

Programme specification

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YORK
ST JOHN
UNIVERSITY

BA (Hons) Applied Theology
BA (Hons) Applied Theology with Christian Leadership
Certificate of Higher Education Applied Theology
Certificate of Higher Education Applied Theology with Youth Ministry
Graduate Diploma Applied Theology

<i>School:</i>	School of Humanities, Religion & Philosophy
<i>Entry from:</i>	2019/20 in: September
<i>Awarding institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Teaching institution:</i>	Irish Bible Institute
<i>Delivery location:</i>	Irish Bible Institute, Dublin
<i>Programme/s accredited by:</i>	Not applicable
<i>Exit awards:</i>	BA (Ord) Applied Theology Diploma of Higher Education Applied Theology Certificate in Higher Education Applied Theology
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	Not applicable
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	Not applicable
<i>QAA benchmark group(s):</i>	Theology and Religious Studies 2014. Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (2008)
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	Undergraduate periods of study for ¹ Full-time and part-time: BA: Full-time for 3 years BA: Part-time for 6 or 7 (by evening for first year) years Certificate: Full-time for 1 year Certificate: Part-time for 2 years (3 years by evening class) Graduate Diploma: Full-time for 1 year Graduate Diploma: Part-time for 2 years
<i>Language of study:</i>	English
<i>Study abroad opportunities:</i>	No

Introduction and special features

Special features: IBI's motto is 'Head, Heart and Hands', relating to cognitive, affective and behavioural domains of learning. Throughout the programme, modules consistently emphasise integrating these three domains within your learning experience. An emphasis on 'Head' (cognitive domain) enables you to engage critically with the Bible, theology and theological concepts. An emphasis on 'Heart' (affective domain) encourages reflective practice, critical self-awareness and thoughtfulness about the role of emotions, feelings, attitudes, character and motivation in learning and within active Christian ministry. An emphasis on 'Hands' (behavioural domain) emphasises that it is not enough to assume theoretical teaching in class will necessarily translate to changed behaviour. We take seriously the principle that truth is truly learned as it is lived.

¹ The standard period of study will apply unless otherwise stated

Work-Related Learning: a degree in applied theology requires that you have opportunities for work-related learning within a relevant setting. Each level will have at least 70 hours of work-related learning; this can be in a variety of contexts such as how you use skills developed in modules in ministry practice outside IBI, for example, in using the Bible, communication, pastoral care, and applying theological ideas to specific situations. It may be beneficial to have a specific context for your work-related learning. This will be discussed with you at the beginning of your studies.

As part of this programme you will be required to examine and critically engage with a broad range of theological opinions, including those with which you disagree. This is an important discipline in learning and reflecting and will enable you to develop in each of the domains of learning.

Applied theology requires a context. The primary focus for this programme is the Irish context (either the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland). However, if you are normally located outside Ireland (for example in Europe) you will be encouraged to develop your theological reflection within your own specific context. In order to enable you to develop an applied theology for your context, a range of points of view and perspectives (including, where possible, from the majority world) will be examined and engaged. This will enable you to critically reflect on your own life and ministry experiences as part of the process of constructing a theologically informed, self-reflective and practically competent applied theology.

Options within Level 4:

- Level 4 can either be taken via daytime (part-time over two years or full-time in one year) or by evening classes over three years. Students take up to three modules each year, completing eight modules in total.
- It is possible to register for the Certificate of Higher Education Applied Theology with Youth Ministry. This allows students with a particular vocational and/or professional interest in Youth Ministry to gain an award. Students taking this option would complete 30 credits related to the subject in question. If evening students wish to study for this award they can complete 1AT02 and 1AT11 via day classes.

Options within Level 5 and Level 6:

- After completing Level 4 you can continue within the BA (Hons) Applied Theology or have the option of registering for a named award BA (Hons) Applied Theology with Christian Leadership. This allows specialisation if you have a particular vocational and/or professional interest in this area.

