



The Spurgeon's College Certificate in Theology
and Ministry

Programme Specification

May 2019

1. Summary

Awarding body/institution

Spurgeon's College

Status of the course

Spurgeon's College is a Higher Education Institution which is seeking degree-awarding powers. The component units of the course are taught to the same standard and according to the same regulations as its university-validated degrees. Although the College does not have the power to award its own degrees at present, the credits gained for one or more units of the course may be recognized for credit as Accredited Prior Learning in a subsequent application to enrol on a degree programme, though this cannot be guaranteed.

Teaching institution

Spurgeon's College, London

Delivery Site

Wallis House
BMS World Mission
24 Weoley Park Road
Birmingham
B29 6QX

Name of the final award

Spurgeon's College Certificate in Theology and Ministry

Subject benchmarks

Theology and Religious Studies (2007)

Framework for Higher Education Qualifications

Level 4

The role of the programme specification

This document is conceived as a source of information for current and prospective students seeking an understanding of a programme. It tells students about the aims, intended learning outcomes and structure of the programme, and the means by which the outcomes are achieved and demonstrated. It also sets out what knowledge, understanding and skills students can expect to have acquired when they graduate.

Date at which the programme specification was written or revised

March 2019

Further links

- College website: www.spurgeons.ac.uk
- VLE: <http://spurgeons.moodle.webanywhere.co.uk/>
- Student handbook available via Moodle

2. Aims and intended learning outcomes

The aim of the programme is to produce competent theologians who have an adequate understanding of the discipline so that they can serve Church and society effectively.

Intended learning outcomes

The intended learning outcomes are:

1. Knowledge and understanding

On completion of the Spurgeon's College Certificate in Theology and Ministry, students should be able to:

- articulate the importance of mission as a key shaper of Christian theology and practice
- demonstrate understanding of key Christian doctrines
- demonstrate the ability to interpret the Bible with sensitivity to its nature and general understanding of its historical background

2. Discipline-specific and intellectual skills

On completion of the Spurgeon's College Certificate in Theology and Ministry, students should be able to:

- represent views other than their own sensitively and intelligently with fairness and integrity, expressing their own identity without denigration of others
- examine primary and secondary sources and exercise some independent judgement in evaluating them
- develop cogent arguments that take account of theological principles and concepts
- reflect theologically and constructively on the practices of ministry and mission

3. Generic skills (transferable skills)

On completion of the Spurgeon's College Certificate in Theology and Ministry, students should be able to:

- communicate information, ideas, arguments, principles and theories clearly, both orally and in writing
- attend to, reproduce accurately, reflect on and interact with the ideas and arguments of others
- engage with empathy, integrity and critical reflection with the convictions and behaviours of others
- exercise personal responsibility in an employment setting
- operate confidently in a public role
- practise constructive group work skills
- use IT and computer skills to advance their learning and the presentation of their work

Nature of the course

The course is designed as a vocational one for those preparing for Christian ministry. It is intended to be a foundation which will allow transfer to a validated HE programme at Level 5.

Mode of study

The course is studied in full-time mode over one year. It requires students to have an approved church placement on which they normally spend up to 3 working days per week (full-time). Reflections related to this placement together with demonstration of engagement with the process of ministerial formation will form one third (40 credits) of the required assessment for the course.

2. Teaching, learning and assessment methods

Teaching methods employed for this programme include lectures, group discussions, seminars, practical exercises, working in teams and reflection on the practice of ministry. Panopto video lecture-capture software is used to enable students on one site to engage with classes on the other. Some classes may be taught remotely in this way but all students will also have face-to-face contact with teaching staff.

Tutors give guidance before and after the production of oral and written work. Formative assessment is provided during every unit. Peer feedback may take place on class presentations.

Summative assessment is undertaken in a variety of ways appropriate to a practical, contextual programme. A 10-credit unit is assessed on the basis of a 2000-word written submission or equivalent. Individual unit descriptors give details for each unit.

3. Student support

1. Every year updated handbooks are made available online as downloads for students.
2. The unit descriptors are likewise available to students as downloads before the start of next academic year.
3. Tutors are available to see students, normally by appointment.
4. Every year students have two formal personal meetings with a pastoral tutor; records are kept in students' files.
5. A confidential chaplaincy service is available.
6. The course begins with an Orientation Week in September which covers all necessary aspects of induction.
7. All students are encouraged to take an online Study Skills programme as a foundation for their studies.
8. Library facilities including electronic resources are available and staff on site are able to give advice on their use.
9. The College has a disability policy and designated staff monitor the needs of those with specific learning difficulties and physical disabilities.
10. The College has a Learning Support Department and designated volunteers are available by appointment to give appropriate support to students with recognized learning needs.

4. Admission

Admission to the programme is in accordance with the Admissions Policy and Protocols of Spurgeon's College. Entry to the programme requires a score of 6.5 or over on the IELTS test for those who are not native English speakers; there is no specific help with the English language.

5. Programme structure

The programme consists of the following units of study. Units are worth 10 credits, apart from 4401a which is worth 20 credits. Students are required to take all units.

4401a Professional Ministry and Practice 1a

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103 Reading and Using the Bible

115 Interpreting the Old Testament

123 Jesus and the Synoptic Gospels

133 Introduction to Christian Doctrine

150 Introduction to Mission

162 Spirituality

163 Pastoral Theory and Practice

164 Worship and Preaching Skills

Programme duration

The programme is full-time and lasts for one year.

Exit award

Students who exit having satisfactorily completed 60 credits receive a Spurgeon's College Award in Theology.

Suspension of studies

A candidature may be suspended, or a time-limit extended, on compassionate grounds or in case of illness, serious domestic difficulty or because of exceptional professional commitments.

5. Programme evaluation, monitoring and revision

1. At the end of each unit, students are asked to evaluate their learning experience. The completed evaluation forms are sent to the unit tutors who add their comments; they are subsequently scrutinised by the Academic Quality Assurance Committee which reports to the Academic Board. Students are represented on both committees and any significant outcomes are shared via one of the the Student - Staff Liaison Committees.
2. At the end of each year, students are asked to evaluate their experiences on the programme as a whole and the support they have received. This feedback may be gained by both oral and written means.
3. A Programme Committee meets regularly to monitor the delivery of the programme, plan ahead and respond appropriately to information received about the quality of teaching, learning and achievement and the student experience.
4. The Academic Director provides an annual report to the Academic Board.
5. The programme is subject to the College's internal scheme of periodic reviews.
6. Programme revision can be initiated by the College's teaching staff or the Academic Board in accordance with the College's Academic Governance structures.

