UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Programme Specification 2024–2025

Divinity

BD
DipHE
CertHE
Individual modules

Important document – please read

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Important information regarding the Programme Specification

Last revised: 05 March 2024

The Programme Specification gives a broad outline of the structure and content of the programme and the entry level qualifications, as well as the learning outcomes students will achieve as they progress. Some of the information referred to in this Programme Specification is included in more detail on the University of London website. Where this is the case, links to the relevant webpage are included.

Where links to external organisations are provided, the University of London is not responsible for their content and does not recommend nor necessarily agree with opinions expressed and services provided at those sites.

If you have a query about any of the programme information provided, whether here or on the website, registered students should use the A*sk a question* tab in the Student Portal; otherwise the *Contact us* button on each webpage should be used.

Terminology

The following language is specific to the Divinity programmes:

Module: Individual units of the programme are called modules. Each module is a self-contained, formally structured learning experience with a coherent and explicit set of learning outcomes and assessment structure.

Key revisions made

Programme Specifications are revised annually. The quality committee with responsibility for these awards, as part of its annual review of standards, confirms the programme structure and the educational aims and learning outcomes, and advises on any development in student support.

Where changes have been made which may have an impact on continuing students, these are listed below. For all new students, the programme and general information provided in this document is correct and accurate and will be applicable for the current year.

Significant changes made to the programme specification 2024–2025:

English language requirements – additional note emphasising that all teaching is in English. Therefore, students will need to have the required level of written and spoken English to cope with their studies right from the start.

Internet access and computer specification – updated to reflect minimum computer requirements.

Assessment methods – Definition of examination and information on assessments updated.

Student support and guidance – Information on UoL Careers Service added.

Quality evaluation and enhancement – Information on quality assurance mechanisms updated in line with sector practice.

- The programme structure of the Bachelor of Divinity, Diploma of Higher Education in Divinity and the Certificate of Higher Education in Divinity have all changed to allow for additional optionality at FHEQ Level 4. This is to allow more choice for students whose Date of Registration is 2019 and later, without detriment to modules already on the student record.

- Students wishing to enter the programme via the performance-based entry route can now do so by registering for and passing any level 4 module.

- For all modules with participation-based assessment, students are required to complete five of the ten online discussion tasks for each module to pass the assessment element.

- For all modules, **except for** *Biblical Hebrew: Language and texts [DT2002-03], New Testament Greek: Language and texts [DT2003], Texts in Hebrew [DT3001]* and the *Dissertation*, the examination duration is extended from 90 to 120 minutes.

- For *Biblical Hebrew: Language and texts [DT2002-03], New Testament Greek: Language and texts [DT2003], and Texts in Hebrew [DT3001], the examination duration is extended from 180 minutes to 240 minutes.*

Programme title and qualifications

Undergraduate degrees of the University of London are awarded with Honours. The award certificate will indicate the level of the academic performance (Honours) achieved by classifying the award. The classification of the degree will be based on the ratified marks from the completed assessments.

The standard classification system for Bachelor's degrees with Honours is:

First-Class

Upper Second-Class

Lower Second-Class

Third-Class

Specific rules for the classification of awards are given in the Programme Regulations, under Schemes of Award.

Programme title

Divinity

Qualifications

- Bachelor of Divinity
- Diploma of Higher Education in Divinity
- Certificate of Higher Education in Divinity

If you registered prior to 30 October 2020, you may choose to be awarded the:

Diploma of Higher Education in Theology

Certificate of Higher Education in Theology

Intermediate qualifications

The intermediate qualifications for this programme are the Diploma of Higher Education and Certificate of Higher Education as listed above.

Students may be awarded an intermediate qualification and progress to a higher award. The specific rules are given in the Programme Regulations under Progression rules.

Exit qualifications

The exit qualifications for this programme are:

- Diploma of Higher Education in Divinity
- Certificate of Higher Education in Divinity

An exit qualification is an intermediate qualification for which the student may not have registered at the outset but which may be awarded on completion of specific modules (or credit accumulated) in a longer programme of study if the student leaves the programme.

