

## Fees and enrolment

The fees for 2025 have not yet been set. They will be available on the University website at a later stage.

To enrol, go to: [otago.ac.nz](https://otago.ac.nz) and click on "Apply to enrol".

## Postgraduate study options from the Theology Programme

Students wishing to undertake postgraduate study via distance have a range of options:

- Postgraduate Certificate in Chaplaincy
- Postgraduate Diploma in Chaplaincy
- Postgraduate Diploma in Faith-based Leadership and Management
- Postgraduate Diploma in Ministry
- Postgraduate Diploma in Theology
- Master of Chaplaincy
- Master of Faith-based Leadership and Management
- Master of Ministry
- Master of Theology
- PhD

For more information on postgraduate study, contact the Postgraduate Course Advisor at [postgrad.theology@otago.ac.nz](mailto:postgrad.theology@otago.ac.nz)

## Further information

Theology Programme  
University of Otago  
PO Box 56  
Dunedin 9054  
Tel 64 3 479 8639  
Email [theology@otago.ac.nz](mailto:theology@otago.ac.nz)

Or contact AskOtago: [ask.otago.ac.nz](https://ask.otago.ac.nz)  
Phone: 0800 80 80 98

[otago.ac.nz/theology](https://otago.ac.nz/theology)

# Theology @ Otago

Distance learning | 2025



The Theology Programme at the University of Otago offers papers in Biblical Studies, Christian Thought and History, Ministry and Pastoral Studies by distance learning for students throughout New Zealand and overseas. Students can complete a Diploma in Theology, Bachelor of Theology, Diploma for Graduates, and a range of postgraduate qualifications, or contribute papers towards other University qualifications, including the Bachelor of Arts. Students can also take individual papers without working towards a qualification.

For undergraduate course advice, contact the Undergraduate Course Advisor at [undergrad.theology@otago.ac.nz](mailto:undergrad.theology@otago.ac.nz).

## Theology

In Theology, students explore the various dimensions of the Christian faith. This includes studying the following subject areas:

**Biblical Studies (BIBS)** helps students to explore the historical and cultural world of the Bible and to interpret the biblical texts. Biblical Studies papers are divided into Old Testament and New Testament.

**Biblical Languages** offers students the opportunity to study Biblical Greek and Biblical Hebrew. Language papers are offered at 100-, 200-, 300- and 400-level. First year language papers assume no prior knowledge.

**Christian Thought and History (CHTH)** includes studying the development of the Christian Church (Church History) and the critical exposition and analysis of Christian thought (systematic theology). It also includes papers on Christian ethics, and on the relationship of Christianity to wider society.

**Pastoral Studies (PAST)** and **Ministry (MINS)** present a multidisciplinary study of church life, offering students the opportunity to reflect on the practice of Christian ministry.

## Papers on offer in 2024 and 2025

Papers in Biblical Studies, Biblical Languages, Christian Thought and History, Ministry and Pastoral Studies are variously offered at 100-, 200-, 300- and 400- level.

## Pre-Christmas Summer School 2024

11 November–14 December

CHTH 217/317      Special Topic: Theology and Science

## Semester 1 2025

**Semester 1 papers with an intensive:**

PAST 307/MINS 405      Special Topic: Trauma-Informed Ministry  
(intensive 27–31 January, Dunedin)  
CHTH 237/337      Special Topic: Moana Pasifika Theology  
(intensive 9–13 February, Auckland)

**Taught by videoconference:**

BIBS 112      Interpreting the Old Testament  
BIBS 131      Introductory New Testament Greek Language 1  
BIBS 218/318      Judaism in the Time of Jesus  
BIBS 322/423      The Epistles  
CHTH 102      The History of Christianity  
CHTH 213/313      The Trinity  
CHTH 305/405      The Roots of Public Theology  
CHTH 319/415      Reconciliation, Christian Ethics and Public  
Theology  
HEBR 131      Introductory Biblical Hebrew 1  
PAST 219/319      Christian Witness in a Secular World  
MINS 411      Chaplaincy in Diverse Contexts

## Semester 2 2025

**Semester 2 papers with an intensive:**

PAST 322/MINS 414      Christian Theology and the Arts  
(intensive 7–11 July, Dunedin)  
CHTH 236/336      Māori Theology and Religion  
(intensive 23–27 June, Ohope Marae)

**Taught by videoconference:**

BIBS 121      Interpreting the New Testament  
BIBS 132      Introductory New Testament Greek 2  
BIBS 221/321      The Gospels  
BIBS 227/327      Mātauranga Māori and the Bible  
BIBS 412      Special Topic: Job  
CHTH 111      Doing Theology  
CHTH 131      God and Ethics in the Modern World  
CHTH 224/324      Theology and the Environment  
CHTH 323/423      Theology and Human Well-being  
HEBR 132      Introductory Biblical Hebrew 2  
PAST 314/MINS 408      Cultures, Migration and Faith  
PAST 225/325      Special Topic: Pastoral Theology:  
Moana Pacific Perspectives  
MINS 406      Theological Perspectives on Leadership

## Pre-Christmas Summer School 2025

10 November–12 December 2025

CHTH 231/331      Christianity, War and Violence

## Full Year

Delivery by videoconference:

BIBS 213/313/411      Hebrew Old Testament Exegesis  
BIBS 223/323/421      Greek New Testament Exegesis

In addition, it is possible for distance students to do a 400-level research essay.

Contact the Programme for more details.

## Methods of distance learning

Distance learning papers in Theology are taught through videoconferences, one-week intensives, teaching days and online. This allows students to have direct contact with their lecturer and to interact with other students studying the paper. In almost all papers, students receive course materials containing a study guide, reading material and general administrative information. Students also have access to the University's distance library service.

### Videoconferences

Students participate in videoconferences via Zoom. Videoconferences are generally run as tutorials, with discussions around key topics essential to the paper.

### Teaching days

Some papers may also include elements of face-to-face teaching (teaching days). These sessions take place near the beginning of the course and are either held in Wellington or via Zoom. Students can use this time to meet the lecturer, get to know other students and discuss the course in depth.

### Intensives

Students attend a compulsory five-day, full-time block course, generally before the beginning of the semester. This week covers all the required contact hours, and students complete the rest of the paper through the submission of assessments during the semester.

### Online

Students participate through Blackboard in online forums to discuss questions related to the course materials. Each forum covers about two weeks' worth of material, and students can contribute at any time during the discussion. In addition to responding to questions set by the lecturer, students are encouraged to raise for discussion other matters from their reading. You will find more details on the Theology Programme's website: [otago.ac.nz/theology](http://otago.ac.nz/theology)