



Spurgeon's College Commendation in Biblical
Languages

Programme Specification

September 2019

1. Summary

Awarding body/institution

Spurgeon's College

Status of the course

This course is internally validated by Spurgeon's College. Its component units are taught to the same standard and according to the same regulations as its university-validated degree. 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 CertHE or degree programme, though this cannot be guaranteed.

Teaching institution

Spurgeon's College, London

Delivery Sites

Spurgeon's College (and/or by Distance Learning)

Name of the final award

Spurgeon's College Commendation in Biblical Languages (Level 4)

Spurgeon's College Commendation in Biblical Languages (Level 5)

Spurgeon's College Commendation in Biblical Languages (Level 6)

Subject benchmarks

Theology and Religious Studies (2007)

Framework for Higher Education Qualifications

Levels 4, 5 and 6

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

September 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 give students a solid grounding in one or both of the biblical languages Hebrew and Greek that will enable them to read biblical texts in their original language and access suitable resources to deepen their understanding of these texts.

Intended learning outcomes

The intended learning outcomes are:

1. Knowledge and understanding

On completion of the Spurgeon's College Commendation in Biblical Languages, students should be able to:

- demonstrate an understanding of the basic grammar, syntax and vocabulary of either Old Testament Hebrew or New Testament Greek or both

2. Discipline-specific and intellectual skills

On completion of the Spurgeon's College Commendation in Biblical Languages, students should be able to:

- translate straightforward Old or New Testament passages or both into contemporary English
- use linguistic study aids intelligently
- identify and access resources for taking their study of the biblical languages further

3. Generic skills (transferable skills)

On completion of the Spurgeon's College Commendation in Biblical Languages, students should be able to:

- exegete texts with sensitivity to linguistic nuance
- communicate the meaning of texts in an ancient language with integrity
- describe the importance of understanding the grammar and syntax of a language
- use IT and computer skills to advance their linguistic study

Nature of the course

The course is designed as a flexible way to study one or both of the main biblical languages to a basic or more advanced level. Students may study a minimum of one unit (10 credits) at Level 4 up to a maximum of 90 credits over the three levels. Institutions may accept the credits for transfer into a CertHE, DipHE or degree programme, depending on their own admissions protocols.

Students who have completed one or more units at Level 4 will gain the Spurgeon's Commendation in Biblical Languages (Level 4).

Students who have completed one or more units at Level 5 will gain the Spurgeon's Commendation in Biblical Languages (Level 5).

Students who have completed one or more units at Level 6 will gain the Spurgeon's Commendation in Biblical Languages (Level 6).

Mode of study

The course is part-time. It can be studied by distance learning, or in college, or a combination of the two. The facility for college study will be dependent on there being a sufficient cohort size in the relevant year.

3. Teaching, learning and assessment methods

At Level 4, students may study by distance learning or through classes in college (dependent on there being a sufficient cohort size in the relevant year) or a combination of the two. At Levels 5 and 6, students will need to attend college for classes, though it is hoped to develop distance learning materials at these levels as well.

The distance learning units are based on materials available on Moodle, the College's Virtual Learning Environment. These include specially-designed study guides, reading suggestions, and web links. There is an online tutor for each unit of study who is available for guidance and gives feedback on formative and summative work.

In college, classes give opportunity for an intensive experience of immersion in the language through interactive lectures and practice in reading and translation. This is supported by material on Moodle including notes, reading suggestions and web links. The unit tutor is available for guidance and gives feedback on formative and summative work.

All students will need to do substantial private study to learn the language(s) and develop the skills of accurate translation.

4. 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. A confidential chaplaincy service is available.
4. All students who are beginning study at HE level, or returning to it after a long period, are encouraged to take an online Study Skills programme as a foundation for their studies.
5. The College's electronic library facilities are available to students. Students may also visit the College to use the library, though they may not borrow books. The Librarian is available to give guidance on the use of the library and suitable visiting times.
6. The College has a disability policy and designated staff monitor the needs of those with specific learning difficulties and physical disabilities.
7. The College has a Learning Support Department and designated volunteers are available by appointment to give appropriate support to students with recognized learning needs.

5. 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.

6. Programme structure

The programme consists of one or more of the following units of study:

Level 4:

Unit Code	Unit Name	Credits
110	Basic Hebrew	10
8110	Basic Hebrew (Distance Learning)	10
126	New Testament Greek A	10
127	New Testament Greek B	10
8120	New Testament Greek (Distance Learning)	20

Note:

Students may take *either* the in-college version of Basic Hebrew (110) *or* the Distance Learning version (8110), but not both.

Students may take *either* the in-college version of New Testament Greek (126 & 127) *or* the Distance Learning version (8120), but not both. Students taking the in-college version may choose just to take unit 126. They cannot, in any case, take 127 without having first taken 126, and they will not be permitted to take the Greek units at Level 5 (220 and 222) without having completed *either* 8120 *or* both 126 and 127, or equivalent from another institution.

Level 5:

Unit Code	Unit Name	Credits
212	Pentateuch in Hebrew	10
213	Old Testament Writings in Hebrew	10
220	A Synoptic Gospel in Greek	10
222	A Pauline Letter in Greek	10

Note: completion of the relevant Level 4 language units above (or equivalent from another institution) is a prerequisite for studying the Level 5 units in that language.

Level 6:

Unit Code	Unit Name	Credits
310	Advanced Hebrew	10
320	New Testament Greek Texts	10

Note: completion of the relevant Level 5 language units above (or equivalent from another institution) is a prerequisite for studying the Level 6 units.

Programme duration

The programme is part-time and lasts for a maximum of 3 years. Students taking a unit in college will need to complete that unit within one semester (a Greek and a Hebrew unit may be taken concurrently). Students taking a distance learning unit (currently available at Level 4 only) will need to complete that unit within a 4-month period and will not be able to take another unit concurrently.

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.

7. 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 the Staff-Student Liaison Committee.
2. 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.
3. The Committee provides an annual report to the Academic Board.
4. The programme is subject to regular periodic review.
5. Programme revision can be initiated by the College's teaching staff or the Academic Board in accordance with the College's Academic Governance structures.