BA Hons in Theology Programme Specification

1. Overview/ factual information

Programme/award title(s)	BA Hons in Theology
Teaching Institution	
Awarding Institution	The Open University (OU)
Date of first OU validation	2018
Date of latest OU (re)validation	2023
Next revalidation	2027-28
Credit points for the award	360 (180 ECTS credits)
UCAS Code	N/A
Programme start date	September 2023
Underpinning QAA subject benchmark(s)	Theology and Religious Studies
Other external and internal reference points used to inform programme outcomes	N/A
Professional/statutory recognition	N/A
Mode(s) of Study (PT, FT, DL, Mix of DL & Face-to-Face)	Campus (face to face): FT and PT Online: blended mode of DL and face-to-face intensives
Duration of the programme for each mode of study	FT – 3 years, PT – 6 years
Dual accreditation (if applicable)	N/A
Date of production/revision of this specification	July 2022

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 module outlines 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:

- 1. to provide a broad-based theological education in the core disciplines of biblical studies, theological studies and ministry and mission practice within a Reformed evangelical framework
- 2. to prepare students intellectually, spiritually and practically to understand and articulate the Christian faith in various ministry contexts
- 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

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)

Students achieving at least a 2:2 classification may wish to proceed to the MTh Programme.

2	2.3 For Foundation Degrees, please list where the 60 credit work-related learning takes
ŗ	place
1	N/A

2.4 List of all exit awards

Cert HE in Theology Dip HE in Theology Bachelor of Arts Hons in Theology

3. Programme structure and learning outcomes

Programme Structure - LEVEL 4							
Compulsory modules	Credit points	ECTS credits	Optional modules	Credit points	ECTS credits	Is module compensatable?	Semester runs in
OT 1: Pentateuch and	20	10	Two from:			•	
Former Prophets			Hebrew 1: Grammar	20	10	Υ	1 & 2
Systematic Theology 1	20	10	Greek 1: Grammar	20	10	Υ	1 & 2
From Pentecost to the			Biblical Foundations of Mission	20	10	Υ	1 & 2
Reformation	20	10	Independent Essays	20	10	Υ	1 & 2
Preaching and							
Communication	20	10					
All compensatable							

Intended learning outcomes at Level 4 are listed below:

<u>Learning Outcomes – LEVEL 4</u>				
3A. Knowledge and understanding				
Learning outcomes:	Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods			
By the end of this Level learners will be expected to: A.1. demonstrate knowledge of the source texts of Christianity and basic concepts in the core disciplines of biblical studies, theological studies and ministry practice, and an ability to interpret and evaluate them with reference to scholarship and Christian ministry practice.	For Campus Delivery The following learning and teaching methods will be employed - lecture, seminar, class discussions and activities, self-study, 'homework' exercises. Learning resources are also placed on the IT-based course management system (The Cloud).			

<u>Learning Outcomes – LEVEL 4</u>

3A. Knowledge and understanding

A.2. demonstrate a basic understanding of the main methods, principles and practices relevant to the subject of study.

For Online Delivery

Lectures are delivered online (students may attend live via Zoom). The IT-based course management system (The Cloud) typically forms the platform on which teaching and learning resources are delivered to distance learners by means of summary notes, readings, PowerPoint slides. Students also have direct access to module lecturers by a variety of means, including email and use of an online discussion forum.

For both Campus & Online: Assessment

Written exams, essays, written theological reflections, oral exams, recorded sermons. Both formative and summative assessment is employed

3B. Cognitive skills				
Learning outcomes:	Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods			
By the end of this Level learners will be expected to:	For Campus Delivery			
B.1 . demonstrate the use of appropriate methods of study, including linguistic, literary, historical, philosophical, hermeneutical, practical and pastoral approaches, and exercise an open and questioning approach to familiar and new material.	The following learning and teaching methods will be employed - lecture, seminar, class discussions and activities, self-study, 'homework' exercises. Learning resources are also placed on the IT-based course management system (The Cloud).			
B.2 . develop and present a basic argument considering a range of existing views	For Online Delivery			

