



2018/2019

Undergraduate
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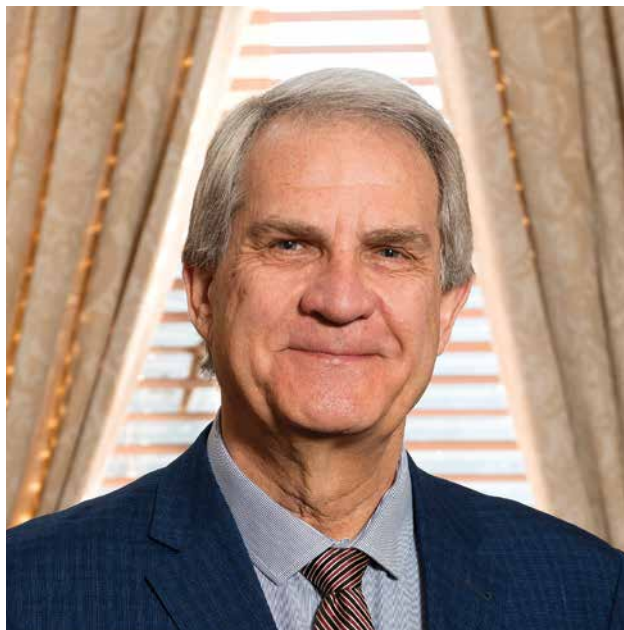


UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

Faculty of Theology
and Religion

Fakulteit Teologie en Religie
Lekala la Thutatumelo le Bodumedi

Message from the Dean



Prof Johan Buitendag
Dean: Faculty of Theology and Religion

Welcome to the Faculty of Theology and Religion at the University of Pretoria. You have made the right decision to choose this Faculty to study theology and religion.

Not only are we the oldest fully-fledged Faculty of Theology and Religion in South Africa, but we are rated first in Africa and 14th in the world in terms of research impact. This is proof of the high standard at which theology is practised at the University of Pretoria and the fact that academic excellence is a non-negotiable trait of the Faculty.

The main role players in the one hundred year old history of this Faculty have been the Netherdutch Reformed Church of Africa (NRCA) since 1917, and the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa (DRCSA) since 1938. The Uniting Presbyterian Church of Southern Africa (PCSA) joined in 2002 and the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa (URCSA) in 2012. The Anglican Church of Southern Africa (ACSA), as well as the Lutheran Church (FELSISA) and many other denominations, also officially acknowledge the Faculty as a preferred training institution.

The Faculty takes pride in its strategic profile:

Our vision is to be a faculty recognised for its creative engagement with life-giving theology and religious insight, of service to academia, church and community.

In order to achieve this, we commit ourselves to:

- providing relevant theological and religious education;
- nurturing transformative leaders;
- undertaking quality research;
- promoting justice, peace, the integrity of creation and a reconciling diversity; and
- engaging with people on the margins of society.

The *open gates* in front of the Theology Building were erected last year to symbolise the values of diversity and inclusivity. The Faculty has the mission to practise theology in such a way that the

love of God reaches all. In the past, the gates were closed to the marginalised. However, God has opened the gates now. The challenge is to recognise that God will always open the gates and, despite resistance, the message will continue on the way of radical inclusivity.

As important as the previous hundred years have been, the emphasis is now on the present. History is not a destination, but an orientation.

Today matters! The finish line is yours! Make your sojourn at this Faculty a pleasant, but effective one.

You are now part of the smallest faculty on the campus, but also the one with the biggest heart!

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‘The role of the House Theology Committee is to serve the students and staff members of the Faculty of Theology and Religion and to form a bridge between students, Faculty management and staff. The aim of the house committee is to support all who belong to this Faculty, not only through our respective portfolios, but with our individual and unique characters as well.

Our vision for House Theology is to ensure that we don’t forget the values we have been entrusted with, thereby making an impact on the current and new students in the same way that our lives have been influenced by the previous leaders of this Faculty. Welcome to our Faculty.’

