

# MA in Theology and Ministry



CRANMER HALL  
DURHAM

Prospectus 2024 - 2025



ST. JOHN'S  
COLLEGE  
· 1909 ·  
DURHAM



Durham  
University



# Welcome!

We are thrilled that you are contemplating further study in the area of theology and ministry.

This prospectus aims to guide you through answers to the key questions you may have and the stages of applying and admission to our MA.

It is no substitute for personal conversation or a visit to our world heritage site location, however, so please do be in touch!

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# Why do further study in theology?

There are many reasons why people choose to undertake further study in theology after an undergraduate-level qualification.

For some, this study forms part of their training for a ministry role, whether lay or ordained, in a wide variety of denominations and parachurch organisations.

For others, it is an **entry route to research**, whether via a PhD or our own professional doctoral programme, the Doctor of Theology and Ministry, offered in collaboration with Durham University's Department of Theology and Religion ([see p. 7 for more details](#)).

Many find that part-time study is an excellent way to pursue **professional or ministerial development**, and they are often supported by their employer in this. **Some do it simply because they love studying theology!**

The diversity of backgrounds and trajectories within our student cohort is part of its great strength.

And we find that all of our students, in one way or another, are motivated not only by a desire for learning or training, but above all by their **passion for the God they study** – in himself, in his church, in his world.





# Why Cranmer Hall and Durham University?

**Cranmer Hall is a theological education institute committed to forming Christlike missional leaders, and to connecting theology, church, and world.**

Cranmer forms part of St John's College, an independent college within Durham University. St John's was established in 1909 to train ministers for the Church of England, and today is home to a burgeoning community of undergraduate and postgraduate students studying a wide range of subjects, alongside the ministerial training that continues within Cranmer Hall.

Cranmer's academic programmes are **directly validated by Durham University** and our students form part of the vibrant wider University community. We work closely alongside Durham's outstanding Department of Theology & Religion and our students study their

modules and vice versa. Durham validates training for the Church of England and several partner churches through its Common Awards partnership. We are committed to **academic excellence and research-led teaching**, and we are passionate about **serving the church regionally, nationally, and globally**. The primary way we do this is through **training, teaching, building up, and sending out our students**.

Cranmer Hall is rooted in its Anglican and evangelical identity, and welcomes students from all denominations and theological traditions. We have a long and proud tradition of ecumenical working, including our Free Church Track, collaboration with the Northern Baptist Association for accredited Baptist ordination training, and the Wesley Study Centre, a Methodist research centre.





# What does the programme look like?

## Vision

**At the core of our MA lies the desire to integrate theology and ministry in a way that enriches both.**

This integration is the hallmark of all of our modules, and is exemplified in our programme's core module, **Theological and Practical Reflection upon Mission & Ministry**.

Here students explore Practical Theology, an approach to theology that seeks to take practice and experience seriously, both as a context for the

development of new insight and faithful response in light of Scripture and tradition, and as a source of new questions to bring to Scripture and tradition.

This approach engages the whole range of theological sub-disciplines and can sometimes also be interdisciplinary in its engagement of social scientific or other academic disciplines. Above all, it reflects a **desire to live faithfully in the light of rigorous and prayerful thinking**.

## Shape

There are **three components** within the MA in Theology and Ministry:

<b>Core module: Theological and Practical Reflection upon Mission &amp; Ministry</b>	30 credits
<b>Three elective modules</b>	30 credits x 3
<b>A 15,000 word dissertation</b>	60 credits
<b>Total</b>	<b>180 credits</b>

It is also possible to gain a Postgraduate Certificate in Theology and Ministry by completing two taught modules (60 credits), or a Postgraduate Diploma in

Theology and Ministry by completing the core module and three other taught modules (120 credits).



