

## Master of Theology

The CLTC Graduate Programme offers a Master of Theology (MTh) degree.

### Programme Nature:

The MTh is for those who have already completed a bachelor's level degree in theology or related fields and who desire to upgrade their qualifications in the fields of Biblical Studies, Christian Theology, History, Ministry and Mission and their relevance in South Pacific life, society and cultures today.

### Programme Objectives:

- To provide an advanced degree in Christian theology in and for the South Pacific context
- To equip South Pacific Christian leaders with a higher level of biblical, theological, missiological and pastoral understanding and academic skills to relate the Christian Gospel more effectively to South Pacific cultural life, to societal development, professions and vocations, and to contemporary issues in our nations and regions
- To provide an internationally recognised Masters degree which cultivates an integrated competency in the fields of study, together with sufficient specialisation to enable students to explore in depth their particular area of interest or involvement, and fosters the integration of culturally contextualized theory and praxis in their study and ministry

### Programme Learning Outcomes:

Students completing the programme will be able to:

- demonstrate well-developed skills of research, critical analysis, constructive synthesis and application in order to show competent, independent thinking in their area of specialization
- write coherent narrative which is internally consistent, interacts critically with central issues, properly represents and acknowledges the contributions of others, and demonstrates ability to form a reasoned opinion
- use sound principles of interpretation and contextualization in applying biblical and theological insights in the area of enquiry
- demonstrate high standards of professional, ethical and human relationships in their approach to study and research
- elucidate the South Pacific cultural implications of current academic discussion in their area of study, bring a South Pacific perspective to international academic discussion of their field of study with a competence appropriate to Master's level, and use appropriate aspects of current scholarship in their field of study in teaching and Christian service, and make them available to the church.

### Programme Level:

The MTh Programme is at Level 9 on the Papua New Guinea National Qualifications Framework and complies with the requirements for Masters Degrees at this level.

### Requirements:

The MTh programme is made up of six courses and a 20,000 word thesis for each candidate, plus demonstration of competency in Biblical languages. The six courses are chosen from three fields: 1) Biblical Studies; 2) Theology and History; and 3) Ministry and Mission.

Taught courses each comprise 300 total learning hours. Normally 40 to 60 hours are in class and the balance is spent in personal research and writing. Each taught course has an expectation of 8,000 words of writing spread over the assessment tasks for the course. A full time Masters student's study load is two courses per semester (one per term), or four courses per year for two years, plus ongoing Biblical language courses throughout the two years. The MTh requires the equivalent of two years full-time study or a total of 2,400 study hours.

### Schedule:

CLTC currently offers the MTh as a full-time two-year residential programme at the main campus near Mt. Hagen, Papua New Guinea. Students will be accepted into the programme every year and advance through the programme as a cohort of students together.

The following table contains an example of a typical two-year MTh programme schedule:

	<u>First Term</u>	<u>Second Term</u>	<u>Third Term</u>	<u>Fourth Term</u>
<b>First Year</b>	Theological Research & Writing	Gospel & Culture	New Testament Exegesis	Leadership in the South Pacific
	New Testament Greek			
<b>Second Year</b>	History of Missions in the South Pacific	Pacific Theology	Old Testament Exegesis	Adult Learning and Theological Teaching
	Old Testament Hebrew			

Table 1: Units that are offered in 2 years Masters Course

### Biblical Languages:

Competencies in biblical languages are demonstrated by completing two additional courses, one in New Testament Greek and the other in Old Testament Hebrew, or by showing current competency through recognition of prior learning and by passing proficiency exams. The Biblical Language competency courses are each 150 learning hours, for a total of 300 learning hours of original languages. Greek is normally taken during the first year and Hebrew during the second year. However, the 300 learning hours do not count towards the 2,400 hours required for graduation, since incoming students may test out of the courses by passing proficiency exams.

### **Thesis:**

The MTh has a significant research requirement which is met by each student completing both a Theological Research and Writing course and *either* a 10,000 word research paper or a 20,000 word research thesis. The 10,000 word research paper comprises one of the eight courses in the degree. The 20,000 word thesis is equivalent in credits to two courses, bringing the total number of courses to eight. Students applying to do the 20,000 word thesis must demonstrate a high level of research competence in the courses in the first year of the programme.