Students who for academic or personal reasons are unable to complete the 240 or 360 credits required for the DipHE or BD awards may exit with the successful completion of 120 or 240 credits and be awarded a CertHE or DipHE respectively.

Full details of the Schemes of Award are included in the Programme Regulations.

Individual modules

There is also provision for individual modules of the programme to be studied on a stand-alone basis.

See the Programme Regulations for a full list of individual modules available for study.

Qualification titles may be abbreviated as follows:

Bachelor of Divinity – BD

Diploma of Higher Education – DipHE

Certificate of Higher Education – CertHE

Level of the programmes

The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (FHEQ) forms part of the UK Quality Code for Higher Education of the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA).

The qualifications are placed at the following Levels of the FHEQ:

- BD   Level 6
- DipHE   Level 5
- CertHE   Level 4

Individual modules are offered at Levels 4, 5 and 6.

Relevant QAA subject benchmarks group(s)

See the QAA website for information

Theology and religious studies (December 2019)

Awarding body

University of London

Registering body

University of London

Academic direction

University of London

Accreditation by professional or statutory body

Not applicable

Language of study and assessment

English

Mode of study

Flexible and online study

Programme structures

> The programme structure of the Bachelor of Divinity, Diploma of Higher Education in Divinity and the Certificate of Higher Education in Divinity have all changed to allow for additional optionality at FHEQ Level 4. This is to allow more choice for students whose Date of Registration is 2019 and later, without detriment to modules already on the student record.
>
> Please see the [Programme Regulations](#) for more details on the structure of the programme and progression rules.

Bachelor of Divinity

The BD consists of twelve modules totalling 360 credits. A student must take:

- **One** compulsory introductory module at FHEQ Level 4; **and a choice from**

- Three further modules at FHEQ Level 4 selected from a list; **OR**

- **Two** further modules at FHEQ Level 4 selected from a list, plus **one** specified alternative module at FHEQ Level 5; **and**

- **Seven** elective modules, at least **two** at FHEQ Level 5 and **three** at FHEQ Level 6; **and**

- The Dissertation module.

Diploma of Higher Education in Divinity

The DipHE Divinity consists of eight modules totalling 240 credits. A student must take:

- One compulsory introductory module at FHEQ Level 4; and a choice from

- Three further modules at FHEQ Level 4 selected from a list; OR

- Two further modules at FHEQ Level 4 selected from a list, plus one specified alternative module at FHEQ Level 5; and

- **Four** elective modules chosen from a list.

Certificate of Higher Education in Divinity

The CertHE Divinity consists of **one** compulsory module at FHEQ Level 4; and a choice from **three** further modules at FHEQ Level 4; or **two** further modules at FHEQ Level 4 and **one** specified alternative module at FHEQ Level 5, totalling 120 credits.

Individual modules

There is also provision for some modules to be studied on a stand-alone basis. These modules are specified in the Programme Regulations.

Maximum and minimum periods of registration

Maximum periods of registration are listed in the General Regulations. The minimum periods of registration, from a student's effective date of registration, are:

Award	Minimum*
BD	Three years
DipHE	Two years
CertHE	One year
Individual modules	One year

*These periods may vary if recognition of prior learning is permitted.

Students will retain the period of registration initially given to them on registration if the maximum registration period for their qualification changes during their studies. Study materials are normally made available on the VLE from September, on payment of the applicable fee.

Credit value of modules

> Further information about the credit systems used by universities in the UK and Europe is provided by the Quality Assurance Agency and the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System.

Where credits are assigned to each module of a programme, credit indicates the amount of learning carried out in terms of the notional number of study hours needed, and the specified Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-awarding Bodies (FHEQ) credit level indicates the depth, complexity and intellectual demand of learning involved. The details below indicate the UK credits and the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) values.

Each qualification equates to the following number of credits:

- BD – 360 UK credits or 180 ECTS credits

- DipHE – 240 UK credits or 120 ECTS credits

- CertHE – 120 UK credits or 60 ECTS credits

Each module equates to 30 UK credits or 15 ECTS credits.

