

Programme Specification

MA Applied Theology MA Transformational Leadership

<i>School:</i>	Humanities
<i>Subject area:</i>	Theology and Religious Studies
<i>Entry from academic year:</i>	2024-25
<i>in the month(s) of:</i>	August, January
<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>	Postgraduate Certificate Applied Theology Postgraduate Diploma Applied Theology
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	Not applicable
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	Not applicable
<i>QAA subject benchmark statement(s):</i>	Theology and Religious Studies
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	Non-standard period of study as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full-time for 2 years• Part-time for 3 years
<i>Language of study:</i>	English
<i>Paired with foundation year</i>	No
<i>Study abroad opportunities:</i>	No
<i>Placement year opportunity:</i>	No

Introduction and special features

This programme will enable you to become a more biblically and theologically informed, practically competent, reflective practitioner who is able to engage with the interface between theory and praxis.

This programme has been designed to enable you to reflect on how theology relates to the practice of mission and ministry in your context, whether you have a specific role in some aspect of ministry/leadership or are involved in ministry in a much wider sense. This is facilitated by the combination of high quality teaching input on a specific range of topics and a deliberate policy of encouraging you to engage in a self-reflective critical analysis of your current practice (reflective practice). It is this combination that gives the programme its distinctive applied ethos and the reflective practice matrix within which it is delivered.

IBI is committed to a holistic teaching and learning strategy that embraces the cognitive, affective and behavioural domains of learning; IBI labels this 'head, heart, hands'. The modules have a consistent emphasis on integrating, as much as possible, these three domains within the learning experience and in assessments. IBI's understanding of applied theology underpins the programme design. IBI regards applied theology as critical, theological reflection on ministry and Christian practices in order to enhance practice and enable transformation in personal and community contexts. The teaching and learning strategy will seek to include and engage your prior and ongoing learning and experience.

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 research-minded, theologically informed, reflective practice oriented applied theology.

There is a specialist named award within the MA which focuses specifically on Transformational Leadership. There are two compulsory modules required in this named award (see later for details), each of which will enable you to reflect on different aspects of leadership in general and on your own leadership in particular.

Admissions criteria

You must meet the minimum entry requirements which are published on the programme specific webpage.

You can gain admission to this programme via two access routes:

For the MA (direct entry, starting at level 7)

For direct entry to the MA you need to have achieved one of the following qualifications:

- A first honours degree (single or joint) at 2.2 or above or a Graduate/Postgraduate Diploma in Theology and/or Religious Studies or a closely related subject.
- A Postgraduate award or first class honours in another Humanities subject.
- A first degree, and at least the equivalent of a Certificate of Higher Education in Theology and/or Religious Studies.

For the MA via associate student status

This access route is open to you if you meet one or both of the following requirements:

- a) You have obtained a first degree in a subject other than Theology and/or Religious Studies at 2.2 honours or above;
- or
- b) You can demonstrate through your curriculum vitae and references sufficient ministerial, professional or vocational experience to indicate that you have the ability to study at postgraduate level.

You must have at least two years of significant and 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 M level by successfully completing a module as an associate student. Upon successfully completing and passing the module you can enrol for the full MA programme and transfer the 30 credits.

*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) or some specific professional practice that demands aspects of theological input/reflection.

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/>).

If you do not have traditional qualifications, you may be eligible for entry on the basis of [Recognition of prior learning \(RPL\)](#). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing.

Programme aim(s)

The programme aims to enable you to critically engage the cognitive, affective and behavioural domains of the learning process (referred to at IBI as head, heart, hands) to become a more biblically and theologically informed, reflective, and practically competent practitioner.

The overall programme aims are set out below in a way that highlights the three domains of learning that the programme engages.

These have been developed in consultation with the QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (2014) and QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Theology and Religious Studies (2014).

Cognitive

The programme aims to:

- Provide an applied biblical and theological perspective on a range of topic areas, with particular reference to (*leadership in*) the contemporary context.
- Develop your ability to be critically reflective about your current (*leadership*) practice.
- Facilitate multi-disciplinary academic engagement with the challenges and opportunities presented by contemporary social and cultural change.
- Enable independent and self-critical academic and practical engagement with a range of contemporary expressions of Christian theology and practice.
- Enable you to select and critically evaluate academic sources independently and, with critical distance, reach evidence-based conclusions.

Affective

The programme aims to:

- Facilitate theological reflection on your own attitudes and practice underpinned by academic literature related to theory and practice.
- Facilitate critical reflection on your own attitudes and (*leadership*) practice.
- Enable critical reflection on your own particular standpoint, and on methodological and hermeneutical issues that are raised.
- Provide opportunities to engage in open, rational and disciplined study with respect and tolerance for people in their diverse traditions and practices.

Behavioural

The programme aims to:

- Enhance and support your current ministry/professional (*leadership*) practice and enable you to empower others in their current ministry/professional (*leadership*) practice within and beyond the church community.
- Enable you to critically reflect on Christian mission, ministry and leadership.
- Empower others in critical reflection on Christian mission, ministry and leadership.

Programme learning outcomes

The programme learning outcomes are set out below in a way that highlights the three domains of learning that the programme develops. All of this programme is at FHEQ Level 7.

