

Programme Specification 2025-2026

DIPLOMA IN 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	Diploma
Programme title	Diploma in Theology for Ministry (DTM)
UCAS code	None
HECoS code(s)	100802 (pastoral studies)
Relevant QAA benchmark statement(s)	Theology and Religious Studies
Qualifications framework level	6 Graduate Certificates
Date specification produced	August 2022

Educational Aims of the Programme

The Diploma in Theology for Ministry is a graduate-entry programme designed primarily for individuals preparing for or already involved in authorized Christian ministry or service.

Candidates do not matriculate within the University and the award may be taken over one year full-time or two years part-time.

The aims of the DTM are:

- To provide teaching and learning in the theologies, scriptures, histories and philosophies, doctrines and practices of Christianity and, as far as resources permit, in the traditions of other faiths, principally within a candidate's own tradition but also by means of comparative approaches;
- 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;
- To provide a stimulating environment in which students can be equipped to reach their full potential in preparing for Christian ministry and service;
- To provide an integrated structure of learning and teaching;
- 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 DTM students will have acquired:

- Competence in the central theological sub-disciplines required for authorized ministry within the Christian church;
- The skills required for a critical reading of both primary and secondary texts and for theological analysis and reflection on texts and experience;
- The ability to evaluate and relate theological arguments to pastoral practice and vice-versa in the context of their own confessional tradition.

Skills

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

- **Knowledge and understanding** of the subject matter.
- **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 produced a text or affected a writer. Students will be able to read and evaluate scriptural texts in their own context and will be sensitive to the problems of religious language. Students will learn to present an argument and attain analytical skills.

- **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.
- **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

Candidates for the DTM attend lectures, classes and supervisions alongside those studying for the BTh. Teaching is delivered by lectures and classes in the Faculty and the Federation, 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 Studies Tripos but the teaching through supervisions is exclusively for DTM and BTh students.

The DTM has two compulsory elements:

- Paper B.Th. 51 (Pastoral Portfolio, First Examination). Candidates who have already completed a similar assignment prior to commencing the DTM may be exempt from this requirement
- A dissertation of 8-10,000 words as described in Regulation 21 of the B.Th. Regulations

The DTM has two compulsory elements:

- Paper B.Th. 51 (Pastoral Portfolio, First Examination). Candidates who have received academic credit for a theological reflection upon a ministry placement may be exempted from the requirement to take Practical theology: Reflective Practice
- A dissertation of 8-10,000 words as described in Regulation 17 of the B.Th. Regulations

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 and 3,000-word essays in addition to the compulsory elements described above.

Entry Requirements

Candidates must normally hold a first degree at 2.1 level or above. In addition, they are required to be accepted by a member institution of the Cambridge Theological Federation.

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 DTM 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 DTM 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 working in authorized Christian ministries.

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 academical 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 academical year.

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