One UK credit equates to a notional ten hours of study.

Recognition of prior learning and credit transfer

Recognition of prior learning is a generic term for the process by which we recognise and, where appropriate, award credit for learning that has taken place elsewhere, before entry onto this programme of study.

Where prior learning covered a similar syllabus to a module on the University of London programme, we will consider awarding credit as if you had taken the University of London module.

We do not normally recognise prior learning completed more than five years before your registration on this programme.

See the General Regulations (Section 3) and Programme Regulations for more information relating to prior learning and credit transfer.

Details on how to apply for recognition and accreditation of prior learning can be found on our website.

For the BD programme the University of London may recognise and accredit prior learning for up to four modules at Level 4.

Entrance requirements

Applicants must submit an application in line with the procedures and deadlines set out on the website.

We consider qualifications from around the world. Details are available here and in the Qualifications for Entrance schedule

Entry route 1 – Direct entry route

To be considered for registration for an undergraduate degree or Diploma of Higher Education with the University of London, applicants must normally satisfy:

- the University of London's general entrance requirements; and

- any additional programme-specific entrance requirements; and

- English language requirements.

Entrance requirements are set out in detail on the programme page under the Entry requirements tab.

Entry route 2 – Performance based admission route

If applicants do not meet the academic requirements for direct entry, they can apply for the CertHE via the Performance based admission route.

To be eligible to register, applicants must:

- normally be aged 18 or above by the registration deadline of the year in which they will be entering; and

- satisfy the English language requirements.

To be admitted onto the CertHE Divinity, applicants must pass **any** FHEQ Level 4 module.

Students will have three attempts to pass the module. This route can help students to develop the skills necessary to complete the CertHE successfully, following which they may progress to the DipHE or full BD subject to meeting requirements. Full details of entrance requirements for the Direct entry route and Performance based admission route are given on the programme page, under the Entry requirements tab.

The full progression rules for the Performance based admission route can be found in Section 6 of the Programme Regulations.

General entrance requirements for Undergraduate Degrees and Diplomas of Higher Education

Age:

Applicants must normally be at least 17 years of age on or before the registration deadline.

Qualifications:

Applicants must:
- have passed qualifications that satisfy category G in the Qualifications for Entrance schedule
- meet any additional programme-specific entrance requirements; and
- satisfy the English language requirements.

General entrance requirements for the Certificate of Higher Education and Individual modules

Age:

Applicants must normally be at least 18 years of age on or before the registration deadline.

Qualifications:

Applicants must:
- meet programme-specific entrance requirements; and
- satisfy the English language requirements.

Details of any programme specific requirements are given on the programme page of the website, under the Entry requirements tab.

English language requirements

All applicants must satisfy the English language requirements for the programme. These are set out in detail on the programme page under the Entry requirements tab. All teaching is in English. Therefore, students need to have the required level of written and spoken English to cope with their studies right from the start.

Additional information on English language proficiency tests is given on the website.

Where an applicant does not meet the prescribed English language proficiency requirements but believes that they can demonstrate the requisite proficiency for admission the University may, at its discretion, consider the application.

Computer specification and internet access

Students will require regular access to a portable computer with an internet connection to use the University of London's online resources and systems.

Students must be able to download and install software to their Windows or MacOS device to include secure examination browsers for online assessment purposes (if offered on your programme of study). Depending on the security settings for each assessment you may be required to have full administrator rights on your computer to install and run the software needed to take part in the assessment. Full administration rights are likely to apply to a computer that you own but not to one provided by your employer, for example.

Computer requirements

The portable computer must have at least the following minimum specification:

- Windows: 10 and 11 on 64-bit platforms

- MacOS Big Sur (version 11) and higher

- CPUs newer than 2011 (Intel Sandy Bridge (Core i3, i5 and i7 or newer)

- OpenGL 2.0 graphics driver

- Local storage for the recording of proctored examinations (75MB per hour)

- Web camera & microphone (internal or external)

- A broadband internet connection capable of streaming video and a minimum of 0.15Mbps upload speed.

