Divinity – Theology (MTheol), Theological Studies (MA), Biblical Studies (MA), Bachelor of Divinity (BD)

Degree options in the Faculties of Arts and Divinity

MTheol (Single Honours degree)
With options for specialising in subjects such as:
New Testament, Old Testament, Theology, Practical Theology, Church History, or a combination of these.

MA (Single Honours degrees)
Biblical Studies
Theological Studies

MA (Joint Honours degrees)
See the possible degree combinations under the degree descriptions, below.

BD (Single Honours degree)
Normally three years, available only to those with a previous degree with direct entry into second year of study (see page 85).
With options for specialising in subjects such as:
New Testament, Old Testament, Theology, Practical Theology, Church History, or a combination of these.

MA (Joint Honours degrees)
Biblical Studies and one of:
Ancient History
Art History
Classical Studies
Comparative Literature
Economics
Hebrew and one of:
Arabic
Art History
Biblical Studies
Comparative Literature
New Testament and Modern History

Theological Studies and one of:
Classical Studies
English
Film Studies
French
Geography
German

International Relations
Mathematics
Medieval History
History
Philosophy

 Likely grades considered for an offer

We consider all aspects of every application, including context, equivalent qualifications and the Personal Statement and offers may be higher or lower than the grades stated here.

SQA Highers: AAAB (see specific subject footnotes above)
GCE A-Levels: AAA (see specific subject footnotes above)
International Baccalaureate Points: 36 (see specific subject footnotes above)

For full Faculty entrance requirements, see page 53.
For degrees combining more than one subject, the subject with the higher likely grades determines the grades you need. You will also need to meet any further subject-specific requirements as outlined on their pages.

For further country-specific qualifications and pre-degree foundation programmes see:
www.st-andrews.ac.uk/study/international

Do I need previous knowledge of this subject? – No.

Subject enquiries
Undergraduate Recruitment and Admissions Officer,
School of Divinity
E: divinity@st-andrews.ac.uk

Why study Divinity here?

* The only Scottish university which focuses principally on Christianity and the Judeo-Christian tradition.
* The School was ranked top in the UK for student satisfaction in its subject area, according to the National Student Survey 2016. It is also one of the highest ranked Schools in the subject of Theology and Religious Studies in the UK.
* Study with academic staff who are internationally acknowledged as experts in their field and who produce world-leading research.
* The opportunity to study Biblical languages in depth – Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic.
* Integrated programmes that combine foundational courses with flexibility of choice.
* Small-group work that is built into the style of learning.
* A closely-knit community that provides a supportive context in which to engage in stimulating theological explorations.
* The opportunity to undertake a placement in a local secondary or primary school.

Students in the School of Divinity (also known as St Mary’s College) come from diverse backgrounds and with very different goals in mind. While some wish simply to explore questions of worldview and consider the shape of religious belief and practice in our society, others wish to explore and expand their
faith commitments. A mixture of pre-suppositions, outlooks and interests amongst both students and staff fosters lively debate, enables you to gain respect for others and helps you understand their views. Whatever perspective you come from these programmes are guaranteed to encourage deep intellectual reflection upon prior assumptions and upon theology’s engagement with culture.

Which programme is for you?
The MThel, our most popular degree, is the best choice if you want to focus your university career on topics directly related to theological and biblical studies. If you want a wider range of options across arts subjects, but still want to give most of your attention to divinity, then either the MA (Biblical Studies) or the MA (Theological Studies) is the degree for you. Should you have academic interests that straddle both divinity and another subject area then one of the Joint Honours options would suit you best. If you already have an undergraduate degree then the shorter BD degree, with its focus on theological and biblical studies would be ideal, especially if you are considering service within a Christian denomination.

Location and resources
The School of Divinity is located in St Mary’s College, one of the oldest and most historic parts of the University, where theology has been taught for over 500 years. Today, teaching happens in seminar rooms and lecture theatres equipped with the latest technology in St Mary’s College and around the University. The Divinity Library is housed in the historic King James Library and students have their own common room in the former Principal’s House.