- At Level 6 there is an elective double credit dissertation / research project module which provides opportunity for independent research which can include fieldwork in relation to a relevant aspect of applied theology.
- At Levels 5 and 6, occasionally the main teaching input for selected modules can be delivered via teaching 'block(s)'. The contact hours (26) are identical to a weekly delivery, but happen within a different structure. A module delivered this way will look something like this:
 - i. A block teaching week of at least 20 hours, followed by one or two Skype seminar sessions and / or supplementary classes via ICT.
 - ii. Two teaching blocks at different points in the normal semester, of at least 20 hours in total, followed by one or two Skype seminar sessions and / or supplementary classes via ICT.

In each of the above cases there would be a tutor contact on site to answer any general queries. The module teacher would also be available via email to students. The rationale for having this option is to enable some teaching input from internationally known scholars based in the USA. The use of block teaching would be limited to one and, in exceptional circumstances, two modules per academic year.

Admissions criteria

You must meet the University's general entry criteria for [undergraduate](#) study.

Your admission on to the programme will be determined by an assessment of your potential to contribute to and benefit from your proposed course of study and by academic, personal, professional and other relevant criteria.

The routes for entry to the Certificate of Higher Education and BA Programme are:

1. Academic Entry

Minimum entry requirements into the programme are according to [YSJU criteria](#):

- Four Irish Higher Level passes at grade C, including English Language.

2. AP(E)L

If you do not have traditional qualifications, you may be eligible for entry on the basis of [Accredited Prior \(Experiential\) Learning \(APL/APEL\)](#). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing.

The onus is on you to demonstrate that you have:

- accumulated sufficient experience to prepare yourself for the course of study;
- experience relevant to the scheme of study;

- appropriate preparation compared to a candidate enrolling on the basis of existing academic qualifications.

The BA Programme Committee will examine each application on a case by case basis.

3. Associate status entry

This access route is open to you if you can demonstrate sufficient ministry or professional experience to indicate that you have the ability to study at undergraduate level. Applicants must have at least two years of relevant professional/Christian ministry* experience (evidenced by referees).

If you enter via this route, you will be required to demonstrate that you are able to work at BA level by successfully completing a semester as an associate student. Upon successfully completing and passing the modules in the first semester you can enrol for the full BA programme and transfer credits gained.

*Relevant professional/Christian ministry means significant involvement over a period of at least two years in the broad area of Christian ministry (either paid or lay).

Graduate Diploma

- Direct access to Level 6 is possible through APL/APEL via the Graduate Diploma. This is for applicants who are unable to meet the entry requirements for the BA (Hons) but have either a degree in another subject or an appropriate professional qualification and either lay or ordained ministerial experience.

International Students

1. Non-EU citizens/residents

Due to Irish Government policy, IBI is not in a position to accept applications from those who require a student visa to study in Ireland.

2. EU-citizens/residents

If your first language is not English, you need to take an IELTS test or an equivalent qualification accepted by the University (see <https://www.yorks.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/>).

Named awards

You can enrol for either of the named BA awards on entry to the programme.

If you enrol for the BA (Hons) Applied Theology award you may change to the BA (Hons) Applied Theology with Christian Leadership award at the end of Level 4.

Students who enrol for and complete the Certificate of Higher Education Applied Theology or the Certificate of Higher Education Applied Theology with Youth Ministry will be able to continue their studies and transfer to either of the BA (Hons) Applied Theology named awards. In such cases students will not receive a Certificate of Higher Education award.

Students who have successfully completed and graduated with the Certificate of Higher Education Applied Theology or the Certificate of Higher Education Applied Theology with Youth Ministry will be permitted to enrol in Level 5 of either of the BA (Hons) Applied Theology named awards provided it is within 5 years of the completion date of their Certificate of Higher Education award..

Programme aims

The overall aims of the programme are drawn from Irish Bible Institute's '[Portrait of a Graduate](#)' and the [YSJU Graduate Attributes](#). These aims are set out below in a way that highlights the cognitive, affective and behavioural domains of learning that the programme engages (IBI refers to these as head, heart and hands).

The BA (Hons) Applied Theology programme aims to enable you to:

Cognitive (knowledge and understanding of the subject)

- develop a critically informed understanding of Christian theology and practice with particular reference to the contemporary context;
- utilise and critically apply appropriate sources and tools to understand, interpret and responsibly engage with the Bible in the contemporary context;
- integrate academic study with the challenges and opportunities presented by social and cultural change for contemporary Christian ministry;
- engage objectively and critically with a range of contemporary expressions of Christian theology and practice;
- acquire skills for independent learning and develop competence in research skills with appropriate use of academic conventions.