Message from House Committee Chairperson: Chanyoung Yoo

Produced by the Department of Enrolment and Student Administration in December 2017.
Comments and queries can be directed to ssc@up.ac.za or tel: +27 (0)12 420 3111.

Disclaimer: This publication contains information about regulations, policies, tuition fees, curricula and programmes of the University of Pretoria applicable at the time of printing. Amendments to or updating of the information in this publication may be effected from time to time without prior notification. The accuracy, correctness or validity of the information contained in this publication is therefore not guaranteed by the University at any given time and is always subject to verification. The user is kindly requested to verify the correctness of the published information with the University at all times. Failure to do so will not give rise to any claim or action of any nature against the University by any party whatsoever.

Undergraduate programmes

Important information on undergraduate programmes for 2019

- The following persons will be considered for admission: a candidate who is in possession of a certificate that is deemed by the University to be equivalent to the required Grade 12 certificate with university endorsement; a candidate who is a graduate from another tertiary institution or has been granted the status of a graduate of such an institution; and a candidate who is a graduate of another faculty at the University of Pretoria.
- Life Orientation is excluded in the calculation of the APS.

University of Pretoria website www.up.ac.za/theology
National Benchmark Test website www.nbt.ac.za

Programmes	Minimum requirements for 2019		
	Achievement level*		APS
	English Home Language or English First Additional Language		
	NSC/IEB	AS Level	
BDiv – Bachelor of Divinity (for admission to MDiv studies) [4 years] Closing dates: SA – 30 September Non-SA – 31 August	4	D	25 (23–24 admission based on the NBT)
Careers: Ministers, pastors, priests, preachers in certain denominations, missionaries and youth counsellors. Other possibilities include ethics consultants to businesses. Theological studies can be enriching for people in various other vocations. If prospective students are interested in ordained ministry, this should also be discussed with their church leadership.			
BTh – Bachelor of Theology [3 years] Closing dates: SA – 30 September Non-SA – 31 August	4	D	25 (23–24 admission based on the NBT)
Careers: Ministers, pastors, priests, preachers in certain denominations, missionaries and youth counsellors. Other possibilities include ethics consultants to businesses. Theological studies can be enriching for people in various other vocations. If prospective students are interested in ordained ministry, this should also be discussed with their church leadership.			
DipTh – Diploma in Theology [3 years] Closing dates: SA – 30 September Non-SA – 31 August	3	E	22 (20–21 admission based on the NBT)
Careers: Ministers, pastors, priests, lay preachers in certain denominations, missionaries and youth counsellors. Candidates should consult their church leadership on which would suit their aims best. The Diploma in Theology is intended for candidates who have completed Grade 12 (or its equivalent), but without the required university admission.			

* Cambridge A level candidates who obtained at least a D in the required subjects, will be considered for admission. International Baccalaureate (IB) HL candidates who obtained at least a 4 in the required subjects, will be considered for admission.





‘Initially when I applied to study theology it was merely because I wanted to become a pastor of the church I am in. Later I came to the realisation that it goes much deeper than that. I am studying theology to have an impact on the world, especially with the social issues preventing the youth of today from becoming successful and rooted in faith.’

I see myself as a minister of religion in the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa. I also see myself as an academic in the field of practical theology, but even more I see myself

as a caregiver to those who are oppressed, marginalised and treated unjustly. The Faculty is very diverse, with people from different cultures and backgrounds, but in spite of our diversity I love that we are the most unified faculty.’

Sandile Mnisi



‘My decision to study theology at the University of Pretoria was based on my personal desire for teaching and proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ responsibly, ethically, and with the integrity it deserves.’

My experience during the course of my studies at UP has been challenging, to say the least. Besides realising that practical theology does not include lessons on how to baptize people, the rigid academic nature of some of the modules often left me wondering why I hadn’t just enrolled

at a theological seminary. In fact, I probably need Botox due to the frequency and assortment of facial expressions I displayed on a daily basis. Jokes aside, the journey has been an emotional one, often leaving me in tears when forced to confront some very uncomfortable questions about my own faith. However, despite the earthquake my faith has undergone, my studies have left me with a stronger desire to serve God, and I no longer fear what I cannot answer. (You learn very quickly while studying at this Faculty that the more you know, the more you *really don’t* know).

