



UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON

INTERNATIONAL
PROGRAMMES

Programme Specification 2017–18

Divinity,
Theology and
Philosophy, Religion and
Ethics

BD

DipHE

CertHE

Individual modules

Important document – please read



Table of Contents

Important information regarding the Programme Specification	2
Title and name of awards	3
Entrance requirements	6
Educational aims and learning outcomes of the programmes.....	8
Learning, teaching and assessment strategies	11
Assessment methods	11
Student support and guidance	12
Quality evaluation and enhancement.....	12
After graduation.....	13

Important information regarding the Programme Specification

About this document

Last revised: 30 March 2017

The Programme Specification gives a broad outline of the structure and content of the programme, 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 International Programmes (International Programmes) 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 *ask a question* tab in the student portal <https://my.londoninternational.ac.uk>; otherwise the *Contact Us* button at the bottom left hand corner of every webpage should be used.

Terminology

The following language is specific to the 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 criteria.

An online [Glossary](#) provides an explanation of other terms used here and on the website.

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 2017-18:

From 1 August 2017 the awards made through this programme will have academic direction provided by the University of London. Academic direction was previously provided by Heythrop College, University of London.

Title and name of awards

Divinity, Theology and Philosophy, Religion & Ethics

- Bachelor of Divinity Honours Degree (BD)
- Diploma of Higher Education in Theology (DipHE)
- Certificate of Higher Education in Theology (CertHE)
- Certificate of Higher Education in Philosophy, Religion and Ethics (CertHE)

Exit awards

- Diploma of Higher Education in Theology (DipHE)
- Certificate of Higher Education in Theology (CertHE)

Individual modules

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

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 awards are placed at the following Levels of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ):

- | | |
|---|---------|
| • BD | Level 6 |
| • DipHE in Theology | Level 5 |
| • CertHE in Theology | Level 4 |
| • CertHE in Philosophy, Religion and Ethics | 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): <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/assuring-standards-and-quality/the-quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements/honours-degree-subjects>

Awarding body

University of London

Registering body

www.londoninternational.ac.uk

University of London

Academic direction

See [Glossary](#) for an explanation

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

See [Programme Regulations](#) for more details on structure of the programme and Progression rules.

Bachelor of Divinity

Consists of 12 modules. A student must take:

- Four level 4 modules
- A minimum of two level 5 modules
- A minimum of four level 6 modules

Diploma of Higher Education in Theology

Consists of eight modules:

- Four modules to be passed at level 4; and
- One compulsory level 5 module; and
- Three optional modules to be chosen from a choice of level 5 and level 6 modules

Certificate of Higher Education in Theology

Consists of:

- Four level 4 modules

Certificate of Higher Education in Philosophy, Religion and Ethics

Consists of:

- Three level 4 modules and one level 5 module

Individual modules

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

Exit awards

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. Exit awards are granted at the discretion of the University and are subject to the Board of Examiners being satisfied that the award represents a coherent programme of study.

Full details of the Scheme of Award are included in the [Programme Regulations](#).

Maximum and minimum periods of registration

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

	Minimum*	Maximum
BD	Three years	Eight years
DipHE in Theology	Two years	Five years
CertHE in Theology	One year	Five years
CertHE in Philosophy, Religion and Ethics	One year	Five years
Individual modules	One year	Two years

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

Study materials are made available after registration 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 available in:

The Higher Education Credit Framework for England,
www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/Academic-Credit-Framework.pdf

The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England,
www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/Framework-Higher-Education-Qualifications-08.pdf

The European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System,
http://ec.europa.eu/education/tools/ects_en.htm

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 Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England (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

For this programme the University of London may recognise and accredit your prior learning.

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 accreditation of prior learning.

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 International Programmes, 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.

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 30 November in the year of registration.

Qualifications:

Applicants must have passed qualifications that satisfy category G in the Qualifications for Entrance schedule.

The Qualifications for Entrance schedule can be found here:
www.londoninternational.ac.uk/sites/default/files/entrance_qualifications.pdf

General Entrance Requirements for Certificates of Higher Education and Individual modules

Age:

Applicants should check programme requirements which are given under the Requirements tab of the programme.