Affective (character, values and attitudes)

- engage in self-critical reflection on your own character, values, practices and attitudes required for Christian ministry;
- engage in biblical and theological reflection on your theology and practice and reflect on the implications for developing personal spirituality and Christian maturity;
- reflect critically on how you work with others in various contexts in terms of respect and tolerance for people in their diverse traditions and practices;
- develop your own framework for ministry ethics and self-leadership;
- be passionate about learning and capable of investigating new problems and ideas;
- engage with empathy and integrity with the convictions and behaviours of others.

Behavioural (practical and ministry skills)

- develop skills to relate the Bible and theological ideas to personal life, mission, ministry, and wider society;
- undertake independent, critically informed and self-directed research and learning on range of contemporary issues within Christian theology and practice;

- foster skills for engaging in and developing Christian mission, ministry and leadership practice through research, fieldwork and work-based learning;
- apply reflective practice skills for the development of your own ministry practice;
- develop specific skills for working with others within Christian ministry practice in a way that fosters others' gifts and abilities.

Programme learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the programme students will be able to:

LEVEL 4	LEVEL 5	LEVEL 6
Cognitive: knowledge and understanding of the subject		
1.1 explain major concepts within the area of Christian theology and practice	2.1 analyse and evaluate various major concepts within the area of Christian theology and practice	3.1 critically evaluate a range of theological concepts within the context of Christian theology and practice
1.2 identify and apply relevant sources and methodologies used in biblical and theological study	2.2 apply a range of appropriate theological models and approaches used in biblical and theological study	3.2 identify, utilise and critically apply a range of appropriate theological models and approaches used in biblical and theological study
1.3 explain different theologies and perspectives objectively and accurately	2.3 analyse and assess different theologies and perspectives objectively and accurately	3.3 analyse, explore and critically evaluate different theologies and perspectives objectively and accurately
1.4 identify and explain theological and practical approaches to Christian ministry (<i>youth ministry</i>) practice within a contemporary context	2.4 apply a range of theological and practical approaches to Christian ministry practice within a contemporary context	3.4 articulate critically informed strategies to apply theological and practical approaches to Christian ministry practice within a contemporary context
Affective: character, values and attitudes		
1.5 engage in self-reflection on character qualities, values, intra-personal attitudes, and abilities required for ongoing personal spiritual development, corporate Christian maturity, and Christian ministry (<i>youth ministry</i>)	2.5 engage in evaluative self-reflection on character qualities, values, intra-personal attitudes, and abilities required for ongoing personal spiritual development, corporate Christian maturity, and Christian ministry	3.5 engage in critical self-reflection on character qualities, values, intra-personal attitudes, and abilities required for ongoing personal spiritual development, corporate Christian maturity, and Christian ministry