My degree has, without a doubt, equipped me with the theological knowledge and insight required to bring glory to God, and to proclaim the Truth of the Gospel, boldly and without shame.’

Tristin Hartley



‘My reason for studying theology is a passion to work with and help people. At first, my approach was based mainly on curiosity, seeking to learn more about God and my faith. However, my experience in this Faculty has given me a broader understanding of what theology entails.

With this qualification, I wish to explore the academic world within the field of theology. Therefore, I am working towards being a scholar of dogmatics and Christian ethics. I also see myself taking part in pastoral care and counselling.

What I love about this Faculty is that, since it is the smallest of all the faculties, it enables us to build relationships with students, lecturers and staff. It is easy to get to know one another. I am glad to have been given the opportunity to serve on the House Committee 2016/17 with the portfolio of academics. I am inspired by the quote: *‘the realization that you can’t predict the future – and mould it – could only come as a shock to an academic’ (David Harsanyi).*’

Lethabo Molopyane



‘The Faculty of Theology is like my second home, I always feel welcome when I enter through the gates of our Faculty and greet fellow students and staff members. I believe that the Lord led me on the path to study theology because I love working with people. I have great expectations for the University of Pretoria for the next few years.

Despite being a small faculty, House Theology should not be underestimated. Throughout the years that I have been a member of the Theology Family, I have had the opportunity to meet people from different cultures, who speak a variety of languages, and have different histories. It is truly a memorable experience to be studying with the hard-working theology students. Their respect for each other and the staff is evident.

I look forward to the years to come and I hope that our faculty will grow not only in numbers, but also in building stronger relationships within.’

Bernalee Botha

Undergraduate programmes

Why study at the Faculty of Theology and Religion?

The Faculty of Theology and Religion is renowned for its commitment to the following:

- **The Bible.** This remains the central point of reference for theology.
- **Spirituality.** Faith formation is of great importance.
- **Academic excellence.** The Faculty's standards of education compare with the best in the world.
- **Lecturers.** Lecturers are noted academics and also respected church leaders.
- **Student life.** Theology students participate fully in campus life: tours, Rag, camps, sports, serenades and many more.
- **International contacts.** Students can benefit from the many international contacts of the Faculty.

People study theology for a variety of reasons, and not only to make it their profession. Some find it a fascinating field about which they would like to know more, whereas others search for spiritual enrichment through study or may want to equip themselves to function more effectively in their workplace. The Faculty also offers courses that will benefit students who do not necessarily want to become ministers, but who would like to enrich their lives.

Enriching one's study in another field with insights and applications from theology has many advantages. By including modules from Religion studies in another field of study, such as computer science, engineering, languages, psychology, social work or teaching, graduates will enter their chosen careers as better equipped, more fully developed people.

What does the programme entail?

Theology deals with the basic questions of life:

- How do faith and religion influence people's lives?
- How does one approach ethical and moral questions in the workplace?
- How do theological insights promote good human resource practices?
- How does one cultivate ecological sensitivity and awareness?
- The Christian and laws.
- How do religious values contribute to peace and good human relations?
- Can crime be stopped by appealing to people's beliefs and values?
- What is the meaning and purpose of life?
- Where does one find answers to the deepest life questions?
- How does one gain a better understanding of humanity in order to make a difference in the world?

Some students feel called to work in the church as ministers, pastors, priests, lay preachers, missionaries or youth workers. If this is the case, then studying theology is the way to go. Others find their calling in serving the community as social workers, development workers, psychologists, teachers, journalists or writers. Yet others will become engineers, lawyers or entrepreneurs. For all, studying theology will contribute to a greater understanding of humanity and society.

Undergraduate programmes in Theology and Religion

The seven main sections in the study of theology focus on questions about the Bible and life.

Old Testament Studies

The Old Testament is concerned with God's relationship with Israel and God's involvement with humanity and creation. Old Testament Studies engages with the books of the Old Testament as well as the life setting of ancient Israel. From the Old Testament we learn that ancient Israelites were interested in issues like suffering, love and how to live in the presence of God.

