UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Programme Specification 2019–2020

Divinity and Theology

BD
DipHE
CertHE
Individual modules

Important document – please read

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Important information regarding the Programme Specification

Last revised 01 May 2019

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 and Theology 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 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 2019-20:

The Divinity and Theology programmes have undergone significant redevelopment for 2019-20. Refer to the Programme Regulations for full details.

Programme title and awards

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:

- o First-Class
- o Upper Second-Class
- o Lower Second-Class
- o Third-Class

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

Programme titles

- Bachelor of Divinity
- 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 the 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 these programmes are:

- Diploma of Higher Education in Theology
- Certificate of Higher Education in Theology

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 Diploma or the Bachelor of Divinity awards may exit with the successful completion of 120 or 240 credits and be awarded a Certificate or Diploma of Higher Education respectively.

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

Exit qualifications are awarded at the discretion of the Board of Examiners and once a student has accepted an exit qualification they will not normally be permitted to continue their study of the same award with the University of London.

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.

Award 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 in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (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 Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (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 (2014): https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/sbs-theology-religious-studies.pdf

Awarding body

University of London

Registering body

www.london.ac.uk

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

> 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:

- **Four** introductory modules at FHEQ Level 4;

- **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 Theology

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

- **Four** introductory modules at FHEQ Level 4;

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

Certificate of Higher Education in Theology

The CertHE in Theology consists of **four** compulsory modules at FHEQ Level 4, totalling 120 credits.

Maximum and minimum periods of registration

The maximum and minimum period of registration, from a student's effective date of registration, are:

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

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

Study materials are made available on the VLE from 1 September and 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 award 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 at an institution other than the University of London. Where the prior learning covered a similar syllabus to a module on the University of London programme, credit will be awarded as if you had taken the University of London module.

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

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

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

Students registered on the Combined Degree Scheme may apply to transfer credit for up to three modules (90 credits) at Level 4 for the BD, DipHE or CertHE in Theology, where applicable. This will be at the discretion of the Programme Director.

Entrance requirements

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

- any additional programme specific entrance requirements; and

- English language requirements.

Entrance requirements are set out in detail on the [programme page](#) under the Requirements tab.

> We consider qualifications from around the world. Details are available [here](#) and in the [Qualifications for entrance](#) schedule

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

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

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

Age:

Applicants should check eligibility criteria which are given under the [Requirements tab](#) of the programme.

Qualifications:

Applicants must

- o meet programme specific entrance requirements; and
- o satisfy English language requirements.

> Details of any programme specific requirements are given on the [programme page](#), under the Requirements tab.

English language requirements

Applicants must satisfy the English language requirements for the programme. These are set out in detail on the [programme page](#) under the Requirements tab.

Additional information on English language proficiency tests are 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.

Internet access and computer specification

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

The computer should have at least the following minimum specification:

- a web browser with Cookies and JavaScript enabled (the latest version of Firefox or Chrome is recommended);
- a good internet connection;

And the following applications installed:

- a word processor that accepts Microsoft Word formats (.doc and .docx);
- a pdf reader.

Students with specific 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 successfully. 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 examinations, 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.

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.

On completion of the **Diploma of Higher Education in Theology** 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 Theology;

- 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 Theology – 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.

On completion of the **Certificate of Higher Education in Theology** 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 Theology.

Intellectual and cognitive

- demonstrate the appropriate use of different approaches to the study of Theology – 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.

Learning, teaching and assessment strategies

For each topic in a module syllabus, short videos (for some modules) and guidance notes should be regarded as an introduction to the essential and further readings, many of which are provided online. Students should work systematically through each topic of the syllabus,

using the resources provided and completing any exercises specified in the topic guidance notes. Students may communicate with a tutor (where available) 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

The form of assessment varies for each module. All modules will require students to sit a written examination. The length and nature of the examination will vary from module to module. Examinations are held in May at one of our many established centres worldwide. Some modules will also require the submission of one piece of coursework. For the dissertation module, students will be required to submit a dissertation of 8-10,000 words. Assessment criteria for the programme will indicate the extent to which the learning outcomes for each module have been achieved.

Some modules also provide students with the opportunity for formative assessment. This will involve student contribution to online forum discussion.

> The assessment structure for each module is detailed in Appendix A 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 Guide: This provides information which is common to all students and gives information about matters of importance from the start of a student's relationship with the University of London through to their graduation.

- Programme Regulations.

- The Virtual Learning Environment (VLE): This gives access to study materials (including the guidance notes, e-books, book chapters and articles, and a discussion forum) and information about assessment for each module studied.

- 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 (for a small additional fee).

- Past examination papers and Examiners' guidelines and/or commentaries: These provide generic feedback from assessment.

- Employability skills module – guidance on how to manage your career in the future, available through the VLE.

- '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.

- Online student café: This allows students to communicate with each other.

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

Quality evaluation and enhancement

The University of London delivers the majority of its flexible and distance learning programmes through a collaboration between the University of London Worldwide and member institutions of the University of London. Some of the flexible and distance learning programmes draw solely on academic input from the University of London, however, and are delivered without academic lead by a member institution. The policies, partnerships (where applicable) and quality assurance mechanisms applicable for the programmes are defined in the following key documents: The Quality Framework, the Quality Assurance Schedules, and Guidelines for Examinations.

Awards standards

All University of London awards have to align with the Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-awarding Bodies to assure appropriate awards standards. 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 awards 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 information statistics: prepared for all systematic reporting within the University of London;
- 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 up-to-date.

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

Student feedback and engagement

The Student Experience Survey, carried out every two years, collects feedback from the student body on a range of topics relating to the student lifecycle. The results are considered in a number of different ways, including by the Pro-Vice Chancellor, the programme team, and principal committees and departments at the University of London responsible for the different aspects of the student experience. Once the findings have been considered in detail, responses are published from both the University of London and from the individual Programme Directors.

Additional survey activity may be conducted from time to time by means of the student portal, VLE discussion forums, or email by the central University or by the Programme team..

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.

After graduation

Further study

Successful completion of the programme may allow students to progress to a higher-level award in the subject area.

Graduate employment routes

Graduates of the Bachelor of Divinity programme are well equipped with not only knowledge of religion, which can be applied to both religious and secular contexts, but also a variety of transferable skills. This provides for a wide variety of career paths including but not limited to chaplaincy or counselling, teaching, policing, journalism and charity work. This programme also provides a basis for those who wish to go on and train for a career in law.

The Alumni Network

Upon graduation, students automatically become members of the University of London Alumni Network, a diverse worldwide community of alumni in more than 180 countries. The Alumni Network can provide past students with lifelong links to the University of London and each other. Benefits include social and networking events, access to local groups, a bi-annual magazine, social networking groups, and the opportunity to become an Alumni Ambassador for the University of London.

For further information, please see https://london.ac.uk/alumni, www.facebook.com/londonualumni, www.instagram.com/_londonu and https://www.linkedin.com/school/university-of-london/