

Doctoral Programme Profile

Theology

Awarding Institution	University of Chichester
Teaching Institution	University of Chichester
Final award	PhD
Name of academic discipline	Theology, Philosophy and Religious Studies
Interim Exit awards	MPhil
FHEQ level of final award	Level 8
Research Degree Coordinator for area	Dr Ruth Mantin
Date Programme Profile was last revised	26/03/2016

All PGR Programme Profiles should be read alongside the [University of Chichester's Regulations for the degrees of Master of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy](#) and the [Code of Practice for Research Candidature and Supervision](#).

Programme Outline

Brief outline of the programme

The research degree programme aims to provide students with an outstanding learning experience in a supportive community of learning. The department is known nationally and internationally for excellence in research and teaching and all of its staff are engaged in conducting their own research. Information on staff research interests and achievements can be found on the Departmental web pages.

<http://www.chi.ac.uk/departments-theology-philosophy-and-religious-studies/theology-research>

The Department of Theology, Philosophy and Religious Studies is a community devoted to the study of the significance of religion and philosophy in contemporary society. Our research expertise includes public theology, biblical studies, the study of religion, gender and philosophy of religion. To get a sense of this range and to see our publications, please visit individual staff pages. We regularly host public seminars and conferences. These events are attended by undergraduates, postgraduates, staff and members of the community. For details of upcoming events, see our events page or visit us on Facebook.

Currently, our staff are bringing together their diverse perspectives in a project on religion and critical citizenship. This project has two aspects: first, we are examining theological, philosophical and religious perspectives on the nature of citizenship; second, we are investigating how the study of our disciplines contributes to the development of critical citizens. These questions push us to rethink the study of religion and philosophy in both schools and universities. We want our students and the schools we partner with to not only study religion and philosophy, but learn to use these resources to critically engage and transform society.

Aims of the Programme

The main aims of the programme are:

- a) the creation and interpretation of new knowledge through original research or other advanced scholarship, or of a quality to satisfy peer review, extend the forefront of the discipline and merit publication;
- b) a systematic acquisition and understanding of a substantial body of knowledge which is at the forefront of the academic discipline;
- c) the general ability to conceptualise, design and implement a project for the generation of new knowledge, applications or understanding at the forefront of the discipline, and to adjust the project design in the light of unforeseen problems;
- d) a detailed understanding of applicable techniques for research and advanced academic enquiry appropriate to the discipline.

Programme Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

Having successfully completed this programme you:

- have demonstrated a systematic understanding of a field of study and mastery of the skills and methods of research associated with that field;
- have demonstrated the ability to conceive, design, implement and adapt a substantial process of research with scholarly integrity;
- have made a contribution through original research that extends the frontier of knowledge by developing a substantial body of work, some of which merits national or international refereed publication;
- are capable of critical analysis, evaluation and synthesis of new and complex ideas;
- can communicate with your peers, the larger scholarly community and with society in general about your areas of expertise;
- can be expected to be able to promote, within academic and professional contexts, technological, social or cultural advancement in a knowledge-based society.

Learning and Teaching Methods

The PhD programme is delivered through a supervised research project. Each student will have a supervisory team of at least two appropriately qualified academic staff, one of whom will be the Director of Studies. A description of the responsibilities of the supervisory team can be found in the [Code of Practice](#).

Assessment methods

The award of MPhil or PhD is assessed through submission of a written thesis or equivalent for practice based disciplines and an oral examination with a panel of examiners (*viva voce*). The viva is compulsory for PhD and optional for MPhil.

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

The majority of subject specific intellectual and research skills are gained through the process of doing research within the context of supervisory meetings and support. On occasion it may be helpful for a student to undertake specific research skills training such as that taught as part of Masters programmes or as part of the postgraduate research training programme coordinated by the Research Office.

Professional Development and Transferable Skills

Those completing their doctoral programme will have the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and largely autonomous initiative in complex and unpredictable situations, in professional or equivalent environments.

Research students have access to the University's Staff Development Programme as well as a range of other formal and informal training activities coordinated at the department, area or University level.

Programme Structure

Admissions

MPhil/PhD students can register either at the start of October or the start of February. Admission requirements are described in the [Code of Practice](#) (in particular see clauses 11 to 25).