New Testament Studies

In the New Testament, the story of Jesus is told and elaborated on from several perspectives. New Testament Studies focuses on the books of the New Testament and the first-century Mediterranean context in which they originated.

Church History and Polity

The history of the Christian church and the lives and theology of great figures in history, such as St Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, John Calvin and Martin Luther, are studied. Church Polity is about the specific ways in which different denominations organise themselves.

Science of Religion and Missiology

Science of Religion focuses on the world religions – Judaism, Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism – and their relationship to Christianity. Missiology investigates the manner in which Christian faith communities participate in God's mission. A holistic approach is followed.

Dogmatics and Christian Ethics

Dogmatics studies faith in God. Who is God? What is faith and how does it contribute to our ability to make sense of the world? Ethics connects what we believe with how we live – always in conversation with others and amid the complexity of our world.

Practical Theology

Practical Theology focuses on what Christians do (faith actions) – how they experience and express their faith. Worship and preaching, the meaning of the symbols and symbolic acts, helping people in a crisis, teaching faith and faith formation, as well as understanding the world in which we live, comprise the concerns of this field.

Religion Studies

Religion Studies (formerly known as Biblical Studies) is a life-enriching course open to anyone who may be interested in religion. Students from diverse fields, such as engineering, architecture, music, political science, law, fine arts and many more choose to broaden their vision by taking this course. It addresses questions such as the following: Why are people religious? What did ancient people believe? How do we understand and respect our neighbours from other religious denominations?

Contact information

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‘Theology refers to the study of the nature and different understandings of God and the various religious beliefs related to a Deity or Deities. Theology, whether we like to acknowledge it or not, plays a very important role in our daily lives, but that is not the only reason why I chose to study theology. For most of my life I have been fascinated with the history of mankind and, more importantly, how beliefs related to a Creator and All-Powerful Being have changed, adapted and ultimately been shaped by their environment.

The Faculty of Theology and Religion provides a brilliant research facility that focuses on looking at the development of Christianity over the years and, to a certain extent, also that of other religious sects. My goal when applying to the Faculty of Theology and Religion was ultimately to learn about Christianity as well as other Religions. I am currently in my third year and can proudly say that the Faculty has taught me more than I would have ever imagined, so much so that when I reflect on my years at the University it feels like a dream come true!

Every individual in the Faculty of Theology and Religion, be they staff, postgraduate or undergraduate students, is a guide and helping hand that, in one way or another, provides the necessary tools for one to grow in knowledge and to become an academic. So far everyone I have met in the Faculty of Theology and Religion has played a role in enabling me to grow as a student and as a man, helping me to achieve the goals I set for myself when I was in matric and my first year. As a result, I have no doubt that growing in knowledge, becoming a better person and graduating are some of the goals that the Faculty will help me achieve, so that I can become a man of wisdom, understanding and integrity.’

Mathias Shunmugam

Postgraduate programmes/General information

Postgraduate programmes in Theology and Religion

▪ Bachelor of Theology Honours – BThHons

The purpose of this programme is to provide graduate students with specialised knowledge, skills and competence in a particular field or fields of theology at postgraduate level.

▪ Postgraduate Diploma in Theology and Ministry

The Postgraduate Diploma aims to offer advanced theological knowledge and practical skills that meet the needs of the ministry. Church-specific training and formation are offered in co-operation with the church partners involved.

▪ Postgraduate Diploma in Theology (PGDip [Theology])

Theological studies can be pursued by candidates who already have tertiary qualifications equivalent to any bachelor's degree, but not in theology. Theology is applied to specific ministries, occupations or aspects of community life.

▪ Master of Divinity – MDiv

The MDiv builds on the BDiv programme or previously the four-year BTh programme. It is a coursework Master's degree programme in general theology covering all six theological disciplines. It focuses on advanced theological knowledge and practical skills.

