

## MA Practical Theology & Ministry Programme Specification

<b>1. Programme title</b>	MA Practical Theology & Ministry
<b>2. Awarding institution</b>	Middlesex University
<b>3a. Teaching institution</b>	London School of Theology
<b>3b. Language of study</b>	English
<b>4a. Valid intake dates</b>	Autumn Term (October)
<b>4b. Mode of study</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On-campus/Blended
<b>4c. Delivery method</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Distance Education
<b>5. Professional/Statutory/Regulatory body</b>	N/A
<b>6. Apprenticeship Standard</b>	N/A
<b>7. Final qualification(s) available</b>	<p><b>Entry Awards:</b></p> <p>PG Certificate Practical Theology &amp; Ministry  PG Diploma Practical Theology &amp; Ministry  MA Practical Theology &amp; Ministry</p> <p><b>Exit Awards:</b></p> <p>PG Certificate Practical Theology &amp; Ministry  PG Diploma Practical Theology &amp; Ministry  MA Practical Theology &amp; Ministry</p>
<b>8. Year effective from</b>	<b>2023/24</b>

### 9. Criteria for admission to the programme

The normal entrance qualification for the programme will be an Honours Degree at 2.2 level. Students whose first language is not English are normally required to have a mark of 7 or better in the IELTS test (or equivalent in other tests).

**10. Aims of the programme**

The programme aims:

1. To provide an opportunity for existing ministry or related professionals and recent graduates preparing for church ministry to become knowledgeable of the latest scholarship and professional practice in the field of ministry studies.
2. To develop the knowledge and skills of reflective practice to enhance the performance of professional ministry practice.
3. To integrate practical theological theory and practice at a high academic and professional level.
4. To develop professional educational competence so that graduates will be able to lead others in enhanced integrated professional practice.
5. To enhance leadership competence in serving church communities and wider society.

**11. Programme outcomes\*****A. Knowledge and understanding**

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

1. The theoretical field of academic practical theology and ministry studies
2. The integration of theology with selected other disciplines (e.g. humanities and social sciences) in professional reflective practice
3. Research methodologies in the field of practical theology, social science and ministry studies

**Teaching/learning methods**

Students gain knowledge and understanding through:

1. Digital learning activities
2. Lectures and seminars
3. Individual reading and research
4. Reflective practice methods
5. Placement activity

**Assessment methods**

Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by:

1. Essays
2. Reflections on practice
3. Portfolios
4. Dissertations

**B. Skills**

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

1. Identify, understand and evaluate contemporary ministry practices
2. Conduct research on a specific ministry practice, using a variety of methodologies, either reflective/analytical and/or empirical
3. Integrate theoretical knowledge with professional practice and personal spirituality
4. Articulate an independent, academic and professional voice
5. Bring the distinctive insights of practical theology into conversation with other theological sub-disciplines and selected social science discourse (e.g. sociology of religion; social-psychology of religion)
6. Contribute to scholarly discussions at the interface of church and society
7. Take responsibility for continuing development of knowledge and skills and enhance their ability as graduate-level learners.

**Teaching/learning methods**

Students learn skills through:

1. Lectures
2. Seminars
3. Individual tutorials
4. Reading
5. Oral presentations
6. Written assignments
7. Practicum activity and reflections

**Assessment methods**

Students' skills are assessed by

1. Written assignments
2. Oral presentations
3. Group activities
4. Empirical research tasks

## 12. Programme structure (levels, modules, credits and progression requirements)

### 12.1 Overall structure of the programme

The PGCert Practical Theology & Ministry (60 credits) includes the first core module on Practical Theology and Reflective Practice (40 credits), which is central to the whole programme. It provides an essential grounding in the literature in the field. One further optional module (20 credits) is then selected by the student according to their interest.

The PGDip Practical Theology & Ministry (120 credits) includes the first core module on Practical Theology and Reflective Practice (40 credits), which is central to the whole programme. It provides an essential grounding in the literature in the field. Four further optional modules (each 20 credits) are chosen by the student according to their interest.

The MA Practical Theology & Ministry (180 credits) includes the first core module on Practical Theology and Reflective Practice (40 credits), which is central to the whole programme. It provides an essential grounding in the literature in the field. The second core module on Dissertation Preparation (20 credits) is included as compulsory, as well as the Dissertation (60 credits), where the student can select a particular topic for study in significant depth. Three further optional modules (each 20 credits) are chosen by the student according to their interest.

