



MA Practical Theology & Ministry Programme Specification

School of Health, Social Care and Education

Validated by Middlesex University, London, UK

MA Practical Theology & Ministry

PGDip Practical Theology & Ministry

PGCert Practical Theology & Ministry

Programme Leader: Dr Alistair McKitterick

Institutional Link Tutor: Dr Shivanthi Manickasingham

Middlesex Link Tutor: Dr Nicky Spawls

Contents

<i>Programme Overview</i>	3
<i>Programme Specification</i>	4
<i>Programme Structure</i>	19

Programme Overview

This new MA programme is designed for students seeking to serve vocationally in a church or charity setting or who want to bring their Christian training to enhance their work in a more secular environment (e.g. in teaching, business, caring professions, the legal profession, or civil service). Beginning with 'reflective practice', it takes students on a journey through contemporary academic practical theology, allowing cutting edge scholarship to inform and enhance existing professional practice or prepare students to transit into professional practice and ministry.

This is a significant step in LST's educational provision that enables the institution to serve this constituency in a focused manner at the postgraduate taught level. At a time of significant social change in wider society, it is imperative there are programmes that bring the latest academic scholarship to the attention of church leaders and professionals in the Christian sector and wider areas of public life.

The programme is available to students throughout the world via its online provision. We believe the quality of the educational experience will compete with the best programmes internationally. We also believe that it will have a particular impact on the provision of professional theological education in the greater London area. London is the only area in the UK currently witnessing church growth, and therefore there is an imperative to support and facilitate the training of emerging local leaders. We are excited about how this programme will impact churches in London area and beyond.

As part of academic skills covered, students taking this programme will receive significant research training in empirical approaches to practical theology, which is a significant growth area in the discipline. Most national and international societies of practical theology include research from this perspective as a standard component. By including this feature, the programme aligns with the trajectory of contemporary scholarship in a significant way.

The USP of this programme is that all these features are located in an evangelical and interdenominational context. No other MA programme combines research and practice-informed scholarship in a distinctly evangelical and interdenominational content in the London area. This programme exemplifies our institutional USP (research and practice informed teaching, evangelical and interdenominational, a residential college in London).

This programme is designed for existing church leaders, aspiring church and profession leaders, as well as aspiring academic practical theologians. Its graduate pathways therefore include, church ministry, charity sector, mission agencies and non-government organisations, business, civil service, as well as being an excellent foundation for a career in academia.

Programme Specification

Please review this information as you begin your studies to understand how the programme has been designed and its key aims, learning objectives, overall structure and assessment strategy. Your assessment schedule can be found in Appendix 2 of this handbook.

In sum, this programme aims to facilitate the integration of learning around Church ministry and professional practice with academic practical theology at a scholarly academic level. It will also enable the acquisition of the skills of reflective practice and research knowledge in ministry studies.

1. Programme title	MA Practical Theology & Ministry
2. Awarding institution	Middlesex University
3a. Teaching institution	London School of Theology
3b. Language of study	English
4a. Valid intake dates	Autumn Term (October)
4b. Mode of study	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On-campus/Blended
4c. Delivery method	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Distance Education
5. Professional/Statutory/Regulatory body	N/A
6. Apprenticeship Standard	N/A
7. Final qualification(s) available	<p>Entry Awards:</p> <p>PG Certificate Practical Theology & Ministry PG Diploma Practical Theology & Ministry MA Practical Theology & Ministry</p> <p>Exit Awards:</p> <p>PG Certificate Practical Theology & Ministry PG Diploma Practical Theology & Ministry MA Practical Theology & Ministry</p>
8. Year effective from	2024-2025

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).

<p>10. Aims of the programme</p> <p>The programme aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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.

