



Theology@Otago 2026 Postgraduate Qualifications

Theology for the whole of life

- Chaplaincy
- Ministry
- Faith-based Leadership and Management
- Theology

All qualifications are available
by distance learning



University
of Otago

ŌTĀKOU WHAKAIHU WAKA

Qualifications in Chaplaincy

Postgraduate Certificate in Chaplaincy (PGCertChap)

Postgraduate Diploma in Chaplaincy (PGDipChap)

Master of Chaplaincy (MChap)

These programmes are professional qualifications designed for:

- People who currently work as chaplains in a variety of settings, and who seek advanced professional education to enhance their work.
- People who want to train to be chaplains.

With the help of chaplaincy organisations in New Zealand, we have designed programmes that will meet the needs of chaplains in diverse settings.

All papers are available anywhere via distance learning.

The structure of the qualifications

Qualifications comprise a blend of papers: core Chaplaincy papers (List A) and a choice of more wide-ranging papers that relate to the general interests of chaplains (List B).

The Postgraduate Certificate in Chaplaincy comprises three taught papers. All three of these can be taken from List A, or two of the three can be from List A with a third paper from List B.

The Postgraduate Diploma in Chaplaincy comprises six taught papers. These are made up of three or four papers from List A, and two or three additional papers from List B.

The Master of Chaplaincy comprises the six taught papers taken for the Postgraduate Diploma in Chaplaincy and a research dissertation (MINS 590) worth 60 points (the equivalent of half a year of full-time study). The research dissertation is 16,000 to 20,000 words in length and is an investigation of a topic emerging from the contemporary practice of chaplaincy.

NOTE: The programme offers workshops on research methods for those who have not completed a formal course in research methods. Participation in these workshops is required for those enrolling in MINS 590.

Qualifications in Chaplaincy

List A *Note: Papers are offered on a rotating cycle.*

Offered in 2026

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|----------|---|
| MINS 410 | Pastoral Care in Dying, Grief and Loss (Semester 2) |
| MINS 415 | Christian Ministry in te ao Māori (Semester 1, with compulsory intensive, 9–13 February 2026, Lower Hutt) |
| MINS 424 | The Chaplain as Ceremonial Leader (Semester 1) |

Not offered in 2026

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| MINS 411 | Chaplaincy in Diverse Contexts |
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List B

Offered in 2026

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|----------|--|
| BIBS 423 | Special Topic: Women in the New Testament and Early Church (Semester 1, with compulsory intensive, 26–30 January, Dunedin) |
| CHTH 415 | Reconciliation, Christian Ethics and Public Theology (Semester 2) |
| CHTH 420 | Public Theology and Social Justice (Semester 1) |
| CHTH 424 | Theology, Money and Markets (Semester 1) |
| MINS 413 | Missional God, Missional People (Semester 2) |
| MINS 414 | Christian Theology and the Arts (Semester 2, with compulsory intensive, 6–10 July, Dunedin) |
| MINS 416 | Pastoral Theology: Pacific Perspectives (Semester 1) |

Not offered in 2026

- | | |
|----------|--|
| BIBS 413 | God, Suffering and Justice |
| CHTH 416 | The Theology of Bonhoeffer |
| CHTH 423 | Theology and Human Well-being |
| MINS 408 | Cultures, Migration and Faith |
| MINS 412 | Church in Mission: Theology in Changing Cultures |

Admission

Admission requirements for the postgraduate certificate, diploma and master's programme are a degree or equivalent three-year qualification (not necessarily in Theology) with satisfactory grades. In cases in which a person's prior qualifications do not include theological study, the student may be required to undertake one or more 300-level papers in Theology in order to satisfy the prerequisites for specific 400-level papers in Biblical Studies (BIBS) and/or Christian Thought and History (CHTH). Direct admission to the Master of Chaplaincy requires an average of B+ in the 300-level papers of the undergraduate degree programme.

From the certificate, to the diploma, to the master's

Students who have completed the three-paper Postgraduate Certificate in Chaplaincy may go on to complete the Postgraduate Diploma in Chaplaincy by taking three additional papers. Students who have completed the Postgraduate Diploma in Chaplaincy may complete the Master of Chaplaincy by undertaking workshops on research methods and the research project of 16,000 to 20,000 words.

For more information

PGCertChap – otago.ac.nz/pgcertchap

PGDipChap – otago.ac.nz/pgdipchap

MChap – otago.ac.nz/mchap

Qualifications in Ministry

Postgraduate Diploma in Ministry (PGDipMin)

Master of Ministry (MMin)

Would you like to enhance your work in ministry?

These programmes are specifically designed for ministers, priests, pastors and others involved in a range of ministries. Linking theory to practice, the aim is the enhancement of contemporary ministries.

The Master of Ministry is a two-year degree. The Postgraduate Diploma in Ministry comprises the first year of the master's degree. Full-time and part-time options are available.

The structure of the qualifications

The Postgraduate Diploma in Ministry involves six taught papers, of which three are papers in Ministry (MINS) and three are in Biblical Studies (BIBS) and Christian Thought and History (CHTH).

