



University of Manchester Doctor of Practical Theology Programme Details*

The Doctor of Practical Theology (DPT) was launched in September 2006 and will be recruiting its third cohort in September 2008. Part of a national consortium of Higher Education Institutions including Anglia Ruskin, Birmingham and Lampeter Universities, the programme is the first of its kind in theological studies anywhere in the UK.

The Doctor of Practical Theology is a practice-based research degree (a 'professional doctorate') aimed at participants in a variety of professional and/or voluntary contexts.

- *It is specifically designed to be taken on a part-time basis although it is possible to enrol full-time.*
- *Participants will be encouraged to use their professional, voluntary or ministerial practice as the foundation of a structured process of research in practical theology.*
- *Candidates will be supported throughout by a regular series of supervisions, seminars and workshops.*
- *The DPT is assessed by means of a portfolio of work, including a literature review, research proposal, publishable article and dissertation.*

The qualification of DPT is particularly aimed at participants across a range of contexts and institutions:

- Public sector professions, such as health care, education, social services;
- Those working in the caring professions, such as psychotherapy and counselling, social work and community development;
- Ministers of religion, in parish, congregational or chaplaincy settings
- Those working for charities, non-governmental organizations or in cultural industries or the arts;
- Those in industry or business wishing to deepen their understanding of the ethical and theological dimensions of their professional and/or voluntary practice.

1. What is the Doctor of Practical Theology?

Professional doctorates are designed to take explicit account of the work or practice-based setting of participating students as a central component (and knowledge-base) of an advanced research project. This reflects the need for structured forms of professional development in many areas of the public, private and voluntary sector.



The programme is therefore designed to introduce you to a range of dynamic and challenging concepts and methods with which to reflect critically and constructively on your current experience and context.

Two approaches in particular will be used: firstly, practice-based research and enquiry-based learning methods, in which participants' own professional context becomes a primary research resource.

Secondly, you will be encouraged to keep a research log, or learning journal. This may take the form of a diary, or portfolio or other personal record, and is designed to encourage you to keep a record of your reading and research, cultivate your writing skills and integrate your theoretical work with sustained reflection on your own practical context. Elements of this journal will be submitted for assessment.

Award of the doctoral degree will be via submission of a research portfolio, with structured assignments and deadlines.

Participants will be assessed on their ability to generate new perspectives, data, or paradigms in the engagement between religious, ethical and spiritual world-views and a range of professional and practical contexts.

In addition to regular supervisions with a tutor, participants will undertake three residential workshops per year with a peer group covering all aspects of the discipline of Practical Theology. Sessions will include work on research skills and methodology, practical exercises in enquiry-based learning and lectures, seminars and student-led discussions.

The programme will also feature an annual summer school each July, drawing together students on Doctor of Practical Theology programmes from other participating universities.

2. *Is this programme for me?*

- The programme is designed to appeal to those interested in relating theological, ethical and spiritual insights and methods to their own professional and/or voluntary practice.
- The Doctor of Practical Theology is a recognised research degree that will enhance participants' career opportunities across a wide range of contexts: academic research, theological education, religious ministry, management and public sector professions.



- Participants are not required to have a personal faith-commitment but they should be interested in the role of religion, theology and ethics in relation to a range of contexts ranging from social policy, management, politics, health care, community work, congregational ministry and institutional chaplaincy.
- In order to satisfy the entry requirements, participants will need to hold **either** a Master's degree in theology **or** related subject, or a Bachelor's degree (1st or 2.1) *plus* appropriate professional accreditation or experience.

3. How is the programme structured?

Length of Study: The programme is available over 5-6 years part-time, or 3 years full-time.

Workload and student support:

For part-time students, we will expect you to set aside around 6-8 hours for independent work per week. That will include research and reading, and maintaining a regular research journal.

In addition, you will be assigned a personal supervisor, who will want to see you approximately six times per academic year.

You will also receive support via the regular DPT 48-hour residential seminars. These meet three times a year, normally from Thursday lunchtimes to Saturday lunchtimes at the Centre of Excellence for Enquiry-Based Learning, Sackville Street Building, The University of Manchester. The CEEBL is near the city centre of Manchester, approximately two minutes' walk from Manchester Piccadilly and Oxford Road railway stations.

For further information on dates of the residentials, deadlines and other crucial dates, see the Calendar on page 8.



