2022

Undergraduate faculty brochure





Faculty of Theology and Religion

Fakulteit Teologie en Religie Lekala la Thutatumelo le Bodumedi

Note: The minimum admission requirements reflected in this brochure are subject to changes in regulations relating to COVID-19. Amendments will reflect in the digital version of this brochure, which can be downloaded from <u>www.up.ac.za/programmes</u> > Faculty brochures.

Message from the Dean

Some years ago, Henry Tappan, President of the University of Michigan, wrote:

'Of all mere human institutions there are none so important and mighty in their influence as Universities; because when rightly constituted, they are made up of the most enlightened, and the choicest spirits of our race; they embrace the means of all human culture, and they act directly upon the fresh and up-springing of a nation. To them must be traced science, literature and art; the furniture of religious faith; the lights of industry; the moving forces of civilisation; and the unity of humanity.'

Prof Jerry Pillay Dean: Faculty of Theology and Religion

The above quote clearly indicates that the purpose of universities has never been understood simply in terms of ideals for the inner life of the scholarly and teaching community. Instead, universities embody the desire to make significant contributions to the well-being of society as a whole. In other words, the purpose of the university is finally defined in relation to a vision of achieving the good of society as a whole – the concept of the common good.

Theology and religion, as taught at universities, therefore play a vital role in the construction and development of society and the world. Moltmann states that Christian theology must be *contemporary* theology, in the positive sense of the word, and must 'share the sufferings of this present time' (of which COVID-19 is a good example) with the whole of creation. In every age, Christian theology must find its identity anew. The dialectical processes of adjustment and reformation, and discovering relevance and identity are essential, which is precisely how our Faculty approaches teaching, learning and research.

The Faculty of Theology and Religion at the University of Pretoria is one of the leading theological institutions in Africa and is known for its relevant teaching and learning programmes, as well as its community engagement. As far as teaching and learning are concerned, the Faculty continues to pursue excellence as it seeks to address current issues and struggles, such as decolonisation, Africanisation and inclusivity. In our teaching, we use different methods to encourage critical thinking, investigation, interactive and participatory learning, hybrid learning, alternate forms of assessment and the use of technology.

Furthermore, our teaching modules are designed to incorporate non-theological electives to enable students to also train for careers in fields other than theology. We have all the necessary structures in place to ensure student success, and our



well-qualified, experienced and dedicated lecturers are committed to assisting students at all levels of study.

The Faculty offers excellent postgraduate programmes with outstanding supervisors. We are blessed with credible and reputable academic researchers, many of whom have received NRF ratings. Our researchers undertake cutting-edge research on relevant, contextual, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary levels, acknowledging that such work cannot be done in ivory towers, but is only possible through life-changing engagement with society.

Our Centre for Faith and Community is making significant contributions in *doing* theology *in* and *with* the community, contributing to discussions and programmes that address homelessness, urban theology and development, sustainable development, etc. As part of its ecumenical engagement and endeavour, the Faculty is involved in interreligious dialogue and has significant international research partnerships on topics such as religious fundamentalism and violence.

Saint Anselm of Canterbury defined theology as 'faith seeking understanding'. In a world characterised by enormous complexities, racism, gender injustice, empires, economic and ecological injustices and other global struggles, we need to grapple with our understanding of God and reality consistently. The Faculty of Theology and Religion facilitates life-affirming theologies, nurtures transformative leaders, promotes justice and peace and prepares students for a changing environment and world. Regardless of whether you are training for ministry in the church or the marketplace, this is the right place to be!

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Content



| Message from the Dean | ii |
|---|----|
| Undergraduate programmes | |
| Important information for all prospective students for 2022 | |
| Important faculty-specific information on undergraduate programmes for 2022 | |
| Why study at the Faculty of Theology and Religion? | 2 |
| What does the programme entail? | |
| Undergraduate programmes in Theology and Religion | |
| Postgraduate programmes in Theology and Religion | |
| Infographic: Pathways to a career you always wanted | |
| Article: Building life-affirming communities | |
| Hatfield Campus map | |
| 1 1 | |

Produced by the Department of Enrolment and Student Administration in December 2020. Comments and queries can be directed to ssc@up.ac.za or tel: +27 (0)12 420 3111.

