

# MA Theological Studies Programme Specification

(updated for 2023-2024)

<b>1. Programme title</b>	MA in Theological Studies (formerly MA in Integrative Theology)
<b>2. Awarding institution</b>	Middlesex University
<b>3. Teaching institution</b>	London School of Theology
<b>4. Details of accreditation by professional/statutory/regulatory body</b>	N/A
<b>5. Final qualification(s) available</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Master of Arts in Theological Studies</li> <li>▪ Postgraduate Diploma in Theological Studies</li> <li>▪ Postgraduate Certificate in Theological Studies</li> </ul>
<b>6. Year of validation / last review</b>  <b>Year of amendment</b>	Year of validation: 2021
<b>7. Language of study</b>	English
<b>8. Mode of study</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Full-time (1 year)</li> <li>▪ Part-time (2 or 3 years)</li> </ul> <p>Through the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Face to face</li> <li>▪ Distance / online</li> <li>▪ Blended</li> </ul>

## 9. Criteria for admission to the programme

The normal entrance qualification for the programme will be an Honours Degree at 2:1 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 to:

1. Introduce a methodological quintilateral for critical engagement (principally Scripture, Tradition, Reason, Experience and Church in community).
2. Develop advanced critical understanding of theology and the integration of its sources.
3. Enhance critical capacity to understand and interpret sources and develop constructive theological positions.
4. Foster critical engagement with various sub-disciplines of theology, with other related disciplinary fields and contemporary issues.
5. Develop a mastery of academic skills in preparation for further postgraduate study, personal study, and other vocational, ministerial, and professional engagement.

## 11 Programme outcomes

### A. Knowledge and understanding

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

1. The methods of theology involving the dynamic and integrative interplay and interpretation of its sources (Scripture, Tradition, Reason, Experience and Church in community).
2. The distinctive features, issues, and challenges of engaging with the methods and sources of theology in developing constructive theological positions and in engaging with other related disciplinary fields and contemporary issues.
3. A specialised theological or related topic.

### Teaching/learning methods

Students gain knowledge and understanding through:

1. Web-based learning activities.
2. Individual reading and research.
3. Seminar debate and discussion.
4. Reflection on context and practice.
5. Dissertation research

### Assessment methods

Students' knowledge and understanding are assessed by:

1. Essays & articles.
2. Reflective writing.
3. Evaluation exercises.
4. Dissertation.

### B. Cognitive (thinking) skills

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

1. Critically articulate their own position in relation to the methods and sources of theology.
2. Critically engage with relevant theological positions and contexts in order to identify, analyse, interpret and respond to their specific challenges.
3. Select, integrate and critically evaluate key issues raised by the integration of themes and methods from Scripture, Reason, Tradition, Experience and Church in community, in order to engage with theological and contemporary issues.

### Teaching/learning methods

Students learn cognitive skills through:

1. Web-based learning activities.
2. Individual reading and research.
3. Seminar debate and discussion.
4. Reflection on context practice.
5. Dissertation research.

### Assessment methods

Students' cognitive skills are assessed by:

1. Essays & articles.
2. Reflective writing.
3. Evaluation exercises.
4. Dissertation.

<p><b>C. Practical skills</b> On completion of the programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify and critically engage the various components of theological methods in their different assessments.</li> <li>2. Critically analyse and evaluate the issues involved in the components of theological method and engagement with different sub-disciplines of theology, other related disciplinary fields and with contemporary issues.</li> <li>3. Demonstrate an ability to evaluate theological positions, stances and practices and construct an independent position in relation to a broad range of issues.</li> <li>4. Plan, conduct and reflect in the construction of a dissertation that addresses a theological or related topic.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods</b> Students learn practical skills through:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Web-based learning activities.</li> <li>2. Practical teaching projects.</li> <li>3. Reflection on praxis.</li> <li>4. Dissertation.</li> </ol> <p><b>Assessment</b> Students' practical skills are assessed by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Projects and essays.</li> <li>2. Reflective writing.</li> <li>3. Evaluation exercises.</li> <li>4. Dissertation.</li> </ol>
<p><b>D. Graduate skills</b> On completion of the programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Utilise consistently their theological and biblical knowledge and understanding in their own personal, professional, academic or ministerial context.</li> <li>2. Deal with complex theological issues within the contemporary world through a critical and coherent use of the methods and sources of theological knowledge and communicate conclusions in an appropriate way.</li> <li>3. Critically analyse and evaluate theological positions in a range of contemporary situations and other related fields.</li> <li>4. Be self-directed in researching and evaluating issues relating to their own personal, professional, academic or ministerial context.</li> <li>5. Take responsibility for continuing to develop their own skills and knowledge and becoming independent graduate-level learners.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods</b> Students learn graduate skills through:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Seminar presentation and debate.</li> <li>2. Critical reading and research.</li> <li>3. Reflection on praxis within their own context.</li> </ol> <p><b>Assessment Methods</b> Students' practical skills are assessed by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Projects and essays.</li> <li>2. Reflective writing.</li> <li>3. Evaluation exercises.</li> <li>4. Dissertation.</li> <li>5. Presentations.</li> </ol>

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

### 12.1 Overall structure of the programme

The PGCert Theological Studies (60 credits) lays the foundation for the study of theology (Core Module 1) and allows the student to engage in further theological studies or a related field through one optional module. The PGCert is comprised of Core Module 1: Sources and Methods in Theology (40 credits) and one optional module (20 credits).

