

Bachelor of Theology (BTh)

Level 7, 360 credits

Flexible Study Options

Students can study towards the BTh on campus in Henderson and Christchurch or by Distance Learning. This programme also allows for a range of flexible learning options, including a combination of on campus and Distance Learning courses, as well as part-time study.

Programme Requirements

The Bachelor of Theology is a three year full-time (or part-time equivalent) programme. The usual programme structure is 24 courses at 15 credits each at levels 5,6 and 7; however, there are also two 30-credit internship courses on offer in the programme.

The Programme Guide below lists the minimum requirements of each area.

For a comprehensive list of compulsory and elective courses that can be taken towards the BTh please refer to the Theology Handbook published on the website: <https://www.laidlaw.ac.nz/prospectus-and-handbooks/>

BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY	BIBLICAL STUDIES (100s)	CHRISTIAN THOUGHT AND HISTORY (200-300s)	PASTORAL, MISSIONAL AND CONTEXTUAL STUDIES (400-600s)
Minimum credits for degree	90	75	90
	A total minimum of 360 credits A minimum of 180 credits at level 6 or above A minimum of 75 credits at level 7		
Level 5	115.515 Reading the Bible 120.515 Reading the Old Testament 140.515 Reading the New Testament	201.515 Engaging Theology 308.515 Christian History: Our Story	401.515 Formation 505.515 Christian Leadership and Mission 907.515 T Bicultural Relationships: Tikanga Kawenata
Level 6 & 7	111.6/715 Interpreting the Bible At least 1 OT and 1 NT exegesis paper	202.6/715 Christology 219.6/715 Ngākau Maia: Christian Confidence	480.6/715 Faithful Living: Intro to Reflective Practice 590.715 Capstone: Integrative Practice

Specialisations

The Bachelor of Theology at Laidlaw can be completed in two ways:

General BTh

The General pathway through the BTh is designed to offer all students a solid, biblical, theological, and practical foundation while also creating space within it to include a wide range of courses. Students join a vibrant College life which includes chapels, community lunches, and other events.

BTh with Specialisation

Students may choose to follow a BTh specialisation pathway through their programme. Specialisations are a curated three-year plan of study focusing on a particular field of study. The specialisations that will be on offer in 2027 are:

- Biblical Studies
- Christian Thought & History
- Pastoral Leadership
- Youth Leadership
- Missions Studies

If you are completing the BTh following the General, Christian Thought & History, Pastoral Leadership, Youth Leadership, or Missions Studies pathways, we recommend taking the following required Level 5 courses in your first year of study:

- **Semester 1:** 115.515 *Reading the Bible*, 140.515 *Reading the New Testament*, 907.515 *T Bicultural Relationships: Tikanga Kawenata*, 505.515 *Christian Leadership and Mission*
- **Semester 2:** 120.515 *Reading the Old Testament*, 401.515 *Formation*, 201.515 *Engaging Theology*, 308.515 *Christian History: Our Story*

If you are completing the BTh following the Biblical Studies pathway, we recommend taking a biblical language course in your first year of study as this will allow you to take an Old Testament or New Testament exegetical course that exegetes from the Greek or Hebrew text in your second year of study. Therefore, your recommended courses for your first year of study include:

- **Semester 1:** 115.515 *Reading the Bible*, 140.515 *Reading the New Testament*, 106.515 *Hebrew 1* or 108.515 *Greek 1*, 505.515 *Christian Leadership and Mission*
- **Semester 2:** 120.515 *Reading the New Testament*, 201.515 *Engaging Theology*, 107.515 *Hebrew 2* or 109.515 *Greek 2*, 308.515 *Christian History: Our Story*

Please refer to the following pages for indicative pathways for each specialisation.

UPDATED 17 JUNE 2026

READY TO APPLY? ANY QUESTIONS?