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Undergraduate programmes

Important information for all prospective students for 2022

- The admission requirements and general information in this brochure apply to students who apply for admission to the University of Pretoria with a National Senior Certificate (NSC) and Independent Examination Board (IEB) qualifications.
- Applicants with qualifications other than the abovementioned should refer to:

 Brochure: Undergraduate Programme Information 2022: Qualifications other than the NSC and IEB, available at www.up.ac.za/programmes > Admission information.
 - Brochure: Newcomers Guide 2021, available at www.up.ac.za/programmes > Admission information.
 - Website: www.up.ac.za/international-cooperation-division.
- School of Tomorrow (SOT), Accelerated Christian Education (ACE) and General Education Diploma (GED): The University of Pretoria no longer accepts qualifications awarded by these institutions.
- National Certificate (Vocational) (NCV) Level 4: The University of Pretoria may consider NCV candidates, provided they
 meet the exemption for bachelor's status criteria and the programme requirements.

Important faculty-specific information on undergraduate programmes for 2022

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

| | Minimum requirements for NSC and IEB for 2022 | | |
|--|--|----|--|
| Dragrammac | Achievement level | | |
| Programmes | English Home Language or English First Additional Language | | |
| BDiv – Bachelor of Divinity (for admission to MDiv studies) [4 years] Closing dates: SA – 30 September Non-SA – 31 August | 4 | 28 | |
| Careers: Ministers, pastors, priests, preachers in certain denominations, missionaries and youth businesses. Theological studies can be enriching for people in various other vocations. Prospecti 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 | 28 | |
| Careers: Ministers, pastors, priests, preachers in certain denominations, missionaries and youth businesses. Theological studies can be enriching for people in various other vocations. Prospecti their intention to register for this programme with their church leadership. | | | |
| Diploma in Theology (DipTheol) [3 years] Closing dates: SA – 30 September Non-SA – 31 August | 3 | 24 | |
| Careers: Ministers, pastors, priests, lay preachers in certain denominations, missionaries and yoo on which programme would best suit their aims. The Diploma in Theology is intended for candid required university 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.
- Practical skills training in ministry
- Contextual and relevant teaching and learning
- 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 that they would like to explore, whereas others search for spiritual enrichment through study, or may want to gain insights that will help them 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 and faith experience.

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

What does the programme entail?

The Theology and Religion programme deals with the fundamental questions of life:

- How do faith and religion influence people's lives and society?
- 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 most profound life questions?
- How does one gain a better understanding of humanity to make a difference in the world?
- What kind of leaders are needed to shape society and 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, chaplains, 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 components of the study of theology and religion 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 firstand 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 and Mission Studies

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 lifeenriching 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 significant 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 (in relation 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



'A thirst for knowledge about God brought me to this place. To me, the study of theology is the way to knowing God. This kind of knowing God is filled with love, gratitude and the communicable attributes of God impressed on our lives. Theology, in my opinion, is synonymous with love and unity and offers the solution to social injustice.

My experience has taught me that as students in the Faculty of Theology and Religion we are called to be instruments in making God's Word known and changing the lives

of those around us by bringing messages of peace to those who are troubled, joy to those who are downcast and hope to the hopeless. Through engagement in class, a unique curriculum and community outreach activities facilitated by the Faculty, we learn that our ministry is in serving and being selfless.

I believe that all humans are born with a sense of spirituality and that faith is a prerequisite for a fulfilled life. I would, therefore, like to further my studies and do my postgraduate work in the Department of Systematic and Historical Theology, focusing predominantly on spirituality and psychology.

Throughout my journey in this faculty, I have met loving, inspiring individuals who love serving in the Kingdom of God. My involvement with these people has changed my perspective on life and enhanced my spiritual journey with God.'

Kamagano Sethono Bachelor of Theology candidate House Theology Chairperson



'The study of Theology was not part of my plan when I started my studies at the University of Pretoria, but it turned out to be the best decision of my life. Not only did I develop a passion for study in this field, but I was also given the opportunity to become a young black female leader in my Faculty's House Committee, assigned to the Care and Outreach portfolio.

I feel honoured and am genuinely thankful for being entrusted with taking on the various challenges associated with this position and am excited to continue the journey, to pursue more knowledge for my faith and to assist those around me to find their own success in life.

If the Lord were to take me home to heaven now, I would be grateful for the lessons learned and the experiences shared with the people who have made the journey worthwhile.'

> Karabo Legodi Bachelor of Theology candidate House Theology Deputy Chairperson

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 five 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 five 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 minidissertation 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 sixweek 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.



THE LEARNING MIX MATTERS. LEARN AND GROW THE HYBRID WAY.

Today... understanding faith in context



...Tomorrow transforming communities



Faculty of Theology and Religion Fakulteit Teologie en Religie Lekala la Thutatumelo le Bodumedi

www.up.ac.za/hybrid-learning

Hatfield Campus map





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