

## Programme Specification

### Award and title: BA (Hons) Christian Theology and Practice (level 6 progression route)

<i>School:</i>	Humanities, Religion and Philosophy
<i>Subject area:</i>	Theology
<i>Entry from academic year:</i>	2023-24
<i>in the month(s) of</i>	September
<i>Awarding institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Teaching institution:</i>	William Booth College, London
<i>Delivery location:</i>	William Booth College, London
<i>Programme/s accredited by:</i>	York St John University
<i>Exit awards:</i>	NA
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	NA
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	NA
<i>QAA subject benchmark statement(s):</i>	Theology and Religious Studies
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	Part time for 2 years (intake every other year)
<i>Language of study:</i>	English
<i>Paired with Foundation Year</i>	No
<i>Study abroad opportunities:</i>	No
<i>Opt-in YSJU Placement Year opportunity:</i>	No

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## Introduction and special features

The Christian Theology and Practice programme at William Booth College (WBC) is open to people in ministry in The Salvation Army who have completed Salvation Army Officer training.

The programme is structured to enable you to study different aspects of Christian Theology and its application in the contemporary context. This aims to equip you for Christian discipleship and ministry in today's world. You will bring the resources of academic theology into conversation with the needs of contemporary Christian discipleship and ministry practice. You will develop an informed understanding of Christian faith and practice that is willing to engage with hard questions in knowing, being and doing the Gospel today. Throughout your studies you will be actively reflecting on your ministry context where you will undertake practical fieldwork tasks to resource your theological reflection.

Teaching will be delivered by practitioner, qualified tutors sensitive to the church environment who have a personal investment in the vitality of Christian faith and practice in critical times.

Some distinctive emphasis arising from the focus on contemporary Christianity and the integration of theology with practice are:

- Biblical literacy. You will develop a good knowledge of the Bible and the skills to handle it responsibly and apply it to contemporary questions. Biblical Studies run through the different module subject areas as well as the designated 'Bible' module.

- Practical Christian character and lifestyle. You will address traditional subject areas such as spirituality and ethics in relation to the core question of what it means to live as a Christian in today's social and cultural climate.
- Pastoral ministry and church leadership. Areas you will explore include engagement with pastoral and personal issues; social outreach and mission projects; relating to secular society; develop strategies to develop the discipleship of others.
- Contemporary Christian apologetics. You will engage in sociological and cultural exploration of 'postmodernity', in order to develop a contextual theology that engages in dialogue with the secular world and articulates a distinctive Christian voice today.
- Focus on church renewal. You will set current innovations in church life in a historical context of renewal and revival movements and radical new forms of church beyond the mainstream and apply the lessons of history to the challenges of on-going development.

In the sixth, and final module, you will have with an opportunity to carry out independent research into a topic of your own choosing within the broad field of study encompassed by Christian Theology and Practice.

### Admissions criteria

You must meet the WBC's general entry criteria for level 6 undergraduate study:

- The Diploma in HE Salvation Army Officer Training validated by the University of Gloucestershire (or its predecessor, the Certificate in Salvation Army Officer Training or its equivalent) provides the necessary 240 credits to begin the 'top up' BA (Hons) Christian Theology and Practice.
- 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.
- If your first language is not English, you will need to have successfully completed a level 5 qualification delivered in English in a majority English speaking country. Alternatively you will need to take an IELTS test or have an equivalent qualification accepted by the University (see <https://www.yorks.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/>).

### Programme aim(s)

The programme seeks to integrate theology and practice. You will develop knowledge and skills as follows:

- **Sophisticated understanding<sup>1</sup> of Christian Theology and Practice:**

The programme aims to provide a sophisticated understanding of Christian Theology and Practice within a Salvation Army framework which enables academic and practical engagement with contemporary church life in relation to social and cultural change.

- **Contextualized practical knowledge and skills enabling theological reflection on Christian practice**

The programme aims to facilitate theological reflection on Christian Theology and Practice in mission and ministry settings (in the church and beyond) through dialogue, observation, fieldwork and work-based learning.

- **Generic skills applicable to other areas of life**

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<sup>1</sup> See QAA Quality Code, benchmarks for Theology degrees, p. 18 (point 5.6) [https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-theology-and-religious-studies.pdf?sfvrsn=70e2cb81\\_5](https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-theology-and-religious-studies.pdf?sfvrsn=70e2cb81_5)

The programme aims to enable competence in both collaborative and independent learning and research, as well as oral and written communication, with the ability to engage in open and respectful dialogue. The programme also aims to encourage students to increase their self-awareness through reflective practice and application of learning to themselves and their setting. Additionally, the programme aims to provide students with transferrable skills such as team working and cooperation.

