

# Union

**STUDENT HANDBOOK  
2020/21**

**Master of Theology Programme**

***Published by:***

**Union School of Theology**

Bryntirion House

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## Introduction by the Provost of Union School of Theology

Welcome to Union School of Theology (UST)! On behalf of all our staff and students, we want to say how pleased we are that you have joined the family that is UST! We very much hope that you will enjoy your period of study with us. We are delighted that you have chosen to be a student on this programme and pray that your studies will be a time of both academic and spiritual growth. Everyone at UST wants to work with you towards that. Working and worshipping in community is an important part of life and study at UST, whether you study in campus or in one of our learning communities. We are committed to deepen biblical and theological knowledge, and further develop skills for Christian ministry.

UST is a growing community of Christians committed to learn and grow together. It extends from the UK across Europe, and into other parts of the world. This community from different nationalities, backgrounds, denominations, and experiences brings diversity, but also a shared commitment to our values and mission.

This Handbook is designed to provide you with the necessary information you need as you start your studies, both about your programme and about UST more generally. You may well be feeling somewhat overwhelmed by the amount of information you are being given, but it is important that you read everything carefully – and familiarising yourself with the contents of this Student Handbook is an excellent place to start. It will serve as a vital reference source for the future. You will also find many other relevant documents on the Union Cloud VLE.

Most of the answers you need will be contained here, but please remember that there are friendly, human faces behind all these words of guidance and instruction, and you only have to ask if you are confused or uncertain about anything. UST Faculty combines academic expertise with experience in Christian ministry, both in the UK and cross-culturally. They are here to support you in your learning and your spiritual growth, and provide pastoral support.

Above everything else, our great desire is that, through your relationship with UST, you will grow in your knowledge and love of God, and in your service and usefulness to his Kingdom. This is reflected in our doctrinal basis, available on the UST website: <https://www.ust.ac.uk/about-us/values-doctrine>, and summarised in our four core values, which inform all we seek to do –

### **Delighting in God**

We desire to know, love and enjoy God, so glorifying Him.

### **Growing in Christ**

We long to be more fully alive in the truth, goodness and beauty of Jesus.

### **Serving the Church**

We are a ministry of the Church for the sake of the Church, that she may be fit for Christ.

### **Blessing the World**

We join God's mission to fill the earth with the glory of Jesus as we are led by the Spirit.

Dr Dustin Bengé

Provost, Union School of Theology

## Part I: General Information

### Union School of Theology Organisational Structure

Union School of Theology is part of the Union Foundation, a charitable foundation which supports theological education, publishing, research and church planting. The Union Board of Trustees works to ensure the fulfilment of the charitable purposes of the School of Theology as set out in the constitution of the Union Foundation, including its doctrinal basis, and overall strategy. The Board of Trustees approves the budget. The President of Union Foundation is Rev Dr Mike Reeves, who also lectures in the School and works to promote Union's work nationally and internationally. The running of UST is delegated to the Provost, Dr Dustin Benge. He works with the Academic Dean and the Pastoral Dean to maintain and develop the work of training students for Christian ministry in a range of contexts.

The Academic Board, which comprises the Provost, teaching faculty, student and external representatives, formulates academic policy and planning, and is the final decision-making body for academic matters within the School. The Academic Board appoints the Board of Examiners, in consultation with the validator. The Quality Assurance Committee monitors the quality of programmes offered, and ensures UST continues to reflect on its practice, with a view to enhancing student experience.

Each programme has its own Programme Committee, which works to support the Provost of the School in the implementation of agreed policies, and monitor the effective delivery and evaluation of teaching and learning. A student representative sits on each Programme Committee. The day-to-day running of individual programmes is the responsibility of the Programme Leader. The Programmes Administrator supports him in this work.

The Master of Theology Programme Committee meets regularly to review and monitor the programme, to consider how to improve the teaching and student support, to consider examination and assessment issues, and to evaluate students' reviews of the course. Each year the Programme Committee submits a report to the Academic Board (which then goes to the Validating Body).

The Open University, as the Validating Body, approves the appointment of external examiners who make judgements concerning the overall quality and standards of the course in comparison with other institutions of higher education, and sends a representative. The Board of Examiners meets to approve the marks awarded on each particular programme.



## Staff

### Academic Staff

Click here to see Academic lecturer profiles on the UST website: <https://www.ust.ac.uk/faculty>.

For queries or concerns about academic matters relating to this programme, please contact the Programme Leader, Dr Dustin Bengé, email: [dbenge@ust.ac.uk](mailto:dbenge@ust.ac.uk).

### Support Staff

Financial queries		
Kevin Green	<i>Finance &amp; HR Officer</i> <i>Mon-Fri 09.00-17.00</i>	<a href="mailto:finance@ust.ac.uk">finance@ust.ac.uk</a>
Registration, course and related queries		
Emily Scally	<i>Academic Registrar</i> <i>Mon-Fri 09.00-17.00</i>	<a href="mailto:academicregistrar@ust.ac.uk">academicregistrar@ust.ac.uk</a>
Indira Freeman	<i>Programmes Administrator</i> <i>Mon-Fri 09.00-17.00</i>	<a href="mailto:programmes@ust.ac.uk">programmes@ust.ac.uk</a>
Information Technology		
Paul Thompson	<i>ICT and Network Administrator</i> <i>Mon-Fri 08.00-16.00</i>	<a href="mailto:admin@ust.ac.uk">admin@ust.ac.uk</a>
Library and Learning Resources		
Donald Mitchell	<i>Librarian</i> <i>Mon-Fri 09.00-17.00</i>	<a href="mailto:librarian@ust.ac.uk">librarian@ust.ac.uk</a>
Complaints and Appeals		
Emily Scally (Complaints Officer)	<i>Academic Registrar</i> <i>Mon-Fri 09.00-17.00</i>	<a href="mailto:academicregistrar@ust.ac.uk">academicregistrar@ust.ac.uk</a>
Admissions		
Fiona Dent	<i>Admission Enquiries Officer</i>	<a href="mailto:admissionenquiries@ust.ac.uk">admissionenquiries@ust.ac.uk</a>

Telephone: +44(0)1656 645 411 and follow the menu or hold for Reception.

## ***Student welfare and support services***

### ***UST Email***

At the commencement of your studies you will be given a UST email address and a password. You can access your account via the website: <https://www.ust.ac.uk/students/student-portal>. All new students are given introductory IT information - during their first Union Conference or via email. This will show you how to access your email account. It is your responsibility to check your UST emails at least once during each working day. This is the means by which UST will communicate with you on important matters relating to your studies.

### ***The Union Cloud – Learning Management System***

You will receive a username and password to access UST's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) learning management system, the Union Cloud. Resources and essential information for programmes and individual modules are provided on the Cloud, as well as messages to give you information, updates and reminders. This is an important means of communicating with you, especially as you study at a distance from the campus. It is your responsibility to log into the Cloud at least once a week during term-time, to check for programme information. Failure to access the Cloud will not be accepted as an excuse for failing to meet deadlines or any other requirements of the programme which have been explained via the Cloud.

### ***How to Contact Us***

**By telephone:** The Union Campus number is 01656 645411; you can leave a message, or ask to be put through to a lecturer. But email is best for contacting lecturers – they won't be in their rooms all the time.

**By e-mail:** addresses are in the UST email address list - log into your UST email account and use the search facility to find the person you want.

**By the Cloud:** information on various matters concerning your study is put on the Information for all Undergraduate Programmes.

**In person:** ask the Programmes Administrator, Indira Freeman, if you are not sure where to where to find the information you need, or how to contact someone.

### ***Council Tax and Student Confirmation Letters***

You may request a letter from the Academic Registrar as evidence that you are studying at UST. Please note, Council Tax reductions are normally only granted to full-time students. It may take up to 5 working days for your letter to be prepared. It can be collected from Reception, or posted, once it is ready.

### ***Changing Your Contact Details***

You must inform the Academic Registrar as soon as possible of any changes in your contact details (preferably in advance), so that our records can be kept up-to-date. Failure to do so may result in your not receiving important information such as results, degree certificates, etc. If you are a visa student, this is an essential requirement.

A Change of Address form is available on the Home page of the Union Cloud.

### *Support for students with disabilities and additional learning support needs*

UST welcomes students with disabilities and additional learning support needs. If you have a disability or learning support need, please contact the Academic Registrar. Please also refer to UST's Disability Policy and Learning Support Policy on the Union Cloud and on the [website](#). A copy will also be found in the UST library. If you are a new student with such needs, you should contact UST prior to the commencement of the academic year for an initial discussion of how we can support you. To implement support, we may request further information, such as a medical letter or Educational Psychologist's report. If you are not sure what information you need to provide, please contact us to discuss this further. The Academic Registrar will discuss the forms of support which are available. These could include: extra time, use of a laptop or a separate room in exams, permission to record lectures, notes in advance of lectures, accessible exam and classrooms or any other reasonable adjustments.

### *English Language Support for International Students – Campus Students*

International students have the option of attending English classes at Bridgend College (a local Further / Higher Education college). Most students would have to pay for these classes, although there are some exceptions.

Ongoing language support is available on campus, by private arrangement with one of our fully-qualified ESOL teachers.

### *Data Protection*

The Data Protection Officer is Emily Scally. If you wish to have access to your records at the School or have any questions about the information we hold you should contact Emily at [academicregistrar@ust.ac.uk](mailto:academicregistrar@ust.ac.uk). You will find the UST Data Protection Policy on the Union Cloud and our [website](#).

### *Health and Safety – Campus Students*

If you are not resident on campus, you should sign the Attendance Book at Reception each day, for fire safety purposes.

In an emergency, contact the Site Services Department, or any member of staff. A First Aid kit can be found in the kitchen or reception. The emergency services can be contacted from any internal phone by dialling 9-999.

In the event of a fire, sound any of the fire alarms. Evacuate the building. The emergency meeting point is in the main car park.

Every Monday morning the fire alarms are tested – you will hear short bursts of the alarm bell. There is no need to evacuate, unless the alarm changes to continuous.

Each Learning Community will have its own Health and Safety Guidance and Emergency Procedures which you should familiarise yourself with.

### *In the case of a pandemic*

If the campus has to be closed due to a pandemic or other serious, contagious illness, information will be communicated to you via your Union email addresses by the Provost, the Academic Registrar or the Tutor for Wellbeing and Community.

If you are studying on campus during an intensive week, and begin to have symptoms, you must return to your accommodation immediately and contact either the Academic Registrar or your Personal Tutor to inform us. We will liaise with you regarding the shared areas of accommodation, but if at all possible, you should return home, however you must also follow government guidance and/or regulations. If your condition is serious either the Academic Registrar or the Tutor for Wellbeing and Community will contact your emergency contact.

