

2020/21

Undergraduate faculty brochure

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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

The Faculty is one of the leading theological institutions in Africa and is known for its quality research, relevant teaching and learning programmes, and community engagement, especially through its Centre.

Prof Jerry Pillay
Dean: Faculty of Theology and Religion



The Faculty has more scholars who have received National Research Foundation (NRF) ratings than any other South African faculty of theology and annually produces hundreds of peer-reviewed articles published in highly accredited national and international journals. It undertakes cutting-edge research on relevant, contextual, interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary levels. It acknowledges that such work cannot be done in ivory towers and aims to engage in life-changing and transforming research that makes a difference in communities and society in general.

As far as teaching and learning are concerned, the Faculty continues to pursue excellence by seeking to address current issues and struggles, such as decolonisation and Africanisation, especially in relation to the establishment of sustainable cities and communities. We use different methods in our instruction to encourage critical thinking, investigation, interactive and participatory learning, alternate forms of assessment and the use of technology. Furthermore, our teaching modules are directed to incorporate non-theological modules to enable students to also train for careers outside of Theology. We have well-qualified, experienced and dedicated lecturers who are committed to assisting students at all levels of study.

In its intention to work towards the common good of society, the Faculty has entered into partnerships with several stakeholders, which include but are not limited to churches, government and non-governmental organisations, community leaders and ministries. In our efforts to achieve transformation, we seek to foster inclusivity, embrace diversity and promote equity. Our students come from at least 33 different denominations, and we are determined to create a new culture that embraces a true ecumenical spirit and posture.

In 2018, the former Faculty of Theology was renamed Faculty of Theology and Religion. The addition of Religion was an attempt to be more inclusive and to welcome people of other faiths. The Faculty is still primarily Christian in its theological orientation, but realises the need to engage in dialogue and research with other religions on important themes, for example, religious violence and fundamentalism, as we seek to create a better world and fullness of life for all.

Saint Anselm of Canterbury defined theology as 'faith seeking understanding'. In a world characterised by enormous complexities, injustices, differentiations and global struggles, we need to consistently grapple with our understanding of God, life and reality. The Faculty of Theology and Religion thus offers relevant, critical and contextual teaching, quality research and community engagement to prepare students to respond to the challenges of life, make a difference in society, provide the tools and skills needed to apply knowledge to given contextual experiences, and create an environment in which new ideas and thoughts can emerge. It facilitates life-affirming theologies, nurtures transformative leaders, promotes justice and peace and prepares students for a changing environment and world. Whether you are training for ministry in the church or the 'marketplace', this is the right place to be as we bring faith and context together, dissect and analyse the realities of life and explore questions related to spirituality, beliefs and faith practices.

We welcome you to the Faculty of Theology and Religion and hope that you will enjoy the journey!

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Produced by the Department of Enrolment and Student Administration in December 2019.
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Undergraduate programmes

Important information on undergraduate programmes for 2021

- The closing date is an administrative admission guideline for non-selection programmes. Once a non-selection programme is full and has reached the institutional targets, then that programme will be closed for further admissions, irrespective of the closing date. However, if the institutional targets have not been met by the closing date, then that programme will remain open for admissions until the institutional targets are met.
- The following persons will be considered for admission: Candidates who have a certificate that is deemed by the University to be equivalent to the required National Senior Certificate (NSC) with university endorsement; candidates who are graduates from another tertiary institution or have been granted the status of a graduate of such an institution; and candidates who are graduates 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 2021*		
	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	28 (26-27 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. Prospective students who are interested in ordained ministry should discuss their intention to register for this programme with their church leadership.			
BTh – Bachelor of Theology [3 years] Closing dates: SA – 30 September Non-SA – 31 August	4	D	28 (26-27 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. Prospective students who are interested in ordained ministry should discuss their intention to register for this programme with their church leadership.			
DipTh – Diploma in Theology [3 years] Closing dates: SA – 30 September Non-SA – 31 August	3	E	24 (22-23 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 programme would best suit their aims. The Diploma in Theology is intended for candidates who have completed Grade 12 (or equivalent) but without the required university admission.			

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



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 are comparable to the best in the world.
- **Lecturers:** Lecturers are noted academics and also respected church leaders.
- **Student life:** Theology students participate fully in student activities such as tours, Rag, camps, sports, serenades and many more.
- **International contacts:** Students can benefit from the Faculty's many international connections.

People study theology for various 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 the workplace. The Faculty also offers programmes that will benefit students who do not necessarily want to become ministers but would like to enrich their lives.

There are many advantages to enriching one's study in a particular field with insights and applications from theology. By including modules from Religion Studies in another area of study, such as computer science, engineering, languages, psychology, social work or teaching, graduates will enter their chosen careers as better equipped and more fully developed individuals.

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?
- How do Christians relate to 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 to make a difference in the world?