<p>11. Programme outcomes*</p>	
<p>A. Knowledge and understanding</p> <p>On completion of this programme the successful student will have knowledge and understanding of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<p>Teaching/learning methods</p> <p>Students gain knowledge and understanding through:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Digital learning activities 2. Lectures and seminars 3. Individual reading and research 4. Reflective practice methods 5. Placement activity <p>Assessment methods</p> <p>Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Essays 2. Reflections on practice 3. Portfolios 4. Dissertations
<p>B. Skills</p> <p>On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>Teaching/learning methods</p> <p>Students learn skills through:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lectures 2. Seminars 3. Individual tutorials 4. Reading 5. Oral presentations 6. Written assignments 7. Practicum activity and reflections <p>Assessment methods</p> <p>Students' skills are assessed by</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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:

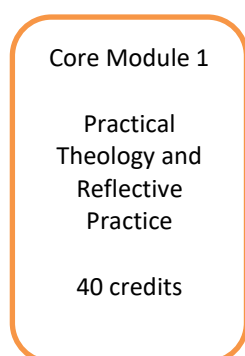
Term 1 - Autumn: October – January

Term 2 - Spring: February - May

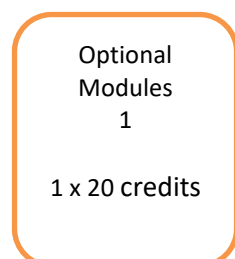
Term 3 - Summer: June – September

MA Full-Time – over one year – 12 months

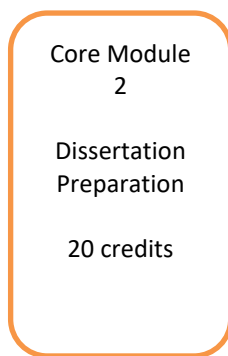
Term 1



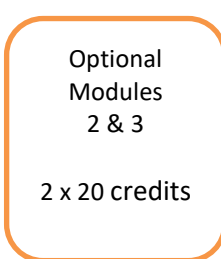
+



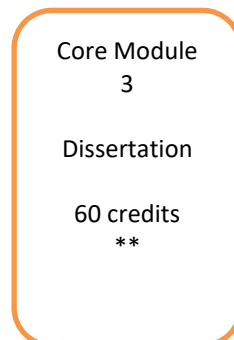
Term 2



+



Term 3



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
**

PGDip Full-Time – over 12 months – 120 credits

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
<p>Core Module 1</p> <p>Practical Theology and Reflective Practice</p> <p>40 credits</p>	<p>Optional Modules 1 & 2</p> <p>2 x 20 credits</p>	<p>Optional Module's 3 & 4</p> <p>2 x 20 credits</p>

PGDip Part-Time – over 2 years – 60 credits a year

Term 1 – Year 1	Term 2 – Year 1	Term 1 – Year 2	Term 2 – Year 2	Term 3 – Year 2
<p>Core Module 1</p> <p>Practical Theology and Reflective Practice</p> <p>40 credits</p>	<p>Optional Module 1</p> <p>1 x 20 credits</p>	<p>Optional Module 2</p> <p>1 x 20 credits</p>	<p>Optional Module 3</p> <p>1 x 20 credits</p>	<p>Optional Module 4</p> <p>1 x 20 credits</p>

PGCert – Part-Time – over 12 months – 60 credits

Term 1	Term 2
<p>Core Module 1</p> <p>Practical Theology and Reflective Practice</p> <p>40 credits</p>	<p>Optional Module 1</p> <p>1 x 20 credits</p>

*Optional Modules - Provisional Sequence

Term 1

MM7007 Ministry in Context

MM7008 Practicum

MM7009 Leadership and the Public Square

MM7010 Empirical Research Methods

Term 2

MM7004 Spirituality in Ministry

MM7005 Pastoral Psychology

MM7006 Education in Context

MM7010 Empirical Research Methods

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.

12.2 Levels and modules		
MA Practical Theology & Ministry		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL*	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
<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 & Ministry.</p>

Postgraduate Diploma Practical Theology & Ministry		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL*	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
<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 & Ministry.</p>

Postgraduate Certificate Practical Theology & Ministry		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL *	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
<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 & 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 0. 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 0-100 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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', <i>Discourse: Learning and Teaching in Philosophical and Religious Studies</i> 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.