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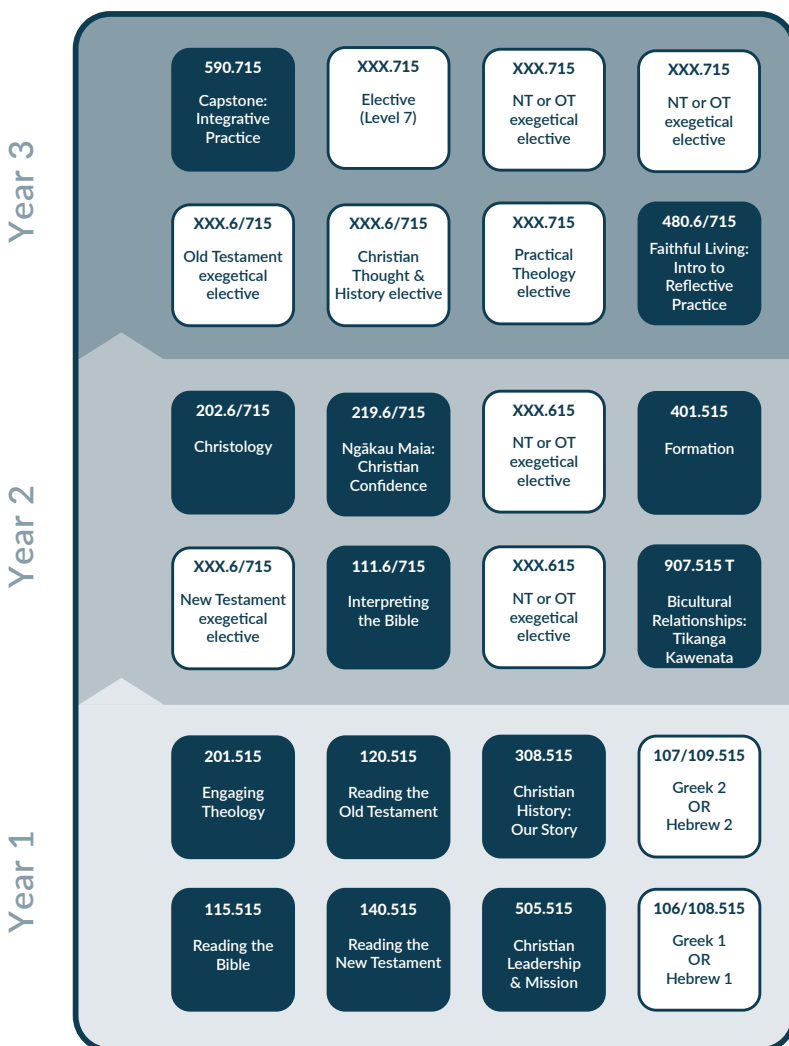


Biblical Studies

The Biblical Studies specialisation equips students with the skills to faithfully read and interpret the Word of God for the benefit of the world and the church. The courses in this pathway can prepare students to pursue a career as an academic in biblical studies and can enrich the ministry and spiritual life of those serving the church, engaging in ministry, or simply seeking to journey with God.

The first year centres on foundational understanding of the biblical narrative and systematic theology, alongside introductory classes in biblical Hebrew, the language of the Old Testament, or Koiné Greek, the language of the New Testament. Engaging with the Bible in its original languages can offer additional nuance and depth to our understanding of the Word of God that translations aren't always able to offer, such as poetic features and word plays dependent on the sounds of the languages themselves.

A key focus in the second and third year of the specialisation is biblical exegesis of both New Testament and Old Testament texts, with the option to exegete from the English translation or the original biblical language.



Biblical Languages courses on offer:

- 106.515 Hebrew 1
- 107.515 Hebrew 2
- 112.615 Hebrew 3*
- 108.515 Greek 1
- 109.515 Greek 2
- 113.615 Greek 3*

New Testament exegetical courses on offer include:

- 150.6/715 Gospels 1
- 143.6/715 Gospels 2
- 149.6/715 Epistles 1
- 152.6/715 Epistles 2

Old Testament exegetical courses on offer include:

- 122.6/715 Pentateuch
- 123.6/715 Prophets
- 125.6/715 Psalms
- 126.6/715 Wisdom

