



******IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING CHANGES TO THE THEOLOGY PROGRAMMES******

New and revised Theology programmes for External Students

Introduction

As of September 2009, the University of London External System will be introducing new and revised Theology programmes, which have been developed by Heythrop College and the University of London External System.

The four new/revised programmes are:

- Certificate of Higher Education in Theology (CertHE Th)
- Certificate of Higher Education in Philosophy, Religion and Ethics (CertHE PRE)
- Diploma of Higher Education in Theology (DipHE Th)
- Bachelor of Divinity (New Regulations)

Key points:

- The new awards are being introduced for September 2009
- The BD (Old Regulations) and Diploma in Theology (Old Regulations) will run for a further five years, with the last examinations taking place in May 2014
- Students registered on the BD (Old Regulations) can transfer to the BD (New Regulations) carrying any passes achieved to the new programme
- The BD (New Regulations) comprises a total of 12 modules, including a Dissertation, the DipHE comprises a total of eight modules and the CertHEs comprise four modules in total
- Students are required to have access to a PC and the internet to be able to register on to one of the new programmes
- Students who have applied for or received an application form based on one of the old programmes will be given the choice of whether to take up registration on the old programme or to register on the new programme. If a student decides to register for the old programme, they should bear in mind the programmes will run for just a further five years, with the last examinations taking place in May 2014

Rationale for the changes

The Theology programmes developed by Heythrop College and delivered through the External System have proved popular with students, with around 280 students currently registered on the Diploma in Theology and BD degree (Old Regulations). The programmes were scrutinised and reviewed as part of a periodic programme review and, broadly, the programmes were highly commended for their quality and offering. Some recommendations for revision and enhancement were suggested and, along with these recommendations, developments within the Higher Education sector more generally and the External System have been taken into account.

Some more in-depth study will be possible, as BD students will now study 12 modules instead of 10. One of these modules will be the Dissertation element, which students will write towards the end of their degree studies, and will draw on their research and learning from the other modules studied in the programme.

Students may choose to start the programme at either CertHE or DipHE level. The CertHE might appeal to those who wish to begin their studies with a short, introductory programme or, perhaps, do not have quite the right entrance requirements for a degree programme. The DipHE, on the other hand, might appeal to those who would like a greater degree of module choice and a broader grounding in Theology without the commitment of registering for the full degree programme.

Whether a student registers for the CertHE, DipHE or BD, the same modules are offered at each stage, and students study following the same progression pathways, meaning that, if a student wishes and is eligible, they can transfer to a higher level award part way through or upon completion of the intermediate award – a good example of the flexibility offered by the programme.

Transfer from the old to the new programmes

Generally speaking, students registered on the BD (Old Regulations) will be able to transfer to the BD (New Regulations), carrying any passes with them to the new programme.

Students registered on the Diploma in Theology (Old Regulations) will not be able to transfer to the new programme until they have successfully completed the requirements for the Diploma (passing four modules) or they have the requisite entrance requirements for the degree. Once students have successfully completed the Diploma in Theology (Old Regulations), they will be able to transfer to the BD (New Regulations), again carrying over passes achieved while studying for the Diploma. Students will be able to transfer to the BD (Old Regulations) should they wish, but must bear in mind that the final examinations are in summer 2014, and are therefore encouraged to transfer to the BD (New Regulations).

Please refer to Annex B of this document for full details on transferring from the old to the new programmes.

Students who do not wish to transfer to the BD (New Regulations)

For students who do not wish to transfer from the old to the new programmes, support for their studies on the old programmes will continue as usual (and will actually be enhanced, as students will have access to a dedicated virtual learning environment (VLE) and other updated resources) up until the last examinations take place, in May 2014. After this date, the BD (Old Regulations) and the Diploma in Theology (Old Regulations) programmes will be withdrawn and there will be no further opportunities to be examined in these programmes.

Modules – amendments, name changes and withdrawals

There are amendments to some modules which will affect students on all programmes. Where modules are simply being updated, these amendments will be introduced with immediate effect. Students should refer to the latest Programme Regulations for syllabus details.