1.6 exercise personal responsibility in developing attitudes, values, and practices that foster ongoing personal spiritual development and Christian maturity	2.6 apply theological reflection methodologies to develop attitudes, values, and practices that foster ongoing personal spiritual development and Christian maturity	3.6 critically apply strategies arising out of theological reflection to develop attitudes, values, and practices that foster ongoing personal spiritual development and Christian maturity
1.7 be passionate about learning and capable of investigating new problems and ideas	2.7 be passionate about learning and capable of investigating new problems and ideas in breadth and depth	3.7 be passionate about learning and capable of investigating critically new problems and ideas
1.8 engage with empathy and respect with the convictions and behaviours of others	2.8 engage with empathy and informed understanding with the convictions and behaviours of others	3.8 engage with empathy, integrity and critical reflection with the convictions and behaviours of others
1.9 demonstrate a basic commitment to ministry ethics and self-leadership	2.9 demonstrate an informed commitment to ministry ethics and self-leadership	3.9 demonstrate a critical commitment to ministry ethics and self-leadership
Behavioural: practical and ministry skills		
1.10 begin to develop a vision and plan for enhanced mission and ministry practice (<i>youth ministry practice</i>) through reflection on your current context	2.10 develop a vision and plan for enhanced mission and ministry practice* using theory to reflect on your current context	3.10 reflect critically on how theory and practice relate within your ministry / mission context and apply strategies for enhanced practice
1.11 communicate how the Bible and theological ideas relate to contemporary life and ministry to a selected number of audiences	2.11 use oral, written and interpretative skills to communicate effectively how the Bible and theological ideas relate to contemporary life and ministry to a variety of audiences	3.11 use oral, written and critically informed hermeneutical skills to communicate effectively how the Bible and theological ideas relate to contemporary life and ministry to a diverse range of audiences
1.12 demonstrate foundational research skills in gathering and organising information	2.12 demonstrate the use of a range of research skills via gathering and synthesising information	3.12 demonstrate research skills of a critically informed independent learner via gathering, synthesising and evaluating information from a wide range of academic sources
Note: Outcomes 1.4, 1.5 and 1,10 note elements that are specific to the Cert HE with Youth Ministry named award; noted in italics.	2.13 foster teamwork and mutual partnerships in ministry settings by reflecting on and applying skills and attitudes necessary to enhance relationships This learning outcome relates to the Leadership named award	3.13 foster teamwork and mutual partnerships in ministry settings by critically reflecting on and applying skills and attitudes necessary to enhance relationships This learning outcome relates to the Leadership named award

Programme Structure

Rotation of Modules

Level 4 modules are offered each year and provide a foundational platform from which you progress to Levels 5 and 6 (see the table below).

Level 5 and Level 6 modules will be delivered in rotation so that each module in each level is delivered bi-annually. In the table below you can see which rotation each module is on. All Rotation 1 modules are offered one year and all Rotation 2 modules are offered the next year. For example, Old Testament Theology (2AT03 / 3AT03) is offered within Rotation 2. If you come into Diploma level when Rotation 2 modules are on offer, you can take 2AT03. If you enter Diploma level when Rotation 1 modules are on offer, then you can take Old Testament Theology in your final year at Level 6 (3AT03).

For part-time students at Level 5 and 6, the same principle applies. The specific modules you will take within each level will depend on the module rotations available to you.

Some modules such as 2AT01 Ministry and Personal Development 2, 3AT01 Ministry and Personal Development 3, 2AT02 Ministry and Personal Development 2 (Leadership), 3AT01 Ministry and Personal Development 3 (Leadership), 2AT25 Researching Ministry Practice, and the Level 6 Dissertation/Project (3AT20 and 3AT21) are level specific and are delivered every year. For students wishing to do a dissertation at Level 6, it is normally expected that they will complete 2AT25 at Level 5 as part of their training and research preparation.

Students from Level 5 and 6 study together in the same classroom with separate seminars and tutorials. Students at Levels 5 and 6 studying the same module simultaneously will be working with distinct aims, assessments and learning outcomes appropriate to their particular level. A module taken at Level 5 cannot later be taken at Level 6 (see barred combinations in the table below). Compulsory or 'Compulsory for Award' modules are therefore only compulsory for the level in which they are taken.

Named Awards

Certificate of Higher Education Applied Theology with Youth Ministry

Within Level 4, selected modules are compulsory for the award HE Certificate in Youth Ministry for a total of 30 credits. They are:

- Ministry and Personal Development 1 (Youth) (1AT02)
- Youth Ministry (1AT11)

BA (Hons) Applied Theology with Christian Leadership

After Level 4, you will have a choice to enter the Christian Leadership named award. You will take specific modules related to your chosen named award at Levels 5 and 6 amounting to a minimum of 60 credits. The modules compulsory for the award of BA (Hons) Applied Theology with Christian Leadership are:

- Developing Leadership (2AT15/3T15)
- Ministry and Personal Development 2 (Leadership) (2AT02)
- Ministry & Personal Development 3 (3AT02)
- Church and Ministry (2AT16/3AT16)

You can also elect to do a dissertation/research project in the area of Christian Leadership (3AT21, 30 credits).

