

## COURSE CREDITS

The programme consists of six taught modules followed by a mini-dissertation. During their coursework students attend tutorial sessions, complete their reading assignments and submit reflection on their reading. At the end of each module, students write an essay (10 pages).

The coursework has six main modules that have a clear progression: beginning with a general introduction of Module 1: Research Methodology (for the study of religion), followed by Module 2: Living Islam which serves as an introduction to the key concepts and beliefs in Islam, and primary sources in Islam. Building on this foundation, Module 3 Islamic History provides an outline of Islamic history. Module 4: Christian-Muslim Encounters serves as a reflection on the previously covered material but specifically in the context of Christian-Muslim interactions. The coursework finishes with Module 5: Christian Witness and Engagement with Muslims, which explores practices and challenges of ministry among Muslims and Module 6: Qur'anic Arabic.

Once students finish with their coursework, they commence writing their mini-dissertation (60-62 pages/ 30,000 words) on an approved subject matter. The students are allowed to proceed with their mini-dissertation only upon (A) successful completion of all modules in the coursework with a grade of 50 per cent (pass) or higher and upon (B) successfully presenting and defending their research proposal. The student successfully completes the MTh programme after his mini-dissertation receives a grade of 50 per cent (pass) or higher from the internal and external examiners. Students should submit their dissertation worth 36 credits within a twelve months period. On completion of the programme, the student will have achieved 80 ECTE credits.

## WANT TO DISCUSS MORE?



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## MTH - RELIGION & CULTURAL STUDIES

The MTh Religion and Culture programme is a research-oriented programme with a strong focus on Christian witness and engagement with Muslims. Students learn about the diverse traditions, cultures, and interpretations found in Islam, how to engage critically with religious and cultural dimensions of the Islamic world, and how to evaluate their implications on Christian witness and engagement today. This is an online programme that combines both synchronous and asynchronous learning.

The MTh programme in Religion and Culture (with a focus on Islam) is recognised and accredited by ECTE (European Council for Theological Education). This programme is in line with the relevant frameworks of higher education: EQF (European Qualifications Framework) Level 7 and ISCED Level 7. This programme is not recognised by the United Kingdom Government as a Higher Education Degree.

## MODULE DESCRIPTIONS

### Module 1 | Research Methodology

8 credits

Students will learn about Ninian Smart's and his Seven dimensions of Religion. They will learn and critically examine the following approaches to the study of religion (and specifically study of Islam): Historical approach, Textual approach, Sociological approach, Anthropological approach, Phenomenology of religion, Philosophical and Theological approaches, Confessional approach/ Christian approach to the study of Islam, and Empathetic approach to the study of religions/ Islam.

### Module 2 | Living Islam

8 credits

Islam is the one of the fastest growing religion with over 1.8 billion followers across the world. Founded by Muhammad in the 7th century, Islam rapidly spread through military conquests, commerce, and efforts of missionaries and Sufi mystics. Its current significance goes beyond religion and culture to the sphere of politics, finance, and security, among others. It is thus vital to have a thorough grasp of Islam, its sources, interpretations, and expressions as well to be able critically evaluate the current implications and impact that this religion and its followers have in the world, and particularly on the Christian community.

### Module 3 | History of Islam

8 credits

This model covers history of Islam from its formative period (7th century) to the rise of European Empires (16th-19th centuries). The formative period is covered in the first four lectures starting with the pre-Islamic Arabia and its religious makeup – polytheism, Christianity and Judaism among others. According to Islamic tradition Muhammad declared himself to be a messenger of God who received a revelation from an angel Gabriel. He started preaching the religion of Islam, meaning “submission”, in his hometown of Mecca and then in the city of Medina. His preaching and ministry are divided into two periods – Meccan and Medinan, with the later period described as increasingly militant and expansionist. The rule of Muhammad's first four successors is known as “Rashidun Caliphate” (the rule of “Rightly guided” caliphs). It is characterised by a rapid expansion but also internal division that culminated into the schism between Shias and Sunnis, a 1,400-year-old divide that rifts the Muslim community up till now.

### Module 4 | Christian-Muslim Encounters

8 credits

Islam in Africa, its historical complexity and diversity, will be discussed in the last module. Students will learn about Islam in its African context, how it was accommodated, developed and spread. An example of this will be Mali Empire, Kanem-Bornu Empire, and Sokoto Caliphate. Particular attention will be given to Christian-Muslim relations in Africa, and its current dynamics and interactions.

### Module 5 | Christian Witness and Engagement with Muslims

8 credits

The last module focuses on Christian Witness and Engagement with Muslims. It explores the current practices and challenges in ministry among Muslims, including different missional approaches and models. The module emphasises Spiritual Disciplines (prayer; fasting, reading the Bible, Christian fellowship and service) in the context of Christian Witness and Engagement with Muslims, helping students to grow and mature spiritually in challenging ministry contexts.

### Module 6 | Qur'anic Arabic

4 credits

This module provides a foundation in Qur'anic Arabic, enabling the students to read and write the Arabic script, to transliterate the Arabic words, to learn the Arabic vocabularies and grammar, and to serve as a base to enable advanced study of the language. After completion of this module students should be able to:

- ✓ Transliterate the Arabic words
- ✓ Develop the ability to read many Qur'anic and other classical texts accurately
- ✓ Develop skills in analyzing the grammar features of Arabic texts
- ✓ Build Qur'anic Arabic vocabulary
- ✓ Learn how to translate some Arabic Qur'anic texts into English

### Duration of the programme

The duration of the MTh program is 24 months.