

# THE COMMON AWARDS

## Programme Specification

Foundation Award in Theology, Ministry  
and Mission

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## 1. Name of Programme

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Foundation Award in Theology, Ministry and Mission

## 2. Department

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Theology and Religion

### AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

## 3. Educational and Formational Aims

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The educational and formational aims of the programme are described in terms of the people for whom it is designed, the pedagogy it embodies and the purpose it is intended to fulfil.

### People

The aim of this programme is to take initial steps towards ensuring that Christian disciples and ministers are equipped as competent and faithful reflective practitioners. To this end it provides an education in theology, ministry and mission in and for a variety of contexts.

1. Preparing people for professional ministry and mission within churches:  
For some students the Foundation Award represents the first step in exploring preparation for recognised lay and ordained ministries in the Anglican, Methodist, Baptist and United Reformed churches. The programmes serve institutions representing Anglican, Methodist, United Reformed, Baptist, Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches, as well as being open to students from other denominations.
2. Preparing people for lay ministry and mission in the world:  
The programme also serves those who wish to be more fully equipped for Christian life and service in the world, or simply more informed about the Christian faith. Within this category, some students will be preparing for ministry and mission among children and young people within and beyond ecclesial structures. Typically, students will be preparing for service in third sector and statutory organisations as well as in churches.

The programme aims to offer education that is accessible to students with a wide range of educational backgrounds and professional and personal circumstances: many will be mature students, many will be employed and therefore studying part time, many will be in active ministry, while still others will be pursuing the programme as full-time residential students. The programme will therefore be available in a variety of modes of learning and teaching, including traditional full time residential learning, part time and part-residential learning, and distance learning supported by online and face to face engagement.

### Pedagogy

The aim of this programme is to provide an education in theology, ministry and mission that encompasses the development of character and the nurturing of virtues and spirituality alongside the acquisition of knowledge and understanding, and the development of cognitive and practical

skills. The programme aims to enable students to engage more deeply with themselves, others, the church, the world and God by offering learning and teaching that:

1. form students in various disciplines, but bring those disciplines together to inform and enrich one another;
2. are constantly oriented towards the ministry and mission for which students are being prepared; and
3. by their modes of assessment and methods of learning and teaching enable students to develop as lifelong reflective learners.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the programme is to offer the opportunity for initial exploration of areas in theology, ministry and mission, for those considering further personal and professional preparation for a range of Christian ministries as well as to satisfy the aspirations of those students who undertake their studies to enhance, broaden and deepen their discipleship and ministry in other contexts.

From a professional point of view, the aim of the programme is to

1. offer pathways of study that allow exploration of areas within the range of professional and vocational criteria for the public ministries which the students are considering;
2. satisfy the aspirations of those students who undertake their studies to enhance, broaden and deepen their discipleship and ministry in other contexts; and
3. provide a firm basis from which to pursue further study in theology, ministry and mission at undergraduate level.

From a personal perspective, the aim of this programme is to develop dispositions that are congruent with, and necessary for, Christian ministry and mission in the church and the world. The aims of the programme are that it will equip learners towards being:

1. open to the questions, insights and ongoing formation generated by attentive study of Scripture, and be willing to go on being transformed by them;
2. aware of the skills and disposition needed to go on reading themselves, the church and the world in the light of Christian doctrine, and to explore Christian doctrine more deeply in the light of experience and practice;
3. deeply aware that they are heirs to a long and complex history, aware of their place in that history alongside many others, and attuned to the work of the Holy Spirit in the church and the world through history and in the present;
4. passionate and prayerful advocates for the mission of God;
5. clearer about their vocation in the church and the world and therefore more determined to pursue personal and corporate life long learning as disciples of Christ;
6. open to the insights and challenges that emerge from serious engagement and cooperation with others, in and beyond the church.

## 4. Programme Learning Outcomes

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### **Subject Specific Knowledge (SSK)**

*On successful completion of the programme, students will be able to*

1. investigate, describe appropriately and discuss intelligently some aspects from Christian tradition, theology, ministry and mission and the questions to which they give rise.

### **Subject Specific Skills (SSS)**

*On successful completion of the programme, students will be able to:*

1. communicate their foci of study accurately and reliably in a range of contexts;
2. draw on appropriate methodologies and various relevant disciplines to relate theory and practice in the context of discipleship, mission and ministry.

### **Key Skills (KS)**

*On successful completion of the programme, students will be able to:*

1. identify, gather and evaluate source materials for a specific purpose;
2. evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches, communicating their findings sensitively and respectfully, showing self-awareness about their own beliefs, commitments and prejudices;
3. carry out a guided task that involves independent inquiry, management of time and resources, using IT, meeting deadlines evaluating the task and learning from it.

## DELIVERY OF THE PROGRAMME

### 5. Learning and Teaching Methods

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Teaching methods are to be specified by each TEI using the published guidance on modes of teaching and learning.

### 6. Summative Assessment Methods

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Summative assessment to be specified by each TEI using the published guidance on assessment patterns for undergraduate modules.

### 7. Formative Assessment Policy

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Formative assessment to be specified by each TEI using the published guidance on assessment patterns for undergraduate modules.

### 8. Assessment criteria

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TEIs are required to use to the published Common Awards Assessment Criteria for all Common Awards programmes. The Common Awards specific assessment criteria is aligned to Durham University's generic assessment criteria and Level Descriptors.

## STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAMME

### 9. Outline syllabus for the programme

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Total credits overall:	Minimum credits at Level 4:	Maximum credits at Level 4:
60 credits	60 credits	60 credits

This programme may be studied full time over a half year or part time over up to two years.

**Each TEI will be responsible for developing pathways that ensure all students have the opportunity to achieve the programme learning outcomes.**

Students must also have the opportunity to progress to a Certificate of Higher Education in Theology, Ministry and Mission at the TEI.

In the Foundation Award students are introduced to some areas of subject specific knowledge within biblical studies, the Christian tradition and ministerial theology. The modules at this level offer initial surveys of subject specific knowledge to enable students to gain a good foundation in areas in theology, ministry and mission. The Foundation Award also enables students who wish to progress to further study to do so with confidence, building on the knowledge and skills they have acquired.

Students are also introduced to the subject specific skill of relating their knowledge to experience and practice in the context of discipleship, mission and ministry. This may take place in direct relation to the student's practical formation, or in interdisciplinary modules with a professional and/or denominational focus, or in other ways.

### 10. Indicate which modules are pre- / co-requisites within the programme

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There are no pre-requisites for this single level programme.

TEIs are required to refer to the Common Awards core list of pre and co-requisites, and details of excluded module combinations, when designing their pathways.

### 11. Typical Admissions Requirements

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Entry to this programme is flexible, depending on the student's experience, employment and education. In general, applicants – especially those with little or no employment history – are likely to have at least one A-level (Grade E or above) or equivalent. However, for mature students,

relevant work experience may be considered in lieu of formal academic qualifications. Applicants will need to demonstrate their potential to benefit from study at level 4 in Theology, Ministry and Mission.

APL is not permitted for the Foundation Award.

Students who have successfully completed the Foundation Award are eligible to apply to continue to the Certificate or Diploma (HE) in Theology, Ministry and Mission programme.

Students for whom English is their second language should have achieved a score of 6.5 with no component under 6.0 in an IELTS examination, or equivalent.

Each TEI has an Admissions Policy and is responsible for proposing its own specific entry requirements, in line with the generic entry requirements for Common Awards.

## 12. Field trips, placement and related opportunities

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TEIs should refer to the published guidance on field trips, placements and other related opportunities.