

**BA (Honours) Applied Theology
Programme Specification**

About the course		
1	Name of course and highest award	BA (Hons) Applied Theology
2	Level of highest award	Level 6
3	Named interim awards	Graduate Diploma, Level 6 (only) Diploma of Higher Education in Applied Theology, Level 5 Certificate of Higher Education in Applied Theology, Level 4
4	Awarding/validating institution	University of Gloucestershire
5	Teaching institution	Moorlands College
6	School responsible for the course	Moorlands College
7	Mode of study	Full-time and part-time Campus-Based Delivery at Christchurch and Hybrid-Based Delivery at Christchurch and other locations of delivery as validated by the University (see section 19 for details of current locations)
8	QAA subject benchmark statement(s) where relevant	Theological and Religious Studies (TRS) ¹
9	Recognition by Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB), to include definition of the recognition	None
10	Other external points of reference	Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ): descriptor for a Bachelors degree with honours Level 6, Diploma Level 5 and Certificate Level 4
11	Date of initial validation	February, 1996

¹ Theology and Religious Studies Subject Benchmark; published by QAA March 2022

12	Date(s) of revision/confirmation	2001 (Quinquennial Review) 2004 (introduction of Placement-Based mode of delivery) 2007 (restructuring of level 5 modules) 2009 (PRR) 2012 (PRR and switch to 15 CATS modules as base) 2015 (PRR) 2017 (VSP) 2018 (VSP removal of B151, B152 assessment task) 2019 (VSP Level 5 and 6 module additions/removals) 2023 (VSP new modular structure) 2023 (VSP changes to module LOs) 2024 (VSP changes to assessment lengths - B540, B641, B642) 2024 (Addition of Graduate Diploma)
13	Course aims	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 The programme equips the student with knowledge, qualities and skills for graduate-level employment in Christian contexts and in those requiring similar characteristics, with a particular focus on Christian leadership in local church and other vocational settings. 2 It offers formation in a number of inter-related and inter-connected areas, including in Christian spiritual formation, teachability, emotional intelligence, self-reflection and in relational skills, as well as intellectual discernment and practical wisdom. 3 It enables students to develop skills of critical understanding and evaluation in a variety of theological disciplines, including biblical studies, doctrine, ecclesiology, and missiology. 4 It develops students' abilities to integrate theory and practice, demonstrating a critical awareness of appropriate methodologies and ethics as reflective practitioners
14	Learning outcomes of the course	<p>A student graduating with a CertHE will demonstrate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 knowledge and understanding of the vocabulary, methodologies and perspectives of Christian theology (FHEQ 4.10a-d; TRS 4.6a, c-g, i, 4.8f-g) 2 potential vocational suitability through evidencing understanding, abilities and skills for a variety of service and leadership settings, in the Christian sector and public arena, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) awareness of issues in personal, professional and spiritual self-management and development (FHEQ 4.10a, e-f; TRS 4.7c-d, f, 4.8c, f) b) the capacity to exercise personal responsibility for the quality of practice (FHEQ 4.10f; TRS 4.8b, e); c) effective communication skills (FHEQ 4.10d-f; TRS 4.7f, 4.8a, c, e, i); d) sensitivity to others and the ability to relate and work well in group and team contexts (FHEQ 4.10c-f; TRS 4.7c-e, 4.8c-e) e) concern for biblically-grounded, Christian values (FHEQ 4.10a; TRS 4.6a, c, e, f, i, 4.7d, f, 4.8c-e). <p>A student graduating with a DipHE will demonstrate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3 ability to analyse, interrogate and creatively integrate perspectives from Christian theology and relevant disciplines, representing them fairly, evaluating them critically, and showing an appreciation of uncertainty, ambiguity and the limits of (FHEQ 4.12a-e; TRS 4.6a-l, 4.7a, e, 4.8f-h)