- Minimum device requirements are subject to change and older operating systems may become obsolete over time.

It should also have the following applications installed:

- Word processor (for Microsoft Word documents)

- A PDF reader (e.g. Adobe)

Please note: full mobile access is not available for all programmes. Proctored assessments will not work on any smartphone, tablet, Chromebook, Linux Operating Systems or other mobile device of any kind.

We are developing further security protocols and therefore you will require a mobile device (such as a mobile phone or tablet/iPad) to approve for our services. Full details, including specifications, will be provided ahead of the implementation.

Students with access requirements

The University of London welcomes applications from disabled students and/or those who have access requirements. The University will make every effort to provide reasonable adjustments to enable those with a disability, learning difficulty or access requirements to have the same opportunity as all other students to complete their studies.

The University is committed to managing the application procedure and the programme itself to ensure that services are accessible for all students and that an inclusive environment is created. Students with a disability, or others who may need access arrangements to assist in

taking assessments, should complete the relevant section of the application form, or contact the Inclusive Practice Manager. A separate room or other arrangements may be considered.

Requests are considered by a University panel, whose purpose is to ensure that students with disabilities and/or specific access requirements are neither advantaged nor disadvantaged by such arrangements when compared with other students. These considerations remain separate from the academic selection processes.

> For further information, please see the Inclusive Practice Policy.

Sources of funding and scholarships

Information about potential sources of funding and scholarships is updated annually and where available is included in the prospectus web pages.

> For further information, see our website.

Educational aims and learning outcomes of the programmes

Educational aims

- to provide distance and flexible education in the study of Divinity which is suitable for a range of students' needs and interests;

- to offer grounding in key areas of the study of Divinity and an opportunity to choose optional modules which reflect students' interests, aims and experiences;

- to promote an accurate and reflective understanding of scriptural, spiritual, and intellectual traditions within the discipline;

- to foster the development of critical and independent thought and writing;

- to promote an understanding of and critical engagement with the impact of religion on individuals and societies, thus enabling individuals and societies to work for positive change.

Learning outcomes

On completion of the **Bachelor of Divinity** a student will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate a detailed and systematic knowledge and understanding of key texts, events, doctrines, theories, interpretations and arguments relating to the study of Divinity, at least some of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of the discipline;

- show awareness of a range of approaches/interpretations where applicable.

Intellectual and cognitive

- demonstrate intellectual flexibility through the appropriate use of a range of approaches to the study of Divinity – e.g. linguistic, exegetical, hermeneutical, systematic, historical, and philosophical;

- identify and focus on key issues within each topic studied;

- conduct a detailed critical analysis of texts, events, doctrines, theories and arguments;

- construct a strongly sustained argument, which may also show the implications of the findings for further study of the subject.

Transferable skills

- undertake in-depth, independent research, drawing on a variety of complex primary and secondary resources;

- select and organise material from a wide range of complex primary and secondary sources;

- represent the views of others with fairness and integrity;

- show a highly-developed ability to assimilate and evaluate competing arguments;

- show open-mindedness and independence of thought;

- produce clear, well-structured written work;

- write fluently, with minimal grammatical and typographical errors and (where appropriate) accurate referencing;

- manage their own learning, including working effectively to deadlines; and

- demonstrate the learning ability needed to undertake further study at postgraduate level.

On completion of the **Diploma of Higher Education in Divinity** a student will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate knowledge and critical understanding of key texts, events, doctrines, theories, interpretations and arguments relating to the study of Divinity;

- show awareness of different approaches/interpretations where applicable.

Intellectual and cognitive

- demonstrate intellectual flexibility through the appropriate use of a range of approaches to the study of Divinity – e.g. linguistic, exegetical, hermeneutical, systematic, historical, philosophical;

- identify and focus on key issues within each topic studied;

- conduct a critical analysis of texts, events, doctrines, theories and arguments;

- construct a sustained argument.