3B. Cognitive skills				
	Lectures are delivered online (and students may attend live via Zoom). The IT-based course management system (The Cloud) typically forms the platform on which teaching and learning resources are delivered to distance learners by means of summary notes, readings, PowerPoint slides. Students also have direct access to module lecturers by a variety of means, including email and use of an online discussion forum.			
	For both Campus & Online: Assessment Written exams, essays, written theological reflections, oral exams, recorded sermons. Both formative and summative assessment is employed			

3C. Practical and professional skills				
Learning outcomes:	Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods			
 By the end of this Level learners will be expected to: C.1. apply knowledge and understanding of the Bible and of the historical and theological development of Christianity to contemporary and ministry contexts. C.2. improve their own learning and practical skills necessary for employment in Christian ministry. 	Campus Delivery The following learning and teaching methods will be employed - lecture, seminar, class discussions and activities, self-study, 'homework' exercises. Learning resources are also placed on the IT-based course management system (The Cloud).			
	Online Delivery			

3C. Practical and professional skills				
	Lectures are delivered online (and students may attend live via Zoom). The IT-based course management system (The Cloud) typically forms the platform on which teaching and learning resources are delivered to distance learners by means of summary notes, readings, PowerPoint slides. Students also have direct access to module lecturers by a variety of means, including email and use of an online discussion forum.			
	For both Campus & Online: Assessment			
	Written exams, essays, written theological reflections, oral exams, recorded sermons. Both formative and summative assessment is employed			

3D. Key/transferable skills					
Learning outcomes:	Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods				
By the end of this Level learners will be expected to: D.1. use information technology and computer skills for data capture and communicate the results of their studies accurately and reliably in a variety of formats, demonstrating appropriate use of primary and secondary sources with accurate references.	Campus Delivery The following learning and teaching methods will be employed - lecture, seminar, class discussions and activities, self-study, 'homework' exercises. Learning resources are also placed on the IT-based course management system (The Cloud).				
D.2. develop and formulate an argument, with appropriate use of data and evidence.	Online Delivery Lectures are delivered online (and students may attend live via Zoom). The IT-based course management system (The Cloud) typically forms the platform on which teaching and learning resources are delivered to distance learners by means of summary notes, readings, PowerPoint slides. Students also have direct access to module lecturers by a variety of means, including email and use of an online discussion forum.				

3D. Key/transferable skills				
	For both Campus & Online: Assessment Written exams, essays, written theological reflections, oral exams, recorded sermons. Both formative and summative assessment is employed			

Students who successfully complete Level 4 receive a Certificate of Higher Education in Theology.

Programme Structure - LEVEL 5							
Compulsory modules	Credit points	ECTS credits	Optional modules	Credit points	ECTS credits	Is module compensatable?	Semester runs in
NT1: Gospels	20	10	3 of:				
Systematic Theology 2	20	10	Hebrew 2: Narrative	20	10	Υ	1 & 2
Pastoral Theology and Ministry	20	10	Greek 2: Reading From the Puritans to the Evangelical	20	10	Y	1 & 2
All compensatable			Revival Global Christianity and the Church's	20	10	Y	1 & 2
			Mission	20	10	Υ	1 & 2
			Ministry Research Project	20	10	Υ	1 & 2

Intended learning outcomes at Level 5 are listed below:

<u>Learning Outcomes – LEVEL 5</u>				
3A. Knowledge and understanding				
Learning outcomes:	Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods			
By the end of this Level learners will be expected to: A.1 . demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the source texts of Christianity and key concepts in the core disciplines of biblical studies, theological studies and ministry practice, and an ability to interpret and evaluate them critically with reference to advanced scholarship and Christian ministry practice.	Campus Delivery The following learning and teaching methods will be employed - lecture, seminar, class discussions and activities, self-study. 'homework' exercises, guided independent study, Learning resources are also placed on the IT-based course management system (The Cloud).			
A.2 . demonstrate a critical understanding of methods, theories and practices relevant to the subject of study.	For Online Delivery			

<u>Learning Outcomes – LEVEL 5</u>								
3A. Knowledge and understanding								
	Lectures are delivered online (and students may attend live via Zoom). The IT-based course management system (The Cloud) typically forms the platform on which teaching and learning resources are delivered to distance learners by means of 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.							
	For both Campus & Online: Assessment							
	Written exam, essay, written theological reflection, conducting exegesis, textual analysis, making translations, book review, exegetical essay, research project							

