Preparation (MA7400)	Students must also choose 3 modules from the following:  Women and the Bible (MA7204)  Race and the Bible (MA7203)  The Bible and the Environment (MA7202)  Old Testament Theology in Context (MA7103)  The Theology of Romans: A Case Study in Hermeneutics (MA7104)	Students must successfully complete MA7401, MA7400 and 60 credits of optional modules before progressing to Part 2, MA7401 Dissertation.  Students must gain 120 credits to progress to Part 2.
MA Biblical Studies (Part 2)		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL *	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
Students must take all of the following:  Dissertation (MA7401)	No Optional Modules	

\*Please refer to your programme page on the website re availability of option modules. In addition to the above optional modules, students can choose ONE 20 credit optional module from **either** the MA in Practical Theology & Ministry or the MA Theological Studies.

### 12.3 Non-compensatable modules

Module level	Module code
Part 1 (PGCert/PGDip/MA)	MA7101 Hermeneutics
Part 2 (MA)	MA7401 Dissertation

### 13. Information about assessment regulations

London School of Theology's taught programmes have used their own regulations since they were validated by Middlesex University in 2005; in terms of assessment, relevant policies are as follows: Learning, Teaching & Assessment, Research Ethics Committee and Student Attendance, Assessment & Submission and the Marking and Moderation Policy.

The MA Biblical Studies and the Post Graduate Certificate Biblical Studies are delivered in part-time online mode. Regardless of award, students study with the same learning aims, outcomes, syllabus, assessment and award criteria.

#### Assessment information

Both formative and summative assessments are offered to students and these are tailored not only to reflect the module learning outcomes but to facilitate the application of learning in students' personal and professional contexts. Students are encouraged to undertake formative assessments, but it is only summative assessments which must be undertaken, and successfully passed, to satisfactorily complete the programme. In the event of a failed summative assessment element, re-assessment is required only in that failed element. Students are permitted one attempt at re-assessment for each assessment element. Failure to submit an assessment on the due date and time is considered a non-submission and is marked as a non-compensatable fail grade of 20. Assessments are submitted through Turnitin. A schedule of submission due dates and times is published at the commencement of the module.

#### Assessment marking information

The PGCert Biblical Studies uses the LST M Level Marking Criteria, on a scale 1-100 with 40 as the pass mark) (please see Appendix 3)

The MA Biblical Studies uses the LST M Level Marking Criteria. The marking criteria scheme is divided into the following bands: distinction, merit, pass, marginal fail, fail and serious fail; the grading bands are as follows:

- Distinction: 70-100
- Merit: 60-69
- Pass: 40-59
- Marginal fail: 35-39 (requires re-assessment at second sitting; can be compensated)
- Fail: 30-34 (requires re-assessment at second sitting or re-enrolment)
- Serious fail: 0-29 (requires re-assessment at second sitting or re-enrolment)

An MA Award may be classified as Merit or Distinction if the following is achieved:

- Merit: The student must gain a merit or above (60-69) and 50% or more of the remaining credit must be at merit level or above (60-69) and no more than 25% of total credit may be lower than a pass.
- Distinction: The dissertation must gain a distinction (70-100) and 50% or more of the remaining credit must be at distinction level or above (70-100) and no more than 25% of total credit may be lower than merit level.

## Marking and feedback

Assessed work is first marked, normally by the faculty member who set the assessment task. The marks are then internally moderated by a second suitably qualified marker, who will consider all fails, distinctions and a sample of other scripts. The External Examiner reviews a selection of all moderated assessments.

Key issues in theoretical framework, argument, use of primary material, use of secondary material and presentation have been identified at each level.

Feedback on formative assessments is provided in a variety of ways including orally, in writing, by e-mail, on the VLE, or other electronic means. Feedback on written assessments is provided within three to four working weeks of the assessment due date.

Module narratives and assessment criteria are included in the Programme Handbook.

## 14. Placement opportunities, requirements and support (if applicable)

Not applicable in the Distance Learning Context.

## 15. Future careers / progression

The MA Biblical Studies provides excellent provision for a range of vocational, personal and employment interests. For example, our students have entered the programme to enhance their academic qualification for teaching religious education in schools, to gain additional theological education and grounding for church ministry, to teach theological studies internationally and to gain necessary knowledge and skills for doctoral level studies and for personal enrichment.

The PGCert is particularly suitable for students with no formal theological education who may be unsure as to whether an entire MA programme is achievable. Thus, this award allows progression to taught MA programmes, by way of formal introduction to theological education at a postgraduate level.

## 16. Particular support for learning (if applicable)

Expected learning resources are available for students on the programme including access to a specialist theological library of around 50,000 hard copy volumes, 30,000 ebooks, over 400 online periodicals titles and around 400 archived periodical titles. LST is a Christian learning community which seeks to create an environment in which all students can flourish; therefore, LST has a Pastoral Care Team who provide 1:1 support for students in difficulty with referral mechanisms to academic support, 1:1 counselling and disability advice. In support of broadening access to higher education and removing barriers to success, London School of Theology (LST) as an Access & Participation Plan 2020-2025 and offers access to a Scholarship & Bursaries Scheme.

## 17. HECos code(s)

100340 (Theology)

## 18. Relevant QAA subject benchmark(s)

Theology and Religious Studies

## 19. Reference points

QAA Subject Benchmarks for Theology and Religious Studies

QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)

QAA Quality Code

Office for Students

Middlesex University guidance and policies, particularly in respect of equality, of access and opportunity

LST Strategy Document.

## **20. Other information**

Graduates of the School now serve widely around the world in positions of Christian leadership, including a significant number at senior levels.

External Examiner reports consistently commend the high quality of the School's teaching and learning, and particularly comment on the high quality of the work the students produce.

Please note programme specifications provide a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information about the programme can be found in the rest of your programme handbook and the university regulations.