	<p>4 effective integration of the theory and practice of Christian theology, combining biblically-grounded theology and professionalism (FHEQ 12a-b, e, g-h; TRS 4.6b-c, e, g, i, 4.7a-b, f, 4.8c-d, f-h)</p> <p>5 competence in reflecting critically on the student's own personal beliefs, commitments, prejudices, spiritual development and traditions within the broader Christian tradition and the wider social and cultural context (FHEQ 4.12b, d, h, 4.6a-d, f, l, 4.7c-e, 4.8b) (FHEQ 4.12f-h; TRS4.7f, 4.8a, c, e, i)</p> <p>6 developing vocational suitability through evidencing understanding, abilities and skills for a variety of service and leadership settings, in the Christian sector and public arena, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) developing ability in personal, professional and spiritual self-management and development (FHEQ 4.12g-h; TRS 4.7c-d, f, 4.8c, f); b) personal responsibility for the quality of, and decision-making relating to practice in complex environments (FHEQ 4.12g-h; TRS 4.7f, 4.8b, e); c) effective communication skills (FHEQ 4.12f-h; TRS 4.7f, 4.8a, c, e, i); d) sensitivity to others and the ability to relate and work well in group and team contexts (FHEQ 4.12e-h; TRS 4.7c-e, 4.8c-e) e) concern for biblically-grounded, Christian values (FHEQ 4.12a-b; TRS 4.6a, c, e, f, l, 4.7d, f, 4.8b-e) <p>A student graduating with a Graduate Diploma/ BA (Hons) will demonstrate:</p> <p>7 ability to identify, gather and use appropriate primary and secondary source material, including materials beyond the student's own tradition and research materials at the forefront of the discipline (FHEQ 4.15a-g; TRS 4.6a-i, 4.7a-b, e, 4.8f-h)</p> <p>8 rounded vocational suitability through excellent professional understanding, abilities and skills, for a variety of service and leadership settings, in the Christian sector and public arena, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) proficiency in personal, professional and spiritual self-management and development (FHEQ 4.15e, 4.15i(i), (iii); TRS 4.7c-d, f, 4.8c, f); b) initiative and decision-making in complex and unpredictable environments (FHEQ 4.15i(i)-(ii); TRS 4.7f, 4.8b, e); c) effective communication skills (FHEQ 4.15h-i(iii); TRS 4.8f, 4.8a, c, e, i); d) sensitivity to others and the ability to relate and work well in group and team and leadership contexts (FHEQ 4.15h-i(ii); TS 4.7c-e, 4.8c-e). e) concern for biblically-grounded, Christian values (FHEQ 4.15a; TRS4.6a, c, e, f, i, 4.7d, f, 4.8b-e)
15	<p>Learning and teaching strategy</p> <p>The College's theological principles provide particularly strong underpinning to its commitment to certain core values of the higher education sector, including integrity, accountability, the drive for learning, and the intelligibility of the world. Learning in this course is a holistic process of personal development, covering inter-relating aspects of human personality. These dimensions of learning may be characterised in different ways, e.g., as affective, behavioural, cognitive or knowing, acting, being, or knowledge, skills and practice. The College is committed to the concept that learning is a situated and active process. This reflects the foundational importance within Christian thinking of context and the individual-community dialectic. In accordance with this commitment, the College fosters safe, but challenging environments of learning, so that students learn as part of supportive and diverse communities. Thus, the course encourages a high level of interaction between academic staff and students through engagement in both in-person and online communities and ensures its communities are inclusive, recognising the diversity of its students, and providing equitable learning experiences for all students across all modes of delivery.</p> <p>Learning opportunities are designed to encourage independent, critical thinking and self-motivated learning and to both challenge and encourage students' theological and social commitments. Students are equipped for professional practice in a variety of contexts. This professional-vocational orientation results in a</p>

commitment to a pedagogical approach to higher education that typically emphasises the linking of theory and practice, the facilitation of programme placements and/or appropriate practice, reflection on personal practice or other experiences, the deployment in teaching of appropriate numbers of professional practitioners, and, where programmes provide initial formation for a vocation, the incorporation of professional ethical codes in the College's expectations of conduct.

The courses integrate discipline-specific and transferable skills, so that graduates are equipped with attributes to enable them to flourish in a changing world. Graduates should be:

- people of spiritual, personal and professional integrity who act in line with the ethical expectations of their vocation and faith commitments and beliefs
- competent professionals with in-depth subject knowledge, skills and understanding that is relevant to the complexities of the contemporary world
- innovative investigators who think critically and can identify problems, investigate possibilities, and find creative solutions
- adaptable communicators who seek to listen to, engage, and positively influence audiences in varied social and cultural contexts
- flexible co-workers who are aware of their own strengths and weaknesses and have the resilience to adapt to new roles, challenging situations and changing contexts
- service-oriented community members who prioritise respectful relationships, interdependence and growth of others over individual agendas
- lifelong learners with the curiosity and passion to keep growing and developing, and encouraging others to do the same.
- Throughout all activities, the course encouraged independent, analytical, critical and creative thinking

Teaching is led by a team of highly able and experienced educators, committed to the above principles to form graduates with the attributes described. The College's approach to these areas is set out in its Learning and Teaching Framework which can be accessed via the Programme Handbook.

The programme is typically taken full-time, but part-time study is also permitted, subject to management issues.

Studies may be conducted in Campus-based, or hybrid-based modes of delivery. Campus-based mode involves scheduled teaching and learning hours of a module delivered face-to-face in the classroom. Hybrid-based mode requires students to undertake their scheduled teaching and learning hours of a module through a combination of face-to-face elements, online synchronous activity, and online asynchronous activity.