The MA can be taken full-time in one year, or part-time over two or three years. It can be studied residentially or via distance learning, attending block teaching in Durham and accessing term-time

teaching online. The Postgraduate Certificate and Diploma can also be taken full-time in one year or part-time over two years. The distribution of work would normally be as follows:

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
<b>One Year Full Time</b>	Core Module Three Electives Dissertation 180 credits		
<b>Two Year Part Time</b>	Core Module Two Electives 90 credits	One Elective Dissertation 90 credits	
<b>Three Year Part Time</b>	Core Module One Elective 60 credits	Two Electives 60 credits	Dissertation 60 credits

## Teaching

Modules are delivered in a number of ways:

- 1) Fully online using a combination of pre-recorded input and live seminars;
- 2) In two residential blocks of two and a half days each, Monday – Wednesday morning or Wednesday afternoon – Friday;

- 3) In blended mode, typically involving one block and one term of seminars (which can be accessed online or in Durham).

**In 2024 - 2025, Cranmer is committed to enabling online access for all MA modules. We work with students to establish a pathway that works best for them.**





Elective modules currently available are:

THMN 40230	<b>Preaching from the Old Testament</b>
THMN 40330	<b>Mission and Ministry in the Acts of the Apostles</b>
THMN 40430	<b>The History and Theology of the Charismatic Movement</b>
THMN 41030	<b>Intellect and Imagination: Apologetics in the Mass Media</b>
THMN 41230	<b>Psychology and Christian Ministry</b>
THMN 41830	<b>Preaching from the New Testament</b>
THMN 42230	<b>Leadership in Christian Ministry</b>
THMN 42630	<b>Theological Approaches to Spiritual Direction</b>
THMN 42930	<b>The Dialogue of Science and Theology in Mission and Ministry</b>
THMN 43630	<b>Mission and Ecclesiology: Critical Frameworks for Pioneering</b>
THMN 44330	<b>Forgiveness and Pastoral Ministry Today</b>
THMN 44830	<b>Advanced Old Testament Studies</b>
THMN 45230	<b>Mission and Ministry in the Johannine Literature</b>
THMN 45330	<b>Consultancy for Mission and Ministry</b>
THMN 45430	<b>Early Christian Perspectives on Mission and Ministry</b>
THMN 45530	<b>Studying Contemporary Worship</b>
THMN 45630	<b>Christian Doctrine in the Life of the Church</b>
THMN 45730	<b>Advanced New Testament Studies</b>
THMN 45830	<b>The Thought of Dietrich Bonhoeffer in Context</b>

Full module outlines can be accessed on the [University website](#). The core module is offered annually in both block and weekly format. Elective modules tend to be offered in alternate years, subject to staff availability and student numbers. The current timetable is available on request.

It is also possible to take one 30-credit module from

MA programmes offered by any other department in the University. In addition, students may take one further 30-credit module from the Department of Theology and Religion – meaning you could study a total of two modules (60 credits, one third of the MA) in the Department.

The University website carries [full details of modules](#).



# Can I just do a taster?

All of our modules are available to study as standalone modules, and some modules are particularly popular as standalone courses.

To check which modules are running and to request a single module application form, please contact us at [enquiries@cranmerhall.com](mailto:enquiries@cranmerhall.com).

Modules can be taken on an **audit basis**, where you engage in all pre-reading and teaching but do not complete any assignments, or on a **credit basis**, where you also take the assignments and gain credit.

If you take a module for credit you can carry any credits achieved into a postgraduate programme, within five years.

If you are unsure about jumping straight into a full MA, it is also possible to apply for the Postgraduate Certificate or Postgraduate Diploma.

You can exit with that qualification, or decide to transfer to the next level of study – and you don't need to rush that decision!







# How much does it cost & is there any help?

Our fees match those set by Durham University, and are available for the current year on request. We are keen that cost should not be a barrier to study, however, and we therefore offer a range of bursaries. Full details and a bursary application form are available from the admissions secretary.

## Arts and Humanities Alumni Bursary (25% of fee)

**Eligibility:** this is open to all alumni of Durham University undergraduate programmes, from whatever Faculty, including students who have studied at other institutions for degrees under the Common Awards partnership.

