



Spurgeon's College Commendation in Ministry

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.

Teaching institution

Spurgeon's College, London

Delivery Sites

Distance Learning

Name of the final award

Spurgeon's College Commendation in Ministry

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 supplement participants' previous theological study with appropriate practical and reflective skills so that they can serve Church and society effectively in a ministerial capacity, particularly but not exclusively within the Baptist context. It is flexible in its content to allow participants to take units suited to their needs and situations, but it is assumed that all participants are active in Christian ministry.

Intended learning outcomes

The intended learning outcomes are:

1. Knowledge and understanding

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

- articulate an understanding of mission and ministry in the context of training placements and/or Baptist history and principles
- identify the key dynamics at play in a local congregation and/or a chaplaincy setting
- integrate biblical, theological and practical theology into their own philosophy of ministry
- critically evaluate some biblical and theological models of leadership

2. Discipline-specific and intellectual skills

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

- reflect theologically on ministry in a specific setting and/or in the context of the Baptist denomination generally
- represent views other than their own sensitively and intelligently with fairness and integrity, expressing their own identity without denigration of others
- demonstrate an integrative pattern of learning between academic study and practical ministry settings

3. Generic skills (transferable skills)

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

- communicate information, ideas, arguments, principles and theories clearly
- 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
- use IT and computer skills to advance their learning and the presentation of their work

Nature of the course

The course is designed to supplement an existing qualification rather than as the basis for a new one. Therefore the credits for units obtained will not normally be suitable for recognition as Accredited Prior Learning in a subsequent application to enrol on an HE programme.

Mode of study

The course is studied part-time, in either taught, distance learning or blended mode.

3. Teaching, learning and assessment methods

Depending on the options chosen (see section 6 Programme Structure), the course may involve classroom work, and/or distance learning, and/or one or more placements in a church or chaplaincy setting. For all options, materials are available on Moodle, the College's Virtual Learning Environment, to support student learning. These may include specially-designed study guides, reading suggestions, web links, and notes and recordings from college lectures.

There is a tutor for each unit of study who is available for guidance and gives feedback on formative and summative work.

Assessments will vary depending on the nature of the units taken. Individual unit descriptors give details for each unit.

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 are encouraged to take an online Study Skills programme as a foundation for their studies if they are returning to study after a gap of some years.
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 staff or 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
4401a	Professional Ministry and Practice 1a	20
4401b	Professional Ministry and Practice 1b	10
4401c	Professional Ministry and Practice 1c	10

Level 5:

Unit Code	Unit Name	Credits
5402a	Professional Ministry and Practice 2a	20
5402b	Professional Ministry and Practice 2b	10
5402c	Professional Ministry and Practice 2c	10
8243	Baptist History and Principles	10
8262	Leadership and Teamwork*	10

Level 6:

Unit Code	Unit Name	Credits
362	Chaplaincy	20
364	Chaplaincy	10
6403a	Professional Ministry and Practice*	20
6403b	Professional Ministry and Practice	10
6403c	Professional Ministry and Practice	10

* Either 8262 or 6403a may be taken, but not both.

Programme duration

The programme is part-time and lasts for a maximum of three years.

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.