▪ Master of Theology – MTh

This programme offers the student with a four-year BDiv, a BThHons or equivalent qualification, the opportunity for theological specialisation and research at master's level. There are two possibilities, namely a programme with coursework and a mini-dissertation or a research master's consisting of a dissertation. The coursework modules offer the opportunity to acquire specialist skills in a particular discipline.

▪ Doctor of Philosophy – PhD

The programme line that starts with the three-year BTh and continues via the BThHons to MTh, or the programme line that starts with the four-year BDiv and continues with the MTh, is concluded with the PhD. The outcome of a PhD is highly specialised knowledge and expertise based on research.

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General information

Visit www.up.ac.za/admissioninfo for information on the following:

- Study information
- Calculate your Admission Point Score (APS)
- Closing dates
- Fees and Funding
- Special offer for top academic achievers
- Apply at UP
- Change or add a programme
- National Benchmark Test (NBT)
- Application status
- Prepare to study at UP
- Registration and start of the academic year

UP Language policy

From 1 January 2019 English will be the language of teaching and learning for all first-year programmes. The only exception is where students are studying other languages and in programmes with profession-specific language outcomes, subject to approval by Senate. English will also be the language of official communication and administration on all campuses and in residences. Where requested and feasible, administrative services may be provided in other South African languages.

Students who registered prior to 2019, including those who registered in 2018 for the first time, will continue to receive lectures, tutorials, study guides and assessment material (question papers, assignments and the like) in Afrikaans for those programmes which were offered in Afrikaans at the time of enrolment, provided that the class size remains practically feasible and it is academically justifiable.

Where assessment and question papers are set in Afrikaans, currently enrolled students will also be allowed to answer in Afrikaans.



‘My mom suggested that I consider enrolling for theology. I was accepted and found to my surprise that this was my calling. This is what God had planned for me, although it took me five years to realise it. I would like to become a pastoral counsellor and so I enrolled for a course in pastoral care. Theology is my theory and pastoral counselling is my practical. What I love most about the Faculty of Theology and Religion is the tolerance and respect among students and lecturers. This is one of the few places where one can be yourself and not be judged.’

Simonè van Schalkwyk



‘Christianity has been a major force in the development of many communities in our country, and in helping to shape the world in which we live today. The decision to study theology may be a response to a calling from God, or the result of wanting to become a minister in the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa (URCSA), or the desire to enquire further into our faith and to help shape the future while spreading the Gospel of Christ Jesus.

I see my future self as a theologian, a minister of the word, someone bringing change to the lives of many, playing a significant role in the lives of the marginalised (Luke 4:17-18). I would like to bring together the Faculty of Theology and Religion and other stakeholders, including the government and society, to bring about community development, to lecture and to be an agent of moral regeneration.

There are many things I can say about this lovely Faculty of ours, but permit me to say that lecturers encourage us to be critical thinkers, that they are very approachable and that we can discuss anything with them, including the Dean. Since we are a very small part of the University as a whole, we can engage with one another. We come from different backgrounds and that has helped us to understand how people from different traditions and races think and to contextualise many things. The opportunity to serve on the Faculty House Committee has helped me to become an academically grounded and social person, to improve my time management, to become more responsible and to grow in areas such as anger management. My plea to the Faculty is to become more accommodating to black academics by creating student jobs and other opportunities to introduce them to the world of academia, since the gates have now been opened for those who were once marginalised.’

Kenalemang Nkombezekwa



In our Centenary year, the Faculty of Theology and Religion is actively moving away from exclusivity in terms of race, gender and confession, to become an inclusive and inviting Faculty prepared for the future. The mission of the Faculty is to serve science, faith, communities and society as a whole with radical inclusivity and sensitivity. The Faculty wants to practise theology in such a way that the love of God reaches all people and all faith denominations in the African context.





The Faculty of Theology and Religion obtained the original wooden gates that once graced the main entrance to the Hatfield Campus. They were installed in front of the Faculty in a permanently open position, thereby symbolising that they will never be closed again. Our centenary motto therefore is, “Gateway to. . .” The photographs on pages 8 and 9 were taken at the Open the Gates Ceremony that took place earlier this year.

