Admissions Protocol for Candidates for Spurgeon's College MACTP, MTh, MADT and MMin

Document Control Box	
Document title (include version number if amended within same year as approved)	Admissions Protocol for Candidates for Spurgeon's College MACTP, MTh, MADT & MMin
Reference Number	010/24
Approval category (Please indicate)	
Governance/Governor	X
MPRIG Executive/Other Committee (insert name)	
Senior Staff (insert name)	
Date document approved	4/3/24 (by Governance Grp)
Supersedes (insert previous title and/or version date)	30/10/23 (058/23)
Date document last reviewed and/or updated	
Date next due for review	4/11/24
Related statutes or regulations	
Related policies/procedures/guidance/forms	Admissions Policy
Staff member responsible for update	Head of Admissions and Placements

Amendment History

Version	Revision Summary	Date Approved	Author
004/23	Amended P2&3; Added P4&5; added requirements of Mmin; P10 added over full duration of course; p14 non-native speakers; P20 added principal is final stage of internal procedure.	8/2/23 by email	
058/23	Added para 2 re interview and added MADT and cert/dip in digital theology.	30/10/23	Gov Group
010/24	Added right to study paragraph as Ed Amendment	4/3/24 by Gov Group	Admissions Cttee

Admissions Protocol for Candidates for Spurgeon's College MACTP, MTh, MADT and MMin

1. This protocol provides detailed guidance for admission to Spurgeon's College Master's degrees, Postgraduate Diplomas, and Postgraduate Certificates.

2. All candidates will be invited to an interview (either in person or via a suitable digital platform), where they need to demonstrate to the panel that they have sufficient experience and aptitude for the course they are applying for.

Master of Theology (MTh)

3. Applicants to the Master of Theology programme must be graduates in Theology or Religious Studies with normally at least a second-class honours degree of 55% from an approved institution. Candidates without such a qualification but with equivalent prior studies may be admitted to the Postgraduate Certificate in Theology on the agreement of the Admissions Committee, on successful completion of which they may be admitted to the MTh.

Master of Arts in Christian Thought and Practice (MACTP)

4. Applicants to the Master of Arts in Christian Thought and Practice programme must be graduates in any subject with normally at least a second-class honours degree of 55% from an approved institution. Candidates without such a qualification but with equivalent prior studies may be admitted to the Postgraduate Certificate in Christian Thought and Practice, on successful completion of which they may be admitted to the MA.

Ministerial Candidates

5. Candidates who apply for the MTh or MA in Christian Thought and Practice as a means of ministerial training will be invited to an interview day to assess their suitability (See Appendix A for the five criteria for ministerial training). All ministerial students need to satisfactorily complete an Enhanced DBS check through the College under the umbrella of the Baptist Union (The Baptist Union provides information on DBS checks on

its website[1]) and complete levels 2 and 3 of Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk training.

Master of Arts in Digital Theology (MADT)

6. Applicants to the MADT programme must be graduates in Theology or Religious Studies with normally at least a second-class honours degree of 55% from an approved institution. Graduates in other disciplines and with experience of Theology or Religious Studies to at least Certificate level (with marks at merit or higher) may also be admitted to the programme.

Postgraduate Certificate or Diploma in Digital Theology

7. The normal entrance requirement is a degree in Theology or Religious Studies or a related subject. Graduates in other disciplines with experience of Theology or Religious Studies to at least Certificate level may be admitted to the programme with the agreement of the Admissions Committee.

8. Suitably qualified mature students who have undertaken formal academic study to a similar level in non-accredited courses may also be admitted to the programme with the agreement of the Admissions Committee.

9. Students who successfully complete the Postgraduate Certificate will be permitted to proceed to the Postgraduate Diploma. Students who successfully complete the Postgraduate Diploma will be permitted to proceed to the MA in Digital Theology.

Master Of Ministry (MMin)

10. Applicants to the MMin programme must be graduates in Theology or Religious Studies with normally at least a second-class honours degree of 55% from an approved institution. Candidates without such a qualification but with equivalent prior studies may be considered for admission.

11. Candidates with a qualification in Theology or Religious Studies at Diploma level may be admitted to the Postgraduate Certificate in Ministry with the agreement of the Admissions Committee. On successful completion of the Postgraduate Certificate, they will be permitted to enrol on the Master of Ministry.

12. Applicants need to have a minimum of two years' experience in Christian ministry, irrespective of denominational allegiance, and normally to have completed the training for that ministry at least two years prior to the start of the course.

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[1] https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/267225/DBS_Checks.aspx

Right to study

13. All students are required to prove they have the right to study within the UK, in line with the latest UKVI requirements.

Accredited Prior Learning (*APL)*

14. Candidates may be granted Accredited Prior Certificated Learning of up to 30 credits into the Post Graduate Certificate, up to 60 credits into the Post Graduate Diploma or up to 90 credits into the MTh, MACTP or MMin.

15. Advanced Prior Experiential Learning may be considered as equivalent, or partly equivalent, to accredited learning up to these credit levels for candidates who do not meet the normal threshold but have relevant experience. All candidates in this category will be invited to an interview where a panel will determine whether the candidate has demonstrated that they have sufficient experience.

English Language Qualifications

16. Applicants who are non-UK citizens or non-native speakers will be required to meet specific English language requirements. This has to be an IELTS at level 7 where the reading and writing specific components should be at least 7. The College will comply with the relevant and current Home Office legislation.

Student Visas

17. Applicants who are citizens of countries other than the UK will only be admitted subject to careful verification that they fulfil the criteria laid down by the UK Government for the admission of non-UK nationals as published on the UK Home Office website at the time of application.

18. Visas are only issued for taught courses. All applicants are invited to an interview (via a suitable digital platform) to discern their suitability for the course.

Disabilities or Specific Learning Needs

19. Applicants are strongly encouraged to disclose any disabilities, health issues (whether physical or mental), or specific learning needs which might impact their studies. The College will make all reasonable adjustments for such students, but where there are concerns about a student's ability to undertake their desired course, the procedures in the College's Fitness to Study policy are followed. Where appropriate, it is advisable that accepted and eligible students apply for a Disabled Students' Allowance as early as possible to enable support to be in place before they begin their studies.

Appeals Procedure

20. The College considers all applicants fairly and effectively against the published entry requirements and in line with its procedures. It will provide feedback on request to applicants whose application has been unsuccessful to enable them to reflect on their progress through the application process. Feedback is usually given in writing, at the discretion of the Head of Admissions. To request feedback, applicants should contact the admissions staff.

21. If applicants or prospective students are dissatisfied with the outcome or treatment of their application, the following procedure applies:

    a. The appeal must be sent to the College in writing within four weeks of the outcome.

    b. The appeal must clearly outline the reasons why the applicant believes the decision is incorrect.

22. On receiving the appeal, the College will undertake the following review of the original decision:

    a. The Admissions Committee will discuss the appeal and make a response to the applicant within four weeks of the appeal request being received.

    b. If the applicant wishes to appeal further against the decision of the Admissions Committee, this must be lodged with the College within a further two weeks of receiving the outcome of the Admissions Committee decision.

    c. At this stage the appeal will be passed to the Principal, whose decision is the final stage of the College appeals processes.

23. Candidates whose appeal is refused by the Principal have the right to appeal to the Office of the Independent Adjudicator.

Appendix A: Five criteria for ministerial training

I. Call

Candidates should have an inner sense of a call to Ministry and be able to show that this call is affirmed by others. They should also have the support of their church, denomination or stream as appropriate.

II. Spirituality

Candidates should have a disciplined Christian spirituality, which will include commitment to both personal devotion and regular engagement in corporate worship.

III. Character

Candidates should demonstrate a significant measure of self-awareness, personal integrity, emotional stability, and resilience.

IV. Relationships

Candidates should have the capacity to build and sustain healthy personal, professional and pastoral relationships.

V. Leadership

Candidates should have some proven ability to offer leadership in the Church community and in the wider community as appropriate.