The modules for the programme are listed in the table below:

Modules in Level 4 (Cert HE)

Code	Level	Barred combinations	Title	Credits	Status of Module within Cert HE (day) and BA Hons	Status of module within Cert HE (evening)	Status of Module within Youth named award	Rotation
1AT01	4		Ministry and Personal Development 1	15	C	E	n/a	Annual
1AT02	4		Ministry and Personal Development 1 (Youth Ministry)	15	n/a	n/a	CA	Annual
1AT03	4		Introducing Biblical Theology	15	E	E	E	Annual
1AT04	4		Interpreting and Applying the Bible	15	E	E	E	Annual
1AT05	4		Overview of the Old Testament	15	E	E	E	Annual
1AT06	4		Life and Teaching of Jesus	15	E	E	E	Annual
1AT07	4		The Story of the Church	15	E	E	E	Annual
1AT08	4		Introduction to Pastoral Caring	15	E	E	E	Annual
1AT09	4		Discipleship	15	E	E	E	Annual
1AT10	4		Communication in a Ministry Context	15	E	E	E	Annual
1AT11	4		Youth Ministry	15	E	E	CA	Annual
1AT12	4		Independent Study	15	E	E	E	Annual

Modules in Level 5

Code	Level	Barred combinations	Title	Credits	Status of Module within BA Hons	Status of Module within Leadership named award	Rotation	Delivery mode**
2AT01	5	2AT02	Ministry and Personal Development 2	15	C	n/a	Annual	W
2AT02	5	2AT01	Ministry and Personal Development 2 (Leadership)	15	n/a	CA	Annual	W
2AT03	5	3AT03	Developing Old Testament Theology	15	E	E	Rotation 2	W or B
2AT04	5	3AT04	New Testament Epistles	15	E	E	Rotation 1	W or B
2AT05	5	3AT05	Developing Biblical Interpretation	15	E	E	Rotation 2	W or B
2AT06	5	3AT06	New Testament Christology	15	E	E	Rotation 1	W or B
2AT07	5	3AT07	The Holy Spirit and the Christian Life	15	E	E	Rotation 2	W or B
2AT08	5	3AT08	Issues in Contemporary Theology	15	E	E	Rotation 2	W or B
2AT09	5	3AT09	Faith in Contemporary Culture	15	E	E	Rotation 1	W or B
2AT10	5	3AT10	Christian Ethics	15	E	E	Rotation 1	W or B
2AT11	5	3AT11	Christian Mission in Contemporary Ireland	15	E	E	Rotation 1	W or B
2AT12	5	3AT12	Developing Pastoral Care	15	E	E	Rotation 2	W
2AT13	5	3AT13	Teaching and Preaching the Old Testament	15	E	E	Rotation 1	W
2AT14	5	3AT14	Teaching and Preaching the New Testament	15	E	E	Rotation 2	W
2AT15	5	3AT15	Developing Leadership	15	E	CA	Rotation 1	W or B
2AT16	5	3AT16	Church and Ministry	15	E	CA	Rotation 2	W or B
2AT17	5	3AT17	The Story of the Irish Church	15	E	E	Rotation 1	W or B
2AT18	5		Independent Study	15	E	E	Annual	
2AT25	5		Researching Ministry Practice	15	E	E	Annual	W or B

Modules in Level 6

Code	Level	Barred combinations	Title	Credits	Status of Module	Status of Module within Leadership named award	Rotation	Delivery mode
3AT01	6	3AT02	Ministry and Personal Development 3	15	C, E*	n/a	Annual	W
3AT02	6	3AT01	Ministry and Personal Development 3 (Leadership)	15	n/a	CA	Annual	W
3AT03	6	2AT03	Developing Old Testament Theology	15	E	E	Rotation 2	W or B
3AT04	6	2AT04	New Testament Epistles	15	E	E	Rotation 1	W or B
3AT05	6	2AT05	Developing Biblical Interpretation	15	E	E	Rotation 2	W or B
3AT06	6	2AT06	New Testament Christology	15	E	E	Rotation 1	W or B
3AT07	6	2AT07	The Holy Spirit and the Christian Life	15	E	E	Rotation 2	W or B
3AT08	6	2AT08	Issues in Contemporary Theology	15	E	E	Rotation 2	W or B
3AT09	6	2AT09	Faith in Contemporary Culture	15	E	E	Rotation 1	W or B
3AT10	6	2AT10	Christian Ethics	15	E	E	Rotation 1	W or B
3AT11	6	2AT11	Christian Mission in Contemporary Ireland	15	E	E	Rotation 1	W or B
3AT12	6	2AT12	Developing Pastoral Care	15	E	E	Rotation 2	W
3AT13	6	2AT13	Teaching and Preaching the Old Testament	15	E	E	Rotation 1	W
3AT14	6	2AT14	Teaching and Preaching the New Testament	15	E	E	Rotation 2	W
3AT15	6	2AT15	Developing Leadership	15	E	CA	Rotation 1	W or B
3AT16	6	2AT16	Church and Ministry	15	E	CA	Rotation 2	W or B
3AT17	6	2AT17	The Story of the Irish Church	15	E	E	Rotation 1	W or B
3AT18	6		Independent Study	15	E	E	Annual	
3AT20	6	3AT21	Dissertation	30	E	E	Annual	
3AT21	6	3AT20	Dissertation (Leadership)	30	E	E	Annual	