The PGDip Theological Studies (120 credits) will build upon the PGCert by providing the student additional scope to engage in a broader range of theological studies or a related field and a more substantial opportunity to undertake research in the student's areas of interest. The PGDip is comprised of Core Module 1 (40 credits) and four Optional Modules (20 x 4 = 80 credits).

The MA Theological Studies (180 credits) will significantly develop the student's scope and interests in theological studies by means of a broader range of theological studies and related fields and will provide 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: Sources and Methods in Theology (40 credits); Core Module 2: Dissertation Research and Design (20 credits); Core Module 3: Dissertation (60 credits); and 3 Optional Modules (20 x 3 = 60 credits each).

The MA programme may be studied full-time (students will normally complete 180 credits in 1 year) or part-time (students will normally complete 180 credits over 2 or 3 years). The PGDip can be studied full-time (120 credits in 1 year) or part-time (120 credits in 2 years). The PGDip is studied in 1 year (60 credits). Students may study their programmes in the following modes: face to face, distance learning / online or in a blended mode.

#### Programme structures: MA Theological Studies

<b>MA Full-Time Study – 180 credits</b>			
<b>1 Year</b>			
<b>Segment 1</b> October - December	<b>Segment 2</b> January - March	<b>Segment 3</b> April - June	<b>Segment 4</b> July – September
Core Module 1/3: Sources and Methods in Theology [Total 40 credits]		Optional Module 2/3 [20 credits]	Core Module 3/3: Dissertation  [60 credits]
Optional Module 1/3 [20 credits]	Core Module 2/3: Dissertation Research and Design [20 credits]	Optional Module 3/3 [20 credits]	

<b>MA Part-Time Study – 180 credits - 2 Years</b>				
	<b>Segment 1</b> October - December	<b>Segment 2</b> January – March	<b>Segment 3</b> April - June	<b>Segment 4</b> July - September
<b>Year 1</b>	Core Module 1/3: Sources and Methods in Theology [40 credits]		Optional Module 1/3 [20 credits]	Summer Break
<b>Year 2</b>	Optional Module 2/3 [20 credits]	Core Module 2/3: Dissertation Research and Design [20 credits]	Optional Module 3/3 [20 credits]	Core Module 3/3: Dissertation [60 credits]

<b>MA Part-Time Study – 180 credits - 3 Years</b>				
	<b>Segment 1</b> October - December	<b>Segment 2</b> January – March	<b>Segment 3</b> April - June	<b>Segment 4</b> July - September
<b>Year 1</b>	Core Module 1/3: Sources and Methods in Theology [40 credits]		Optional Module 1/3 [20 credits]	Summer Break
<b>Year 2</b>	Optional Module 2/3 [20 credits]	Core Module 2/3: Dissertation Research and Design [20 credits]	Optional Module 3/3 [20 credits]	Summer Break
<b>Year 3</b>	Core Module 3/3: Dissertation [60 credits]	Break	Break	Break

**PG Diploma Full-Time Study – 120 credits - 1 Year**

<b>Segment 1</b>	<b>Segment 2</b>	<b>Segment 3</b>	<b>Segment 4</b>
October - December	January - March	April - June	July - September
Core Module 1/1: Sources and Methods in Theology [Total 40 credits]		Optional Module 3/4 [20 credits]	N/A
Optional Module 1/4 [20 credits]	Optional Module 2/4 [20 credits]	Optional Module 4/4 [20 credits]	N/A

**PG Diploma Part-Time Study – 120 credits - 2 Years**

	<b>Segment 1</b>	<b>Segment 2</b>	<b>Segment 3</b>	<b>Segment 4</b>
	October - December	January – March	April - June	July - September
<b>Year 1</b>	Core Module 1/1: Sources and Methods in Theology [40 credits]		Optional Module 1/4 [20 credits]	Summer Break
<b>Year 2</b>	Optional Module 2/4 [20 credits]	Optional Module 3/4 [20 credits]	Optional Module 4/4 [20 credits]	N/A

**PG Certificate Part-Time Study – 60 credits - 1 Year**

<b>Segment 1</b>	<b>Segment 2</b>	<b>Segment 3</b>	<b>Segment 4</b>
October - December	January - March	April - June	July – September
Core Module 1/1: Sources and Methods in Theology [40 credits]		Optional Module 1/1 [20 credits]	N/A