Typical class sizes and teaching information
First year: lectures 10 - 100, tutorials 10 - 15
Second year: lectures 10 - 50, tutorials 10 - 15
Honours: classes 5 - 35 , seminars 5 - 15

Teaching in first and second year is mainly by lectures, supplemented by regular small-group tutorials. At Honours level greater emphasis is put on individual study and on students taking a major role in preparing for, and conducting, seminars.

Typical methods of assessment
All our 1000- and 2000-level modules are assessed by at least 50% coursework, with the balance of assessment made up by written examinations. At Honours level at least 50% assessed work is coursework, with some modules including no exam element at all, depending on the subject area.

Dissertation
In the final year you write a dissertation on a topic of your choice under the personal supervision of a member of staff. The Scottish four-year Honours programme allows extra freedom to arrange your final two years to develop broad interdisciplinary interests and to achieve a greater depth of understanding in your chosen subjects.

Bursaries and prizes
A number of bursaries are made available each year to students within the Faculty of Divinity. The awards are competitive, and the primary consideration is academic merit. A number of undergraduate prizes are also awarded at the end of each academic year for outstanding coursework.

Study abroad
You may apply to the University’s St Andrews Abroad programme. See page 22.

In the academic year 2017-2018, students in the School of Divinity may participate in Study Abroad for either one or two semesters at the University of Leiden as part of our Erasmus+ exchange.

For options available during your intended period of study, as well as information about eligibility, the application and selection process, and costs involved, please see: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/studyabroad

Careers
Graduates from the theological and biblical disciplines develop key transferable skills in critical thinking and in written and oral communication, which make them highly attractive to potential employers. Accordingly, employment prospects are usually wide ranging. A group of recent graduates from the School of Divinity includes a quality improvement officer with an English local council, a nursery nurse, an administrator with the Financial Services Agency (FAS), an officer in the accounts department of Nexus Communication, a policy officer with the Scottish Executive, a teacher, a trainee accountant with KPMG, an assistant minister with the Church of Scotland and a Youth Pastor with the Free Church of Scotland.

Previous graduates have become lawyers, corporate bankers, marketing managers, social workers, language therapists, even wine tasters, as well as vicars, chaplains and school teachers. Graduate-level employers have included the BBC, Royal Bank of Scotland, IBM, The Body Shop, Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmaceuticals and Standard Life Assurance. Many graduates also go on to do further study.

See also page 46 for details of the University’s Careers Centre.

More information on the structure and details of the degrees offered within the School of Divinity can be found on the following pages.
Second year (3 x 20-credit core modules and 1 further 20-credit module in Divinity required)

You take at least three core subjects on to second year by choosing from:

- Old Testament 2: Wisdom, Psalms, Apocalyptic and Apocryphal Literature
- Christian Thought and Practice 1
- The Early and Mediaeval Church: History, beliefs and practices

You choose one further module from an approved list of options that includes Divinity modules (e.g. New Testament Greek 2 or Hebrew 1: Introduction to the Hebrew Language) and modules taught in cognate subjects such as philosophy or history. Your two remaining modules may be chosen from the approved list, or from among the modules offered by another School in the Faculty of Arts or the Faculty of Science. This gives you an opportunity either to consolidate your Divinity interests or to develop interdisciplinary ones. Please note that we encourage people to take New Testament Greek and/or Hebrew but that neither language is required for the MTheol.

The 2000-level module in Church History focuses on the Early and Mediaeval Church and its theology and practice.

Honours MTheol – third and fourth years

In third year, you will complete two reading-centred modules (15 credits each) intended to bring you into close contact with the primary texts of Christian theology and biblical studies, providing transition from the broader thematic study of subjects at sub-honours level to the more detailed analysis of texts and traditions typical of Honours level work. Your remaining modules may be chosen from among Divinity Honours modules or from among those offered by another School in the Faculty of Arts or the Faculty of Science.

In fourth year, you choose three further modules and a one-semester dissertation (30 credits), under the direction of a member of staff. The School provides significant support for the dissertation, with a programme of seminars to assist in the development of advanced research and communication skills.

“I originally visited St Andrews intending to study English – but the Divinity sample lecture alone was enough to make me switch to the Master of Theology. The passion and dedication of the teachers in the School is utterly infectious. Our community is incredible, and the knowledge, skills, and friendships I have gained here have changed my life.”

Kieran (Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, England)
Divinity – Theological Studies

Degree options in the Faculty of Arts

MA (Single Honours degree)
Theological Studies

MA (Joint Honours degrees)
Theological Studies and one of:

- Classical Studies
- English
- Film Studies
- French
- Geography
- German
- Mathematics

by taking a module offered by another School in the Faculty of Divinity. Alternatively, you may pursue broader interests Further credits may be chosen from additional modules offered

What will I study?

Theological Studies combines two distinct but closely related fields of study: Theology and Practical Theology.

Modules in Theology provide introductions to the rich theological traditions of Christianity, covering the history of Christian theology from the early church to the modern world, and considering key topics (God, salvation, Jesus Christ, Trinity, creation) in relation to the contexts in which they emerged and developed. They also consider some of the distinctive challenges to faith presented by modern secular culture (neo-Darwinian evolutionary theory, atheistic existentialism, the role of religion in the modern world, poverty, and post-modern ‘deconstructionism’).

Modules in Practical Theology explore ways in which Christianity is being expressed and lived out today. They include the study of worship, spirituality and the development of the discipline of Practical Theology in the UK and internationally. Other modules address liturgy, and social and political engagement in Latin America and Africa. Topics of ethical concern across contemporary cultures are also explored (e.g. abortion, economic justice, sexuality and technology).

Theological Studies element of your Honours degree

First and second years

(4 x 20-credit modules required over the 2 years)

In your first year you take two core modules:

- **Theology: Issues and History** (systematic theology and philosophy of religion)
- **Living Faith** (practical theology)

Further credits may be chosen from additional modules offered within Divinity. Alternatively, you may pursue broader interests by taking a module offered by another School in the Faculty of Arts or Faculty of Science.

In your second year, you also take two core modules:

- **Christian Thought and Practice**
- **The Early and Mediaeval Church: History, Beliefs and Practices**

You may choose other modules from an approved list of options in Divinity and you have the opportunity to take modules in subjects outside Divinity. This gives you an opportunity to explore cognate subjects (such as philosophy or modern history) that allow interdisciplinary interests to develop. Within Divinity, Biblical Greek or Hebrew are additional options in the second year of study, but neither is a requirement for this degree programme. The 2000-level module in Church History focuses on the Early and Mediaeval Church.

Single Honours – third and fourth years

(4 x 15-credit core taught modules, 1 x 30-credit dissertation, and 4 further 30-credit modules required over 2 years)

You choose four out of five core 15-credit modules, which are designed to bring students into contact with the primary texts of Christian theology. This will allow transition to the detailed engagement with theological writing involved in Honours study. These modules run through the first and second semester of third year and you choose two further 30-credit modules to take alongside these.

In fourth year, you choose two further modules and a one-semester dissertation, under the direction of a member of staff. The School provides significant support for the dissertation, with a breakdown of the assessment into different stages (e.g. a bibliography and a methodology paper) and a programme of seminars to assist in the development of advanced research and communication skills.

Joint Honours

Combining Theological Studies with another subject as a Joint Honours degree is also a popular option. In the first and second years you follow the same core modules in Theological Studies as Single Honours students. You choose your remaining modules according to the requirements of your other Honours subject.

Joint Honours includes the Semester 1 core modules (Reading in Patristic Theology and Reading in Mediaeval Theology) in third year, along with a further 30-credit module in Biblical Studies. In fourth year, you take a further 60 credits in Biblical Studies, either by completing the 30-credit dissertation on a topic of your choice or by taking a further two 30-credit modules. A dissertation must be completed in the final year, but this may be undertaken in either of the Schools involved in the joint programme.

“I have been able to explore the areas of history I am deeply interested in, as well as developing my skills of critique, exegesis and analysis. The atmosphere is one that is open, friendly, and intellectually stimulating, allowing you to grow as a person.”

Lucy (Manchester, England)
Divinity
– Biblical Studies

Degree options in the Faculty of Arts

MA (Single Honours degree)
Biblical Studies

MA (Joint Honours degrees)
Biblical Studies and one of:
- Ancient History
- Art History
- Classical Studies
- Comparative Literature
- Economics
- English
- Film Studies
- French

E: Requires English – Higher or A-Level or HL6 at IB.
F: Requires French – A at Higher or A at A-Level or HL6 at IB.
G: Requires History – Higher or A-Level or HL6 at IB.
H: Requires Mathematics – A at Higher or A* at A-Level or HL6 at IB.
W: Available With Integrated Year Abroad – see Modern Languages.