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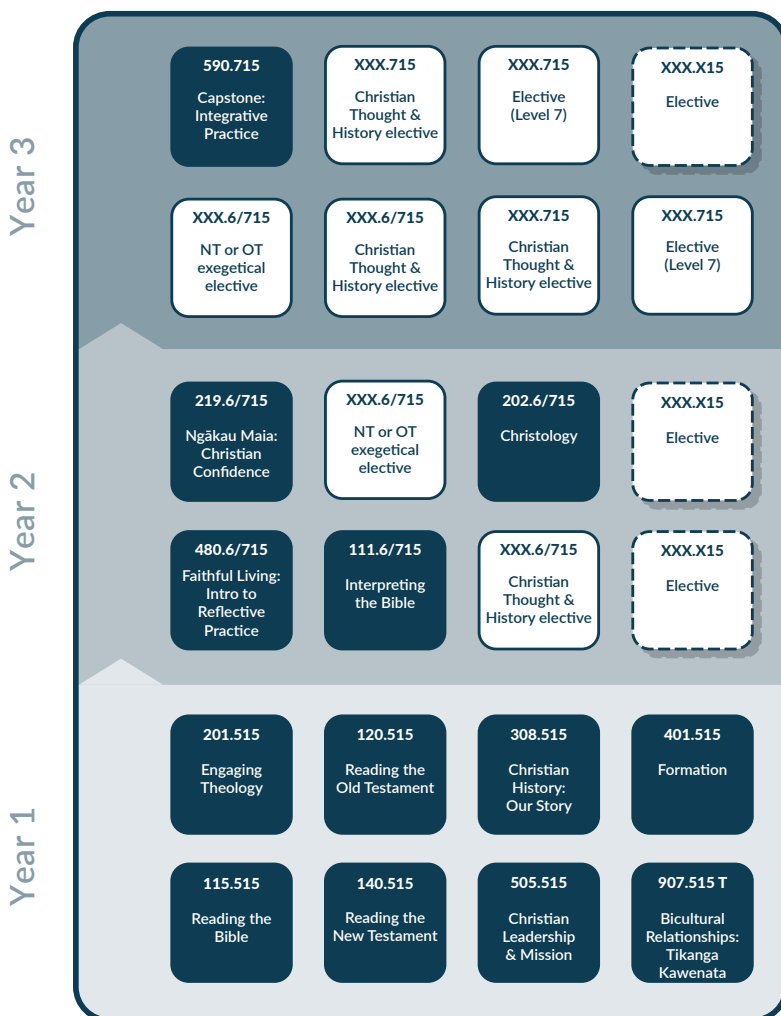


Christian Thought & History

Whether you're seeking to enrich your personal journey or prepare for ministry, Christian Thought and History courses at Laidlaw offer you the tools to engage with Scripture, church history, and contemporary life. Grow in wisdom, deepen your relationship with God, strengthen your convictions, and make a lasting impact in your community and beyond. Study with a faculty who worship Jesus, honour the Bible, love the Church, and work for the renewal of community with a faith that thinks, loves, and transforms.

We believe that the Gospel speaks powerfully into our unique cultural context and that learning should reflect the richness and diversity of Aotearoa. These commitments permeate our programmes of study. Through this specialisation, deepen your knowledge of Aotearoa's unique Gospel history, wrestle with how we live faithfully in Aotearoa, and be equipped to better share the Gospel in our context.

Please note that the indicative pathway below may look slightly different for graduates who have staircased from the Diploma in Christian Studies (Christian Leadership).



Christian Thought and History electives on offer in 2027 include:

- 205.6/715 Church: Theology and Practice
- 310. 6/715 Te Harinui: The History of Christianity in Aotearoa
- 315.6/715 Church and Treaty in Aotearoa*
- 316.6/715 Haerenga*
- 319.6/715 Reformation, Enlightenment and the Modern Global World*
- 351.6/715 Research Topic 1: Christian Thought and History

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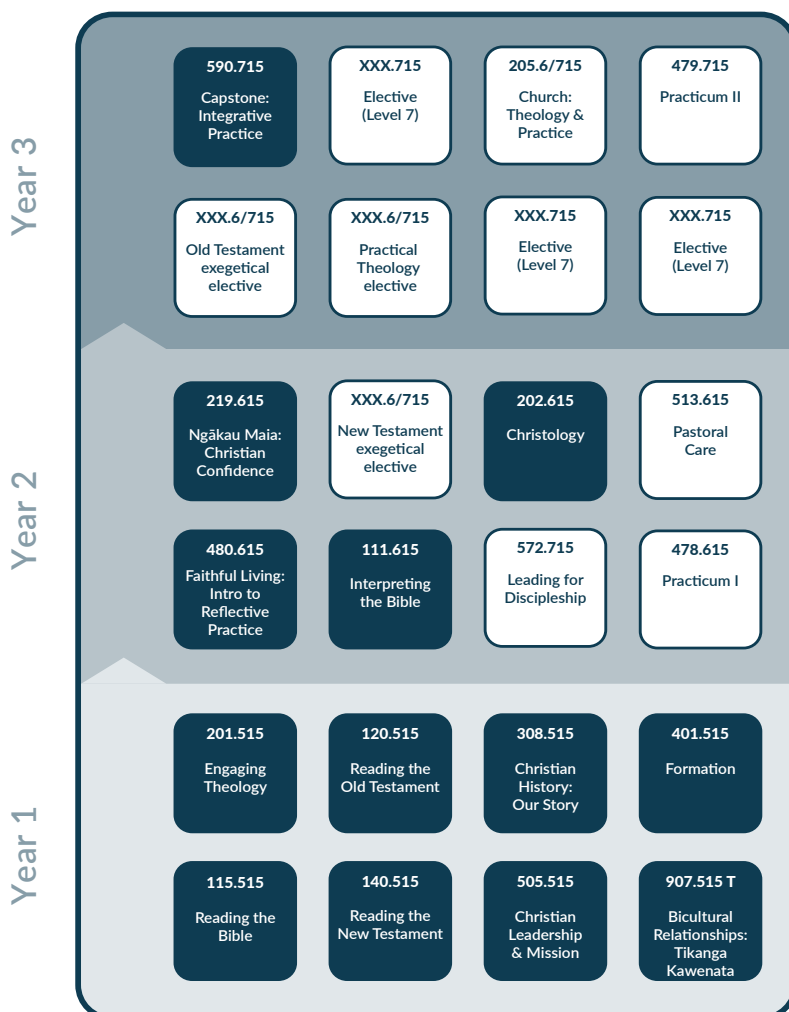