If you are studying in a learning community that has to be closed temporarily, we have systems in place for you to continue your studies online. If this is the case, your lead mentor and the Academic Registrar will contact you to explain how this will work.

If you become ill and are unable to study, there are processes available to you (extenuating circumstances etc.). Information can be found on the Cloud.

Throughout a pandemic, support is available to you from the Tutor for Wellbeing and Community.

Upon the reopening of campus, a thorough risk assessment will be provided and government rules and/or guidance will need to be adhered to.

### *Personal Tutors*

Each student is allocated a Personal Tutor, who is responsible for the pastoral care of the students in their group. You will be notified of your Personal Tutor at the commencement of your studies. A list of Personal Tutor groups is displayed on the Academic Registry's Notice Board at Union Campus and on the Union Cloud. You are free to approach your tutor at any mutually convenient time. You may contact your Personal Tutor by email, in person or by telephone. You may also approach other members of staff, if this is felt desirable.

For students in Learning Communities, your first resort for issues of pastoral support is with the Lead Mentor. You can also contact your Personal Tutor, who can offer further support, or the Programme Leader.

### *Key people to contact about Safeguarding, Prevent or Welfare issues*

UST is concerned for the welfare and safety of all students, staff, volunteers and visitors. There are designated people who you should approach if you feel you, or someone else, is vulnerable or at risk.

### *Student Welfare*

UST has a Tutor for Wellbeing and Community, Sheila Stephen. Sheila is a lecturer at UST and also an accredited counsellor. She can be contacted by email at [sstephen@ust.ac.uk](mailto:sstephen@ust.ac.uk) or by telephone on 01656 766011. Contacting her *by email* guarantees confidentiality, as her answer phone at home is shared. She is willing to provide and coordinate support in relation to any matters of welfare, and to direct you, and relevant staff members, to additional sources of help and advice where appropriate.

### **Designated Safeguarding Officer**

This is the person to contact if you are concerned about a child or vulnerable person (including yourself) being at risk in any way. [See UST Safeguarding Policy on the UST website [www.ust.ac.uk](http://www.ust.ac.uk)]

**SHEILA STEPHEN** – [sstephen@ust.ac.uk](mailto:sstephen@ust.ac.uk)

01656 766011

Available: 9am - 10pm, Monday to Friday

### **Prevent Officer**

This is the person to contact if you are concerned about someone (including yourself) being drawn into or holding extremist views, or who may be vulnerable to being drawn into violent or terrorist activity. [See the UST Prevent Policy on the UST website [www.ust.ac.uk](http://www.ust.ac.uk)]

EMILY SCALLY - [academicregistrar@ust.ac.uk](mailto:academicregistrar@ust.ac.uk)

Tel: 01656 641977

Available: 9am - 5pm, Monday to Friday

### *Student Facilities*

#### **IT Facilities on Campus**

UST has a super-fast broadband connection. You are expected to supply your own laptop / PC for your studies. Spare laptop computers are available when on campus for the preparation of essays, and for research via the internet. You may borrow these, for single day use only, from the Librarian. Please note, laptops must be returned by 17.00, or else fines will be imposed.

Printing is regulated by a Print Server, and can be accessed via the website:

<https://www.ust.ac.uk/students/student-portal>. Printing credit must be purchased in advance from the ICT and Network Administrator, Librarian or Finance and HR Officer.

The cost for printing / photocopying is 6p per A4 sheet black and white, and 17p per A4 sheet colour. You can request photocopying from the Librarian.

### *Careers and Placements Advice*

The Pastoral Dean and the Provost are able to give advice about potential opportunities. UST is regularly contacted by churches and Christian organisations offering employment opportunities. These are displayed on the UST notice board, and can be shared on request with students in Learning Communities. You may also wish to discuss your future ministry with the Lead Mentor in your Learning Community. Please see the general information page on the cloud <http://cloud.ust.ac.uk/cloud/course/view.php?id=255>

### *Financial*

#### **Tuition and Accommodation Fees**

Click here for details: <https://www.ust.ac.uk/students/fees-funding>.

You will be invoiced for fees and other charges at the beginning of the academic year. Prompt and full payment of fees is required by all students.

The consequences of failure to pay fees are set out in the UST Student Contract Agreement on the UST website and the Union Cloud. These include withholding from you any award or qualification which would otherwise have been made to you, or refusal to allow you to proceed to any further stage of the Programme, until all outstanding amounts have been paid, or arrangements for payment have been established which the School considers satisfactory. Also, if you are a non-EU student, visa renewals will not be supported, and the Home Office will be informed that you are not meeting the requirements of the programme if fees are not paid.

If you are required to repeat any module you will be charged for each module at the appropriate rate.

### ***Scholarships & Awards***

Phoebe Scholarships and Luke 5 Scholarships are currently being offered; please see the website for details. Occasionally, Union is also able to offer bursary help in particular cases, depending upon the availability of funds. If you find yourself in financial difficulty, please get in touch with the Finance Officer as we may be able to help in various ways.

### ***Payment of Fees***

Invoices for your fees and other charges will usually be sent to you by email, with details about the timing of instalments if applicable. Please arrange for payments to be made as promptly as possible once you receive the invoice. You can pay by bank transfer or by debit/credit card. Other payment methods can be accommodated by contacting the Finance Officer – for example you may have a church which wishes to pay by cheque.

Further information on the payment of fees, and payment methods, is available here:

<https://www.ust.ac.uk/students/fees-funding>

Special note about international fee payments: please note that, regardless of the payment method, you remain responsible for the full amount of invoiced fees, and must therefore make due allowance for exchange rates and bank costs (both sending and receiving) when calculating the payment.

### ***Programme Changes, Module Changes and Refunds***

Please consider carefully the financial implications of any changes you make.

### ***Programme Withdrawal***

Withdrawing from the programme means that you wish to discontinue studying the entire programme. In the event that you withdraw from the programme after the start of the academic year, normally no refund will be given, and you will continue to be responsible for the full amount of your annual programme fees.

## **Module Changes**

No changes to module choices will be taken into account unless a Module Choice Change Form has been completed, approved by the Programme Leader, and submitted by you to the Academic Administrative Assistant (the form is available on the Union Cloud).

Module choice changes will only be allowed before the teaching or supervision has started for the modules concerned (or in the case of distance-learning, before access has been granted to the learning material on the Union Cloud).

Only in exceptional circumstances will module choice changes be allowed after the teaching or supervision has begun (or in the case of distance-learning, after access has been granted to the learning material on the Union Cloud).

## **Module Withdrawal**

Withdrawing from a module means that you wish to discontinue studying that module in the current year. If you choose to discontinue a module at any time during the current year, no refund will be given.

Only in exceptional circumstances will the School consider waiving this refund policy, and only then at the sole discretion of the Provost.

## *Student Participation*

UST strongly values student participation in its institutional life. There are student representatives on the Academic Board, Quality Assurance Committee and on every Programme Committee. These meet regularly, and student representatives are invited to participate.

Students are also invited to evaluate modules by submitting Module Feedback Forms, and Student Feedback is regularly collected. At the end of each year, all students are invited to submit a Programme Feedback Form. Feedback summaries and details of committee meetings are published on the Union Cloud

## *Student Committee*

A small student-elected committee is responsible for liaising with UST staff, and ensuring students' welfare needs are adequately met. Please contact the leaders of this committee if you wish to raise any student-related matters.

### **Student President**

Samantha Hodgins [samanthahodgins@ust.ac.uk](mailto:samanthahodgins@ust.ac.uk)

## **Regulations, Policies and Procedures**

The UST Master of Theology Programme operates under the *Regulations for Validated Awards of the Open University* – these are on the Union Cloud and the [website](#). For other matters, consult the UST policies and procedures on the Union Cloud and the [website](#). Students should familiarise themselves with this in case issues or situations arise where they need help. Particular attention should be given to the following policies.

## *Complaints*

UST wants all students to have a positive experience in studying with us. We will make every endeavour to support you in your chosen programme of study. However, if something goes wrong and you are unhappy with your experience, we have a *Complaints Policy* found on the Union Cloud and the UST [website](#) which you should refer to. You have the right to make an informal and / or formal complaint or request a formal review / appeal. Please follow the procedure set out in the handbook.

## *Academic Appeals*

Academic Appeals are possible on a limited number of grounds. These are set out in the *Regulations for Validated Awards of the Open University* on the Union Cloud and the [website](#). See also the Academic Appeals Policy on the Union Cloud and the [website](#).

## *Academic Misconduct*

This is defined as any improper activity of behaviour by a student which may give that student, or another student, an unpermitted academic advantage in a summative assessment. Penalties levied for academic misconduct will be in line with the AMBeR Tariff. Details are given in the *Regulations for Validated Awards of the Open University*. See also UST's Academic Misconduct Policy on the Union Cloud and the [website](#).

## *Extenuating Circumstances*

UST recognises that students may suffer from a sudden illness, or other serious and unforeseen event or set of circumstances, which adversely affects their ability to complete an assessment, or the results they obtain for an assessment. In such cases students should refer to the Extenuating Circumstances Policy on the Union Cloud and the [website](#).

## *Attendance*

UST staff and students comprise a community of learners who commit to work, fellowship and worship together. Student attendance is expected at all UST scheduled events arranged for them, including timetabled classes and learning sessions associated with each programme they are registered for, together with supervision meetings, workshops, pastoral groups, acts of corporate worship, student meetings and meetings of the UST community. UST expects students studying in Learning Communities to attend all scheduled learning sessions and other activities associated with each programme of learning they are registered for. UST believes that students should be active participants in their learning experiences, and must take responsibility for achieving their potential through successful completion of each stage of their studies.

For details of attendance requirements see UST's Attendance Policy on the Union Cloud and the [website](#).

## *Equal Opportunities*

UST is committed to being a fair and just community of learning and scholarship. We desire to be an inclusive community, where people are treated with dignity and respect, where inequalities are challenged, and where we anticipate, and respond positively to, different needs and circumstances, so that everyone can achieve their potential. This policy is founded on the Christian teaching that each person is made in the image of God and is of equal value and worth in God's sight. UST's mission and values require it to



create a positive environment in which all staff and students, present and prospective, are respected, are provided with development and progression opportunities, and can make the most of their abilities.

UST provides an environment where staff and students from different cultural, linguistic, ethnic, educational and social backgrounds are welcomed for the rich and valuable diversity they bring. We recognise that different people bring different perspectives, ideas, knowledge and culture, and that this difference, when nurtured appropriately, brings great strength.

For details of UST's Equal Opportunities Policy on the Union Cloud and the [website](#).