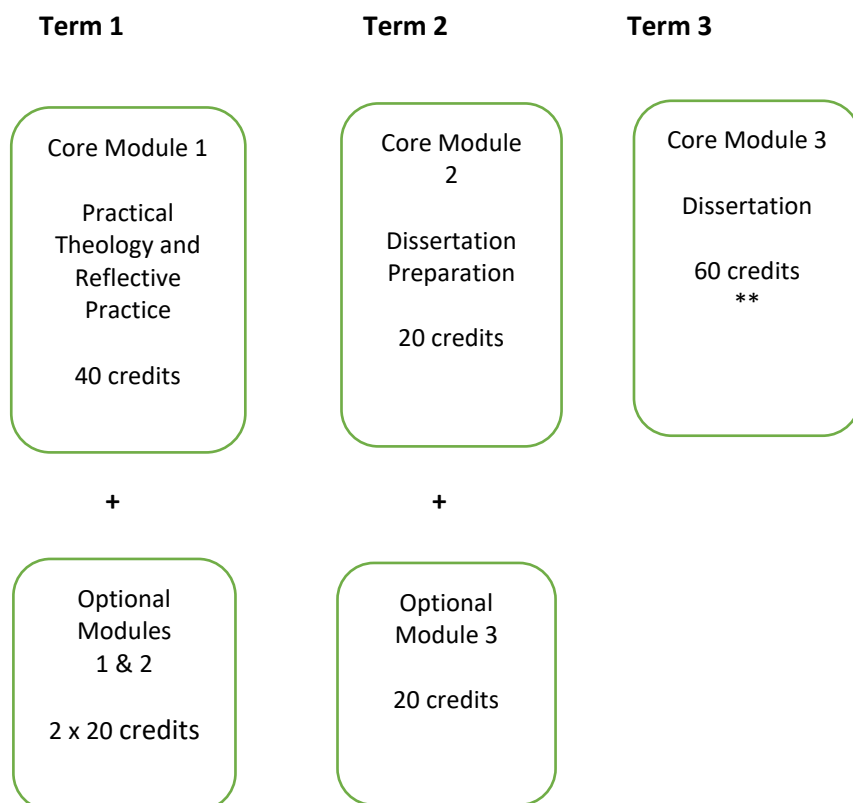
Terms are standard for the academic year, the precise dates vary according to the calendar:

Autumn: October – January

Spring: February - May

Summer: June – September

#### MA Full-Time – over one year – 12 months



**MA Part-Time – over 2 years – 80 credits year 1; 100 credits year 2**

**Term 1 Year 1**

Core Module 1  
Practical Theology and Reflective Practice  
40 credits

**Term 2 Year 1**

Optional Modules 1 & 2  
40 credits

**Term 1 Year 2**

Core Module 2  
Dissertation Preparation  
20 credits

**Terms 2 & 3 Year 2**

Core Module 3  
Dissertation  
60 credits

+

Optional Module 3  
20 credits

**MA Part-Time – over 3 years – 60 credits per year**

**Term 1 Year 1**

Core Module 1  
Practical Theology and Reflective Practice  
40 credits

**Term 2 Year 1**

Optional Module 1  
20 credits

**Term 1 Year 2**

Optional Modules 2 & 3  
40 credits  
[or 20 credits if only Optional Module 2 is taken]

**Term 2 Year 2**

Core Module 2  
Dissertation Preparation  
20 credits  
[Optional Module 3 may be taken in this term – 20 credits]

**Terms 1, 2 & 3 Year 3**

Core Module 3  
Dissertation  
60 credits  
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**\*Optional Modules - Provisional Sequence**

**Term 1**

MM7006 Education in Context

MM7009 Leadership and the Public Square

MM7010 Empirical Research Methods

**Term 2**

MM7005 Pastoral Psychology

MM7007 Ministry in Context

MM7010 Empirical Research Methods

MM7004 Spirituality in Ministry

MM7008 Practicum

The PGCert is taken part-time over one year and includes the first core module in term 1 and an optional module in term 2.

The PGDip can be taken full-time in one year and includes the first core module plus one optional module in term 1, followed by three optional modules in term 2.

Alternatively, the PGDip can be taken part-time, which would include the first core module in term 1 of year 1, one optional module in term 2 of year 1, followed by two optional modules in term 1 of year 2 and one optional module in term 2 of year 2.

\*In addition to the above optional modules, students can choose ONE 20 credit optional module from **either** the MA in Biblical Studies or the MA Theological Studies.

<b>12.2 Levels and modules</b>		
<b>MA Practical Theology &amp; Ministry</b>		
<b>COMPULSORY</b>	<b>OPTIONAL*</b>	<b>PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS</b>
<p>Students must take all of the following:</p> <p>MM7001 Practical Theology and Reflective Practice</p> <p>MM7002 Dissertation Research and Design</p> <p>MM7003 Dissertation</p>	<p>Students must also choose at least 60 credits from the following:</p> <p>MM7004 Spirituality in Leadership</p> <p>MM7005 Pastoral Psychology</p> <p>MM7006 Education in Context</p> <p>MM7009 Leadership and the Public Square</p> <p>MM7007 Ministry in Context</p> <p>MM7010 Empirical Research Methods</p> <p>MM7008 Practicum</p>	<p>Students must successfully complete MM7001, MM7002, MM7010 (if empirical work is to be conducted) and 60 credits of optional modules before progressing to the Dissertation module (MM7003).</p> <p>Students must successfully have completed 180 credits to achieve the award of MA Practical Theology &amp; Ministry.</p>