Candidature

Maximum candidature is 48 months in Full Time registration, 84 months in Part Time Registration.

Progression Requirements

The programme follows the University's [Higher Degree Regulations](#) as set out on the University website.

During the programme there are a number of academic milestones that the student will need to complete.

These include:

- Confirmation of research project (2000 word proposal and completed Form 1) after three months (full time) and six months (part-time)
- Satisfactory Annual Progress reports
- Upgrade from MPhil to PhD programmes (only for PhD programmes).

Support for student learning

There are facilities and services to support your learning. Some of these are accessible to students across the University and some of these will be geared towards students in your particular Faculty or discipline.

The University provides:

- library resources, including e-books, on-line journals and databases, together with assistance from Library staff to enable you to make the best use of these resources
- high-speed access to online electronic learning resources from dedicated PC Workstations onsite and from your own devices; laptops, smartphones and tablet PCs via the Eduroam wireless network. A wide range of application software is available from the PCs in each LRC.
- computer accounts that connect you to a number of learning technologies including the Moodle virtual learning environment (which facilitates online learning and access to specific learning resources)
- standard ICT tools such as Email, secure filestore and calendars.
- access to key information through the University's intranet.
- IT support through a comprehensive website, telephone and online support and a dedicated helpdesk at the SIZ at each of the LRCs.
- Enabling Services offering assessment, guidance and facilities (including specialist IT support) if you have a disability, dyslexia, mental health issue or specific learning difficulties
- Student Support Services to assist you with a range of general enquiries including financial matters, accommodation, exams, graduation, student visas, ID cards (studentadviser@chi.ac.uk)
- Careers support, advising on job search, applications, interviews, paid work, volunteering and internship opportunities and getting the most out of your extra-curricular activities alongside your degree programme when writing your CV
- a range of personal support services : mentoring, counselling, residence support service, chaplaincy, health service
- assistance in the development of English language and study skills for non-native speakers.
- a Research Office which coordinates a programme of professional development and skills training (pgsupport@chi.ac.uk)
- An appropriate research environment, as set out in the [Code of Practice](#)

The Students' Union provides:

- an academic student representation system, consisting of elected Student Voices in every department, Academic Representatives for both campus', and the SU President and Vice President. UCSU provides training and support for those who represent students' views to the University.
- extracurricular activities and volunteering opportunities

- free and confidential advice including support if you need to make an academic appeal or apply for mitigation
- opportunity to thank and reward staff through the SU Teaching Awards

Associated with your programme you will be able to access:

Amongst the extensive collection of theological texts, the library on the University's Bishop Otter Campus houses a collection from the former Chichester Theological College. These are identified by a purple CTC label and are integrated within the Theology section. The collection is located on the first floor of the Learning Resources Centre (LRC) at Bishop Otter, with a reserve stock of more historical material located in the LRC on the Bognor Regis Campus.

Professor Steve Moyise has just completed a trilogy of books that explore how the New Testament makes use of the Old Testament. Published by SPCK in the UK and Baker Academic in the USA, the previous volumes ('Jesus and Scripture' and 'Paul and Scripture' – both 2010) have received critical acclaim and the third volume, entitled 'Later Writers of the New Testament and Scripture' was published in February 2012.

Dr Graeme Smith serves on the editorial board of Political Theology a journal that investigates and examines religious and political issues. The journal is interdisciplinary, drawing on the disciplines of theology, religious studies, politics, philosophy, ethics, cultural studies, social theory and economics. As such, it aims to reflect the diversity of religious and theological engagements with public and political life. Articles are welcome from scholars, practitioners and clergy that address religion and political life in all its variety.

Students also have access to extensive online resources, inter-library loans, computers and office space.

Fees information

Current information about the fees for postgraduate research degree programmes are available on the University's website <http://www.chi.ac.uk/study-us/fees-finance/tuition-fees>

Further information

For general queries about research degree programmes please contact the research office using pgrsupport@chi.ac.uk

For queries specific to the Department of Theology please contact Dr Ruth Mantin
<http://www.chi.ac.uk/staff/dr-ruth-mantin-0>