### ***For independent advice on student matters***

National Union of Students  
Nelson Mandela House  
461 Holloway Road  
LONDON  
N7 6LJ  
Tel: 020 7272 8900  
Email: [nusuk@nus.org.uk](mailto:nusuk@nus.org.uk)

### ***Validating body***

Union School of Theology is approved by the Open University as an appropriate organisation to offer higher education programmes leading to Open University Validated Awards.

## Part II: Programme information

### *Master of Theology in Scripture and Theology Course: Factual Page*

#### Institutions Responsible for the Programme of Study

Teaching Institution: Union School of Theology

Awarding Institution: The Open University

Responsible Department: Higher Education

Programme Leader: Dustin Bengé

#### Name of Programme Awards to be conferred

MTh Scripture and Theology

#### Titles of Programmes to appear on award certificates

*As above*

#### Approval Status

This programme in Theology has been developed and will be delivered by Union School of Theology. The programme has been validated through a process of peer review, by The Open University, as being of an appropriate standard and quality to lead to the Open University validated award of *Master of Theology*.

Validation is approved for a period of five years; commencing September 2018.

Duration of Programme and mode of study: 1 year full-time on campus, up to 4 years part-time on campus, 2 years part-time, distance-learning study in Learning Communities,

#### Credit value and notional learning time for the Programme

Credit value: 180 credits (UK); 90 ECTS

1,800 learning hours

This is a modular programme leading to a *Master of Theology*. It may be studied full- or part-time, on campus or by distance-learning. The central features of the programme are:

on campus

- a full-time course over 1 year, or part-time over up to 4 years on campus
- teaching by lecture, seminar, class discussions and activities, self-study, academic writing in intensive teaching weeks
- interaction with other students
- interaction with module lecturers face-to-face and via email and Union Cloud forums.

in Learning Communities

- a part-time, distance-learning course over 2 years
- a framework of supporting distance-learning study units including lecture videos, notes and reading material in Learning Communities
- participation in Learning Communities, including discussion facilitated by a mentor
- interaction with an academic lecturer

### Site where the Programme is to be delivered:

On campus

The Programme is delivered on the Union Campus, at Bryntirion House. You will study with other students, encourage one another and have access to the Union Library. If you are full-time, you will typically need to study around 44 hours a week, including lectures, self-study, and preparing for assessment, throughout the academic year. Most modules are taught in intensive teaching weeks, with the intervening weeks being used to prepare coursework assessments.

### **In Learning Communities**

The Programme is delivered by distance-learning in church-centred Learning Communities. These operate at the regional level, and provide enhanced support for you, as a distance learner. Through the Learning Community, you can meet other students, encourage one another and access local theological resources. You will typically need to study around 20-25 hours a week, including your Learning Community study days, throughout the academic year.

### **Change of Learning Community**

Only in exceptional circumstances will a change of Learning Community be considered, for example, because of relocation due to employment. An application would need to be made to the Programme Leader, and permission granted before a change could take place.

Please note, that a particular Learning Community may not be operating in any given year, or may not offer the same modules. Thus a change may not be possible, or it may be necessary to extend your studies for an additional year to enable you to complete all the necessary modules.

The academic year starts with the Union Conference, held on Union Campus. Campus and Learning Community students are warmly invited to come along.

Learning Community will begin the academic year with induction and orientation sessions, to equip you with the appropriate study skills. It may also be a good opportunity for you to get to know each other, enjoy spiritual fellowship and familiarise yourselves with Union's Vision and Values.

You will also receive an email from UST, asking you to enrol for the modules you are taking this year.

### ***Programme rationale***

The UST MTh programme is designed as an accessible and flexible way of undertaking theological training for those who already have a theology degree and want to prepare further for Christian ministry, or enhance their existing ministry.

At Masters level students at Union School of Theology will be taken to the forefront of the academic study of Evangelical and Reformed theology, and will have opportunities to show how knowledge can be expanded through research. You will undertake systematic study of advanced scholarship in the theological disciplines, and be required to demonstrate critical awareness of issues and problems current in the field. The appropriate techniques for different aspects of theological study at Masters level will be used, with a range of critiques of them. The complexities of a range of theological perspectives (including the Evangelical and Reformed) will be studied systematically and creatively, and there should be elements of originality in the way you address issues and problems. Study at this level is increasingly self-directed and involves independent learning, and self-critical awareness, demonstrated in the dissertation. It equips

students especially for the complex and unpredictable dimensions of Christian vocational ministry context where sound judgement, personal responsibility and initiative are required.

On campus

- Students on residential campus visits benefit from a close-knit community during their visits to UST, with daily worship, daily social interaction between students and other staff, and daily opportunities to interact with lecturers.
- Delivery by intensive teaching weeks allows part-time students to continue in ministry in their own locality, whilst developing advanced theological knowledge and skill

In Learning Communities

- Students work with others, and so avoid the isolation of a purely distance-learning programme.
- Delivery is in locations near to where students live and work.
- High quality videos allow teaching from leading theologians and practitioners to be utilised alongside further reading, class exercises, discussion points, and study materials delivered via the Union Cloud.
- Most students are already in, or preparing for, ministry, and so continuity between theology and practise is maintained.
- All teaching and assessment is delivered by the Academic Lecturers of UST. The role of the local Lead Mentor is to facilitate this learning, and provide a link to the teaching faculty at UST. Lead Mentors do not have a teaching role.
- The programme is designed to be studied part-time. Students need to make around 20-25 hours per week available for attending the Learning Community and personal study.

## ***Programme Aims***

### *Aims*

The programme has the following general educational and specific aims:

1. to provide an advanced theological education in biblical studies, theological studies and ministerial practice within a Reformed evangelical framework through both intensive and flexible and distributed learning.
2. to equip students with skills to deal critically and creatively with complex issues in theology and ministry practice.
3. to develop a range of key skills such as communication, formulating and evaluating a coherent argument, appropriate use of data and evidence, drawing implications for various contemporary contexts.

### *Essential elements of the course:*

- A flexible MTh which may be studied full- or part-time. The intensive teaching weeks on campus and part-time study in Learning Communities give access to this qualification to many who would not be able to attend full-time programmes.
- The location of the programme within a context of mutual spiritual and pastoral support within a Learning Community or on campus.
- A curriculum which meets the requirements for theological study.
- Assessment through written examinations and coursework.



## PATHWAYS THROUGH THE UNION SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY MTh

PART ONE: TAUGHT MODULES (20 credits each)		
Biblical Studies	Theological and Historical Studies	Ministerial practice
<b>TH7823 Biblical Theology</b> <i>Cor Bennema</i>	<b>TH7802 The Doctrine of Scripture</b> <b>COMPULSORY</b> <i>Bob Letham</i>	<b>TH7827 The Spiritual Formation of the Leader</b> <i>Mike Reeves</i>
<b>TH7812 Advanced Exegesis of Biblical Texts in English</b> <i>Antony Billington</i>	<b>TH7825 The Theology of Early Church Fathers</b> <i>Mike Reeves</i>	<b>TH7828 Contemporary Church Issues for Evangelicalism</b> <i>John Stevens</i>
<b>TH7842 Greek Exegesis</b> <i>Steffen Jenkins</i>	<b>TH7826 The History and Theology of Evangelicalism</b> <i>Richard Turnbull</i>	<b>TH7817 Popular Culture and the Christian Worldview</b> <i>Ted Turnau</i>
<b>TH7843 Advanced Greek Reading</b> <i>Steffen Jenkins</i>	<b>TH7806 Creation and the Environment</b> <i>Gareth Williams</i>	<b>TH7831 Preachers and their Preaching</b> <i>Ian Shaw</i>
<b>TH7841 Hebrew Texts</b> <i>Stephen Moore</i>	<b>TH7844 Soteriology in the Reformation</b> <i>Mike Reeves &amp; Dan Hames</i>	<b>TH7845 Advanced Pastoral Theology</b> <i>Ian Shaw</i>
<b>TH7830 Research Methods COMPULSORY</b>		
<b>PART TWO: TH7818 DISSERTATION (60 credits) COMPULSORY</b>		

Students take seven modules, six taught modules, plus the dissertation, totalling 180 credits to complete the programme.

They must take at least one module from each strand.

However, students may not take more than two of: Greek Exegesis; Advanced Greek Reading; Hebrew Texts; Advanced Exegesis of Biblical Texts in English.

Part-time students should take Research Methods in the final year of Part I, as this module is foundational for the Part II dissertation, by providing the necessary skills, training and information.

If the MTh is studied in Learning Communities it can only be completed on a part-time basis, normally completing in two years. This entails studying three modules in each academic year. The Research

Methods module is taken in the second year, as preparation for the dissertation. This is followed by the dissertation over the summer months of the second year. However, students may take up to one year to complete the dissertation.

It is necessary to complete Part I (the taught modules) in order to progress to Part II (the dissertation).

**Please note:** these modules are not available to study in Learning Communities:

TH7806 Creation and the Environment

TH7812 Advanced Exegesis of Biblical Texts in English

TH7817 Popular Culture and the Christian Worldview

TH7831 Preachers and their Preaching.

TH7844 Soteriology in the Reformation

TH7845 Advanced Pastoral Theology

In addition, the language modules

TH7841 Hebrew Texts, TH7842 Greek Exegesis, TH7843 Advanced Greek Reading

are not available in Learning Communities. Any student interested in these modules should contact the School direct to discuss possible options.

### *Overview of Modules*

Full details of each module can be found in the module specifications - available on the Union Cloud, on the Module Specification page at:

<http://cloud.ust.ac.uk/cloud/course/view.php?id=135>

The maximum time allowed for completing the whole MTh programme, on a part-time basis, is four years.

### *Pathways through the MTh Programme on campus*

The compulsory modules are taught each year, but the diet of other modules available varies from year to year. At least one module from the Biblical Studies strand, and one from the Ministerial Practice strand is offered each year. In general UST aims to offer each optional module at least every three years to allow part-time students to access it at some point during their programme. However, availability may depend on sufficient numbers of students electing to take a module.

### *For Full-time students*

The diet of the six modules that will run is normally made available to students in January/February prior to the next academic year. This allows them maximum opportunity to choose the modules they wish to take.

### *For Part-time Students*

If you are a part-time student you should consider how to plan your studies, in order to complete the programme within the permitted timescales, and to access the modules you intend to take when they become available. The whole programme must be completed within a maximum of four years.

#### **Compulsory modules**

The Doctrine of Scripture - you may take this module in any year of your studies prior to starting your dissertation.

Research Methods - you will take this module in the last year of your taught modules and before you start the dissertation. This module is foundational in providing the skills, training and information which you will use, as you progress to the dissertation.

Dissertation – this is always your final module, after completing six taught modules.