<b>Postgraduate Diploma Practical Theology &amp; Ministry</b>		
<b>COMPULSORY</b>	<b>OPTIONAL*</b>	<b>PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS</b>
<p>Students must take all of the following:</p> <p>MM7001 Practical Theology and Reflective Practice</p>	<p>Students must also choose at least 80 credits from the following:</p> <p>MM7004 Spirituality in Ministry</p> <p>MM7005 Pastoral Psychology</p> <p>MM7006 Education in Context</p> <p>MM7009 Leadership and the Public Square</p> <p>MM7007 Ministry in Context</p> <p>MM7010 Empirical Research Methods</p> <p>TMP7008 Practicum</p>	<p>Students must successfully have completed 120 credits to achieve the award of PG Dip Practical Theology &amp; Ministry.</p>

<b>Postgraduate Certificate Practical Theology &amp; Ministry</b>		
<b>COMPULSORY</b>	<b>OPTIONAL *</b>	<b>PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS</b>
<p>Students must take all of the following:</p> <p>MM7001 Practical Theology and Reflective Practice</p>	<p>Students must also choose at least 20 credits from the following:</p> <p>MM7004 Spirituality in Ministry</p> <p>MM7005 Pastoral Psychology</p> <p>MM7006 Education in Context</p> <p>MM7009 Leadership and the Public Square</p> <p>MM7007 Ministry in Context</p> <p>MM7010 Empirical Research Methods</p> <p>TMP7008 Practicum</p>	<p>Students must successfully have completed 60 credits to achieve the award of PG Cert Practical Theology &amp; Ministry.</p>

\*Please refer to your programme page on the website re availability of option modules,

12.3 Non-compensatable modules	
Module level	Module code
7	Core module 1 – Practical Theology and Reflective Practice (MA, PGDip and PGCert)
7	Core module 2 – Dissertation Research and Design (MA only)
7	Core module 3 – Dissertation (MA only)

### 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 include: Learning, Teaching & Assessment, Research Ethics, and the Marking and Moderation Policy.

The MA in Practical Theology & Ministry, the Postgraduate Diploma in Practical Theology & Ministry and the Postgraduate Certificate in Practical Theology & Ministry are delivered full-time and part-time through Distance Education and on-campus. Regardless of delivery mode, students' study for the same award 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, ministry and professional contexts. 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 Practical Theology & Ministry programme uses the LST Level 7 Marking Criteria, on a scale of 1-100 with 40 as the pass mark (please see Appendix 3).

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 dissertation 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 poorer 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 poorer 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 normally 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 (see section Appendix 1).

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

All students will be offered an optional module entitled Practicum (although students already in professional ministry will likely prefer the module Ministry in Context). This is a level 7 placement module and will require the student to be engaged in a local ministry or professional practice location. There will be a module tutor and a placement tutor offering support and facilitating the activities of reflective practice. Depending on the size of the cohort, there may be group seminars in addition.

### **15. Future careers / progression**

The MA in Practical Theology & Ministry targets existing church ministers, church workers, volunteers and Christian charity workers who are looking to develop their existing ministry knowledge and skills. For many students they will continue in their chosen profession but will have enhanced their existing knowledge and skills. But for others this programme will open up new knowledge and skill to the extent that they are able to transition into more senior roles in the church or Christian charity sector.

There are graduate students in theology and religion (or other cognate disciplines) who intend to prepare for church ministry or Christian charity work but their undergraduate studies have been either too broad or unrelated to the work of the church (for example, because they studied religions more broadly). This programme gives these graduate students a transitional programme, building on their previous studies, but now focused in a professional church-related context. These students will be able to use this programme as a means of making that professional transition.

There are budding scholars of practical theology and ministry studies who need the specific research training that this programme provides, for example in the use of empirical research methods. This programme provides an excellent foundation for students to progress to research degrees in practical theology by providing the necessary training that they would otherwise have to acquire through supervision alone. Given the growth of empirical research in theology and religion, it is imperative that such programmes exist to meet this growing market and resource the academic study of church and society.

**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 e-books, 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**

In the development of the MA in Practical Theology & Ministry, reference was made to the following:

- QAA Subject Benchmarks for Theology & Religious Studies (March 2022).
- 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 2022-2026
- Mark J. Cartledge, 'Christian Theology for Ministry and the Quality Assurance Agency Criteria: An Epistemological Critique', *Discourse: Learning and Teaching in Philosophical and Religious Studies* 4.2 (2005), 26-42.

**20. Other information**

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 full advantage is taken of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information about the programme can be found in the rest of the programme handbook and LST's regulations.