Transferable skills

- select and organise material from a range of primary and secondary sources;

- represent the views of others with fairness and integrity;

- show an ability to assimilate and evaluate competing arguments;

- show open-mindedness and independence of thought;

- produce clear, well-structured written work;

- write fluently, with minimal grammatical and typographical errors and (where appropriate) accurate referencing;

- manage their own learning, including working effectively to deadlines;

- demonstrate the learning ability needed to undertake further study at Level 6.

On completion of the **Certificate of Higher Education** in Divinity a student will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate a basic knowledge and understanding of key texts, events, doctrines, theories, interpretations and arguments relating to the study of Divinity.

Intellectual and cognitive

- demonstrate the appropriate use of different approaches to the study of Divinity – e.g. exegetical, hermeneutical, systematic, historical, philosophical;

- identify and focus on key issues within each topic studied;

- conduct an analysis of texts, events, doctrines, theories and arguments; and

- construct a valid argument.

Transferable skills

- select and organise material from a limited range of primary and secondary sources;

- represent the views of others with fairness and integrity;

- show ability to assimilate and evaluate competing arguments;

- show open-mindedness and make sound judgements;

- produce clear, well-structured written work;

- write fluently, with minimal grammatical and typographical errors and (where appropriate) accurate referencing;

- show some ability to manage their own learning, including working effectively to deadlines;

- demonstrate the learning ability needed to undertake further study at Level 5.

Learning, teaching and assessment strategies

For each topic in a module syllabus reading guidance notes should be regarded as an introduction to the essential and further readings, all of which are provided online with the exception of the module Texts in Hebrew. Each topic also has a short video/audio recording or PowerPoint presentation, which serves either as an introduction to the topic or to highlight an interesting aspect of the topic. Students should work systematically through each topic of the syllabus, using the resources provided and completing any exercises specified in the reading guidance notes. Students may communicate with a tutor and each other by means of the discussion forums on the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). Advice on enhancing

your learning and tackling the assessment tasks may be accessed via the 'Welcome and induction' section of the VLE.

Assessment methods

All assessments are submitted online via a University of London platform. Students must ensure that their device is kept up to date and complies with University Computer Requirements .

Most modules (except three modules in biblical languages and the dissertation module) are assessed by means of forum participation (5%) coursework (45%) and examination (50%). All modules except the dissertation module will require students to sit a written examination.

For all modules with participation-based assessment, students are required to complete five of the ten online discussion tasks for each module to pass the assessment element.

For the dissertation module, students will be required to submit a dissertation of 8-10,000 words.

An examination is defined as an element of assessment that takes place in a controlled environment. Students will be given details of how the modules on their programme are assessed, the specific environment or location that is permitted and the time allowed for the assessment.

Examinations are taken using an online delivery method and take place in May each year. All examinations take place on the same dates and at specific times in line with the published timetables.

Online examinations are proctored remotely except for students who study at a Recognised Teaching Centre for which examinations are normally held at established examination centres worldwide.

Please refer to the fees schedule for information about fees payable to examination centres (if applicable to the programme of study) and for the examination entry and submission.

Assessment criteria for the programme will indicate the extent to which the learning outcomes for each module have been achieved.

> The assessment structure for each module is detailed in Appendix D of the Programme Regulations.
>
> Full details of the dates of all examinations are available on the website.

Student support and guidance

The following summarises the support and guidance available to students:

- Student Portal: For accessing student induction, study skills support, careers and employability resources, and student wellbeing advice.

- Student Guide: This provides information which is common to all students and gives guidance on a range of matters from the start of a student's relationship with the University of London through to their graduation.

- The Virtual Learning Environment (VLE): This gives access to information about the programme and its modules (including, for each module, introductory videos or podcasts, e-books, book chapters and articles, reading guidance notes, discussion forums, and information about assessment).

- The VLE also includes a range of additional study resources such as:
    - Online student discussion areas which allow students to communicate with each other.
    - 'Ask the Programme team' facility: This is provided by means of a button on the VLE home page which links to a dedicated email address.
    - Past examination papers and Examiners' guidelines: These provide advice on answering examination questions.