The Master of Ministry involves the six taught papers for the Postgraduate Diploma in Ministry and a research dissertation (MINS 5) of 25,000 to 30,000 words based on original research of an aspect of the practice of ministry. A research proposal, defining the topic and outlining the method, must be approved prior to enrolling.

All papers are available anywhere via distance learning.

NOTE: The programme offers workshops on research methods for those who have not completed a formal course in research methods. Participation in these workshops is required for those enrolling in MINS 5.

Admission

A Theology degree or equivalent three-year programme of study in Theology, with satisfactory grades, is normally required for entry to both the PGDipMin and MMin. Additionally, a minimum of three years' ministry experience is required for the MMin.

For more information

PGDipMin – otago.ac.nz/pgdipmin

MMin – otago.ac.nz/mmin

Qualifications in Ministry

Papers on offer in 2026

Semester 1

BIBS 423 Special Topic: Women in the New Testament and Early Church (with compulsory intensive, 26–30 January, Dunedin)

CHTH 420 Public Theology and Social Justice

CHTH 424 Theology, Money and Markets

MINS 415 Christian Ministry in te ao Māori (with compulsory intensive, 9–13 February, Lower Hutt)

MINS 416 Pastoral Theology: Pacific Perspectives

MINS 424 The Chaplain as Ceremonial Leader

Semester 2

CHTH 415 Reconciliation, Christian Ethics and Public Theology

MINS 410 Pastoral Care in Dying, Grief and Loss

MINS 413 Missional God, Missional People

MINS 414 Christian Theology and the Arts (with compulsory intensive, 6–10 July, Dunedin)

Full year papers

BIBS 411 Hebrew Old Testament Exegesis

BIBS 421 Greek New Testament Exegesis

Qualifications in Faith-Based Leadership and Management

Postgraduate Diploma in Faith-Based Leadership and Management (PGDipFBLM)

Master of Faith-Based Leadership and Management (MFBLM)

These qualifications have been designed for professionals involved in the leadership and management of faith-based organisations who seek advanced professional education to enhance their work.

The aim of these programmes is to enhance leadership and management in faith-based organisations through study in both Theology and Business Administration.

All papers are available anywhere via distance learning.

The structure of the qualifications

The Postgraduate Diploma in Faith-Based Leadership and Management consists of 120 points of taught papers. This is made up of three 20-point, 400-level taught papers in Theology and four 15-point, 500-level taught papers in the area of Business Administration. In each case there is a range of options to choose from.

The Master of Faith-Based Leadership and Management involves the seven taught papers taken for the Postgraduate Diploma in Faith-Based Leadership and Management, and a research dissertation (MINS 590) worth 60 points. The research dissertation is 16,000 to 20,000 words in length and is an investigation of some area of the contemporary practice of leadership and management in a faith-based context.

NOTE: The programme offers workshops on research methods for those who have not completed a formal course in research methods. Participation in these workshops is required for those enrolling in MINS 590.

Admission

The admission requirement for the master's and the postgraduate diploma is a degree or equivalent three-year qualification in any subject area with satisfactory grades. In cases where the student's prior qualifications do not include theological study, they may be required to undertake one or more 300-level papers in Theology in order to satisfy the prerequisites for specific 400-level papers in BIBS and/or CHTH.

What our students say

Sheila Mark

Postgraduate Diploma in Chaplaincy
Chaplain, University of Otago, Christchurch



I have thoroughly enjoyed doing my Postgraduate Diploma in Chaplaincy with the Theology Programme at Otago. I was keen to gain the credibility that a university qualification brings, and this programme has certainly provided that.

Chaplaincy is something I'm passionate about, and with my background as a registered nurse in healthcare, working as a chaplain alongside the medical school here in Christchurch feels like the perfect fit. I know that in the future, chaplaincy in healthcare will increasingly require these kinds of qualifications.

In my role, I look after a diverse group of taura and kaimahi. I often find myself with a revolving door of students seeking psychological, emotional, and spiritual support. Their reasons vary – sometimes it's about relationship breakups, bereavements, or homesickness. I also help staff deal with workplace stress, interpersonal challenges, heavy workloads, and sometimes even relationship issues. I feel privileged to be present during critical incidents, holding space when things are tough, and creating a sense of ritual and sacredness.

I also spend time walking around campus, building relationships and enjoying the spontaneous conversations that arise from those moments.

I started my Postgraduate Diploma in Chaplaincy as a distance student in 2021. It's been an incredible experience, and I would highly recommend it to anyone interested in a career focused on caring for the taha wairua of others.

Brendon McRae

Bachelor of Theology (Christian Thought and History), Master of Ministry Minister, Flagstaff Community Church



After a breather from theological studies and training as a minister, I was keen to launch back into study while continuing in full-time ministry.

The Master of Ministry programme ticked all the boxes. It is designed for people like me who are juggling a number of responsibilities but still wanting to stretch their minds.