The following table shows how the modules' Learning Outcomes contribute to supporting students to achieve the programme's Learning Outcomes (see section 14 above).

Programme Learning Outcomes

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	B410	1,2,3	1,2,3						
	B420	1,2,3,4,5	1,2,3,4,5						
	B430	1,2,3	1,2,3						
	B440	1,2,3,4	1,2,3,4,5						
	B510			1,2,3	3	3	1,2,3		
	B520			1,2,3,4	1,2,3,4	3,4	1,2,3,4		
	B530			1,2,3	1,2,3	2,3	1,2,3		
	B540			1,2	2	2	1,2,3		
	B610							1,2,3	1,2,3
	B620							1,2,3	1,2,3
	B631							1,2,5	3,4
	B632							2,3	1,2,3
	B641							1	1,2,3
	B642							1,2	2,3

16 Learning and teaching methods

Learning and teaching take place through a combination of scheduled learning and teaching activities, placement activities, and students' own guided independent learning. The balance of each of these methods remains consistent across the programme, regardless of a student's mode of study. For those studying via the Campus-Based mode of delivery, scheduled learning and teaching activities take place through regular lectures throughout the week. For those studying via the Hybrid-Based mode of delivery, scheduled learning and teaching activities take place over a series of intensive residential study blocks and online synchronous sessions (usually on a Friday). Additionally, hybrid-based students engage in interactive online learning and activities with teacher presence. Module teams utilize the College's Virtual Learning Environment both to guide students' independent learning and to facilitate digital and peer learning.

All students on the programme are also required to undertake a supervised placement each year as part of a compulsory module. These placements are an integral part of student's learning methods and assist their personal and professional development in line with the Programme Aims. These opportunities allow for integrated knowledge exchange between dimensions and experiences of learning in different settings, such as on placement and in the classroom)

Level 4	Scheduled learning and teaching activities	16%
	Guided independent learning	71%
	Placement and study abroad	13%
Level 5	Scheduled learning and teaching activities	16%
	Guided independent learning	71%
	Placement and study abroad	13%
Level 6	Scheduled learning and teaching activities	13-16%
	Guided independent learning	60-73%
	Placement and study abroad	14-27%

17 Assessment strategy

The course's assessment tasks are aligned with programme and modular learning outcomes and teaching activities, relevant to the needs of students, fair as opportunities to demonstrate learning achievements, and appropriate to module ratings. The course offers a diverse range of assessment tasks. For further details see the College's Learning and Teaching Framework, which is accessible through the Programme Handbook.

Learning outcomes at module level are normally the subject of summative assessment.

Module	CATS	Task	Description	Module Learning Outcome				
				1	2	3	4	5
B410	30	A	Assignment 20%, 800 words	✓				
		B	Assignment 40%, 1600 words	✓	✓			
		C	Group Assignment 40%, 2000 words			✓		
B420	30	A	Assignment 60%, 2400 words	✓	✓	✓		
		B	Presentation 40% 15 mins				✓	✓
B430	30	A	Group Presentation 50% 25 mins	✓	✓			
		B	Assignment 50% 2000 words			✓		
B440	30	A	Assignment 50% 2000 words	✓	✓	✓		
		B	Portfolio 50% 2000 words		✓	✓		
		C	Confirmation of Satisfactory Practice 0%					✓
		D	Presentation 0%, 1 hour				✓	
B510	30	A	Assignment 50% 2500 words	✓	✓			
		B	Assignment 50% 2500 words	✓	✓	✓		
B520	30	A	Assignment 50% 2500 words	✓	✓	✓		
		B	Assignment 50% 2500 words				✓	
B530	30	A	Assignment 50% 2500 words	✓				
		B	Assignment 50% 2500 words		✓	✓		
B540	30	A	Presentation 50% 20 mins	✓	✓			
		B	Portfolio 50% 2500 words		✓	✓		

		C	Confirmation of Satisfactory Practice 0%				✓	
		D	Presentation 0%, 1 hour			✓		
B610	30	A	Assignment 50% 3000 words	✓	✓	✓		
		B	Assignment 50% 3000 words	✓	✓	✓		
B620	30	A	Assignment 100% 6000 words	✓	✓	✓		
B631	30	A	Dissertation/Major Project 100% 9000 words	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
B632	30	A	Assignment 100% 6000 words	✓	✓	✓		
		B	Confirmation of Satisfactory Practice 0%	✓				
B641	30	A	Presentation 50% 25 mins	✓	✓			
		B	Portfolio 50% 3000 words			✓		
		C	Confirmation of Satisfactory Practice 0%			✓		
		D	Presentation 0%, 1 hour		✓			
B642	30	A	Presentation 50% 25 mins	✓	✓			
		B	Portfolio 50% 3000 words			✓		
		C	Confirmation of Satisfactory Practice 0%			✓		
		D	Presentation 0%, 1 hour		✓			

18 Assessment methods

The following table categorises the summative assessment tasks of a student with a typical set of module choices into the three standard categories, of written exams, practical exams and coursework.