Where a syllabus has been re-named but the content of the module remains the same or largely the same, again this will be introduced with immediate effect and will be applied to all students, regardless of the programme on which they are registered.

Where a module is being withdrawn in the BD (Old Regulations) and Diploma in Theology (Old Regulations), two years' notice is given. This means students will have until 2011 to register and take the examination for a module that is being withdrawn, and re-sits only will take place in 2012. Students who are registered on either *New Testament in English* or *New Testament (with Greek texts)* may wish to transfer to the module *Introduction to the New Testament*. The syllabus for this new module focuses on a smaller range of set texts than the syllabus for *New Testament in English*, and the study materials are currently being updated. Students wishing to transfer to the new module should write to the Student Registry.

Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)

The new programmes have been aligned and developed with the FHEQ in mind, which means that at each level – CertHE (level 4), DipHE (level 5) and degree level (level 6) – students must complete a certain number of modules designated either level 4, 5 or 6 (see Annex A). In the syllabus section in the new Regulations booklet, the level of the module is indicated after each syllabus.

For further details on the FHEQ, please visit:

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/academicinfrastructure/FHEQ/EWNI08/FHEQ08.pdf>

Certificate of Higher Education in Philosophy, Religion and Ethics (Cert HE PRE)

The CertHE PRE has been designed to give students an insight into the use of Philosophy as a tool for analysing the nature and truth of religious beliefs and values, and on the two religions – Christianity and Islam – which have the greatest number of adherents. Candidates who successfully complete the CertHE PRE may be eligible to enter the second year of the BA in Philosophy, Religion and Ethics programme at Heythrop College, University of London. They are also able to progress to the BD (New Regulations), but will not be

able to carry the pass in 'Christian Ethics for Philosophy, Religion and Ethics students' (as this does not feature in the BD degree). This means that students will have to pass a total of 13 modules.

Final registrations for BD (Old Regulations) and Diploma in Theology (Old Regulations)

Any student who has applied/applies for a place on the BD (Old Regulations) or the Diploma in Theology (Old Regulations) up until 13 September 2009 (for non-EU students) or 13 October 2009 (for EU students) or has already received an offer for one of these programmes will be permitted to register for the programme of choice up until 31 December. After this dates, no further applications or registrations for the old programmes will be accepted. Students registering by 31 December 2009 will be given an effective date of registration of 1 September 2009, meaning they will be able to sit examinations in May 2010 and will have a total of five examination sessions in which to complete the programme.

Anyone who has applied or received an offer based on the old programmes will now also be offered a place on the new programmes. Please note that anyone who has received an offer for the Diploma in Theology (Old Regulations) will be offered a place on the Certificate of Higher Education in Theology (as this is the corresponding programme) or the Certificate of Higher Education in Philosophy, Religion and Ethics (but see the paragraph entitled *Certificate of Higher Education in Philosophy, Religion and Ethics (Cert HE PRE)* above).

Annex A – Structure of the new programmes

Bachelor of Divinity (12 modules in total)

Introductory modules - the following four modules:

Introduction to the Old Testament (level 4)
Introduction to the New Testament (level 4)
Christian Doctrine (level 4)
Philosophy of Religion (level 4)

Rules of progression – a student may not take any more than two level 5 modules until they have passed four level 4 modules

Compulsory module - the following compulsory module:

Reformation and Society c1450-1600 (level 5)

Rules of progression – a student may not take any more than three level 6 modules until they have passed the module Reformation and Society c1450-1600

Optional modules - six chosen from the following modules – please note, students must choose a **minimum of three** level 6 modules and a maximum of six level 6 modules.

Foundations in Biblical Hebrew (level 5)
New Testament Greek (level 5)
Christian Ethics (level 5)
Islam (level 5)
Religion and Science (level 5)
Advanced Biblical Hebrew (level 6) [Prerequisite: Foundations in Biblical Hebrew]
Second Temple Judaism (level 6)
Romans in Greek (level 6) [Prerequisite: New Testament Greek]
Johannine Writings in Greek (level 6) [Prerequisite: New Testament Greek]
Church, Ministry and Sacraments in Early Christianity (level 6)
Liturgical Studies (level 6)
Buddhism (level 6)
Mind and Person in the Philosophy of Religion (level 6)

Rules of progression – please note, students must have passed a minimum of eight modules prior to entering for the dissertation.