My studies are forcing me to reflect on my ministry practice and invite relevant questions to consider while providing up-to-date literature and research. Within a rapidly changing society, I am increasingly aware of the need to be continually theologising. Faced with differing pastoral situations and within diverse ministry contexts, the MMin programme has assisted in helping me to pause, reflect, and consider a range of biblical perspectives to my practice. For example, some recent study in Māori theology has provided a helpful lens for me as a Pākehā to engage with the story of Matariki, and as a result how we celebrate this within both my faith community and our wider community.

Qualifications in Faith-based Leadership and Management

Four papers can be chosen from this list.

All papers are worth 15 points. There is a maximum class size for these papers each time they are offered, and enrolment in a particular paper is subject to the availability of a place.

BMBA 501	Business Law
BMBA 502	Markets and Value Creation
BMBA 505	Business Economics
BMBA 506	Human Resource Management
BMBA 507	Accounting
BMBA 508	Investment and Global Financial Markets
BMBA 509	Strategic Planning for International Markets
BMBA 510	Leading Sustainable Enterprises
BMBA 511	Operational Excellence
BMBA 512	International Business

(Places may occasionally be available in BMBA 503 Transformational Leadership)

Theology Papers

Three papers can be chosen from this list.

All papers are worth 20 points.

CHTH 415	Reconciliation, Christian Ethics and Public Theology (Semester 2)
CHTH 420	Public Theology and Social Justice (Semester 1)
CHTH 423	Theology and Human Well-being (Not offered in 2026)
CHTH 424	Theology, Money and Markets (Semester 1)
MINS 406	Theological Perspectives on Leadership (Not offered in 2026)
MINS 408	Cultures, Migration and Faith (Not offered in 2026)
MINS 416	Pastoral Theology: Pacific Perspectives (Semester 2)

One other BIBS, CHTH or MINS 400-level paper may be substituted for one of these papers. Options include:

BIBS 423	Special Topic: Women in the New Testament and Early Church (Semester 1, with compulsory intensive, 26–30 January, Dunedin)
MINS 410	Pastoral Care in Dying, Grief and Loss (Semester 2)
MINS 413	Missional God, Missional People (Semester 2)
MINS 414	Christian Theology and the Arts (Semester 2, with compulsory Intensive, 6–10 July, Dunedin)
MINS 415	Christian Ministry in te ao Māori (Semester 1, with compulsory intensive 9–13 February, Lower Hutt)

Study options for all programmes

Because these qualifications are offered by distance learning they are suited to those who wish to study from home while in full-time or part-time employment or vocation. A limited number of papers are taught as one-week intensives with ongoing reflection and assessment throughout the semester. Most papers are taught by videoconference, and for some papers there is a teaching day in Wellington near the beginning of the semester.

For more information please contact:

The Theology Programme
University of Otago
PO Box 56 | Dunedin 9054
Tel 64 3 479 8639
Email theology@otago.ac.nz
Web otago.ac.nz/theology

Qualifications in Theology

Postgraduate Diploma in Theology (PGDipTheol)

Master of Theology

PhD

The structure of qualifications

The Postgraduate Diploma in Theology (PGDipTheol) requires one year of full-time or its equivalent in part-time study and may be taken in Biblical Studies, Christian Thought and History or Pastoral Studies. Candidates are required to hold a Bachelor of Theology (BTheol) degree in the major subject of the proposed programme with satisfactory grades, or a Diploma for Graduates (DipGrad) in Theology.

Required coursework includes the completion of three papers at 400-level, and the writing of a 17,000 to 20,000 word dissertation.

Papers available in 2026

Semester 1

BIBS 423	Special Topic: Women in the New Testament and Early Church (with compulsory intensive, 26–30 January, Dunedin)
CHTH 420	Public Theology and Social Justice
CHTH 424	Theology, Money and Markets
MINS 415	Christian Ministry in te ao Māori (with compulsory intensive, 9–13 February, Lower Hutt)
MINS 416	Pastoral Theology: Pacific Perspectives
MINS 424	The Chaplain as Ceremonial Leader

Semester 2

CHTH 415	Reconciliation, Christian Ethics and Public Theology
MINS 410	Pastoral Care in Dying, Grief and Loss
MINS 413	Missional God, Missional People
MINS 414	Christian Theology and the Arts (with compulsory intensive, 6–10 July, Dunedin)

Full year papers

BIBS 411	Hebrew Old Testament Exegesis
BIBS 421	Greek New Testament Exegesis

The **Master of Theology** (MTheol) requires a minimum of one year's full-time or its equivalent part-time study. MTheol students may follow research interests in Old Testament, New Testament, Church History, Systematic Theology, or Pastoral Theology. The degree is awarded after the completion of a thesis of approximately 40,000 words.

The **PhD** requires a minimum of three years' full-time or its equivalent part-time study. It involves the completion of an original thesis of approximately 100,000 words, and can be on a range of topics.

Fees and enrolment

The fees for 2026 have not yet been set. They will be available on the University website at a later stage.

Applications to enrol are now open.

Visit: otago.ac.nz and click on "Apply To Enrol"



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