## 12.2 Levels and modules

### PG Certificate Theological Studies – Level 7 – Total 60 credits

COMPULSORY – 40 credits	OPTIONAL – 20 credits	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
Core 1/3 (MI7601): Sources and Methods in Theology	<p>Students must choose 1 module from the following list (20 credits):</p> <p>Trinitarian Personhood (MI7201)</p> <p>Christology Ancient and Modern (MT7603)</p> <p>The Holy Spirit in Luke-Acts and Paul (MI7007)</p> <p>The Gospel of Mark (MI7005)</p> <p>Social Justice 1: Biblical Themes (MI7301)</p> <p>Social Justice 2: Contemporary Issues (MI7303)</p> <p>Christian Worship (MI7801)</p> <p>Issues in Contemporary Christian Worship (MI7803)</p> <p>Contemporary Ecclesiology (MI7309)</p>	There is no requirement for a student to pass one module prior to undertaking another.

### PG Diploma Theological Studies – Level 7 – Total 120 credits

COMPULSORY – 40 credits	OPTIONAL – 80 credits	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
Core 1/3 (MI7601): Sources and Methods in Theology	<p>Students must choose 4 modules from the following list (20 credits each):</p> <p>Trinitarian Personhood (MI7201)</p> <p>Christology Ancient and Modern (MT7603)</p> <p>The Holy Spirit in Luke-Acts and Paul (MI7007)</p> <p>The Gospel of Mark (MI7005)</p>	There is no requirement for a student to pass one module prior to undertaking another.

	<p>Social Justice 1: Biblical Themes (MI7301)</p> <p>Social Justice 2: Contemporary Issues (MI7303)</p> <p>Christian Worship (MI7801)</p> <p>Issues in Contemporary Christian Worship (MI7803)</p> <p>Contemporary Ecclesiology (MI7309)</p>	
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<b>MA Theological Studies – Level 7 – Total 180 credits</b>		
<b>COMPULSORY – 120 credits</b>	<b>OPTIONAL – 60 credits</b>	<b>PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS</b>
<p>Core 1/3 (MI7601): Sources and Methods in Theology (40 credits)</p> <p>Core 2/3 (MT7400): Dissertation Research and Design (20 credits)</p> <p>Core 3/3 (MI7401): Dissertation (60 credits)</p>	<p>Students must choose 3 modules from the following list (20 credits each):</p> <p>Trinitarian Personhood (MI7201)</p> <p>Christology Ancient and Modern (MT7603)</p> <p>The Holy Spirit in Luke-Acts and Paul (MI7007)</p> <p>The Gospel of Mark (MI7005)</p> <p>Social Justice 1: Biblical Themes (MI7301)</p> <p>Social Justice 2: Current Issues (MI7303)</p> <p>Christian Worship (MI7801)</p> <p>Issues in Contemporary Christian Worship (MI7803)</p> <p>Contemporary Ecclesiology (MI7309)</p>	<p>There is no requirement for a student to pass one module prior to undertaking another.</p>

<b>12.3 Non-compensatable modules</b>	
<b>Module level</b>	<b>Module code</b>
7	MI7601 Core Module 1/3 Sources and Methods in Theology
7	MT7400 Core Module 2/3 Dissertation Research and Design
7	MI7401 Core Module 3/3 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.

The MA in Theological Studies (MATS) is delivered full-time and part-time through face-to-face, distance / online and blended modes. 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 the student's personal and professional context. All formative and summative assessments must be completed to satisfactorily complete the programme although formative assessments do not contribute to the final grade. All assessment elements must be successfully completed to pass a module. A schedule of submission due dates / times is published at the commencement of the module. In the event of a failed 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.

#### Assessment marking information

The MA in Theological Studies uses the LST M Level Marking Criteria. The marking criteria scheme is divided into the following bands: distinction, merit, pass, marginal fail and 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 Award may be classified as Merit or Distinction if the following is achieved:

- Merit: The distinction 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 (in total, the second marker will inspect at least 10% of or at least 10 scripts for each assessment). The External Examiner reviews 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. The criteria are written with assignments.

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 are included in the Programme Handbook.

#### 14. Placement opportunities, requirements and support

N/A

#### 15. Future careers / progression

The MA in Theological 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 (for example in Indonesia) and to gain necessary knowledge and skills for doctoral level studies and for personal enrichment.

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

Expected learning resources are available for students on the programme including access to a specialist and renowned theological library with over 50,000 volumes and 200 periodical titles a year. 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) offers access to a Scholarship & Bursaries Scheme.

#### 17. JACS code (or other relevant coding system)

V600

#### 18. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)

Theology and Religious Studies

#### 19. Reference points

In the development of the MA in Theological Studies, reference was made to the following:

- QAA Subject Benchmarks for Theology & 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: Restoring Foundations.

#### 20. Other information