Qualifications:

Three separate subjects at GCSE/GCE O level with grades A to C or check the Qualifications for Entrance schedule for equivalent studies.

Details of the 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

Students will require regular access to a computer (or mobile device*) with an internet connection to use the International Programmes website and the Student Portal. These are where many of the programme's study resources are located.

The computer should have at least the following minimum specification:

- a web browser (the latest version of Firefox, Chrome or Internet Explorer). This must accept cookies and have JavaScript enabled;
- screen resolution of 1024 x 768 or greater;
- sufficient bandwidth to download documents of at least 2 MB;

And the following applications installed:

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

** Full mobile access to VLE resources is not available for all programmes.*

Students with specific access requirements

International Programmes welcomes applications from disabled students and/or those who have specific access requirements. The University will make every effort to provide reasonable adjustments to enable those with specific access requirements to have the same chance as all other students to successfully 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. The International Programmes admissions team encourages those students with a disability, or others who may need special arrangements to assist in taking examinations (such as separate room or special aids), to complete the relevant section of the application form, or contact the [Inclusive Practice Manager](#). 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, see [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 www.londoninternational.ac.uk/distance-and-flexible-learning/funding-your-study

Educational aims and learning outcomes of the programmes

Educational aims

- to provide an education in Theology – primarily, although not exclusively, Christian Theology – suitable for a range of students' needs and interests;
- to offer grounding in key areas of Theology and an opportunity to choose optional modules which reflect students' interests, aims and experiences;
- to promote an accurate and reflective understanding of scriptural, intellectual and spiritual traditions within the discipline;
- to foster the development of critical and independent thought;
- to encourage students' self-development into professionally organised and interactive individuals by enabling them to practice skills of selection, assimilation and communication in the written domain; and
- to contribute in the field of Theology to the intellectual and educational life of society in general and of the Christian community in particular.

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 Theology, at least some of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of the discipline; and
- 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 Theology – 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; and
- 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 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; and
- 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;
- manage their own learning, including working effectively to deadlines; and
- demonstrate the learning ability needed to undertake further study at Level 6.

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

Knowledge and understanding

Programme Specification 2017-18 Divinity, Theology, and Philosophy, Religion & Ethics (BD/DipHE/CertHE and Individual modules)

- 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;
- show some ability to manage their own learning, including working effectively to deadlines; and
- demonstrate the learning ability needed to undertake further study at Level 5.

Certificate of Higher Education in Philosophy, Religion and Ethics

The educational aims of the programme are to:

- provide an introduction to key themes in the study of Philosophy, Religion and Ethics;
- foster the development of critical and independent thought;
- encourage students' self-development into professionally organised and interactive individuals by enabling them to practice skills of selection, assimilation and communication in the written domain.

On completion of the Certificate of Higher Education in Philosophy, Religion and Ethics 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 Philosophy, Religion and Ethics.

Intellectual and cognitive

- demonstrate the appropriate use of different methodological approaches - 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;
- show some ability to manage their own learning, including working effectively to deadlines; and
- demonstrate the learning ability needed to undertake further study at Level 5.

Learning, teaching and assessment strategies

Subject guides for each module introduce the topic within the syllabus and should be used alongside the recommended reading. The subject guides show the student how to approach a topic using primary and secondary resources in an organised and productive manner. The subject guides include tools to assist students in the development of the skills of information search, comprehension and analysis and the generation of original and thoughtful texts. Advice and practical information such as study techniques, planning, preparation for assessment is available in the Student Guide and Programme Handbook. Students manage their own learning.

Students may communicate with each other on the Theology Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). Students will be able to engage in dialogue, and develop and negotiate conclusions with others, which are key components in the acquisition of knowledge, understanding and transferable skills.

For each module, except the Dissertation, students will be assessed by unseen written examination. Questions are structured to allow students to demonstrate that they have acquired appropriate knowledge and understanding. The way that students pursue original thoughts and ideas and question opinions, and the organisational skills used to structure answers allows the standard of intellectual and transferable skills to be assessed. Assessment criteria for the programme will indicate the level at which these skills have been achieved.