#### **Optional modules**

You will need to choose at least one optional module from the Biblical Studies strand and one module from the Ministerial Practice strand.

Various permutations are possible, and you may need to do fewer modules in one year and more in another depending on the year(s) in which one or more of your choice of modules is delivered.

#### **Some Examples of Module Choice Patterns**

The following examples of module choice patterns are illustrative:

##### **Option 1**

Year 1 – Doctrine of Scripture (20 credits) plus two other modules (20 credits + 20 credits)

Year 2 – Research Methods (20 credits) plus two other modules (20 credits + 20 credits)

Year 3 – The Dissertation (60 credits)

Year 1 & 2 & 3 = 180 credits

##### **Option 2**

Year 1 – Two modules (20 credits + 20 credits)

Year 2 - Doctrine of Scripture (20 credits) plus one other module (20 credits)

Year 3 - Research Methods plus one other module (20 credits + 20 credits)

Year 4 – The Dissertation



Year 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 = 180 credits

### ***Assessment methods***

There are two elements in the assessment strategy for this programme:

- Coursework
- Examinations

#### *Coursework*

Coursework includes written assignments, such as essays and reflective writing, and videos of practice.

#### *Examinations*

Examinations provide opportunities for assessing the clarity and depth of the students' knowledge and understanding, and their ability to explain ideas accurately and succinctly. They differ from coursework in that they are primarily concerned with checking the 'readiness' of the students' knowledge and understanding of a subject, the extent to which there is an established understanding of key concepts, and a critical awareness of relevant theoretical frameworks such that students can make use of these to address particular issues, whereas the assignment provide more of a synthetic account of the breadth of a module and its learning outcomes.

*Programme Assessment*

<b>Module No</b>	<b>Module Name</b>	<b>Coursework</b>	<b>Weighting</b>	<b>Exam</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
TH7802	The Doctrine of Scripture	5,000w essay	100%		
TH7806	Creation and the Environment	5,000w essay	100%		
TH7812	Advanced Exegesis of Biblical Texts in English	5,000w essay	100%		
TH7842	Greek Exegesis	2,500w essay	40%	2 hr exam	60%
TH7841	Hebrew Texts	2,500w essay	50%	2.5hr exam	50%
TH7817	Popular Culture and the Christian Worldview	3,000w case study + 2,000w case study	50% x 2		
TH7818	Dissertation	15,000w dissertation	100%		
TH7823	Biblical Theology	5,000w essay	100%		
TH7825	The Theology of the Early Church Fathers	5,000w essay	100%		
TH7826	The History and Theology of Evangelicalism	5,000w essay	100%		
TH7827	The Spiritual Formation of the Leader	5,000w essay	100%		
TH7828	Contemporary Church Issues of Evangelicalism	5,000w essay	100%		
TH7830	Research Methods	2,500w essay +2,500w dissertation proposal	50% x 2		
TH7831	Preachers and their Preaching	5,000w case study	100%		
TH7843	Advanced Greek Reading	2,500w essay + translation project	50% x 2		
TH7844	Soteriology in the Reformation	5,000 word essay	100%		
Th7845	Advanced Pastoral Theology	5,000 word case study	100%		

### ***Academic assessment***

The purpose of assessment is to enable students to demonstrate that they have fulfilled the objectives of the programme of study and achieved the standard required for the award.

There are two forms of assessment.

### ***Formative***

The main purpose of formative assessment is to provide you with feedback on your progress, so that strengths and weaknesses can be identified, and appropriate action taken. Formative assessment is mainly personal and focused on your development.

### ***Summative***

The main purposes of summative assessment are to enable you to demonstrate your achievement of the programme's objectives and to ensure a fair judgement on your level of attainment. Summative assessment is applied simultaneously across a peer group of students and is programme-focused.

The School's assessment regulations are set by the Open University, our validator.

	<b>Distinction 70%+</b> <i>Evidence of...</i>	<b>Merit 60-69%</b> <i>Evidence of...</i>	<b>Pass 50-59%</b> <i>Evidence of...</i>	<b>Fail 40-49%</b> <i>Evidence of...</i>	<b>Fail 30-39%</b> <i>Evidence of...</i>	<b>Fail 0-29%</b> <i>Evidence of...</i>
KNOWLEDGE & UNDERSTANDING	<p><i>as 60-69% &amp;...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>excellent coverage</b> of topic, offering <b>sophisticated</b> or <b>original insights</b>;</li> <li>- an <b>advanced ability</b> to handle, select and synthesise disparate material.</li> </ul>	<p><i>as 50-59% &amp;...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>very good</b> breadth and depth of <b>coverage</b> of topic; <b>accurate and relevant</b> knowledge;</li> <li>- an <b>awareness of problems and insights</b> much of which is at, or <b>informed by, the forefront of the discipline/practice.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>adequate</b> coverage and <b>knowledge</b>, but <b>may lack sustained depth or detail.</b></li> <li>- <b>adequate</b> identification, selection and <b>understanding</b> of key issues;</li> <li>- <b>some awareness</b> of current problems and/or new insights;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>less than adequate</b> coverage and knowledge;</li> <li>- <b>inadequate understanding of key issues</b>;</li> <li>- <b>limited</b> conceptual awareness;</li> <li>- response <b>does not adequately address the range of learning outcomes.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>poor knowledge and coverage</b> with <b>limited understanding.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>lack of relevant material</b>, in terms of coverage and/or knowledge.</li> </ul>
CRITICAL ANALYSIS & INTERPRETATION	<p><i>as 60-69% &amp;...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>original</b>, imaginative, insightful, or creative <b>interpretations</b>;</li> <li>- <b>systematic analysis</b> and evaluation;</li> <li>- a <b>cogent argument</b> with <b>awareness of limitations.</b></li> </ul>	<p><i>as 50-59% &amp;...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a <b>critical and nuanced engagement with scholarship</b> at the forefront of the discipline;</li> <li>- <b>devising and sustaining a coherent argument</b> supported by evidence.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>some ability</b> to deal with <b>complex issues</b> both systematically and creatively, and make <b>appropriate</b> judgements;</li> <li>- <b>adequate, possibly basic analysis and critical evaluation</b> of topic in light of current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline;</li> <li>- <b>some ability</b> to devise a coherent <b>argument</b> with supporting evidence.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>limited ability</b> to deal with <b>complex issues</b> and to make sound judgements;</li> <li>- <b>limited critical evaluation</b> of topic in light of current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline;</li> <li>- <b>limited</b> ability to devise a coherent <b>argument.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a <b>lack of ability</b> to deal with <b>complex issues</b>;</li> <li>- <b>most judgements not well substantiated</b>;</li> <li>- <b>inadequate evaluation</b> of topic in light of research and scholarship;</li> <li>- <b>Weak</b> ability to construct an <b>argument.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>analysis is very inadequate</b> deriving from <b>limited sources</b> and/or too limited to a <b>single perspective</b>;</li> <li>- self-contradiction or confusion.</li> </ul>

READING & USE OF OTHER APPROPRIATE RESOURCES	<p><i>as 60-69% &amp;...</i></p> <p>- <b>extensive research</b> that demonstrates a <b>comprehensive evaluation</b> of scholarship in <b>breadth and depth</b>.</p>	<p><i>as 50-59% &amp;...</i></p> <p>- a <b>considerable breadth or depth of research</b> demonstrating a critical grasp of current literature.</p>	<p>- <b>an adequate range of reading, beyond core and basic texts</b> and possibly including <b>some reference to current research</b> at the leading edge of the discipline.</p>	<p>- <b>limited range of reading</b>, tending to be dominated by <b>core and basic texts</b>, with <b>inadequate reference to current research</b> in the discipline.</p>	<p>- the range of <b>reading is inadequate</b>.</p>	<p>- <b>inappropriate or inadequate resourcing</b> and/or sources insufficiently acknowledged.</p>
	<p><b>Distinction 70%+</b></p> <p><i>Evidence of...</i></p>	<p><b>Merit 60-69%</b></p> <p><i>Evidence of...</i></p>	<p><b>Pass 50-59%</b></p> <p><i>Evidence of...</i></p>	<p><b>Fail 40-49%</b></p> <p><i>Evidence of...</i></p>	<p><b>Fail 30-39%</b></p> <p><i>Evidence of...</i></p>	<p><b>Fail 0-29%</b></p> <p><i>Evidence of...</i></p>
COMMUNICATIVE SKILLS & PRESENTATION	<p><i>as 60-69% &amp;...</i></p> <p>- <b>authoritative, cogent, articulate communication</b>.</p> <p>- at the upper end, the academic form may match that expected in published work.</p>	<p><i>as 50-59% &amp;...</i></p> <p>- <b>persuasive communication skills</b>.</p>	<p>- <b>adequate expression</b>, observing academic form;</p> <p>- in written work, predominantly accurate spelling and grammar;</p> <p>- conclusions communicated satisfactorily.</p>	<p>- <b>inadequate expression</b>, failures in observing academic form;</p> <p>- Consistent errors in written work in e.g. spelling and grammar;</p> <p>- <b>inadequate communication</b> of conclusions.</p>	<p>- <b>significant errors</b> in academic form e.g. spelling and grammar, in written work.</p>	<p>- <b>very poor observation of academic conventions</b>;</p> <p>- <b>major deficiencies</b> in spelling and grammar.</p>
Where relevant to LOs: METHODOLOGY	<p><i>as 60-69% &amp;...</i></p> <p>- <b>sophisticated use and evaluation of possibilities and limitations of the methodologies</b></p>	<p><i>as 50-59% &amp;...</i></p> <p>- a <b>critical use and interpretation of methodologies</b> and methods</p>	<p>- <b>adequate understanding of methodologies and methods</b> of research and enquiry;</p> <p>- <b>adequate</b> planning of research work in scale and scope so that appropriate evidence can be gathered.</p>	<p>- <b>inadequate understanding of methodologies and methods</b> of research &amp; enquiry;</p> <p>- <b>inadequate</b> (conceptual) planning of research work.</p>	<p>- <b>Ineffective application of methodologies</b>.</p>	<p>- <b>very inadequate understanding of methodologies</b>;</p> <p>- <b>inappropriate or erroneous</b> use and application of methodologies.</p>
Where relevant to LOs:	<p><i>as 60-69% &amp;...</i></p> <p>- <b>very sophisticated critical self-evaluation</b>;</p>	<p><i>as 50-59% &amp;...</i></p> <p>- <b>competent self-evaluation</b>.</p>	<p>- <b>adequate self-evaluation</b> for advancing independent learning;</p>	<p>- <b>inadequate capacity for self-evaluation and for advancing independent learning</b>.</p>	<p>- <b>weak or insufficient self-evaluation</b>;</p>	<p>- <b>very weak or non-existent self-evaluation</b>, self-direction and/or decision-making.</p>

<p>PERSONAL &amp;/OR PROFESSIONAL APPLICATION &amp; EVALUATION.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- new insights informing practical situations;</li> <li>- a <b>nuanced</b> deployment of appropriate paradigms of reflexivity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- innovative decision-making in complex situations;</li> <li>- a <b>critical</b> engagement with conventions in reflexivity and reflective practice.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>reasonable</b> problem-solving, and planning and implementing of tasks appropriate to a professional context;</li> <li>- <b>adequate</b> ability to develop new skills appropriate to a professional context.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>inadequate</b> problem-solving, and planning and implementing of tasks appropriate to a professional context;</li> <li>- <b>basic</b> ability to develop new skills appropriate to a professional context.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>minimal</b> initiative and personal or professional responsibility.</li> </ul>	
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## ***Submission of coursework for assessment***

All student work submitted for assessment, is passed to the Academic Lecturer for marking, and returned to the student by the agreed return date. The deadline for submission is 12 noon on the day of submission.

