

Master of Theology: *God's People in God's World*

Building on a first degree in theology or religious studies, the Masters programme, *God's People in God's World*, explores in more depth the nature of Christian identity and mission in the contemporary world. It thereby aims to equip students with a coherent theological basis for serving God, whether in the family, church, workplace or community. It also provides an excellent foundation for further academic research. The course draws on the three classical sources of Christian understanding – biblical, historical and systematic theology – but allows students to focus on specific areas of interest as well.

God's People in God's World is a two-year research-oriented programme which also includes classroom teaching in the form of lectures, seminars and tutorials. Alternatively, it can be taken on a part-time basis over four years.

All courses are taught in English and course work is normally presented in English.

Admission requirements

Students wishing to enrol for the programme should have:

- An undergraduate degree in theology or a closely related subject (e.g., religious studies, biblical studies). Candidates with a degree in a different discipline may be accepted, if they can demonstrate a level of theological competence equivalent to that of a first degree. Otherwise, they will be required to take ETF's *Postgraduate Certificate in Theology* before beginning the programme.
- A Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.5 or higher on a 5-point scale where 5 is the highest grade.
- A high level of all-round competence in English (a TOEFL score of 550 or equivalent).

Modules and credit hours

The programme has four components, which together are worth 120 ECTS credits. These are:

- A core curriculum (40 credits) comprising: Research Theory and Practice; History of Christian Doctrine; Systematic Theology; Old Testament Theology; New Testament Theology.
- A specialized curriculum (40 credits) in which students choose courses in such areas as Theology of Work, Creation Care, Political Theology, Theology and Disability, Evangelicalism and Eastern Orthodoxy, Old Testament Exegesis, New Testament Exegesis. Other possible areas of specialization may be discussed with the programme director.
- A 20,000 word dissertation (30 credits) exploring a specific topic in the student's area of specialization.
- Electives (10 credits): These may be courses reflecting areas of expertise among ETF faculty, courses taught by visiting professors, or seminars offered elsewhere where these are of an appropriate academic level.

Work hours and workload

Typically 1 ECTS credit amounts to 25–30 hours of work. This time is divided between:

- An instruction component ($\pm 15\%$ of the time) consisting of lectures, seminars and/or tutorials.
- An investigation component ($\pm 65\%$ of the time) consisting of reading and research. For 1 credit a student is expected to read approximately 300 pages of relevant specialized literature.
- An assessment component ($\pm 20\%$ of the time) consisting of study time and assignment preparation.

Assessment for each module usually consists of one or two written assignments and/or an oral or written exam. The writing a student will do for 1 credit typically amounts to 600 ($\pm 10\%$) words.

The exam and assignments for each module are normally due at the end of that particular module. Students must complete *all* the courses and assignments for the core curriculum before starting the specialized curriculum; similarly, they must complete the specialized curriculum before embarking on their dissertation.

Dissertation

The dissertation is the sole focus of the student during the fourth semester within a full-time programme, and should be completed in approximately 900 hours. It should demonstrate the student's ability to research primary and secondary sources, critically evaluate scholarly arguments, use the tools and methodologies appropriate to the chosen field of study, communicate clearly and concisely, and integrate previous study with contemporary issues.

The dissertation should be of 20,000 ($\pm 10\%$) words including footnotes but without bibliography.