Some students feel called to work in churches as ministers, pastors, priests, lay preachers, missionaries or youth workers, and for them studying theology is the way to go. With continued studies, others find their calling in serving the community as social workers, development workers, psychologists, teachers, journalists or writers. 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 five main sections in the study of theology focus on questions about the Bible and life.

▪ New Testament and Related Literature

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

▪ Old Testament and Hebrew Scriptures

The Old Testament is concerned with God's relationship with Israel and His involvement with humanity and creation. In Old Testament Studies, we study the books of the Old Testament and the life settings of ancient Israel. From the Old Testament, we learn that ancient Israelites engaged with issues such as suffering and love, and how to live in the presence of God in different circumstances.

▪ Practical Theology

Practical Theology focuses on what Christians do; in other words, how they experience and express their faith (faith actions). The topics studied in this field include worship as lived religion and preaching, the meaning of symbols and symbolic acts, helping people in crisis, teaching faith and faith formation, and understanding the world in which we live.

▪ Religion Studies

Religion Studies (formerly known as Biblical Studies) is a life-enriching programme open to anyone 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 module. 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?

▪ Systematic and Historical Theology

The systematic and historical reflection on theology consists of both integrated and specialised themes. With regard to historical reflection, it covers not only the history of the Christian church and the lives of its great figures, from Saint Augustine to Saint Aquinas, and from John Calvin to Martin Luther but also how different Christian traditions are structured in the modern era. With regard to systematic reflection, it covers faith (in God and as a relationship) and beliefs (with regard to themes such as creation and scripture, Christ, the Holy Spirit, salvation and the future), faith communities and their lives of faith and societal challenges (ethical themes).

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Student contributions



‘My journey with theology started when, after my first year at university, I decided to make a 180-degree turn from studying law to instead pursuing a degree in theology. This decision caught me by surprise, and I tend to believe that I did not choose theology, but that it picked me. I discovered that the study of theology offered me a way to combine my love of history and interest in the ancient world with my thirst for knowledge and my desire to contribute to a larger community. It has opened

my eyes and heart to a world filled with unlimited knowledge, and I find that every day spent in the Faculty of Theology and Religion enables me to expand my academic horizon and question my views on life and the world around me.

I will continue to pursue my quest for knowledge by continuing with interdisciplinary postgraduate studies in the fields of theology and ancient history, focusing on religious iconography. I believe that theology has led me to a path of self-discovery and has allowed me to achieve my full potential. I have met people in the Faculty of Theology and Religion who have deeply affected my life and have inspired me to strive to become more than I am today.

By deciding to study theology, I have inadvertently changed the course of my life.’

Ninnaku Oberholzer
(third-year
BDiv student)



‘My decision to study theology was based on a deep desire to learn more about this field, and what I found was more than I could ever have hoped for. I did not start this journey with any expectations, but I soon realised that I was on the right path as I developed a passion for people that has enabled me to establish valuable relationships.

I would like to continue with postgraduate studies in the Department of Systematics, Spirituality and Ethics, focusing specifically on spirituality. Being exposed to theology cultivates one’s understanding of self and the interconnectedness of people. Above all, I believe that the study of theology has heightened my sense of self-awareness.

The most valuable lesson I have learnt through my involvement with members of this Faculty is that hope lies at the centre of authentic influence, and that as long as there is hope, regardless of how small it is, nothing is impossible.’

Thabiso Thoka (fourth-year BDiv student)

Postgraduate programmes

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 particular fields of theology at the 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 cooperation with the church partners involved.

- **Postgraduate Diploma in Theology**

Theological studies can be pursued by candidates who already have tertiary qualifications equivalent to any bachelor's degree in a field other than Theology. Students can specialise in any of the six theological disciplines and, after completion of this programme, will be able to complete an MTh in the subject in which they specialised.

- **Master of Divinity – MDiv**

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

- **Master of Theology – MTh**

This programme offers students with a four-year BDiv, a BThHons or an equivalent qualification an opportunity for theological specialisation and research at master's level. They can choose between a programme with coursework and a mini-dissertation or a research master's that requires the completion of a dissertation. The coursework modules offer students an 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 a PhD, which is awarded for the achievement of highly specialised knowledge and expertise based on research.

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Pathways to the career you always wanted

By Dana Mahan

Where can a degree in theology and religion take me?

The short answer is: Almost anywhere! Our graduates use their training to work as pastors in churches, educators in schools, leaders in community organisations and therapists at counselling agencies. Whether you have your eye on a career that requires the ability to speak publicly, think critically or write effectively, a qualification in theology and religion can take you there!



The Faculty of Theology and Religion, where purpose in life meets gainful employment.



Meet Tanya

Tanya used what she learned as a student of theology and religion to become an internationally recognised academic.



Meet Mathias

Mathias used what he learned as a student of theology and religion to become an agent for economic transformation.



Meet Wayne

Wayne used what he learned as a student of theology and religion to become an advocate for refugees and the homeless.