3B. Cognitive skills							
Learning outcomes:	Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods						
By the end of this Level learners will be expected to: B.1. demonstrate the use of appropriate methods of study, including linguistic, historical, philosophical, hermeneutical, practical and pastoral approaches, and evaluate the appropriateness of different methods to analyse data in the subject of study. B.2. develop and present a coherent argument considering a range of existing views, demonstrating the ability to analyse primary and secondary sources.	For Campus Delivery The following learning and teaching methods will be employed - lecture, seminar, class discussions and activities, self-study. 'homework' exercises, guided independent study, Learning resources are also placed on the IT-based course management system (The Cloud). For Online Delivery Lectures are delivered online (and students may attend live via Zoom). The IT-based course management system (The Cloud) typically forms the platform on which teaching and learning resources are delivered to distance learners by means of 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.						

3B. Cognitive skills						
	For both Campus & Online: Assessment Written exam, essay, written theological reflection, conducting exegesis, textual analysis, making translations, book review, exegetical essay, research project					
3C. Practical and professional skills						
Learning outcomes:	Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods					
By the end of this Level learners will be expected to:	Campus Delivery					
C.1 . apply knowledge and critical understanding of the Bible and related texts, and of the historical and theological development of Christianity contemporary and ministry contexts.	The following learning and teaching methods will be employed - lecture, seminar, class discussions and activities, self-study. 'homework' exercises, guided independent study, Learning resources are also					
C.2 . improve their own learning and practical skills necessary for employment in Christian ministry, requiring the exercise of	placed on the IT-based course management system (The Cloud).					

Online Delivery

research project

Campus & Online: Assessment

Lectures are delivered online (and students may attend live via Zoom). The IT-based course management system (The Cloud) typically forms the platform on which teaching and learning resources are delivered to distance learners by means of summary notes, readings, PowerPoint slides. Students also have direct access to module lecturers by a variety

Written exam, essay, written theological reflection, conducting exegesis, textual analysis, making translations, book review, exegetical essay,

of means, including email, use of an online discussion forum.

personal responsibility and decision-making.

3D. Key/transferable skills							
Learning outcomes:	Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods						
By the end of this Level learners will be expected to: D.1. use information technology and computer skills for data capture and communicate effectively the results of research to an intended audience in a variety of formats, demonstrating appropriate use of primary and secondary sources with full and accurate references. D.2. develop and formulate a coherent and structured argument, with appropriate use of data and evidence, and with an awareness of the implications of divergent views.	Campus Delivery The following learning and teaching methods will be employed - lecture, seminar, class discussions and activities, self-study, 'homework' exercises, guided independent study, Learning resources are also placed on the IT-based course management system (The Cloud). Online Delivery Lectures are delivered online (and students may attend live via Zoom). The IT-based course management system (The Cloud) typically forms the platform on which teaching and learning resources are delivered to distance learners by means of 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. Campus & Online: Assessment Written exam, essay, written theological reflection, conducting exegesis, textual analysis, making translations, book review, exegetical essay, research project						

Students who successfully complete Level 5 receive a Diploma of Higher Education in Theology.

Programme Structure - LEVEL 6									
Compulsory modules	Credit points	ECTS credits	Optional modules	Credit points	ECTS credits	Is module compensatable?	Semester runs in		
NT2: Paul and his Letters	20	10	3 from:						
OT2: Latter Prophets, Psalms			Hebrew 3: Poetry	20	10	Υ	1 & 2		
and Wisdom	20	10	Greek 3: Further Reading	20	10	Υ	1 & 2		
Systematic Theology 3	20	10	Advanced Biblical Communication and						
, 0,			Pastoral Ministry	20	10	Υ	1 & 2		
All compensatable			Children's, Youth and Family Ministry	20	10	Υ	1 & 2		
·			Dissertation (BA)	20	10	Υ	1 & 2		

Intended learning outcomes at Level 6 are listed below:

teaching strategy/ assessment methods
teaching strategy/ assessment methods
teaching strategy, assessment methods
ery learning and teaching methods will be employed - lecture, sidiscussions and activities, self-study, 'homework'
ded independent study, placement learning. Learning also placed on the IT-based course management system
S

<u>Learning Outcomes – LEVEL 6</u>

3A. Knowledge and understanding

A.2. demonstrate a systematic understanding of a range of methods, theories and practices relevant to the subject of study.

Lectures are delivered online (and students may attend live via Zoom). The IT-based course management system (The Cloud) typically forms the platform on which teaching and learning resources are delivered to distance learners by means of 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.

Campus & Online: Assessment

Written exam, essay, oral exam, recorded sermon, presentation, textual analysis, making translations and conducting exegesis, fieldwork assignment and dissertation

3B. Cognitive skills

Learning outcomes:

By the end of this Level learners will be expected to:

- **B.1.** demonstrate the competent use of appropriate methods of study, including linguistic, historical, philosophical, hermeneutical, practical and pastoral approaches, to evaluate, consolidate and extend their knowledge and understanding.
- **B.2**. develop and present a complex argument, demonstrating the ability to critically identify and deploy appropriate primary and secondary sources, analysing the data and synthesising a wide range of evidence.

Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods

Campus Delivery

The following learning and teaching methods will be employed - lecture, seminar, class discussions and activities, self-study, 'homework' exercises, guided independent study, placement learning. Learning resources are also placed on the IT-based course management system (The Cloud).

Online Delivery

Lectures are delivered online (and students may attend live via Zoom). The IT-based course management system (The Cloud) typically forms the platform on which teaching and learning resources are delivered to distance learners by means of 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.

Campus & Online: Assessment

3B. Co	gnitive skills
	Written exam, essay, oral exam, recorded sermon, presentation, textual analysis, making translations and conducting exegesis, fieldwork assignment and dissertation
3C. Practical ar	nd professional skills
Learning outcomes:	Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods
 By the end of this Level learners will be expected to: C.1. critically apply detailed knowledge and systematic understanding of the Bible and related texts, and of the historical and theological development of Christianity to contemporary and ministry contexts. C.2. improve their own learning, performance and practical skills necessary for employment in Christian ministry, demonstrating an ability to exercise initiative and resolve problems. 	Campus Delivery The following learning and teaching methods will be employed - lecture, seminar, class discussions and activities, self-study, 'homework' exercises, guided independent study, placement learning. Learning resources are also placed on the IT-based course management system (The Cloud). Online Delivery Lectures are delivered online (and students may attend live via Zoom). The IT-based course management system (The Cloud) typically forms the platform on which teaching and learning resources are delivered to distance learners by means of 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. Campus & Online: Assessment Written exam, essay, oral exam, recorded sermon, presentation, textual analysis, making translations and conducting exegesis, fieldwork assignment and dissertation

3D. Key/tra	3D. Key/transferable skills							
Learning outcomes:	Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods							
By the end of this Level learners will be expected to: D.1. use information technology and computer skills for data capture and communicate accurately information, concepts, arguments and theories in a variety of formats both to specialist and non-specialist audiences, demonstrating appropriate use of primary and secondary sources with full and accurate references. D.2. develop projects and assignments which sustain and evaluate an argument, largely through independent enquiry, and which draw on a range of scholarly resources.	Campus Delivery The following learning and teaching methods will be employed - lecture, seminar, class discussions and activities, self-study, 'homework' exercises, guided independent study, placement learning. Learning resources are also placed on the IT-based course management system (The Cloud). Online Delivery Lectures are delivered online (and students may attend live via Zoom). The IT-based course management system (The Cloud) typically forms the platform on which teaching and learning resources are delivered to distance learners by means of 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. Campus & Online: Assessment Written exam, essay, oral exam, recorded sermon, presentation, textual analysis, making translations and conducting exegesis, fieldwork assignment and dissertation							

Students who successfully complete Level 6 receive a Bachelor of Arts Hons in Theology.

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 at each level: Biblical Studies; Theological Studies; Ministry Practice

Biblical Studies

- OT1: Pentateuch and Former Prophets (OT41)
- Hebrew 1: Grammar (HB41 / HB51)
- Greek 1: Grammar (GK41 / GK51)
- NT1: Gospels (NT51)
- Hebrew 2: Narrative (HB52 / HB62)
- Greek 2: Reading (GK52 / GK62)
- OT2: Latter Prophets, Psalms and Wisdom (OT62)
- NT2: Paul and his Letters (NT62)
- Hebrew 3: Poetry (HB63)
- Greek 3: Further Reading (GK63)

Theological and Historical Studies

- Systematic Theology 1 (ST41)
- From Pentecost to the Reformation (CH41)
- Systematic Theology 2 (ST52)
- From Puritans to the Evangelical Revival (CH52)
- Systematic Theology 3 (ST63)

Ministry Practice

- Preaching and Communication (MM41)
- Biblical Foundations of Mission (MM44)
- Pastoral Theology and Ministry (MM52)
- Global Christianity and the Church's Mission (MM54)
- Ministry Research Project (IS52)
- Advanced Biblical Communication and Pastoral Ministry (MM63)
- Children's, Youth and Family Ministry (MM65)
- Dissertation (BA) (DS61)

Misc

Independent Essays (IS41)

At level 4, in addition to the compulsory modules, students must take two of: Hebrew 1: Grammar, Greek 1: Grammar, Biblical Foundations of Mission, Independent Essays. Please note that Independent Essays are not assigned to a specific strand.

5. Support for students and their learning

Students have access to the School's VLE (The Cloud) which has teaching and learning material, 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. There is a well-designed pastoral care framework, with pastoral support of students overseen by the Pastoral Dean. All students are provided with a Programme handbook which contains, amongst other things, information about the support services provided by the School.

6. Criteria for admission

Normally applicants should have at least 64 UCAS Tariff Points from a Level 3 qualification, e.g. GCE A level.

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 the School's RP(E)L policy.

An *Academic* IELTS score (or equivalent) of 6.0 is required where the applicant is not a native English Speaker, 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 in some cases.

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 to teaching and learning. The results are discussed in the Student Experience 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, parttime teaching staff at least every two years.
- Academic provision is reviewed annually by the ATRACC, including data emerging from various quality processes relating to teaching and learning, such as module feedback, external examiner reports, peer observation of teaching staff.

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

- Some changes to teaching personnel
- Revision of existing modules
- Removing several modules
- Adding several new modules

Annexe 1: Curriculum map

Annexe 1 - Curriculum map

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

BA - Level 4

	Programme Learning Outcomes Mapped to Modules							
Study module/unit	A1	A2	B1	B2	C1	C2	D1	D2
OT1: Pentateuch and Former Prophets	√	✓	√	✓	✓	√	✓	<u> </u>
Hebrew 1: Grammar	√		✓					
Greek 1: Grammar	√		✓					
Systematic Theology 1	√	✓	✓	✓	✓		√	✓
From Pentecost to the Reformation	√	✓	✓	√			√	
Preaching and Communication	√	✓	✓	√	✓	√	√	
Biblical Foundations of Mission	✓	✓	✓	√	√	√	√	✓
Independent Essays	√	✓	✓	√		√	√	✓

BA – Level 5

	Programme Learning Outcomes Mapped to Modules							
Study module/unit	A1	A2	B1	B2	C1	C2	D1	D2
NT1: Gospels	✓	√	✓	✓	✓	√	✓	✓
Hebrew 2: Narrative (HB52)	✓	√	√	✓		✓	√	
Hebrew 2: Narrative (HB51)	✓	√	√	✓		√	√	
Greek 2: Reading (GK52)	✓		√	✓		✓	√	✓
Greek 2: Reading (GK62)	✓		√	√		√	√	√
Systematic Theology 2	✓	√	√	√			√	√
From the Puritans to the Evangelical Revival	✓	√	√	√			√	
Pastoral Theology and Ministry	√	√	√	✓	✓	√	√	√
Global Christianity and the Church's Mission	✓	√	√	✓	√	√	✓	√
Ministry Research Project	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	√	√	✓

BA – Level 6

Study module/unit	Programme Learning Outcomes Mapped to Modules							
	A1	A2	B1	B2	C1	C2	D1	D2
NT2: Paul and his Letters	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	✓
OT2: Latter Prophets, Psalms and Wisdom	✓	√	√	√		✓	✓	✓
Hebrew 3: Poetry	✓	✓	√	✓		✓	✓	✓
Greek 3: Further Reading	✓		√	✓		√	✓	✓
Systematic Theology 3	✓	✓	√	✓			✓	✓
Children's, Youth and Family Ministry	✓	✓	√	✓	√	√	✓	✓
Advanced Biblical Communication and Pastoral Ministry	√	√	√	✓	√	√	√	✓
Dissertation (BA)	√	√	√	√		√	√	✓