## Programme learning outcomes

The lists below set out the learning outcomes you are expected to achieve at level 6, within this programme. The outcomes follow the same pattern as the aims in the preceding section: subject-specific sophisticated understanding, subject-specific practical contextualized knowledge and skills, and generic skills.

### Level 6

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

#### *Sophisticated understanding of Christian Theology and Practice*

- 6.1 critically analyse a range of theological concepts in relation to the practice of Salvationism and wider Christian faith in church, ministry and leadership;
- 6.2 construct, critique and articulate strategies for the communication of Christian faith in response to significant intellectual and cultural challenges;

#### *Contextualized practical knowledge and skills enabling theological reflection on Christian practice*

- 6.3 engage critically with a wide range of academic literature and research to develop critical analysis, reflection and evaluation of contextual Salvationist Christian practice;
- 6.4 formulate, analyse and apply complex arguments within Christian leadership, mission and ministry in diverse work-based contexts;

#### *Generic skills applicable to other areas of life*

- 6.5 demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills using information technologies in both the capture of appropriate resources for the subject, and in the presentation of knowledge;
- 6.6 creatively design and undertake independent research, making discriminating use of a full range of resources, alongside a critical self-awareness.

## Programme structure

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Module status	
					Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non-compensatable (NC) or compensatable (X)
VWB6001M	6	1yr1	Contemporary Biblical Interpretation	20	C	X
VWB6002M	6	2yr1	Contemporary Christian Theology	20	C	X
VWB6003M	6	3yr1/2	Church in Contemporary Context	20	C	X
VWB6004M	6	1yr2	Contemporary Spirituality	20	C	X
VWB6005M	6	2yr2	Christian Engagement with Ethical Issues	20	C	X
VWB6006M	6	3yr2	Research Project	20	C	X

Please note that Module 3 is delivered in year 1 but the submission is at the beginning of year 2.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the table above as non-compensatable. A non-compensatable module is one that must be passed at the relevant level (with a mark of 40) in order to progress.

## **Learning, teaching and assessment**

### ***Teaching and learning***

The Christian Theology and Practice tutors aim to provide you with a secure and supportive environment in which you can achieve your potential, both intellectually and personally. We will aim to get to know you, and you will work with a range of module tutors who are experts in their field. The WBC Degree Course Leader will have oversight of your journey through the programme and you will be allocated designated personal academic tutors who will guide and support you through your degree programme. We will help you to build on your existing strengths and find ways to help you to become confident in developing both academic and vocational skills.

You will typically spend a total of 24 hours for each module in teaching and learning sessions with your tutors. The emphasis of this level 6 programme will be on enhancing your skills in critical engagement with a wide range of academic resources and practical contexts through Modules 1-5. In module 6 you will undertake a research project on a subject of your choice.

The tutors will use a variety of learning and teaching methods in their sessions which are tailored both towards the subject and different approaches to learning (for example, teaching sessions, seminars, group activities, media). You will be given opportunities to participate actively in the teaching sessions and to develop your confidence through learning activities such as group discussion and formative presentations. This will enable you to develop both independence and collaborative skills as you learn both with and from your peers. Your tutor will guide you in preparing for these activities.

You will also engage in independent study outside of the contact hours. This will include guided reading, research tasks, engaging with electronic resources, preparation for teaching sessions and completion of assignments.

### ***Assessment***

You will encounter a range of ways of assessing your learning throughout the programme. These are designed to help you to enhance existing skills and build confidence in developing new ones. During the taught sessions there will be formative assessments (developmental tasks for which you receive feedback but not a mark) in the form of individual and group activities, and tutorial time to help you with your written assignments. Summative assessments, for which your work will be marked and receive a grade, will include essays, an oral presentation, reflective writing and portfolio. You will develop written, oral and visual communication skills, which you will be able to build on in the future. Assessments for each module are spread throughout the academic year. Tutors will build in opportunities for you to work on drafts and receive feedback before you submit your final piece of work for assessment. There are no written examinations on the programme.

## **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 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](#)
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*Date written / revised: 19.10.20*  
*Programme originally approved:*