



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 reflections 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 **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, as well as primary Islamic sources. 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 concludes 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 have completed their coursework, they commence writing their mini-dissertation (60–62 pages / 30,000 words) on an approved subject matter. Students are allowed to proceed with their mini-dissertation only upon (A) successfully completing all coursework modules with a grade of 50 per cent (pass) or higher and (B) successfully presenting and defending their research proposal. Students successfully complete the MTh programme after their mini-dissertation receives a grade of 50 per cent (pass) or higher from both the internal and external examiners. Students should submit their dissertation, worth 36 credits, within a twelve-month period. On completion of the programme, students will have achieved 80 ECTS credits.

WANT TO DISCUSS MORE?



ANNA.BEKELE@OCRPL.ORG



WWW.OCRPL.ORG



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 Seven Dimensions of Religion. They will learn about and critically examine the following approaches to the study of religion, and specifically to the study of Islam: Historical approach; Textual approach; Sociological approach; Anthropological approach; Phenomenology of religion; Philosophical and theological approaches; Confessional/Christian approach to the study of Islam; and Empathetic approach to the study of religions/Islam.

Module 2

Living Islam

8 credits

This module provides a comprehensive introduction to Islam as a lived faith, exploring its foundational beliefs, sources, practices, and contemporary expressions. Students examine the Qur'an and Hadith, Islamic theology, the Five Pillars, Sharia, jihad, da'wa, Sufism, and various contemporary forms of Islam. The module also considers Muslim family life, the position of women, slavery, conversion, and blasphemy, while encouraging critical reflection on the historical, cultural, social, and theological dimensions of Islam and its relationship with Christianity and other faiths.

Module 3

History of Islam

8 credits

This module provides a chronological and thematic study of the history of Islam from pre-Islamic Arabia and the formative period of Islam in the seventh century through the rise of European powers and the emergence of modernity. Students examine the life and ministry of Muhammad, the development of the early caliphate, the Sunni-Shia schism and the emergence of Islamic sectarianism, and the expansion and transformation of Islamic rule under the Umayyad, Abbasid, Fatimid, Seljuk, Ayyubid, Mamluk, Ottoman, Safavid, and Mughal empires. Particular attention is given to Christian-Muslim encounters, including the status and experiences of Christian and other religious minorities under Muslim rule. The module concludes by examining the rise of European imperial powers, colonialism in the Muslim world, the decline of the Ottoman Empire, and the challenges posed by European modernity.

Module 4

Christian-Muslim Encounters

8 credits

This module examines Christian-Muslim encounters in the classical and modern periods, with particular attention to the development of Islam in Africa, modern Islamic reform and Islamist movements, and the changing relationship between Christianity and Islam in the contemporary world.

Module 5

Christian Witness and Engagement with Muslims

8 credits

This module focuses on Christian Witness and Engagement with Muslims. It explores the current practices and challenges of 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.

Duration of the programme

The duration of the MTh programme is two years.