21. Curriculum map for MA Practical Theology & Ministry, PG Dip Practical Theology & Ministry and PG Cert Practical Theology & Ministry

This section shows the highest level that programme outcomes are achieved by all graduates. It maps programme learning outcomes against the modules in which they are assessed.

MA Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding	
A1	The theoretical field of academic practical theology and ministry studies
A2	The integration of theology with selected other disciplines (e.g. humanities and social sciences) in professional reflective practice
A3	Research methodologies in the field of practical theology, social science and ministry studies
Skills	
B1	Identify, understand and evaluate contemporary ministry practices
B2	Conduct research on a specific ministry practice, using a variety of methodologies, either reflective/analytical and/or empirical
B3	Integrate theoretical knowledge with professional practice and personal spirituality
B4	Articulate an independent, academic and professional voice
B5	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)
B6	Contribute to the scholarly discussions at the interface of church and society
B7	Continue to development knowledge and skills and enhance their ability as graduate-level learners.

A1	A2	A3	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7
7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7

PGDip Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding	
A1	The theoretical field of academic practical theology and ministry studies
A2	The integration of theology with selected other disciplines (e.g. humanities and social sciences) in professional reflective practice
Skills	
B1	Identify, understand and evaluate contemporary ministry practices
B2	Conduct research on one specific ministry practice, using one specific approach
B3	Integrate theoretical knowledge with professional practice and personal spirituality
B4	Articulate an independent, academic and professional voice
B5	Continue to development knowledge and skills and enhance their ability as graduate-level learners

A1	A2	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5
7	7	7	7	7	7	7

PGCert Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding	
A1	The theoretical field of academic practical theology and ministry studies
A2	The integration of theology with selected other disciplines (e.g. humanities and social sciences) in professional reflective practice
Skills	
B1	Identify, understand and evaluate contemporary ministry practices
B2	Integrate theoretical knowledge with professional practice and personal spirituality
B3	Continue to development knowledge and skills and enhance their ability as graduate-level learners

A1	A2	B1	B2	B3
7	7	7	7	7

Module Title	Module Code by Level										
		A1	A2	A3	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7
Practical Theology and Reflective Practice	MM7001	x	x	x			x	x			x
Dissertation Research and Design	MM7002		x	x	x			x			x
Dissertation	MM7003	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Spirituality in Ministry	MM7004	x	x		x		x	x			x
Pastoral Psychology	MM7005		x	x	x	x	x	x			x
Education in Context	MM7006		x	x	x	x	x	x			x
Ministry in Context	MM7007	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Practicum	MM7008	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Leadership and the Public Square	MM7009	x	x		x		x	x	x	x	x
Empirical Research Methods	MM7010	x	x	x		x		x	x		x

Programme Structure

The structure of the programme for each option is as follows:

Full Time Programme Structure Over One Year

Term 1

Practical Theology and Reflective Practice

Optional Module 1

Term 2

Dissertation Research and Design

Optional Modules 2 and 3

Term 3 / Summer

Dissertation

Part Time Programme Structure Over Two Years

Term 1 Year 1

Practical Theology and Reflective Practice

Term 2 Year 1

Optional Modules 1 and 2

Term 1 Year 2

Dissertation Research and Design & Optional Module 3

Terms 2 & 3 Year 2

Dissertation

Part Time Programme Structure Over Three Years

Term 1 Year 1

Practical Theology and Reflective Practice

Term 2 Year 1

Optional Module 1

Term 1 Year 2

Optional Modules 2 and 3

Term 2 Year 2

Dissertation Research and Design

OR Optional Module 2

[with Optional Module 3]

Term 1 Year 3

Dissertation

Term 2 Year 3

Dissertation

Term 3/Summer Year 3

Dissertation