Article

Building life-affirming communities

By Thamsanqa Memela

In early 2019, Thamsanqa Memela represented UP's Faculty of Theology and Religion when he participated in a mission trip to India as part of the Council for World Mission's Face to Face programme.

Face to Face is a cross-cultural exchange that enables broader global dialogue on theology, spirituality and mission. Students preparing for ministry in cultural, social, theological and contextual realities are invited to participate in this six-week programme, which was designed to motivate them to

understand and engage with the fact that fullness of life is being denied to the vast majority of the world's population.

The programme involves three separate but integrated aspects, namely immersion, reflection and dialogue to enable students to reflect on their mission in the context of empire from a fresh perspective. Participating students are encouraged to consider both the motivation for and method of mission in different parts of the world and to bring this reflection back to their contexts.



*Thamsanqa (third from left)
serving and learning in India*

THE LEARNING MIX MATTERS.

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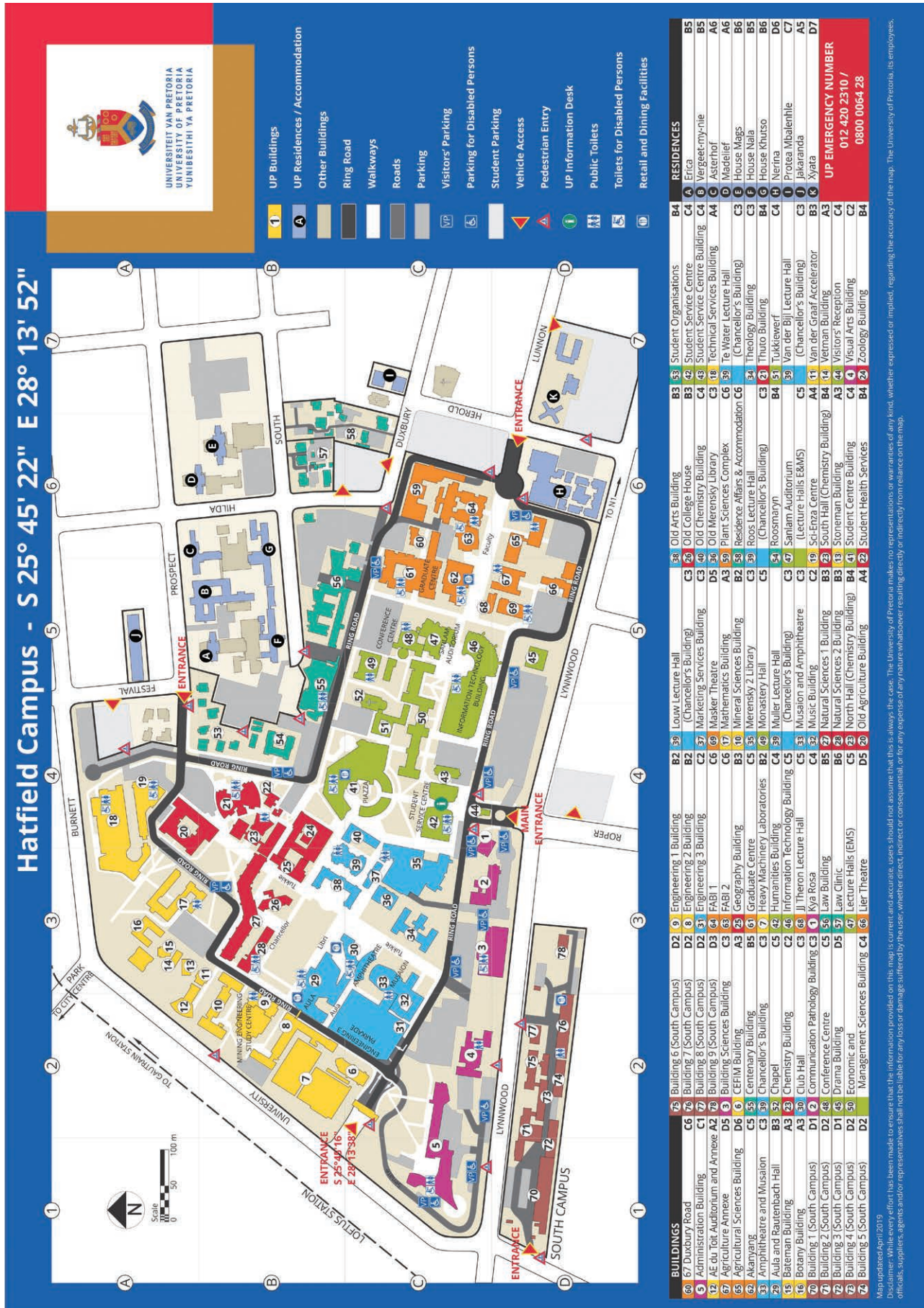
Today...

understanding faith in context



...Tomorrow
transforming communities

Hatfield Campus map





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