## ***Extenuating Circumstances***

Details of the grounds on which a student may be eligible for consideration for a different assessment date or form are found in UST's Extenuating Circumstances Policy found on the Union Cloud and the [website](#):

## ***Late Submission***

The importance of meeting deadlines for submitting assignments cannot be over-emphasised. The discipline of doing so is an essential part of all academic courses, and is a particularly important aspect of non-residential learning programmes, in that the effort to meet deadlines assists the student in developing regular patterns of study. It must also be said that once a student begins to miss deadlines and falls behind with work, it becomes increasingly difficult to do justice to the programme; assignments are inevitably rushed and produced in a hurried fashion, in the attempt to make up for lost time. Once one assignment is late, the next tends to be as well, and it is difficult to return to a steady pattern of study.

For these reasons, and also to ensure the smooth running and administration of the course, it is important that there are clear guidelines concerning assignment deadlines.

As a general rule, students must do their utmost to submit all their work by the assignment deadlines.

Where coursework is submitted late and there are no accepted extenuating circumstances it will be penalised in line with the following tariff:

- Submission within 6 working days: a 10% reduction deducted from the overall marked score for each working day late, down to the 40% pass mark and no further.
- Submission that is late by 7 or more working days: submission refused, mark of 0.

A working day is defined as a 24-hour period starting at 12 noon and submission after the deadline will be assumed to be the next working day.

Students who fail to submit work for assessments or attend examinations shall be deemed to have failed the assessments components concerned and will be marked as 0.

## ***Extensions***

If you wish to apply for an extension to a coursework submission deadline you must complete the extension form (available on the Cloud) and email or hand it to the Programme Leader or Academic Administrative Assistant. You must make your request **before** the deadline and provide supporting evidence of Extenuating Circumstances you wish to be taken into consideration before the deadline or within 7 calendar days, whichever is sooner. Your request must be approved by the Programme Leader, and each application will be considered on its merits.

Requests for extension will be treated sympathetically in cases where you can demonstrate acceptable grounds for your application, and provide documentary evidence, where applicable.

Acceptable grounds for extenuating circumstances are set out in the UST Extenuating Circumstances policy found on the Union Cloud and the [website](#), and include unexpected events which affect your ability to study and which could not have been planned for in advance. These include emergencies, such as illness, personal loss, accidents affecting health and traumatic experiences.

Applications for extension on the grounds of foreseeable personal events, such as holidays or weddings, will not be accepted.

You are expected to plan ahead to take account of foreseeable factors, and not to take on demands, either of study or work, which result in an inability to complete assessments by given deadlines. This means that you should be realistic from the outset about what you can achieve, and make choices regarding your study and other commitments which reflect the demands you foresee.

### *Word Counts and Penalties*

It is permissible to exceed the stated word limit by up to 10%, without penalty. If the word count exceeds the limit by more than 10%, then penalties will be applied. Assignments which exceed these limits are liable to be penalised by the deduction of 5 marks per 1000 words excess, e.g. if a 1,000-word assignment, 5 marks off for 1,101-2,100 words, 10 marks off for 2,101-3,100 words, and so on.

Neither footnotes nor bibliographies are included in the word count. However, you must beware trying to use footnotes to avoid a word limit penalty. It should be possible to read an essay without reading the footnotes, and not lose any of the main argument. Markers will apply a penalty of up to 5 marks if footnotes have been used inappropriately.

### ***Submission of Work by a Student with Learning Support Needs***

If a student with Learning Support needs is unable to be assessed by the methods specified in the assessment regulations, the School will examine all possibilities of alternative forms of assessment and examination.

The Extenuating Circumstances Committee and the Board of Examiners will judge the appropriateness of the proposed alternative assessment methods, bearing in mind the learning outcomes of the programme and the need to assess the student on equal terms with other students.

If special arrangements cannot be made, the reasons for this will be communicated in writing to the student. Failure to implement any special arrangements formally agreed would be considered as grounds for an appeal.

### *Grounds and Procedure for Appeals*

Academic Appeals may only be made on the basis of the grounds identified in UST's Academic Appeals Policy. You are invited to consult the document for full details on the Union Cloud and the [website](#)





## Academic Calendar 2020/21

You will be provided with a timetable of assessment at the start of the academic year.

Week	Monday	Programmes	Other Information
	03-Aug-20		
	10-Aug-20	Reassessment week	
	17-Aug-20		
	24-Aug-20		
	31-Aug-20	Masters week 1 (campus students)	
0	07-Sep-20	Masters week 2 (campus students) 10-13 Sep - Union Conference	01 Sep – Chester Reassessment MAB 03 Sep – 2pm OU Board of Examiners meeting
1	14-Sep-20	Masters 1 <sup>st</sup> Language Teaching Week (campus students)	BA Committee
2	21-Sep-20		GDip Committee
3	28-Sep-20		All staff meeting MTh Committee
4	05-Oct-20		Research Seminar Research Committee
5	12-Oct-20		QAC
6	19-Oct-20		[Faculty workshop]
7	26-Oct-20		Academic Board
8	02-Nov-20		BA Committee
9	09-Nov-20		GDip Committee
10	16-Nov-20		All Staff Meeting; MTh Committee
11	23-Nov-20	Semester 1 teaching ends	Research Seminar Research Committee
12	30-Nov-20	Revision Week	Faculty Lunch & workshop QAC
13	07-Dec-20	Exam Week	
14	14-Dec-19		Academic board
15	21-Dec-20	21 Dec to 03 Jan Campus closed	
16	28-Dec-20		
17	04-Jan-21		Staff retreat day
18	11-Jan-21	Masters Week 3	
19	18-Jan-21	Masters Week 4	Faculty and Staff Annual Reviews
20	25-Jan-21	Masters 2 <sup>nd</sup> Language Teaching Week	BA Committee
21	01-Feb-21	Semester 2 starts	GDip Committee
22	08-Feb-21		All staff meeting MTh Committee
23	15-Feb-21		Research seminar Research Committee
24	22-Feb-21		QAC
25	01-Mar-21		Faculty Lunch & workshop
26	08-Mar-21		Academic board
27	15-Mar-21	Masters Week 5	BA Committee
28	22-Mar-21	Masters Week 6	GDip Committee
29	29-Mar-21	Masters 3 <sup>rd</sup> Language Teaching Week	

<b>Week</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Programmes</b>	<b>Other Information</b>
30	05-Apr-21	2-5 April Easter Weekend Closure	All Staff Meeting MTh Committee
31	12-Apr-21		Research Seminar Research Committee
32	19-Apr-21		QAC
33	26-Apr-21	Last week of Teaching	Faculty Lunch & workshop
34	03-May-21	Revision Week	Academic Board
35	10-May-21	Exam Week 1	
36	17-May-21	Exam Week 2	
37	24-May-21	Personal Development Track Summer School	
38	31-May-21		
39	07 Jun-21		OU Board TBC
40	14 Jun-21		
41	21-Jun-21		24th – Open University Board of Examiners
42	28 Jun-21		
43	05 Jul-21		10 Jul – Open University Programmes Graduation Ceremony
44	12 July-21		
45	19 July 21		
46	26-Jul-21		
47	02-Aug-21		
48	09-Aug-21	OU Reassessment Week	

## *The Academic Year*

### **Semesters**

The academic year is divided into two semesters: Semester 1 runs from September to December, and Semester 2 from late January to May. The intervening weeks are used as an inter-semester break. All modules are year-long.

### **Examination Weeks**

The last week of Semester 1 and the last two weeks of Semester 2 are used for examinations (see the Academic Year Calendar on the previous page for exact dates). You must take note of the dates of the examination weeks and make sure you are free in those periods. This is important, as you may need to take time off work, and it is not possible to rearrange exam dates for students who have other commitments on those dates. We aim to publish the exact dates and times of exams two months prior to the relevant examination week, though this timetable may be provisional and subject to change.

### ***Reassessment Week***

Reassessment exams take place at the end of the summer following the academic year. If you have failed an exam, you must be available during Reassessment Week, as exams cannot be rescheduled. In 2020/2021, Reassessment Week is Monday 9<sup>th</sup> to Friday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

## Part III: Study Guidance

### *Induction*

Students will receive study skills induction at the beginning of their first module's intensive teaching week.

Students in learning communities will receive study skills induction from the Lead Mentor of their Learning Community, as they embark on their studies.

### *Academic support*

General academic support is provided by the Programme Leader throughout the programme of study. Specialist academic support is provided by Academic Lecturers responsible for individual modules and areas of specialisation. Teaching content is delivered by UST faculty and external lecturers. This is by means of lectures and seminars, learning materials on the Union Cloud, reading lists, and your own study.

Specific questions about module content delivered in lectures or on the Cloud, the skills you are expected to demonstrate, and the assessments, should be addressed to the module's Academic Lecturer.

In Learning Communities, Lead Mentors are there to facilitate your learning, but their role is not to teach. Instead, the teaching content is delivered by UST faculty and external lecturers. This is by means of the videoed lectures, learning materials on the Union Cloud, reading lists, and your own study. The Lead Mentor is there to facilitate your use of this material, and the discussion questions set by the Lecturer.

Specific questions about the teaching content delivered in the videos or on the Cloud, the skills you are expected to demonstrate, and the assessments, should be addressed directly to the module's Academic Lecturer at UST, not to the Lead Mentor. The module Academic lecturer will normally have one question and answer session by VOIP with your Learning Community during the period you are studying the module they teach.

### *Student Support*

There is a variety of features of the course designed to assist the student.