The heading of coursework includes a wide variety of assessment types, including presentations, portfolios and practice in placements, as well as essays and reports.

Level 4	Written exams	0 %
	Practical exams	0 %
	Coursework	100 %

	Level 5	Written exams	0 %
		Practical exams	0 %
		Coursework	100 %
	Level 6	Written exams	0 %
		Practical exams	0 %
		Coursework	100 %
19	Location(s) of the course's delivery	Christchurch South West Regional Centre (University Location of Delivery process, December 2014)	
20	Admission Requirements	<p>Two A-levels or equivalent. For applicants without these qualifications the College runs an access programme to the degree programme, known as Foundation Year.</p> <p>An IELTS Academic Certificate with an overall score of 6.0 with at least 6.0 in each of reading and writing (or nationally recognised equivalent to these IELTS scores from a different testing system).</p> <p>For Graduate Diploma (only) it is normally expected that students have already achieved a full bachelor's degree (in any subject), normally at 2:2 level or above.</p> <p>Students should be able to undertake placements some of which are likely to involve commitment to and participation in the activities and community of churches which hold to a traditional understanding of Christianity.</p>	
21	Career and employability opportunities	<p>Building experience of practice is central to the learning philosophy of the programme (see section 15). A number of modules involve current practitioners in their teaching, creating opportunities for the students to network with future employers. Students also engage in placements throughout their studies and gain increasing experience in quantity and quality. These opportunities not only strengthen the learning experience but equip students to become competent professionals in their chosen fields and enhance their ability to secure employment in the areas of their interests.</p>	
22	Management of Quality and Standards	<p>The College follows the approach to the management of quality and standards as set out by the University of Gloucestershire, which validates all the College's Higher Education programmes. The University's Quality Assurance Handbook, Academic Regulations for Taught Provision, Assessment Principles and Procedures, and associated sources of advice are all applied to the College's provision. All regulations, policies and procedures are aligned with QAA reference points. The College's own Quality Manual defines how these are implemented within the programme.</p> <p>Students are able to comment on their modules and courses in various ways including module evaluations and Programme Boards. Quality assurance is undertaken as close as possible to the point of delivery. There is a route from the module level to Programme Boards and through to the Academic Board and the Executive Leadership Team so that issues can be addressed and delivery enhanced in the appropriate arena.</p>	

	<p>Externality is guaranteed via external examiner reports which allow the College and the University to make judgements on the quality and standards of its provision. The College also benefits from the input of externals in University approval and review procedures. In addition a Professional Advisory Group of external employers and practitioners advises the College on all aspects of the delivery of the programme.</p>
<p>23</p>	<p>Support for Students and for Student Learning</p> <p>As a small college with a community feel, students have relatively ready access to teaching and support staff in a variety of ways. For Christchurch students there are weekly, timetabled groups, which all students attend, to build community and deal with issues that may arise. For students at other centres there are similar groups that meet plus the benefit of regular residential living and ability to contact tutors and support electronically. Students are expected to meet with tutors for half an hour twice a term to discuss academic, developmental, future employment or other issues that they may be facing. The student handbook and other course information is available on the College’s website. The Student Council is well supported by the College in its aims of maintaining community and offering a level of pastoral support to all students.</p> <p>The College has a Student Welfare Manager who takes particular responsibility for relevant issues.</p> <p>The Learning Support Department runs an effective system of helping students with learning differences to successfully manage their studies through providing additional support where necessary. A confidential one-to-one service provides information, support and advice. The team has professionally qualified staff who will help students identify their needs through screenings or assessments including full dyslexia assessments. Guidance and assistance is also available regarding applications for the Disabled Student Allowance (DSA). Support for students is ongoing and available throughout their College career.</p> <p>The College’s library delivers effective, efficient and learner-focussed services in a number of ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • traditional academic library resources (over 40,000 print books, 60 current print journals and various back runs); • electronic information resources (e-journals and e-books via the University's online resources); • 33 study spaces in a modern, light and airy environment; • additional borrowing access to print books (around 40,000) via formal arrangement with Sarum College Library in Salisbury; • access to expert help in locating and using learning resources (individually and through regular information skills classes)

24 Current Course Map

See separate document.