You are also encouraged to attend the annual DPT summer schools or the conference of the British and Irish Association of Practical Theology, both normally held in July. [Further details available by request].

4. Programme Structure and Assessment Schedule

The programme will be taken in two parts:

PART I: ACTION- RESEARCH PORTFOLIO. 3 years part-time (2 years full-time)

Unit 1: KEY VOICES: Literature review (Year 1 pt/Year 1 ft)

The aim of this unit is to offer a foundation in the field of practical theology, by introducing participants to debates, methods and writers in the discipline. You will be expected to:

- Conduct a literature review (totalling 12,000 words) in the field of practical theology in a way that presents an informed critique of the methods and assumptions of other scholars in practical theology using appropriate academic skills and conventions of presentation.

Unit 2: PUBLISHABLE ARTICLE (Year 2 pt/Year 1 ft)

The overall aim of this unit is to examine the elements and stages involved in publishing aspects of your research.



You will be asked to:

- Select a topic of research suitable to the production of a 6,000-8,000 word research report or article in a significant area of practical theology and/or professional practice
- Demonstrate through the exploration of that topic a capacity for independent, original and in-depth thinking
- Relate that topic to appropriate context(s) of practice
- Select and justify research method(s) appropriate to the investigation of that topic.
- Communicate the findings of that research clearly and effectively in verbal form to peers, by means of a seminar paper, subsequently revised for publication

Unit 3: Establishing advanced research practice in practical theology (Year 3 pt/Year 2 ft)

i. RESEARCH PROPOSAL

In this part of the unit, you will be invited to develop a research proposal (5,000-6,000 words) for an advanced piece of research in the field of practical theology that demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of the issues, questions and methods that are particularly relevant to the context and performance that you wish to study in Part II.

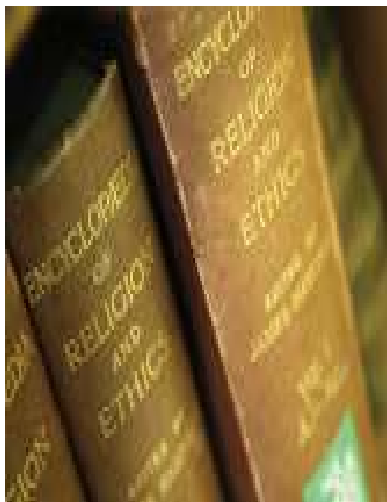
ii. REFLECTION ON PRACTICE

You will also be asked to reflect critically on your own development as a researcher and practitioner in practical theology by submitting a critical reflection using evidence drawn from your Learning Journal (totalling 5,000-6,000 words).



PART II: RESEARCH DISSERTATION (Years 4 & 5 pt; Year 3 ft)

A thesis (40,000 - 45,000 words), which will contain the following elements:



- * Presentation of your research, indicating how it may be evaluated as an original contribution to the discipline of Practical Theology
- * A critical evaluation of the contribution which this research makes to your context of professional practice
- * Further critical account and analysis of your own intellectual and professional development during the course of the research.

5. What is 'Enquiry-Based Learning'?

A simple definition of enquiry-based learning is to say that it is an approach characterised by 'learning through doing'. The student takes an active role in learning, by engaging with case studies or scenarios that call for sustained analysis and enquiry.

The work is very student-centred, since participants in EBL direct their own lines of enquiry and identify suitable methods and data. The process of enquiry encourages participants to draw on prior knowledge and experience; and since many of the exercises are drawn from 'real life', it enables students to relate EBL to the demands of their own contexts and professional commitments.

On the professional doctorate in practical theology, we use enquiry-based learning as a way of fostering an ethos of 'practice-based research' amongst participants.



Throughout your doctoral study, you will be encouraged to participate in exercises such as case studies, problem-based workshops and fieldwork visits which will enable you to sharpen important 'transferable skills' such as identifying research questions, problem-solving, research design and implementation, and communicating your research findings to others.

Link to CEEBL website:

<http://www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/ceeb/eb/>

6. How much will the programme cost?

Current fees: UK/EU part-time students: £1584 per annum. (This fee is payable in three instalments of £528.00 in September, January and April).

In addition to course fees, you should budget for attendance at the three DPT workshops in Manchester (normally October, February and April/May) plus the summer school in July. There are no tuition fees for these events, although you will need to find your own overnight accommodation and pay for some meals.