C: Compulsory within BA (Hons) Degree (if taken at this level); **E:** Elective; **CA:** Compulsory for Award (if taken at this level)

* MPD 3 is an elective for Graduate Diploma students only

** W = weekly delivery; B = block delivery.

Learning, teaching and assessment

The emphasis of the programme is on your learning experience as a student within the context of a faith-based learning community. It is designed to provide you with as constructive a context as possible as you work towards the programme outcomes. As a student on the programme, you will be well supported by academic and administrative staff within a warm and friendly learning environment. The relatively small size of the institute means that students benefit from a low teacher-student ratio and close tutorial support. Study Skills tutorials and academic support sessions are timetabled within the programme at all three levels to enable you to develop the skills necessary for academic writing, thinking and research as you progress through the degree. At Level 4 all students are required to attend to ensure they have the necessary skills to make a successful transition into HE study.

There is an emphasis throughout the programme on gradual progression from one level to the next across cognitive, affective and behavioural domains of learning. By the end of the degree you will have developed in:

- cognitive areas such as critical analysis, independent thinking, creative engagement with others' views, reflective practice and the development of writing and research skills
- affective areas such as critical self-understanding, self-reflection on the character traits required for Christian ministry, a passion for learning and growing in your faith and an ability to engage with empathy and integrity with the convictions and beliefs of others
- behavioural areas such skills of Bible interpretation and communication, a commitment to ministry ethics and self-leadership, working well with others, and being an independent learner equipped to research and think biblically and theologically about the challenges that emerge within everyday life and ministry.

Extensive use is made of Moodle Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) within most modules on the programme. This enables you to access reading, class notes, assignments, discussion forums and other media from anywhere with an internet connection.

Assessment strategies

We also recognise that students learn in different ways and so we try to incorporate a variety of learning styles and assessment methods within the programme. Emphasis is laid on continuous assessment rather than formal examinations. Examples include:

- essays
- projects
- oral presentations and sermons
- written commentary on oral presentation / sermons
- dissertation

- research project
- book reviews
- student-led seminars
- seminar papers
- reflective papers
- case studies
- self and peer evaluation
- portfolio (including experience-based learning opportunities, placement reports and fieldwork reports)
- engagement with guided reading
- interpretation paper

Assessment word counts for each level are approximately 2,500, 3,000 and 3,500 words respectively (for 15 credit modules).

Formative assessment plays an important part of the teaching and learning strategy. It happens in a variety of ways including oral presentations, discussion in class, group work, in-class tests, mentor meetings, forums on Moodle and peer-to-peer and self-evaluation. The feedback you receive from such formative assessment can be crucial to your progress in the summative assessment tasks of the module. It is through this combination of formative and summative assessment that you are encouraged and challenged to develop as an independent thinker. As you progress through the levels of the programme, you are tasked with increasingly complex and challenging learning outcomes which foster increased critical thinking and independence of judgement, encourage self-critical reflection on your own character and attitudes and develop relevant skills for Christian ministry.

Progression and graduation requirements

The University's [general regulations for](#) undergraduate awards apply to this programme.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the Programme Structure section.

Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University Mission Statement](#) [see page two]
- [Strategic Plan 2015-20](#) [see page four]
- [QAA subject benchmark statement](#)
- [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)