Compulsory module - the following module:

Dissertation (level 6)

Diploma of Higher Education in Theology (8 modules in total)

Introductory modules – the following four modules:

Introduction to the Old Testament (level 4)
Introduction to the New Testament (level 4)
Christian Doctrine (level 4)
Philosophy of Religion (level 4)

Compulsory module - the following compulsory module:

Reformation and Society c1450-1600 (level 5)

Rules of progression – A student may not take any more than two level 5 modules until they have passed four level 4 modules. A student may not take any more than one level 6 modules until they have passed the compulsory level 5 module.

Optional modules - three modules chosen from the following:

Foundations in Biblical Hebrew (level 5)
New Testament Greek (level 5)
Christian Ethics (level 5)
Islam (level 5)
Religion and Science (level 5)
Second Temple Judaism (level 6)
Romans in Greek (level 6) [Prerequisite: New Testament Greek]
Johannine Writings in Greek (level 6) [Prerequisite: New Testament Greek]
Church, Ministry and Sacraments in Early Christianity (level 6)
Liturgical Studies (level 6)
Buddhism (level 6)
Mind and Person in the Philosophy of Religion (level 6)

Certificate of Higher Education in Theology (4 modules in total)

All **four** of the following modules:

Introduction to the Old Testament (level 4)
Introduction to the New Testament (level 4)
Christian Doctrine (level 4)
Philosophy of Religion (level 4)

Certificate of Higher Education in Philosophy, Religion and Ethics (4 modules in total)

Four of the following modules:

Philosophy of Religion (level 4)
Introduction to the New Testament (level 4)
Christian Ethics for Philosophy, Religion and Ethics students (level 4)
Islam (level 5) **or** Religion and Science (level 5)

Annex B – Transfer from old to new programme rules

The following rules apply to students who are registered for the BD degree (Old Regulations) and Diploma in Theology (Old Regulations)

1. BD degree (Old Regulations)

1.1 Transfer from the BD (Old Regulations) to the BD (New Regulations) is subject to the University's discretion, and individual cases will be considered on their own merits.

1.2 A student who wishes to transfer to the BD degree (New Regulations) will be able to carry over previously passed modules in the BD (Old Regulations). A student may be allowed to carry modules which are not available on the BD degree (New Regulations), but were available in the BD (Old Regulations). The table below lists how passes in modules which are not available in the BD (New Regulations), but were available in the BD (Old Regulations) can be carried forward:

| Module in BD (Old Regulations) | Exemption/equivalent module to be given in BD (New Regulations) |
|---|--|
| New Testament in English | Introduction to the New Testament |
| New Testament (with Greek texts) | Introduction to the New Testament |
| Church History: The Church to AD 461 | Church history: Reformation and society c.1450 – c.1600 OR a level 5 optional module if the student already has a pass in Church history: Reformation and society c.1450 – c.1600 |
| Church History: Issues in 19 th century Christianity | Church history: Reformation and society c.1450 – c.1600 OR a level 5 optional module if the student already has a pass in Church history: Reformation and society c.1450 – c.1600 |
| Old Testament theology | Level 6 optional module (excluding the Dissertation) |
| Religious language | Level 6 optional module (excluding the Dissertation) |

1.3 If a student has a pass in a module where the title has changed, but the syllabus remains the same, this pass will automatically be carried forward when a student transfers:

| Module title in BD (Old Regulations) | Module title in BD (New Regulations) |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Old Testament | Introduction to the Old Testament |
| Science and religion | Religion and science |
| Intertestamental studies | Second Temple Judaism |

1.4 The marks obtained in passed modules will be taken into consideration for classification purposes and students will not be able to re-sit a module for which they have been credited.

1.5 The attempts at any failed modules will be carried forward and will be counted towards the number of attempts permitted at the same modules subsequent to transfer.