Assessment methods

Each module of the BD, DipHE in Theology, CertHE in Theology and CertHE in Philosophy, Religion and Ethics is examined by one three hour unseen written examination. The exception to this is the Dissertation module in the BD, which is assessed by an 8,000-10,000 word dissertation.

The written examinations take place on one occasion each year, normally commencing in May. These are held at established centres worldwide.

Individual modules

A student may choose whether or not to be formally assessed in the credit-bearing individual modules for which they are registered. Students who choose to be formally assessed will be examined by the same form of assessment as students studying for a full award.

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 International Programmes through to their graduation.
- The Virtual Learning Environment (VLE): This gives access to materials (including lessons, activities and assignments) for each module studied.
- [Programme Handbook](#): This tells students how to access available resources and assessment and examinations procedures.
- Module subject guides for each module studied; these introduce and develop the topics.
- Online student café and discussion areas – which allow students to communicate with each other.
- Past examination papers and Examiners' commentaries: These provide generic feedback from assessment.
- [Programme Regulations](#).
- [The Online Library](#): This provides a range of full-text, multidisciplinary databases where journal articles, book reviews and reports can be found.
- University of London library: Registered students may use the resources located within the Senate House library (for a small additional fee).
- Employability skills module – guidance on how to manage your career in the future, available through the VLE.
- [The Student Charter](#): This outlines key mutual obligations between the University of London International Programmes and its students.
- A University of London email account and web area for personal information management.

Quality evaluation and enhancement

The policies, partnerships and systems supporting the delivery of this programme are defined within the key documents: the [Quality Assurance Schedule](#), [Guidelines for Examinations](#), [General Regulations](#) and [programme-specific regulations](#) for each programme.

Learning materials are written and examinations are set and marked by academic staff who are required to apply the University's academic standards.

Review and evaluation mechanisms

Procedures are in place to assure the standards of the award and the quality of the student experience, which include programme development, delivery, management, systematic monitoring and ongoing review and enhancement of all University of London International Programmes. Improvements are made as necessary to ensure that systems remain effective and rigorous.

- Annual programme reports are produced for all programmes in order to review and enhance the provision and to plan ahead;
- Every year independent external examiners prepare reports to confirm that a programme has been assessed properly and meets the appropriate academic standards;
- Annual student information statistics are produced and are referenced in all systematic reporting within the University of London International Academy;
- Periodic programme reviews are 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.

Student feedback mechanisms

The Student Experience Survey, carried out every two years, collects feedback from the International Programmes 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, principal committees and departments at the International Programmes responsible for the different aspects of the student experience. Once the findings have been considered in detail, responses are published from both the International Programmes and from the individual Programme Directors.

Additional survey activity may also be conducted from time to time through the student portal, by email or from the programme team.

VLEs also provide the opportunity for informal feedback and discussion.

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 at www.londoninternational.ac.uk/youengage.

After graduation

Further study

Successful completion of the programme may allow students to progress to a higher level award in the subject area. If you are hoping to enter full-time or lay ministry, you should keep

in touch with your church authorities. On completion of the BD, you will probably be required to take additional courses in practical ministry.

Careers advice and resources

The University of London's Careers Service can provide confidential advice and guidance appropriate to the diverse needs of students and graduates, at any stage of their career. Advisers can assist on an individual basis (including help with career planning, CV writing and interview technique), through face-to-face, Skype or phone appointments, or through a 30 minute e-Advice service. Students may also make use of the dedicated careers library.

For further information, please see www.thecareersgroup.co.uk/develop-talent

The Alumni Network

Upon graduation, International Programmes' students automatically become members of its Alumni Network, a diverse community of over 100,000 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 invitations to events, access to local groups, a bi-monthly e-newsletter, social networking groups, and the opportunity to become an Alumni Ambassador for the University of London.

For further information, please see www.londoninternational.ac.uk/alumni, www.facebook.com/londonualumni and <http://linkd.in/alumniassociation>