- Student Handbook(s)
- Lectures and seminars
- Accompanying lecture notes for some modules
- A Personal Tutor
- Tutorial support
- Library and Learning Resources tutorials
- Support from a full-time librarian
- A library of more than 30,000 books and a wide range of periodicals covering the key areas of theology

There is a variety of features of the course designed particularly to assist the distance-learning student.

- Learning Community study day each week of the semester, for peer support

- Lecture videos
- Accompanying lecture notes for most videos
- Tutorial support via Union Cloud forums, phone and email

The support and encouragement of others is vital for the success of your studies. The success of the whole programme will depend upon your being on campus, to participate in formal teaching time, in extra-curricular activities, and interacting with other students. Thus, lectures, academic lecturer advice and feedback, personal tutor support, the library, and the ongoing collaborative work between students, are all seen as linking elements of the system. We regard the mix of students as an important strength of each programme and, beginning with the Union Conference, the programme aims to provide an opportunity for identifying common understandings and approaches.

In Learning Communities, attendance at study days is an essential element of your studies and full attendance is expected. For details see the Attendance Policy on the Union Cloud and the [website](#)

## **General study skills**

### *Study Skills Advice*

If you find you cannot make an effective start on essay writing, please alert us to your concerns. The first person to consult is usually the module lecturer. At any stage you should feel free to contact your Personal Tutor, for a discussion of your progress, your skills and comprehension and any academic concerns. They can give you advice on improving your writing skills.

There are Study Skills resources on the Union Cloud, on the Information for all Masters students page.

### *Assessment*

You will be assessed in all the modules that you study. The programme team has designed a range of assessment methods to test your learning and development as you progress through the programme. See the Programme Assessment chart above.

## **The Union Cloud**

Each module has a Cloud page, where you can access the Module Specification, which sets out how the module is to be assessed. Some modules use different methods of assessment from the conventional methods of 'essay' and 'exam' you are perhaps familiar with. If you are unsure of the assessment requirements, please contact the module leader.

## **Learning Outcomes**

The purpose of assessment is to show that you have met the learning outcomes of that module. The learning outcomes are set out in the Module Specification.

## ***Writing your assignment***

All coursework and exam answers (except biblical language translations) must be written in English. Submissions cannot be accepted in any other language.

## ***Submission Format***

You must submit assessments in **Word, PowerPoint or PDF** format.

The file must be no larger than **10MB**.

Include your **Assessment Number** in the header or footer. (**NOT your name**)

Include your **word count** at the end of the assignment.

Set up your page for **A4** paper in **portrait** style.

Margins must be of **20mm**.

The font size must be a minimum of **point 12 Times New Roman (or equivalent)** for the body of the assessment and footnotes must be 2 points smaller.

Line spacing in the body of the assessment must be a minimum of **1.5 lines**.

**Number the pages** consecutively.

## ***Union School of Theology Style Sheet***

The School uses the SBL author-title system of referencing. Information regarding this system will be given to new students at your induction session, and is available on the Union Cloud. The Style Sheet, which is also available on the Union Cloud, summarises the style requirements for footnote and bibliography references, and provides a number of worked examples. You will need to use the SBL system in all your coursework.

## ***Submitting coursework***

Submission deadlines for all coursework for your programme are published at the start of the academic year, on the Cloud, in the Assessment section of the Information for all Undergraduate Programmes and Information for all Taught Masters pages. Individual assignment deadlines are also given on the coursework paper(s) for each module.

Coursework must be submitted by **12 NOON** on the deadline day. Assignments must be submitted electronically via the Cloud, by clicking on the Turnitin Activity for that assignment (unless alternative submission instructions are supplied). Step by step instructions on electronic submission via Turnitin are provided in the "Submitting Work Online" booklet, available on the Cloud.



## **Coursework coversheets**

For coursework which cannot be submitted via Turnitin, such as sermon recordings, your submission must be accompanied by a completed coversheet. This is available on the relevant module page on the Union Cloud.

The information to put on the coversheet

- your assessment number (**NOT your name**)
- the module number and module title
- the assignment title
- the submission deadline (and extension date if applicable)
- your Academic Malpractice declaration.

## *Examinations*

Past exam question papers may be available for revision purposes. These are on the Union Cloud module pages. The purpose of exams is to facilitate a review of the module content, or a range of elements of it, and to test the skills of ordering and manipulating information in the context of working to a strict time limit. Exams require disciplined periods of revision and practice at writing timed essays. Many students find collaborative working an incentive to such work.

If you are taking exams you should note the dates of exam weeks on the Academic Year Calendar, and keep those periods free. It is not possible to rearrange exam dates for students who have made other commitments on those dates. We aim to publish the exact day and time of each exam about two months prior to the relevant exam weeks, on the Cloud and on Union Campus notice boards.

Except where prevented by illness, or other sufficient cause, if you fail to present yourself for an exam at the time and place indicated in the published timetable you will be deemed to have failed in that part of the assessment. Misreading the timetable will not be considered a 'sufficient cause'.

Exam regulations will also be posted on the Union Cloud, and on Union Campus notice boards, before exam weeks.

## **Where to take exams**

We encourage students to attend Union Campus to sit exams; however, if necessary, you may be examined at other centres. Wherever possible, assessments should be organised via the British Council. In cases where this is not possible, it may be possible for you to take exams at an institution of higher education. Any costs incurred must be borne by you – as a rough guide, some centres charge £50-100 for this service. Please note that, if you choose this option, we will need details, in order to make arrangements for you to sit your exams elsewhere, at least 6 weeks in advance of your first exam. You will need to provide us with full contact details (name, address, email and phone) for the person who is arranging invigilation for you. It will be your responsibility to find a suitable location. Your exams must take place on the same date, and at exactly the same time, as exams on campus.

Students in Learning Communities may wish to take exams as a group; please liaise with your Lead Mentor to find a suitable location or means of travelling to the Campus.



If circumstances require (e.g. a pandemic), exams will be run online. If this becomes necessary, specific instructions will be sent to you.

### *Multiple Submission of Material*

In exceptional instances, you may discover that you have been presented with a coursework or exam question which is very similar to one for which you have previously submitted an assessment at UST. In such instances, it is not acceptable to resubmit work which substantially overlaps in content with work already submitted for assessment. Such instances will not be common, but may occasionally happen, for example, where different modules include some similar content.

You should note that it is also unacceptable to submit, for the purposes of coursework assessment, a piece of work which has previously been submitted for assessment for a programme of studies completed at another institution, or which substantially relies on such a previously submitted assessment.

### *Anonymous Marking*

All summative work is marked anonymously, except where it is not possible to conceal the identity of an assignment author, for example, recordings. All students are given an Assessment Number at the beginning of their studies, and this number should be entered on all your assessments – coursework and exams.

### *Marking*

Coursework and exams are marked in accordance with set marking criteria. These criteria descriptions are available on the Cloud, in the Assessment section of the Information for all Undergraduate Programmes and Information for all Taught Masters pages.

1. Assessments are, first, marked by the module's lecturer.
2. Then the marking is moderated by another UST lecturer.
3. The provisional mark is recorded.
4. You can access your marked coursework, via Turnitin, directly from the cloud. Marking is normally done within four weeks during the semester, although it may be up to seven weeks at other times. Your results and comments will be available online.
5. A representative sample of marked work is then sent for external examination.
6. Marks are confirmed at an Examination Board, and then confirmed results are recorded.
7. You will receive your confirmed results by letter, via your UST email account.

Exam scripts will not be returned, but you may approach your module lecturers, to receive feedback on exams.

The module pass mark for postgraduate study is 50%. **In line with our assessment regulations, a re-sit in any element within a module will result in the mark for that assessment component being capped at the basic pass mark.**

### *External Examiners*

External Examiners perform an essential role in the management and enhancement of academic quality and standards. External Examiners assist the college in the maintenance of its academic standards and in ensuring that these standards are comparable with those in the Higher Education sector across the country. All HE programmes will have External Examiners who will moderate the assessment process.

External Examiners will be determined by the type of programme and the requirements of any professional or validating bodies. UST nominates External Examiners to the validating university whose role is approve and appoint them.

An External Examiner, appointed by the validating university, will review the marks and the marking procedures of each Programme.

The External Examiners for your programme is:

Dr John Dennis, London School of Theology

### *Academic Appeals Procedure*

All assessment decisions are subject to the rigorous quality assurance processes including second marking and scrutiny by External Examiners. If you feel that a procedural irregularity has occurred, there is a process by which you may lodge an appeal. Please note that academic judgement cannot be questioned.

For details of UST's Academic Appeals Procedure see the Union Cloud and the [website](#).

### ***Comments, compliments and complaints***

UST is committed to creating an open and transparent environment in which students are encouraged to provide both complimentary and critical feedback. We learn from both kinds of feedback.

The School's Complaints Policy found on the Union Cloud and the [website](#) provides detailed advice about how to provide feedback on any aspects of your programme of study.

### **Resolving complaints**

The School appreciates that even with the best of intentions, not everything always goes well or is satisfactory.

If you have an issue, or are unhappy with something connected to your programme, you should take the matter up with your Personal Tutor or the Programme Leader for your programme.

If you are not able to resolve your complaint with the programme team, or if you consider your complaint to be of a serious nature, you should follow the UST Complaints Policy for Non-Academic Issues, or if it concerns an academic issue the UST Academic Appeals Policy on the Union Cloud and the [website](#). This explains the process for different types of complaints, and also details of external bodies you can appeal to if you do not feel the complaint has been satisfactorily resolved.

## Part IV: Library Resources and internet

UST Librarian

Donald Mitchell [librarian@ust.ac.uk](mailto:librarian@ust.ac.uk)

Library Address: Union School of Theology, Bryntirion House, BRIDGEND CF31 4DX.

Telephone: 01656 641989

All students have membership of the UST library. The library is stocked, with about 30,000 theological and related books. Specialist collections contain the library of the theologian David Wright, material on the Church Father, Tertullian, and the personal library of Elwyn Davies, a major figure in the 20<sup>th</sup> century Welsh Student Revival and in the Evangelical Movement of Wales. There is also a range of Welsh language materials, mainly historic, and currently partially catalogued.

The library has a computerised catalogue and lending system (Soutron) which is available online (<https://ust.soutron.net/Portal/Default/en-GB/Search/SimpleSearch>). We currently subscribe to over 150 periodicals, some of which are available electronically. Electronic resources also include E-books, links to a wide variety of biblical and related resources and the major ATLA, ProQuest Religion and EEBO (Early English Books Online) databases.

Study facilities are available, including desks with laptop connections and wireless internet access.

Key points:

- The UST librarian can help locate specialist libraries
- On-line access to the Library Catalogues through the Union Cloud

### **Finding information in the Library**

The books are arranged by the Dewey Decimal Classification which is the scheme used by most public and many university libraries.