1.6 A student who transfers from the BD degree (Old Regulations) to the BD degree (New Regulations) will carry their period of registration with them.

1.7 A student who transfers from the BD degree (Old Regulations) to the BD degree (New Regulations) must follow the rules of progression and structure laid out in the New Regulations, regardless of the modules already passed (i.e. a student may be required to complete modules at a level lower than those already passed, in order to progress through the New Regulations structure).

1.8 A student who is registered for the BD degree (Old Regulations) and has entered the examination for ten modules will not be permitted to transfer to the BD degree (New Regulations).

1.9 For the BD degree (New Regulations) a student is required to enter the examinations for 12 modules – two more modules in total than for the BD degree (Old Regulations).

1.10 A Student is able to transfer from the BD (Old Regulations) to the BD (New Regulations) up until 2014.

2. Diploma in Theology (Old Regulations)

2.1 A student registered for the Diploma in Theology has the following options available to them:

2.1.1 To remain on the Diploma in Theology (Old Regulations)

2.1.2. To transfer to the Certificate of Higher Education in Theology or Certificate of Higher Education in Philosophy, Religion and Ethics, but only if **no** assessment attempts have been made for the Diploma in Theology (Old Regulations)

2.1.3 To transfer to the BD (New Regulations) or BD (Old Regulations) but only if the student meets the entrance requirements for the degree

2.1.4 Once a student successfully completes the Diploma in Theology (Old Regulations), they can transfer to the BD (New Regulations), BD (Old Regulations) (but only up until 2012)

2.2 However, transfers are subject to the University's discretion, and individual cases will be considered on their own merits.

2.3 A student who is transferring to the BD degree (New Regulations) will be able to carry over previously passed modules in the Diploma in Theology (Old Regulations). A student may be allowed to carry modules which are not available on the BD degree (New Regulations), but were available in the Diploma in Theology (Old Regulations). The table below lists how passes in modules which are not available in the BD (New Regulations), but were available in the Diploma in Theology (Old Regulations) can be carried forward to the BD (New Regulations):

| Diploma in Theology (Old Regulations) | Exemption/equivalent module to be given in BD (New Regulations) |
|---|--|
| New Testament in English | Introduction to the New Testament |
| New Testament (with Greek texts) | Introduction to the New Testament |
| Church History: The Church to AD 461 | Church history: Reformation and society c.1450 – c.1600 OR a level 5 optional module if the student already has a pass in Church history: Reformation and society c.1450 – c.1600 |
| Church History: Issues in 19 th century Christianity | Church history: Reformation and society c.1450 – c.1600 OR a level 5 optional module if the student already has a pass in Church history: Reformation and society c.1450 – c.1600 |
| Old Testament theology | Level 6 optional module (excluding the Dissertation) |
| Religious language | Level 6 optional module (excluding the Dissertation) |

2.4 If a student has a pass in a module where the title has changed, but the syllabus remains the same, this pass will automatically be carried forward when a student transfers, for example:

| Diploma in Theology (Old Regulations) | Module title in BD (New Regulations) |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Old Testament | Introduction to the Old Testament |
| Science and religion | Religion and science |
| Intertestamental studies | Second Temple Judaism |

2.5 The marks obtained in passed modules will be taken into consideration for classification purposes and a student will not be able to re-sit a module for which they have been credited.

2.6 The attempts at any failed modules will be carried forward and will be counted towards the number of attempts permitted at the same modules subsequent to transfer.

2.7 A student who transfers from the Diploma in Theology (Old Regulations) to the BD degree (New Regulations) will carry their period of registration, but counted from their initial Diploma in Theology (Old Regulations) registration.

2.8 A student who transfers from the Diploma in Theology (Old Regulations) to the BD degree (New Regulations) must following the rules of progression and structure laid out in the New Regulations, regardless of the modules already passed (i.e. a student may be required to complete modules at a level lower than those already passed, in order to progress through the New Regulations structure).

2.9 A student is able to transfer from the Diploma in Theology to the BD (New Regulations) up until 2014.