

Programme Specification 2025-26

BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY FOR MINISTRY

Awarding body	University of Cambridge
Teaching institution	The Cambridge Theological Federation and the Faculty of Divinity
Accreditation details	None
Name of final award	Bachelor of Theology (BTh)
Programme title	Bachelor of Theology for Ministry
UCAS code	None
HECoS code(s)	100794 (theology and religious studies)
Relevant QAA benchmark statement(s)	Theology and Religious Studies
Qualifications framework level	6
Date specification produced	August 2022

Educational Aims of the Programme

The Bachelor of Theology for Ministry is taught over two years with a First Examination (1st year) and a Second Examination (2nd year).

The course aims:

- i. to provide teaching and learning to undergraduate students in the theologies, scriptures, histories and philosophies, doctrines and practices of Christianity, principally within their own traditions but also by means of comparative approaches; and, as far as resources permit, of the traditions of other faiths;
- ii. to provide students with an education in these traditions which is informed by current developments in scholarship and research and by critical reflection on pastoral experience;
- iii. to provide a stimulating environment in which students can reach their intellectual potential in preparing for Christian ministry and service;
- iv. to provide an integrated structure of learning and teaching;
- v. to help students develop a wide range of intellectual and pastoral abilities and skills which will enable them to make a significant contribution in their chosen vocation.

On completion of the BTh students are expected to have acquired:

- i. competence in the central theological sub-disciplines required for ministerial training, to a degree of breadth and depth as determined by sponsoring churches, by the Faculty of Divinity and by the Cambridge Theological Federation;
- ii. the skills required for a critical reading of texts in a biblical language and for theological analysis and reflection on texts and experience;
- iii. the ability to evaluate and relate theological arguments to pastoral practice in the context of their own confessional traditions.

Skills

On completion of the course, the University expects students to have acquired the following skills.

- i. **Knowledge and understanding** of the subject matter.
- ii. **Intellectual skills:** The written work which students undertake enables them to learn how to study steadily; assimilate issues and large amounts of literature swiftly; critically evaluate theological positions and evidence; produce succinct arguments to tight deadlines and engage with those with whom they disagree. Particular methodologies used include: textual critical, exegetical, hermeneutical, historical, philosophical, doctrinal, ethical and pastoral-reflective. Students will have acquired the skill to engage

with the ideas of major religious thinkers and their traditions and to understand the historical, social and cultural context which shaped a text or affected a writer. Students will be able to read texts in the original language critically, evaluate them in their own context and become sensitive to the problems of religious language. Students will learn to present an argument and attain analytical skills. By the end of the course students will have completed a degree which provides the basis for their working lives in their sponsoring churches.

- iii. **Practical Skills:** use of the library, use of e-journals and other on-line resources, using a bibliography, taking notes effectively, learning languages; pastoral skills for Christian ministry and service.
- iv. **Transferable skills:** the ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing; to work to deadlines and under pressure; to manage time; to set priorities; to formulate an argument; to work independently and with initiative; basic IT skills (email, computer and internet use); critical analysis; ability to present papers in a seminar context; linguistic skills; skills of analysis and interpretation; self-discipline; self-direction and respect for other views.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Teaching is delivered by lectures and classes in the Faculty and the Federation which relate to the papers offered in the B.Th., by language classes and by supervisions, which provide individual or small group teaching through written work and feedback thereon. Throughout the course, students are encouraged to undertake independent reading and study to consolidate what is being taught. Some lectures and classes are shared with those provided for the Theology, Religion, and Philosophy of Religion Tripos but the teaching through supervisions is exclusively for the B.Th. students.

Assessment Methods

Formative assessment is provided through the supervision system where feedback is given in oral and written form. Summative assessment, which takes place at the end of each year, is by a combination of two- or three-hour written examinations, 3,000-word essays, an optional 8-10,000-word dissertation and a pastoral portfolio based largely on work carried out while on placement.

Entry Requirements

The majority of candidates are admitted after being accepted by their churches to train for ordained ministry and students are required to meet the standard matriculation requirements of the University. The educational background of B.Th. students is very diverse, and students are normally required to have a 2.1 or 1st in their previous degree.

Indicators of Quality

QAA score 23

REF: the Faculty of Divinity in Cambridge was ranked sixth in the country in the 2014 REF in the Unit of Assessment for Theology, Divinity and Religious Studies.

Learning Support

The core teaching staff consists of approximately 30 full- and part-time Federation Lecturers, some of whom are Affiliated Lecturers of the Faculty, as well as a few Lecturers from other institutions for specific courses. Faculty Lecturers are involved where B.Th. papers share the teaching for Tripos papers.

Each of the Federation member institutions has its own buildings in central Cambridge close to the Colleges and Faculties of the University. Teaching accommodation is located in each

institution and at the Federation's offices, 'The Bounds', located behind Westminster College. The Federation Libraries, housed on multiple sites across Cambridge, contain over 140,000 volumes and 130 journal titles. The Federation offers its users an ever-expanding collection of e-books, currently comprising about 5,500 titles (many complementary to the Cambridge collections), and subscribes to upwards of 1000 e-journals through EBSCO and ATLA. All key readings are made available in digitized form on the Federation's VLE Hedwig and University of Cambridge Moodle. BTh and DTM students have borrowing rights in the Faculty of Divinity as well as in the University Library.

Career Destinations

Some graduates of the B.Th. decide to take higher degrees in Theology; others go into teaching or other careers. The majority, however, will have done the course with a specific view to entering full-time Christian ministry.

Management of Education Quality and Standards

The University ensures high quality of teaching and learning in the following ways:

1. Scrutiny of the External Examiners Reports for all teaching programmes
2. Encouraging student engagement at both the local level, through involvement in Faculty and Departmental Committees, and at a central level by participation in nationally benchmarked surveys
3. Participation in the biennial Education Monitoring and Review Process to explore provision, share good practice and suggest constructive courses of action
4. Mentoring, appraisal, and peer review of staff, and encouraging staff participation in personal development programmes

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this programme specification. At the time of publication, the programme specification has been approved by the relevant Faculty Board (or equivalent). Programme specifications are reviewed annually, however, during the course of the academic year, and any approved changes to the programme will be communicated to enrolled students through email notification or publication in the *Reporter*. The relevant Faculty or Department will endeavour to update the programme specification accordingly, and prior to the start of the next academic year.

Further information about specifications and an archive of programme specifications for all awards of the University is available online at: <https://www.camdata.admin.cam.ac.uk>