## International Bursary (up to max. of 55%, or 65% for Majority World applicants)

**Eligibility:** for international students with demonstrable financial need.

## Postgraduate Ministry Bursary (25% of fee)

**Eligibility:** a bursary for any engaged in some form of Christian ministry alongside their studies.

## Staff/Spouse Bursary

**Eligibility:** for employees of St John's College, and spouses or civil partners of staff or students.

## Other sources of funding

We would also encourage you to look for possible student finance loans, grants from charitable and educational trusts, and support from your employer or sponsoring church or organization.

*UK student finance is devolved to the four jurisdictions and it is worth contacting your national finance agency directly. Student Finance England (SFE) provides loans to cover tuition fees for English students who have normally been resident in the UK over the past three years and who i) have not already received funding for a degree at Master's level and ii) are registered for the MA in Theology and Ministry (not the PG Certificate or PG Diploma) either full-time or part-time over 2 years (not part-*

*time over 3 years). Students entering via the PG Certificate or PG Diploma will, at least in the first instance before potential transfer to the MA, need to find alternative sources of funding.*

*Please note that this information is accurate to the best of our knowledge at the time of writing, but is not an official statement of SFE policy; please check with SFE if you intend to apply for a loan.*



# Student stories

## Rosie

“I am studying the MA part-time over two years alongside training for ordination in the Church of England.

have been encouraged to think deeply and creatively about my work. I highly recommend it!”

The MA has enabled me to continue exploring my particular academic interests through the dissertation, supported by a combination of modules that are focused on ministry from the Cranmer tutors, alongside more theoretical modules from the Durham University theology department.

“It’s this combination that attracted me to the course, and I have found that it is equipping me for my future ministry.

The diversity of voices on the course among students and staff has been refreshing and stretching, and I





# Student stories

## Nicky

“ I’m in my second of three years doing a Master’s in Theology and Ministry. I work for the Church of England: I lead a benefice of four rural churches, I do some work with our education team, looking at how churches and schools work together, I act as a bishop’s ordained chaplain, and I’m also the bishop’s adviser in spirituality.

**I wanted to do my Master’s because** as a curate I had lots of support in my learning. I really missed that when I became an incumbent and was working on my own. So I wanted to study further to give me greater opportunity to reflect, to develop my knowledge and skills, and my ability to reflect theologically with other people.

**My role gives me lots of opportunities and there’s a huge level of responsibility.** I have the ability to influence across the life of the Diocese, and I wanted to do that as well as possible, ensuring that my reflection was robust so that I could make decisions that would be the most helpful and beneficial

**I chose Cranmer for two key reasons.**

I really like the balance of practice and theology and theory, being able to explore the things that I’m encountering in my ministry and my own practice at depth with academic rigour. It’s also one of the few places that offers the course over three years.

**The modules have really benefited my own practice.**

For example, for one module I created a model of consultancy that I use on a regular basis on the work I do across the life of the diocese. And as the bishop’s adviser in spirituality I have oversight of spiritual accompaniment in the diocese, so the other module I chose looked at spiritual direction and enabled me to learn more and more about that.

**So I found that the study and my ministry are really well interwoven and one helps and informs the other, and that’s been really helpful and energising and made my ministry more effective.**”





# Who can apply, and how?

For the MA, the normal entrance requirement is either a BA in Theology or Religious Studies or a related subject, classed at 2:1 or above (GPA 3.3 or above), or a BA in another discipline with experience of Theology or Religious Studies to at least HE Certificate level (with a mark of 60 or above). All candidates also need recent or current experience of the practice of Christian ministry.

For the Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma, the entrance requirement is either a BA in Theology or Religious Studies or a related subject, or a BA in another discipline with experience of Theology or Religious Studies to at least HE Certificate level. All candidates also need recent or current experience of the practice of Christian ministry.

**If you don't meet the above requirements but do have relevant experience, training, or unaccredited study, we'd still love to hear from you** as it may be possible to admit you to the Postgraduate Certificate or Postgraduate Diploma. Please contact us to discuss, as we apply for University approval on a case-by-case basis.

If you have a prior postgraduate qualification in a similar area, it may be possible to gain Accreditation for Prior Learning (APL) for up to 30 credits on the Postgraduate Diploma and up to 60 credits on the MA. Please signal this when you apply as APL is approved by the University on a case-by-case basis.