Programme learning outcomes noted in italics and in brackets are specific to the leadership named award.

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

Level 7

Cognitive

- 7.1 Critically analyse and evaluate, using biblical, theological and other appropriate resources, a range of contemporary expressions of Christian theology and practice.
- 7.2 Critically employ a range of biblical, theological and other resources to facilitate self-critical reflection on ministry/professional (*leadership*) practice.
- 7.3 Critically analyse biblical and theological aspects of the social, historical, political, cultural and religious dimensions of your ministry/professional (*leadership*) practice context.
- 7.4 Research independently with critical distance, reaching evidence-based conclusions.

Affective

- 7.5 Engage in critical, personal and theological reflection on your attitudes and (*leadership*) practice with a good understanding of the methodological and hermeneutical issues raised.
- 7.6 Engage in critical, personal and theological reflection on your response to the views and practices of others.
- 7.7 Engage in open, rational and disciplined study with respect and tolerance for people in their diverse traditions and practices.

Behavioural

- 7.8 Reflect on and critique your current ministry/professional (*leadership*) practice and develop strategies to enhance, support and empower your ministry/professional (*leadership*) practice and that of others.
- 7.9 Reflect critically on the interface of theory and practice in your ministry/professional (*leadership*) practice context, identifying areas for further personal reflection and study.

Programme structure

MA Applied Theology

Code	Level	Title	Credits	Module status	
				compulsory or optional to take C or O	non-compensatable or compensatable NC or X
VIB7009M	7	Dissertation/Research Project	60	C	NC
Choose FOUR option modules from the following modules:					
VIB7001M	7	Bible Interpretation	30	O	X
VIB7002M	7	Church and Mission	30	O	X
VIB7003M	7	Evangelicalism: Identity, Theology and Praxis	30	O	X
VIB7004M	7	Developing a Theological Framework for Life and Work	30	O	X
VIB7005M	7	Enabling Pastoral Care	30	O	X
VIB7006M	7	Teaching and Preaching the Bible in a Ministry Context	30	O	X
VIB7007M	7	Transformational Leadership in Practice	30	O	X
VIB7008M	7	Independent Study	30	O	X

MA Transformational Leadership

Code	Level	Title	Credits	Module status	
				compulsory or optional to take C or O	non-compensatable or compensatable NC or X
VIB7010M	7	Dissertation/Research Project (Leadership)	60	C	NC
VIB7007M	7	Transformational Leadership in Practice	30	C	NC
Choose THREE option modules from the following modules:					
VIB7001M	7	Bible Interpretation	30	O	X
VIB7002M	7	Church and Mission	30	O	X
VIB7003M	7	Evangelicalism: Identity, Theology and Praxis	30	O	X
VIB7004M	7	Developing a Theological Framework for Life and Work	30	O	X
VIB7005M	7	Enabling Pastoral Care	30	O	X
VIB7006M	7	Teaching and Preaching the Bible in a Ministry Context	30	O	X
VIB7008M	7	Independent Study	30	O	X

Learning, teaching and assessment

As a postgraduate programme the majority of your learning will be self-learning. There is an emphasis throughout the programme on critical analysis, independent thinking, creative engagement, reflective practice and the development of research skills. The programme will encourage you to engage with the subjects you are studying in such a way as to enable transformation.

The programme is committed to tutors and students being partners in the learning process. You will bring to the programme your prior learning and experience; the tutors bring expertise in specific areas. The synthesis of these in the modules produces a unique learning experience, contributing significantly to

attaining both the module and the programme learning outcomes. This facilitates the interaction and debate which is necessary for learning at this level. The tutors are theologically reflective practitioner-researchers.

Your experience is at the centre of the teaching and learning strategy. The programme will aim to provide you with as positive a learning experience as is possible as you work towards the programme outcomes.

The duration of modules is normally 26 weeks and includes 30 hours of contact time with tutors. This happens either during a single week or over a series of sessions (this depends on factors such as the module subject area and the module tutor). The teaching and learning strategy includes a range of activities: lectures, discussions, seminars, individual/group tutorials, video clips, and, occasionally, visiting speakers.

The contact time of VIB7007M *Transformational Leadership in Practice* is distributed over the entire length of the module (40 weeks). The duration of this module has been extended to allow time for action research on a leadership project. The assignments are designed to allow you to reflect on and learn about your leadership in your own context over this period of time.

Assignments are designed to engage you in the learning process. Where possible you will have a choice of assessment titles so that you will be able to choose areas where either you have an existing interest, or you want to do further research/study (or both).

Module assessment (except for VIB7007M) has a combination of a main essay (normally 6,000 words) and a parallel reflective assignment (normally 1,500 words). This is a deliberate policy to ensure that you engage with the applied dimension of the programme. You will not be able to simply engage with theoretical aspects of a subject; the reflective practice elements of every module ensure that you are working in each case towards an applied theology for your context, engaging the affective and behaviour domains of learning.

Progression and graduation requirements

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

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

Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University mission and values](#)
- [University 2026 Strategy](#)
- [QAA subject benchmark statements](#)
- [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications](#)

Date written / revised: 02/10/17

Programme originally approved: