

Postgraduate Diploma in Theology (PGDipTh)

Level 8, 120 credits

Flexible Study Options

Postgraduate courses are taught in block courses of one or two weeks (depending on the particular course). This allows people living outside of Auckland to travel for just the block course teaching, and helps those working full time to fit postgraduate study into their busy lives.

**Note that, apart from R351, Postgraduate courses do not have a Distance Learning option - live engagement in the lectures is a necessary part of postgraduate study at Laidlaw.*

The PGDipTh caters for:

- Those who have successfully completed a recognised undergraduate degree in theology or Christian ministries or have qualifications which, in the judgement of the Postgraduate Committee (PGC), are of an equivalent standard. A grade point average of 7.0 (B) in courses of the qualifying undergraduate programme equivalent to NZQA Levels 6 and 7 is required.
- Those who hold a recognised Bachelor's level degree in a discipline other than theology who have successfully completed a bridging programme of theological study such as those provided by Laidlaw College and other theological institutions or as approved by the PGC. Bridging requirements may be satisfied wholly or partly by credit transfer and/or recognition of prior learning.

Programme Requirements

The PGDipTh is a one year full-time (or part-time equivalent) programme. It is made up of four Level 8 courses of 30 credits each.

By the end of this programme graduates will be able to:

1. Evaluate critically a wide spectrum of literature in each of the coursework areas and in the areas of research undertaken.
2. Demonstrate mastery of the issues of debate in each of these areas.
3. Give a fair and informed account of representative points of view in each subject area.
4. Write a coherent narrative survey which is internally consistent, interacts critically with central issues, and demonstrates ability to form a reasoned opinion.
5. Utilise sound hermeneutical principles in contextualising biblical theology within the subject areas studied.
6. Demonstrate the distinctive contribution of biblical and theological principles to central issues in their subject areas.

2026 Fees

Domestic: \$2,193 per 30-credit course. **\$8,772** for programme (4 courses, 120 credits).

International: \$6,390 per 30-credit course. **\$25,560** for programme (4 courses, 120 credits).

NOTE: Annual fee may vary. A Student Services fee of \$4.20 is charged for on-campus courses or \$63 per semester for distance learning. Please refer to Fee Schedule for more details (www.laidlaw.ac.nz/fees)



Laidlaw Postgraduate Courses 2026

Semester One 2026

R155.830 ROMANS

Dr Phillip Porter
25-27 Mar | Wed-Fri, 9am-5pm
27-29 May | Wed-Fri, 9am-5pm

It has been said that Romans is “arguably the most influential letter ever written” (Gorman). In this course students will have the opportunity to explore this letter together in lectures, in group discussion, and in engagement with the remarkable body of (recent) evangelical scholarship this letter has prompted. The course includes exegesis of most chapters in Romans, an assessment of the major approaches to reading Romans, and an exploration of a range of associated theological issues. Along the way, students will be guided to unpack the implications of this letter for their own lives and communities. Students should expect to come out of this course excited about the gospel of Christ and further equipped for Christian life and ministry leadership.

R351.830 POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH AND WRITING

Dr Samuel Carpenter and Rev. Dr Sarah Penwarden
17-20 Feb | Tue-Thurs 9am-5pm, Fri 9am-1:30pm
31 Mar-2 April | Tue-Wed 9am-5pm, Thurs 9am-1:30pm

Postgraduate Research and Writing introduces you to the wonder and joy of research. It is a course designed to inspire students with the vast breadth of cutting-edge investigations that are being done by the lecturers at Laidlaw, and then to teach them how to research themselves by partnering with one of these lecturers. Students will develop and hone the skills of research and writing by designing and implementing a short research project in their own area of interest.

R361.830 RESEARCH PAPER

Supervised research on an approved topic in an aspect of Theology and/or related disciplines.

R512.830 FOUNDATIONS OF MINISTRY SUPERVISION

Rev. Dr Karen Kemp and Dr David Crawley
4-6 Mar | Wed-Fri, 9am-5pm
6-8 May | Wed-Fri, 9am-5pm

This is the first of two courses which together comprise a Postgraduate Certificate in Theology, designed to equip graduates to offer professional supervision in a range of ministry contexts (understanding ministry in the broad sense of Christian vocation). It examines the nature and purpose of professional supervision, including its importance in people-related ministries. Several theoretical approaches to supervision will be evaluated and participants will reflect critically on theological, ethical, and cultural dimensions of offering supervision in their own contexts.