7. Academic staff

Programme Director: Professor Elaine Graham
Programme Tutor: Dr. Chris Baker
Student Intern: Andrew Wilshere

Supervision and other academic support for the programme will be drawn from staff from Religions and Theology in the School of Arts, Histories and Cultures in partnership with staff at Cliff College, the Nazarene Theological College and the Partnership for Theological Education, all of which are validated by the University of Manchester.

8. Calendar of Events 2008-09

- Residentials 2007-08

October 18-20, 2007
February 14-16, 2008
April 17-19, 2008

- British and Irish Association for Practical Theology Annual Conference, July 15-17, 2008
Worship, Spirituality and Practical Theology
Speakers: Cheryl Hunt, Pete Ward & Nicola Slee
- Summer School 2007-08

July 17-19, 2008
Trinity College, Bristol
Speaker: Dr. Heather Walton (University of Glasgow)

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- Residentials 2008-09

October 16-18, 2008
Samuel Ferguson Lecture, Thur, Oct 16: 17.00
Professor Stephen Pattison (University of Birmingham)

February 19-21, 2009
April 16-18, 2009

9. Contact us

For further information or application details, please contact

Andy Rigg, Postgraduate Admissions Administrator, School of Arts, Histories and Cultures, The University of Manchester, Mansfield-Cooper Building, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL. email: Andrew.rigg@manchester.ac.uk

Or contact the Programme Director:

Professor Elaine Graham, Religions and Theology, School of Arts, Histories and Cultures; email: elaine.graham@manchester.ac.uk

OR You can apply online by visiting:
<http://www.arts.manchester.ac.uk/postgraduatestudy/howtoapply/>



10. Further Reading

Practical Theology: issues, methods and debates

D. Atkinson and D. Field, eds. *A New Dictionary of Pastoral Studies and Practical Theology*, IVP, 1995.

Zoe Bennett, *Introducing Feminist Perspectives on Pastoral Theology*, Continuum, 2002.

Don Browning, *A Fundamental Practical Theology*, Fortress, 1991.

Helen Cameron et al. eds. *Studying Local Churches*, SCM Press, 2005

Mark Cartledge, *Practical Theology: Charismatic and Empirical Perspectives*, Paternoster, 2003.

Elaine Graham, Heather Walton & Frances Ward, *Theological Reflection: Methods*, SCM Press, 2005.

Elaine Graham, *Transforming Practice*, Wipf & Stock, 2nd ed. 2002.

Stephen Pattison, *The Challenge of Practical Theology: Selected Essays* London: Jessica Kingsley, 2007.

S. Pattison and J.W. Woodward, eds. *The Blackwell Reader in Practical and Pastoral Theology*, Oxford, 2000.

- S. Pattison and G. Lynch, 'Pastoral and Practical Theology' in D.F. Ford and R. Muers, eds. *The Modern Theologians*, Blackwell, 3rd Edn, 2005, 408-425.
- John Swinton and Harriet Mowat, *Practical Theology and Qualitative Research*, SCM, 2006.
- Johannes A. van der Ven, *Practical Theology: An Empirical Approach*, Kok Pharos, 1993.
- Frances Ward, *Life-Long Learning*, SCM, 2005.

Action-Reflection and Professional Development

- Gillie Bolton, *Reflective Practice: Writing and Professional Development*, Paul Chapman, 2001.
- Mark Fox, Peter Martin and Gill Green, *Doing Practitioner Research*, Sage, 2007.
- Jennifer Moon, *Reflection in Learning and Professional Development*, Kogan Page, 1999.
- Estelle M. Phillips and Derek S. Pugh, *How to get a PhD*, 3rd Edn, Open University, 2000.
- David Scott, et al., *Professional Doctorates: integrating professional and academic knowledge*, Open University, 2004.



Reports on the Professional Doctorate in Practical Theology

- Zoe Bennett, 'Evaluating the Feasibility of a Cross-Institutional Professional Doctorate in Practical Theology', *Discourse: The Journal of the Subject Area for Philosophical and Religious Studies of the Higher Education Academy*, Vol. 6, No.2, 2007, 55-77.
- Elaine Graham, 'The Professional Doctorate in Practical Theology: an idea whose time has come?' *International Journal of Practical Theology*, Berlin: de Gruyters, Volume 10:1, 2006, 293-311.

February 2008