For likely grades – see page 80

What will I study?

Biblical Studies combines two major fields of study: Old Testament (or the Scriptures of Judaism) and New Testament.

The Old Testament modules focus on the history, religion and culture of Israel, and incorporate a wide range of texts from prophetic, hymnic, wisdom and apocalyptic literature. The New Testament modules focus on Jesus and the Gospels, Paul’s letters and the rest of the New Testament writings in the context of the history and theology of early Christianity. These courses of study are designed to introduce you to the complexities and wonders of reading biblical texts: contexts, content, methods and hermeneutics (a reading of ancient texts in a modern world). In addition, you will choose a biblical language to study – either Hebrew or Greek – which will provide a basis for Honours level exegesis courses.

Biblical Studies provides an opportunity to explore in depth the profound influence that the Jewish and Christian Scriptures have had on Western civilisation. This can be done either by devoting the entire Honours programme to Biblical Studies or by taking a Joint Honours programme which combines Biblical Studies with another approved subject in the Faculty of Arts. For example, the Joint Honours combination with Ancient History allows you to study the wider context of the ancient world in which the New Testament texts were written.

The combination with English opens the door to discovering how biblical ideas and themes have found their way into so much of the literature of the English-speaking world.

Biblical Studies element of your Honours degree

First year (2 x 20-credit modules required)
You take two core modules:
- Old Testament 1: Torah and Prophets
- New Testament 1: Jesus and the Gospels

And either Hebrew 1: Introduction to Hebrew Language or New Testament Greek 1.

Further credits may then be chosen from additional modules offered within Divinity. Alternatively, you may pursue broader interests by taking a module offered by another School in the Faculty of Arts or Faculty of Science.

Second year (2 x 20-credit modules required)
Core modules:
- Old Testament 2: Wisdom, Psalms, Apocalyptic and Apocryphal Literature

And follow on with your Biblical language with Hebrew 2 or New Testament Greek 2.

You may choose other modules from an approved list of options in Divinity, and also have the opportunity to take modules in subjects outside Divinity.

“Studying Theology and Biblical Studies has taught me how to think and how to articulate my thoughts. More importantly, I’ve learnt to respect those who have different opinions to me, and to understand their arguments better. I have loved having the chance to learn Biblical languages under really superb lecturers. Also, it’s a real privilege to study in the King James Library and have lectures in St Mary’s College.”

Joel (Cheddar, Somerset, England)
Single Honours – third and fourth years
(4 x 15-credit core taught modules, 1x 30-credit dissertation, and 4 further 30-credit modules required over 2 years)
You choose four out of five core 15-credit modules on advanced exegesis and hermeneutics, allowing transition to the detailed analytical study involved in Honours study. These modules run through the first and second semester of third year and you choose two further 30-credit modules to take alongside these.

In fourth year you choose two further modules and a one-semester dissertation, under the direction of a member of staff. The School provides significant support for the dissertation, with a breakdown of the assessment into different stages (e.g. a bibliography and a methodology paper) and a programme of seminars to assist in the development of advanced research and communication skills.

Joint Honours
Combining Biblical Studies with another subject as a Joint Honours degree is also a popular option. In the first and second years you follow the same core modules in Biblical Studies as single Honours students. You choose your remaining modules according to the requirements of your other Honours subject.

Joint Honours includes the Semester 1 core modules (Reading in the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible and Reading in the New Testament) in third year, along with a further 30-credit module in Biblical Studies. In fourth year, you take a further 60 credits in Biblical Studies, either by completing the 30-credit dissertation on a topic of your choice and another module or by taking a further two 30-credit modules. A dissertation must be completed in the final year, but this may be undertaken in either of the Schools involved in the joint programme.

“I had no idea what to expect when I began Divinity, and had just taken it as an extra module. I was met with an engaging class with lectures that were informative and entertaining, and tutorials that stimulated discussion and (pardon the pun) revelation. I’ve been won over, and look forward to continuing Divinity next term.”

Tori (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)