**You may take a standalone module without applying to join a programme.** If you pass this it can form the basis of a further application to join a programme the following academic year.

It is possible for students on the Postgraduate Certificate or Postgraduate Diploma to transfer to the MA, subject to their performance in their taught modules and the approval of the Board of Examiners.

We welcome international candidates. Do note that candidates from certain countries must satisfy Durham University's [English language](#) requirements, and may require an [entry visa](#). See the links for more details.

Please contact our admissions secretary (details at the end of this prospectus) for an enquiry pack, including an application form and bursary form. When you return the form, we will be in touch to arrange an interview either online or in person in Durham, whichever suits you best. We will then be in touch within two weeks to let you know the outcome of your application.

**The deadline for programme applications and bursary applications each year is 31st of July.**

Applications to join standalone modules can be received up to four weeks before the module begins.



# What else do I need to know?

## Accepting a place

Once you have applied, received an offer, and are ready, the next step is to accept a place! You can confirm to our admissions secretary at any point up to the end of August. We will be in touch with details about module choices and pre-reading in the summer before your programme begins. You should also block out the dates for induction in late September, which you will find on the timetable for the year.

## Special Educational Needs (SENDA)

St John's College fully supports the University's policies on Equality and Diversity. If you have special needs or learning differences that you wish to disclose they will be handled in confidence, and our aim is to provide the support you need to pursue successfully the courses we offer and reach your full potential. In relevant cases we liaise closely with Disability Services in order to ensure our courses are accessible to all, including developing and circulating requests for reasonable adjustment. We encourage those with specific needs to discuss support when applying or at least before beginning the programme.

## Other elements in the programme

Alongside the induction days, we offer dissertation and research methods training, to support you as you prepare for the dissertation. We also have an annual Postgraduate Research Symposium, a day conference at which postgraduate students from across the College and across different programmes (MA, PhD,

DThM) gather to share their work in progress, receive feedback from peers and staff, and learn from one another. You are also most welcome to join in College and University societies and events.

## Welfare & Student Support

All MA students are assigned an academic advisor. Anglican ordinands and Free Church Track students are part of the training community and their pastoral tutor is also their academic advisor. Other students will be assigned an academic advisor, either the Director of MA or another nominated member of staff. This person offers support throughout the year, in particular (for part-time students) through a summer check in to review progress. All students are also welcome to join in the worship and social life and social and welfare provision within Cranmer Hall and St John's College.

## Additional further study!

If you already have a Master's-level qualification in theology, or if you are already thinking about options beyond an MA, consider our professional doctoral programme, the Doctor of Theology and Ministry. This is jointly delivered by Cranmer Hall in direct collaboration with Durham University's Department of Theology and Religion. It offers an opportunity to do doctoral-level research culminating in a 70,000-word thesis, with taught foundations and strong peer and staff support through two annual week-long residentials. MA students are welcome to join part of either of these residentials.



# I'd like further information - who do I talk to?

**We'd love to hear from you!** For an application pack, including application form and bursary application form, details of current timetable and fees, for any technical queries, or to make an application please contact:

**Mrs Gail Bentham**

Admissions Secretary

[cranmer.admissions@durham.ac.uk](mailto:cranmer.admissions@durham.ac.uk)

Cranmer Hall,  
St John's College,  
3 South Bailey,  
Durham  
DH1 3RJ

+44(0)191 334 3894

For other queries relating to the programme and pathways of study, please contact:

**Dr Cynthia Bennett Brown**

Director of the MA

[cynthia.b.brown@durham.ac.uk](mailto:cynthia.b.brown@durham.ac.uk)

**Dr Sam Tranter**

Academic Dean

[samuel.tranter@durham.ac.uk](mailto:samuel.tranter@durham.ac.uk)





*“The diversity of voices on the course among students and staff has been refreshing and stretching, and I have been encouraged to think deeply and creatively about my work. I highly recommend it!”*

Rosie Illingworth -  
2 year part-time MA



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