The research paper or thesis focuses on the area of specialisation of the selected courses chosen by the candidate. The due date for the thesis is normally the fifteenth day of October in the year the student expects to graduate.

Before a student may undertake work on thesis, the student will complete a proposal, setting out the topic, reasons for choosing it, intended methods of research, suggested structure of content and a summary bibliography. The proposal is to be submitted to the Dean of Graduate Studies for approval. The Dean of Graduate Studies may request input from the National Academic Executive Committee.

### **Assessment and Required Grades:**

Each taught course includes written assessment tasks involving research and requires 8,000 written words. Taught courses are assessed by a variety of assessment tasks which may be selected from: pre-reading reports, literature reviews, short research essays, class presentations, class tests, examinations, and a major research essay. The major assessment task is normally worth at least 40% of the course grade, with up to two other assessments weighted accordingly. The major assessment involves significant personal research by each student and would usually be a research essay of at least 4,000 words.

The minimum pass grade for each course is a D, including at least a D grade in the major assessment. At the discretion of the course lecturer, a student may be offered one opportunity to re-submit their major assessment task if it achieved below a D grade.

### **Post-Graduate Diploma of Theology**

A Post-Graduate Diploma of Theology (PGDT) may be awarded to those students who have successfully completed four courses, but are unable to complete either the MTh or the MA in Theology programme. Depending on the reason for incompleteness, the student may be allowed to continue his or her studies towards a Masters degree at a later date.

### **Admission Requirements:**

Candidates will have already gained above average grades in a completed primary degree in Theology (BTh, BD, BMin or equivalent), in which English was the language of instruction, and which was accredited through a recognised agency such as the Melanesian Association of Theological Schools, South Pacific Association of Theological Schools or a recognised Government agency such as the Papua New Guinea Office of Higher Education. Some university primary degrees majoring in Religious Studies may also qualify as a suitable entry requirement.

Candidates who have completed a primary degree in English in a field other than Theology from an accredited university or degree granting tertiary institution may apply under certain circumstances to enter the CLTC MTh programme by completing the CLTC Graduate Diploma in Christian Studies (GDCS) first.

The College reserves the right to grant provisional entrance to the MTh programme in special circumstances where the candidate can demonstrate competence to do well in the programme despite some inadequacy in pre-requisite achievement. In such cases, the CLTC National Academic Executive Committee will confirm acceptance after the candidate successfully completes two Masters Courses.

### **Cross Credit and Recognition of Prior Learning:**

Accepted candidates may apply for recognition of cross credit or current competency on the basis of prior learning. Where candidates can document achievement of learning outcomes comparable to the learning outcomes of a particular course, the College has power to grant exemption from and/or cross credit towards a particular course. Normally no more than the equivalent of cross-credit towards two courses would be granted for one student.

### **Ethics Approval for Data-gathering from Human Subjects:**

Responsible researchers are conscientious to respect and protect the rights and concerns of those who assist them with resource material for their research. CLTC students are therefore required to gain full, willing and informed consent from any and each person from whom they wish to gather unpublished information to help in their research. Thus, students will discuss the appropriateness of such data-gathering for their research with their supervisor, and indicate as part of their research proposal whether they intend to interview, or in any other way, gain sensitive or personal information. They will complete the Ethics Approval Application Form for approval by the Dean of Graduate Studies.

### **Participation in CLTC College Community Life:**

While in residence on the CLTC Campus, MTh students are expected to participate in the communal life of the College as an integral aspect of their learning experience. Masters students share in Chapel services and their own communal devotional, worship and social life. Since CLTC Masters courses are significantly subsidised by overseas funding agencies, each student is expected to contribute towards the communal development and welfare of the College by assisting with assigned daily living or academic or administrative tasks such as library assistance, tutorial assistance for undergraduate students, research assistance for lecturers, and general college work duty tasks. Masters students are encouraged to initiate cooperative activities with undergraduate students so as to enhance their overall community and learning experience while at the College.