- Programme Regulations.

- The Online Library: This provides a range of full-text, multidisciplinary databases where students can access books and journal articles.

- University of London library: Registered students may use the resources located within the Senate House library.

- A University of London email account and web area for personal information management.

- University of London Careers Service – offers tailored careers and employability support to students whatever their course, wherever they are studying, and whether they are starting, developing, or changing their career. Support includes webinars led by careers consultants, employer and alumni panel events and a range of online careers resources.

Quality evaluation and enhancement

The University of London delivers the majority of its online and distance learning programmes through a collaboration between the University of London Worldwide and University of London federation members. However, some of the online and distance learning programmes draw solely on academic input from the University of London and are delivered without academic lead by a federation member. The policies, partnerships (where applicable) and quality assurance mechanisms applicable for the programmes are defined in the following key documents: The Quality Assurance Schedules, Guidelines for Examinations, General Regulations and, for each programme, programme specific regulations.

Awards standards

All University of London qualifications must comply with the Office for Students' (OfS) Conditions of Registration relating to quality and standards, which includes condition B5 (sector-recognised standards). This is to ensure appropriate standards for each qualification. In addition, every online and distance learning programme that is developed by a federation member of the University of London (or a consortium with representation by more than one federation member) will be developed to the same standard as would be applied within the institution concerned. Proportionate and robust approval procedures, including external scrutiny and student engagement, are in place for all programmes. Learning materials are

written and all assessments are set and marked by academic staff who are required to apply the University's academic standards.

Review and evaluation mechanisms

Some of the key mechanisms in place to assure the standards of all University of London qualifications and the quality of the student experience, include:

- Annual programme reports: produced for all programmes in order to review and enhance the provision and to plan ahead;

- Independent external examiners: submit reports every year to confirm that a programme has been assessed properly and meets the appropriate academic standards;

- Annual student performance, progression and completion statistics

- Periodic programme reviews: carried out every 4-6 years to review how a programme has developed over time and to make sure that it remains current and continues to provide a good student experience.

Enhancements are made as necessary to ensure that systems remain effective and rigorous.

Student feedback and engagement

The principal channel for collecting feedback from students is the Student Experience Survey. Carried out every year, this collects feedback from the student body on a range of topics relating to the student lifecycle. The results are analysed externally and then considered in a number of different ways, including by the programme team, principal committees and the senior leadership team. Details of any resulting actions taken are published on the Virtual Learning Environment and the Student Portal.

Additionally, on completion of their programme of study students will be invited to take a survey that seeks to measure what they have gained from their studies.

There are also opportunities for students to get involved in governance. An undergraduate and postgraduate student member is appointed by the University to the majority of committees through an annual appointment round. Some programmes also recruit student members at the programme level. Students are frequently invited to take part in quality review processes such as Periodic Programme Reviews, Programme approval, Thematic Reviews, MOOC review panels and ad hoc focus groups. Opportunities such as these are advertised through social media and on the website. More information can be found on the website.

Students can also apply to join the Student Voice Group, which meets four times a year to consider initiatives for enhancing student experience. Notes from these meetings are published on the Student Portal.

After graduation

Further study

Successful completion of the programme may allow students to progress to a higher-level qualification in both the subject area and potentially many other subject areas.

Graduate employment routes

Graduates of the Bachelor of Divinity programme are well equipped not only with knowledge of religion, which can be applied in both religious and secular contexts, but also a variety of transferable skills. This can lead to a wide variety of career paths including but not limited to chaplaincy or counselling, teaching, law, journalism, work with the police or probation service, and charity work.

The Alumni Community

Upon finishing a course of study, graduates automatically become part of the University of London alumni community, a diverse global network of more than one million graduates in over 180 countries, providing lifelong links to the University and to each other.

Alumni are encouraged to keep in touch after they graduate and to become active members of the alumni community; in return they receive a number of benefits and services, including an extensive programme of events and engagement opportunities.

More information is available on the alumni webpage.

Follow the alumni community on social media: Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn

After graduation