Pastoral Leadership

Ministry is a calling that requires more than just passion—it demands wisdom, integrity, and skill. The Pastoral Leadership pathway equips students to become safe, faithful, and effective leaders who can rightly handle Scripture, navigate complex pastoral challenges, and serve with both conviction and compassion.

This specialisation ensures a balanced focus on biblical and theological foundations, personal formation, and practical preparation for the many facets of lifelong ministry, enabling students to gain the wisdom, character, and practical tools needed to serve and lead with confidence.

Please note that the indicative pathway below may look slightly different for graduates who have staircased from the Diploma in Christian Studies (Christian Leadership).



Pastoral Leadership taught electives on offer in 2027 include:

- 408.715 Inner Life of a Leader*
- 513.6/715 Pastoral Care*
- 205.6/715 Church: Theology and Practice
- 572.6/715 Leading for Discipleship*
- 582.6/715 Evangelism 1
- 921.6/715 Theology of Suffering and Hope

Other courses of particular interest to those in the Pastoral Leadership specialisation may include:

- 561.6/715 Introduction to Preaching
- 577.6/715 Pentecostal Theology and Practice
- 587.6/715 Relational and Biblical Apologetics
- 583.6/715 Evangelism 2

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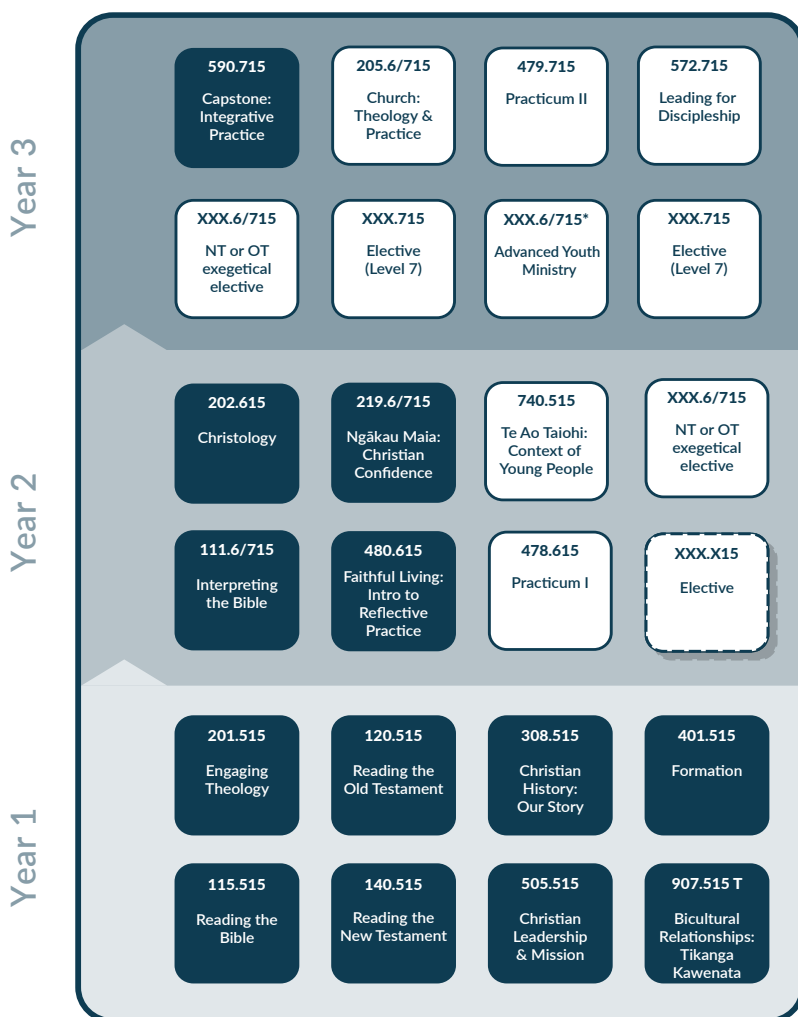
Youth Leadership

Working with youth and young adults is exciting, dynamic, and challenging. How do we help young people understand the biblical story while assisting them in their development and keeping up with the ever-changing world of technology they are so familiar with?

Laidlaw has a long history of equipping leaders to think through these big questions and co-create approaches that are grounded in the Scriptures and effective in the real world. From understanding the dynamics of teaching and discipling through to engaging with subcultures, these courses will provide you with a well-equipped toolbox for working with youth and young adults in any environment.

Whether you're a youth leader, a youth pastor, serving in young adults ministry or overseeing a team of young adult leaders, you'll be well equipped by the Youth Leadership specialisation.

Please note that the indicative pathway below may look slightly different for graduates who have staircased from the Diploma in Christian Studies (Christian Leadership).



Other courses of particular interest to those in the Youth Ministry specialisation may include:

- 408.6/715 Inner Life of a Leader*
- 513.6/715 Pastoral Care*
- 561.6/715 Introduction to Preaching
- 577.6/715 Pentecostal Theology and Practice
- 581.6/715 Evangelism 1
- 582.6/715 Evangelism 2
- 587.6/715 Relational and Biblical Apologetics
- 921.6/715 Theology of Suffering and Hope

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Mission Studies

The Missions specialisation enables students to discover new perspectives, build powerful skills, and ignite their passion to spread the Gospel in Aotearoa and worldwide.

In the unique cultural landscape of Aotearoa New Zealand, the Gospel has a vital role to play in shaping our conversations about justice, reconciliation, and identity. Laidlaw College has over 100 years of training cross-cultural workers, and our faculty offer broad missions expertise and experience. You will be guided through wrestling with the Te Tiriti o Waitangi, exploring the intersection of Gospel and culture, and engaging with the complex outworking of faith in a diverse society.

Year 3	590.715 Capstone: Integrative Practice	XXX.6/715 NT or OT exegetical elective	612.715 Majority World Theology	XXX.715 Elective (Level)
	XXX.6/715 NT or OT exegetical elective	XXX.715 Christian Thought & History elective	603.715 Cultural Anthropology	XXX.6/715 Practical Theology Elective
Year 2	219.6/715 Ngākau Maia: Christian Confidence	XXX.6/715 NT or OT exegetical elective	607.6/715 Christianity & Other Religions	480.615 Faithful Living: Intro to Reflective Practice
	202.6/715 Christology	111.6/715 Interpreting the Bible	605.6/715 Biblical & Contemporary Theology of Mission	XXX.X15 Elective
Year 1	201.515 Engaging Theology	120.515 Reading the Old Testament	308.515 Christian History: Our Story	401.515 Formation
	115.515 Reading the Bible	140.515 Reading the New Testament	505.515 Christian Leadership & Mission	907.515 T Bicultural Relationships: Tikanga Kawenata

Missions courses on offer in 2027:

- 603.6/715 Cultural Anthropology
- 605.6/715 Biblical and Contemporary Theology of Mission
- 607.6/715 Christianity and Other Religions
- 609.6/717 World Christianity
- 612.6/715 Majority World Theology
- 653.715 Tikanga Rangahau

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On completion of the Bachelor of Theology Laidlaw College graduates will:

1. **Be agents of change and grace as they live out the gospel in diverse vocations.**
2. **Be equipped to be leaders in church, non-profit, educational, and other vocational settings.**
3. **Be thoroughly Christian in terms of their perspective of the world and the centrality of Christ.**
4. **Have established a good biblical and theological knowledge which they can continue to build on.**
5. **Have been mentored, understanding the necessity of relationships for sustained ministry and transformation.**
6. **Have a heart for people and a holistic vision of the gospel making a difference spiritually, socially, emotionally, and physically.**
7. **Have developed the skills of reflective practice which allows them to thoughtfully bring their lived experience into conversation with their biblical and theological knowledge.**
8. **Have developed the skills to discern the uniqueness of how God is at work in a local context.**
9. **Have gained life skills for leading, communicating, resolving conflict, mentoring, and personal management.**
10. **Have developed an awareness of self and their unique set of giftings that enables them to recognise their best fit for Christian ministry practice and their potential for development.**
11. **Be thoroughly versed in their commitments to Te Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi, as tangata whenua or tangata ti tiriti.**

2027 Fees

2027 fees will be confirmed in October 2026.

NOTE: programme is three years and annual fee may vary.

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