Note: Entry to this course is normally through enrolment in the PGCertTh(MinSup). If you are enrolled in a different programme, please contact the Postgraduate Administrator to see if you are eligible to select this course.

R609.830 MISSION OF THE CHURCH IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Dr Allen Yeh
9 - 13 March | Mon-Fri, 9am - 5pm

The Mission of the Church in the 21st Century is a theological exploration of best mission practice analysed through studying scripture, church history, and contemporary cultural contexts in Aotearoa and beyond. This course is designed to contribute to a renewed missional understanding given modern-day shifts in culture, politics, worldviews, and missional realities.

R802.830 THEOLOGICAL RESPONSES TO ISSUES IN EDUCATION IN AOTEAROA

Miriam Fisher
13-15 April | Mon-Wed, 9am-5pm

Pre-requisite: R801.830

In this course students will engage with a selection of current issues and challenges experienced in educational contexts in Aotearoa. This course builds upon the Theological Foundations for Education in Aotearoa course, and pays close attention to the ways culture, context, and theology influences teaching in Aotearoa today.

Note: Entry to this course is normally through enrolment in the PGCertTh(TE). If you are enrolled in a different programme, please contact the Postgraduate Administrator to see if you are eligible to select this course.

Semester Two 2026

R236.830 BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

Rev. Dr Myk Habets

20-22 July | Mon-Wed, 9am - 5pm

12-14 Oct | Mon-Wed, 9am - 5pm

This course provides an opportunity for students to engage in theological or historical disciplines in an advanced way. The course involves a concentrated study of a theological theme or doctrine, or of a selected historical period, development or issue. Critical issues of background and context are explored, and contemporary applications to the complex cultural landscapes that exist within Aotearoa New Zealand and beyond are explored.

R351.830 POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH AND WRITING

Dr Samuel Carpenter and Rev. Dr Sarah Penwarden

By distance throughout the Semester.

Postgraduate Research and Writing introduces you to the wonder and joy of research. It is a course designed to inspire students with the vast breadth of cutting-edge investigations that are being done by the lecturers at Laidlaw, and then to teach them how to research themselves by partnering with one of these lecturers. Students will develop and hone the skills of research and writing by designing and implementing a short research project in their own area of interest.

R361.830 RESEARCH PAPER

Supervised research on an approved topic in an aspect of Theology and/or related disciplines.

R405.830 MENTAL HEALTH & HUMAN FLOURISHING

Rev. Dr Maja Whitaker and Dr Sarah Penwarden

16 Jul | Thurs, 7:30pm-9:00pm (online tutorial)

17-20 Aug | Mon-Thurs, 9am-5pm

21 Aug | Fri, 9am-1:30pm

Mental distress can be a common but challenging aspect of human experience. In this course, students will explore how to understand mental distress from within the framework of practical theology. Students will learn how to articulate a theology of mental distress as well as human flourishing and shalom, through a focus on mental health in general and particular experiences such as anxiety, depression and bipolar disorder. Students will gain an understanding of issues of stigma surrounding mental distress in society. Students will evaluate pastoral responses to mental distress, and will articulate an understanding of what a wise, compassionate, and informed pastoral response might involve within the varied cultural contexts of Aotearoa New Zealand and beyond.

R513.830 DEVELOPING A MINISTRY SUPERVISION PRACTICE

Rev. Dr Karen Kemp and Dr David Crawley

29-31 Jul | Wed-Fri, 9am-5pm

9-11 Sep | Wed-Fri, 9am-5pm

Pre-requisite: R512.830

This is the second of two courses which comprise a Postgraduate Certificate in Theology, designed to equip graduates to offer professional supervision in a range of ministry contexts (understanding ministry in the broad sense of Christian vocation). Through the integration of theory, practice, and theology, it enables practitioners to develop a framework for supervision appropriate to their own cultural and professional contexts, and to engage in critically reflective practice.

Note: Entry to this course is normally through enrolment in the PGCertTh(MinSup). If you are enrolled in a different programme, please contact the Postgraduate Administrator to see if you are eligible to select this course.

READY TO APPLY? ANY QUESTIONS?

0800 999 777

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UPDATED 31 OCTOBER 2025