### ***Scanning and Photocopying***

The library contains a photocopier for the use of students. However, the importance of not contravening the Copyright Act must be stressed. According to the Act, if a work is in copyright, it is not permissible to photocopy more than any one article from any issue of a periodical, nor more than one chapter or 10% of a book, whichever is the shorter.

The length of time for which copyright exists has been extended. The rights of an author in his work extend to 70 years after his death or 70 years from the time the work was first made available to the public. The rights of a publisher over the typographical arrangement of a work last for 25 years after its first publication.

If you are unable to find a book or journal locally, a scan or photocopy of an extract from a book or journal in the library's stock can be requested from the UST librarian. Scans are supplied digitally, however if a hardcopy is required a copying cost and postage will be charged.

### ***Learning Community Library***

If you are studying in a Learning Community, each Learning Community is expected to provide a small library of core texts supplementary texts to support your learning needs. Please familiarise yourself with the books it contains and the procedure for borrowing books. You will need to find other resources to support your learning, and the UST librarian will try and assist you with this.

Your Learning Community will provide a suitable learning area in which students can work, meet and receive mentoring support. Lead Mentors are also strongly advised to help you find supplementary theological libraries locally, possibly in other institutions that would offer a group rate for access.

Content for each module is delivered via the Union Cloud. This is mostly in the form of video, audio and text material.

Students working in Learning Communities are expected to buy the core key texts on the module specifications reading lists for their own use.

You are welcome to make a study visit to the Union Campus in Bridgend to use library resources. This may be helpful if you are working on a number of assignments or revising for an exam. UST can provide inexpensive accommodation on campus for a study visit. Library facilities are also available during the annual Union Conference.

### ***Other Libraries***

You may find a suitable library in your home area for use during vacations. To establish that you are a bona fide student, you can request a supporting letter from the Academic Registrar, or the Librarian. Find out how to use their computer or card catalogues. Identify which journals might be relevant. Ask if there are printed indices to these. The British Theological and Philosophical Libraries (ABTAPL) may help you locate libraries near you. The Association also publishes The ABTAPL Union List of Periodicals, Swindon, 2000. This gives an alphabetical list of journals and their locations. You can consult it on the web at <https://abtapl.wordpress.com/>.

Academic libraries may allow you to use their stock for research and private study, although an increasing number will charge for regular use of their resources. Some will allow you to borrow books on payment of an annual fee. The catalogues of many academic libraries are available online. A comprehensive listing of the online catalogues (OPACs) of UK university libraries is available at the HERO site (Higher Education & Research Opportunities in the UK, [http://www.hero.ac.uk/reference\\_resources/online\\_library\\_catalogues3792.cfm](http://www.hero.ac.uk/reference_resources/online_library_catalogues3792.cfm)).

Bear in mind that no automated catalogue will be a comprehensive record of a university's holdings. There may be significant materials still only recorded on the in-house card catalogues of some institutions. Before travelling to a library, don't forget to check its access policy and opening hours, which will probably appear on its web page.

Public libraries that do not have the book you want may be able to borrow it from libraries that do. This is termed Inter-Library Loan. You should ask your local public library about this service, the extent of the scheme (regional, national, including British Library), the time it will take to receive resources, and the charges they apply.

### ***Loans from other Libraries***

The Library may be able to undertake loans/photocopies of material it does not hold from other libraries, but this is not a free service, however, if material is provided digitally there will be no charges.

### ***Electronic Resources: Internet Access***

UST subscribes to a number of online databases which can be accessed from the home computers of students, using UST passwords and Open Athens login protocols. These include the full text ATLA Serials, ProQuest Religion, and EEBO database. Some of the journals to UST subscribes also have placed their contents online, and are available through the library catalogue, or the e-Journals page of the Union Digital Library.

### ***Bookshops***

Students are expected to buy some books for themselves, and lecturers recommend a minimum list of essential texts.

## **PART V: Programme Outline**

### ***Introduction***

This document describes the Union School of Theology Master of Theology in Scripture and Theology using the protocols required by the UK National Qualifications Framework as defined in the publication *QAA guidelines for preparing programme specifications* (2006).

The UST MTh in Theology is a CATS<sup>1</sup> point programme of study comprising 180 CATS (90 ECTS) points at level 7.

### ***Distinctive features of the programme structure***

The course is studied on campus over one year full-time, and over a maximum of four years part-time. The programme consists of a collection of modules divided into three strands across each level: Biblical Studies; Theological & Historical Studies; Ministerial and Missional Practice.

By distance-learning, the course is studied over two years with three taught modules being taken in year one and three in year two. The dissertation module is completed during the following summer.

There are two compulsory modules, one in the Theological and Historical Studies strand, The Doctrine of Scripture plus Research Methods. The latter module prepares students for the dissertation.

### ***Programme regulations***

#### *Admission*

- Admission to the programme follows the general principles and regulations of the School for the admission of students. Normally, applicants should have a lower second class honours degree in theology or a similar discipline. Applicants may also be admitted who have achieved an average of 50% in UST's Graduate Diploma in Theology.
- Applications are welcomed from candidates both in the UK and from outside the UK, who can travel to the campus or one of the UST Master's Learning Communities.
- Candidates are asked to complete an application form and provide certificated evidence of their previous degree.

#### *Award*

- The Master of Theology is awarded with a classification of distinction, merit or pass.

### ***Completion of the Study programme***

- The length of the Master of Theology is 1 year full-time, and students will normally be expected to complete the programme during this period.
- In other cases, all studies must be completed within 4 years of admission to the course.

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<sup>1</sup> Credit Accumulation and Transfer Scheme.

### *Assessment and Progression*

- Students must pass each *module*
- Each assessment component in any subject must be completed.
- Student progression is monitored at least twice a year by the Programme Leader. Where expected progress is not being achieved, contact is made with the student by the Programme Leader.

### *Compensation/resitting/repeating*

- Students receiving a fail grade for an assessment *may* re-submit/re-sit but *must* do so *only if this is necessary for the passing of the module*.
- Where a student fails a module, the following may apply in the first instance:
  1. Resit – a second attempt of an assessment component within a module, following failure at first attempt.
  2. Compensation – the award of credit by the Board of Examiners for a failed module(s) on account of good performance in other modules at the same credit level where the learning outcomes have been met.
  3. Retake – a second attempt of all assessment components within a module following failure at the first or resit attempt. Retake of the failed component may require the student to participate in classes to prepare them for the second attempt. This will be confirmed at the Board of Examiners.

You must pay a reassessment fee of £100 per module, up to a maximum of £600 per student per year; this fee must be paid by the coursework deadline or, for exams, 1st August 2020. There is no fee for deferred assessment or where extenuating circumstances have been accepted.

Reassessment for postgraduate modules occurs after the relevant Examination Board. Students being reassessed in coursework will be sent a new assessment paper shortly after the release of the results. All reassessment exams will take place during Reassessment Week in August.

A student is entitled to one re-submission/re-sit of any failed assessment. The regulations on re-sitting an assessment are set out in the *Regulations for Validated Awards of the Open University*, on the Union Cloud and the [website](#). Where there are Extenuating Circumstances the Board of Examiners has discretion to decide whether a further assessment opportunity shall be permitted, unless prohibited by the rules of the programme.



## Programme specification

### 1. Overview/ factual information

<b>Programme/award title(s)</b>	MTh Scripture and Theology
<b>Teaching Institution</b>	Union School of Theology
<b>Awarding Institution</b>	The Open University (OU)
<b>Date of first OU validation</b>	
<b>Date of latest OU (re)validation</b>	N/A
<b>Next revalidation</b>	
<b>Credit points for the award</b>	180
<b>UCAS Code</b>	N/A
<b>Programme start date</b>	September 2018
<b>Underpinning QAA subject benchmark(s)</b>	Theology and Religious Studies
<b>Other external and internal reference points used to inform programme outcomes</b>	N/A
<b>Professional/statutory recognition</b>	
<b>Mode(s) of Study (PT, FT, DL, Mix of DL &amp; Face-to-Face)</b>	FT face-to-face; PT face-to-face and DL.
<b>Duration of the programme for each mode of study</b>	FT – 1 year, PT – 4 years.
<b>Dual accreditation (if applicable)</b>	N/A
<b>Date of production/revision of this specification</b>	

**Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.**

**More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content, and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in student module guide(s) and the student handbook.**

**The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be verified by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.**

#### 2.1 Educational aims and objectives

The specific educational aims of the programme are:

- to provide an advanced theological education in biblical studies, theological studies and ministerial practice within a Reformed evangelical framework through both intensive and flexible and distributed learning.
- to equip students with skills to deal critically and creatively with complex issues in theology and ministry practice.
- to develop a range of key skills such as communication, formulating and evaluating a coherent argument, appropriate use of data and evidence, drawing implications for various contemporary contexts.

### *2.2 Relationship to other programmes and awards*

(Where the award is part of a hierarchy of awards/programmes, this section describes the articulation between them, opportunities for progression upon completion of the programme, and arrangements for bridging modules or induction)

N/A

### *2.3 For Foundation Degrees, please list where the 60 credit work-related learning takes place*

N/A

### *2.4 List of all exit awards*

PG Diploma Theology

Master of Theology

### 3. Programme structure and learning outcomes

Programme Structure - LEVEL 7					
Compulsory modules	Credit points	Optional modules	Credit points	Is module compensatable?	Semester runs in
PART I					
Research Methods	20	Creation and the Environment	20	Y	1 & 2
The Doctrine of Scripture	20	Biblical Theology	20	Y	1 & 2
		Popular Culture and the Christian Worldview	20	Y	1 & 2
		The Theology of the Early Church Fathers			
		The History and Theology of Evangelicalism	20	Y	1 & 2
		The Spiritual Formation of the Leader	20	Y	1 & 2
		Contemporary Church Issues for Evangelicalism			
		Preachers and their Preaching	20	Y	1 & 2
		Greek Exegesis	20	Y	1 & 2
		Advanced Greek Reading			
		Hebrew Texts	20	Y	1 & 2
		Advanced Exegesis of Biblical Texts in English	20	Y	1 & 2
			20	Y	1 & 2
			20	Y	1 & 2
PART II					
Dissertation	60				

Intended learning outcomes at Level 7 are listed below:

Learning Outcomes – LEVEL 7	
3A. Knowledge and understanding	
Learning outcomes:	Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods

<b>Learning Outcomes – LEVEL 7</b>	
<b>3A. Knowledge and understanding</b>	
<p>By the end of this programme, students should be able to:</p> <p>1.1. demonstrate systematic knowledge and critical understanding of the source texts of Christianity and concepts, problems and issues in the core disciplines of the programme, namely biblical studies, theological studies and ministerial practice, with reference to advanced scholarship at the forefront of the discipline, with an appreciation of uncertainty and ambiguity.</p> <p>1.2. demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of a range of research methods, theories, techniques and practices relevant to the subject of study.</p>	<p><b>Face-to-Face Delivery</b> The following learning and teaching methods are employed - lecture, seminar, class discussions and activities, self-study. 'homework' exercises.</p> <p><b>DL Delivery</b> The IT-based course management system (Moodle) typically forms the platform on which teaching is delivered to distance learners by means of teaching videos, and other teaching and learning resources, such as summary notes, readings, PowerPoint slides. Students also have direct access to module lecturers by a variety of means, including email, use of an online discussion forum, a Skype session with the module lecturer each semester. However, for some modules teaching is by lectures delivered via Skype, or similar. Students meet on a weekly basis in learning communities where they receive learning support from mentors and also benefit from peer support.</p> <p><b>Face-to-Face &amp; DL Assessment</b> Both formative and summative assessment is employed. Formative assessment includes group activities, discussion, lecturer feedback, homework exercises. Summative assessment includes written examinations, and written assignments of various forms.</p>

<b>3B. Cognitive skills</b>	
<b>Learning outcomes:</b>	<b>Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods</b>
<p>By the end of this programme, students should be able to:</p> <p>2.1. demonstrate the ability to use, evaluate and critique appropriate methods of study, including linguistic, historical, philosophical, hermeneutical, practical and pastoral approaches, in order to extend their knowledge and understanding.</p> <p>2.2 analyse ideas, concepts and interpretations, and where appropriate, to propose alternative interpretations.</p>	<p><b>Face-to-Face Delivery</b> The following learning and teaching methods are employed - lecture, seminar, class discussions and activities, self-study. 'homework' exercises.</p> <p><b>DL Delivery</b> The IT-based course management system (Moodle) typically forms the platform on which teaching is delivered to distance learners by means of teaching videos, and other teaching and learning resources, such as summary notes, readings, PowerPoint slides. Students also have direct access to module lecturers by a variety of means,</p>

<b>3B. Cognitive skills</b>	
	<p>including email, use of an online discussion forum, a Skype session with the module lecturer each semester. However, for some modules teaching is by lectures delivered via Skype, or similar. Students meet on a weekly basis in learning communities where they receive learning support from mentors and also benefit from peer support.</p> <p><b>Face-to-Face &amp; DL Assessment</b> Both formative and summative assessment is employed. Formative assessment includes group activities, discussion, lecturer feedback, homework exercises. Summative assessment includes written examinations and written assignments of various forms.</p>

<b>3C. Practical and professional skills</b>	
<b>Learning outcomes:</b>	<b>Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods</b>
<p>By the end of this programme, students should be able to:</p> <p>3.1 demonstrate originality in the application of learning and concepts to issues in biblical theological, historical and applied studies, and where appropriate, to suggest implications for ministry contexts.</p> <p>3.2 improve their own research-based learning, demonstrating an ability to exercise initiative and resolve problems.</p>	<p><b>Face-to-Face Delivery</b> The following learning and teaching methods are employed - lecture, seminar, class discussions and activities, self-study. 'homework' exercises.</p> <p><b>DL Delivery</b> The IT-based course management system (Moodle) typically forms the platform on which teaching is delivered to distance learners by means of teaching videos, and other teaching and learning resources, such as summary notes, readings, PowerPoint slides. Students also have direct access to module lecturers by a variety of means, including email, use of an online discussion forum, a Skype session with the module lecturer each semester. However, for some modules teaching is by lectures delivered via Skype, or similar. Students meet on a weekly basis in learning communities where they receive learning support from mentors and also benefit from peer support.</p> <p><b>Face-to-Face &amp; DL Assessment</b> Both formative and summative assessment is employed. Formative assessment includes group activities, discussion, lecturer feedback, homework exercises.</p>

3C. Practical and professional skills	
	Summative assessment includes written examinations and written assignments of various forms.

3D. Key/transferrable skills	
Learning outcomes:	Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods
<p>By the end of this programme, students should be able to:</p> <p>4.1 use information technology, computer and literary skills for data capture and communicate accurately information, concepts, arguments and theories in a variety of formats both to specialist and non-specialist audiences.</p> <p>4.2 develop assignments and major projects which demonstrate self-direction and the ability to engage in independent enquiry.</p>	<p><b>Face-to-Face Delivery</b> The following learning and teaching methods are employed - lecture, seminar, class discussions and activities, self-study. 'homework' exercises.</p> <p><b>DL Delivery</b> The IT-based course management system (Moodle) typically forms the platform on which teaching is delivered to distance learners by means of teaching videos, and other teaching and learning resources, such as summary notes, readings, PowerPoint slides. Students also have direct access to module lecturers by a variety of means, including email, use of an online discussion forum, a Skype session with the module lecturer each semester. However, for some modules teaching is by lectures delivered via Skype, or similar. Students meet on a weekly basis in learning communities where they receive learning support from mentors and also benefit from peer support.</p> <p><b>Face-to-Face &amp; DL Assessment</b> Both formative and summative assessment is employed. Formative assessment includes group activities, discussion, lecturer feedback, homework exercises. Summative assessment includes written examinations and written assignments of various forms.</p>

Students who successfully complete 120 credits receive the Postgraduate Diploma in Scripture and Theology

Students who successfully complete 180 credits receive the MTh in Scripture and Theology

The Learning Outcomes (above) apply equally to both awards.

#### 4. Distinctive features of the programme structure

- Where applicable, this section provides details on distinctive features such as:
- where in the structure above a professional/placement year fits in and how it may affect progression
- any restrictions regarding the availability of elective modules
- where in the programme structure students must make a choice of pathway/route

The programme consists of a collection of modules divided into three strands: Biblical Studies; Theological & Historical Studies; Ministerial Practice

##### Biblical Studies

Biblical Theology  
Greek Exegesis  
Advanced Greek Reading  
Hebrew Texts  
Advanced Exegesis of Biblical Texts in English

##### Theological and Historical Studies

The Doctrine of Scripture  
Creation and the Environment  
The Theology of the Early Church Fathers  
The History and Theology of Evangelicalism

##### Ministerial Practice

Popular Culture and the Christian Worldview  
The Spiritual Formation of the Leader  
Contemporary Church Issues for Evangelicalism  
Preachers and their Preaching

Students must take at least one module from each strand.

However, students may not take more than two of: Greek Exegesis; Advanced Greek Reading; Hebrew Texts; Advanced Exegesis of Biblical Texts in English.

The Doctrine of Scripture is a compulsory module as is Research Methods. (The latter does not belong to any of the strands noted above.) Part-time students normally take Research Methods in the final year of Part I as this module is foundational for the Part II dissertation, by providing the necessary skills, training and information.

It is necessary to complete Part I in order to progress to Part II.

### *5. Support for students and their learning*

Students have access to the School's VLE which has teaching and learning material, generic induction resources, including Study Skills material, as well as information on administrative matters. Students have access both to a campus library as well as the School digital library with its varied resources. Students are assigned to a member of teaching staff who acts as a personal tutor, providing academic and pastoral support. Students also have access to a Welfare Officer. For DL students, Lead Mentors provide learning support. All students are provided with a Programme handbook which contains, amongst other things, information about the generic support services provided by the School.

### *6. Criteria for admission*

Normally, applicants should have a lower second class honours degree in theology or a similar discipline. Applicants may also be admitted who have achieved an average of 50% in UST's Graduate Diploma in Theology.

Where applicants do not meet the normal entry criteria, admission may be permitted if the applicant's experience and/or qualifications can reasonably be expected to suggest that the applicant will succeed on the programme. The School's RP(E)L processes will be used for gathering and assessing evidence.

On application, claims for credit in relation to prior certificated or experiential learning may be considered for the purposes of counting towards the completion of the award. Details are given in the School's RP(E)L policy.

An *Academic* IELTS score (or equivalent) from a UKVI approved SELTS Centre of 6.5 is required where the applicant is not a native English Speaker (according to the UKVI list of approved English speaking countries), with a minimum of 6.0 in all categories.

IELTS scores will only be accepted within two years of the test result. Exemptions from English language requirements are normally only granted to those who have either been resident in the UK for a long period of time or who have obtained their academic entry qualifications through the medium of English from a recognised institution in a majority English speaking country.

The admission process requires the completion of an application form and attendance at an interview.

### *7. Language of study*

English

### *8. Information about non-OU standard assessment regulations (including PSRB requirements)*

N/A



*9. Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning.*

- Student feedback is collected annually for all modules delivered. This is considered by the lecturer, who, in consultation with the Programme Leader, responds and, as appropriate, identifies and implements changes, in light of feedback.
- A student-administered survey is conducted annually, covering a variety of issues, including aspects related teaching and learning. The results are discussed in the Programme Committee.
- All new teaching staff receive induction and mentoring in their first year. All new, salaried, full-time teaching staff are required, and other staff are encouraged, to seek HEA Fellowship.
- Good practice in both teaching and mentoring is actively disseminated.
- Staff development workshops are held on campus each year, and, where appropriate, staff are given access to external learning opportunities for staff development, such as conferences and training courses.
- All teaching staff are subject to peer observation: full-time staff annually, part-time teaching staff at least every two years.
- Academic provision is reviewed annually by the Programme Committee, including data emerging from various quality processes relating to teaching and learning, such as module feedback, external examiner reports, peer observation of teaching staff, and teaching videos.
- Learning Communities are observed regularly by experienced UST teaching staff, to ensure the quality of the learning experience and to identify good practice.

*10. Changes made to the programme since last (re)validation*

N/A

## Annexe 1 - Curriculum map

This table indicates which study units assume responsibility for delivering (shaded) and assessing (ü) particular programme learning outcomes.

Level	Study module/unit	A1.1	A1.2	B2.1	B2.2	C3.1	C3.2	D4.1	D4.2
7	Research Methods	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
	The Doctrine of Scripture	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
	Creation and the Environment	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
	Biblical Theology	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
	Popular Culture and the Christian Worldview	P		P	P	P		P	P
	The Theology of the Early Church Fathers	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
	The History and Theology of Evangelicalism	P	P	P	P	P		P	
	The Spiritual Formation of the Leader	P		P	P	P	P	P	P
	Contemporary Church Issues for Evangelicalism	P		P	P	P		P	P
	Greek Exegesis	P		P	P	P	P	P	P
	Advanced Greek Reading	P		P	P	P		P	P
	Hebrew Texts	P		P	P		P	P	P
	Advanced Exegesis of Biblical Texts in English	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
	Preachers and Preaching	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
	Dissertation	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P