



**LIDLAW  
THEOLOGY**

# POSTGRADUATE HANDBOOK 2021



# OUR VISION TE WAWATA

A world shaped by love,  
compelled and informed by  
the Gospel.

# OUR MISSION TE WHAKATAKANGA

To equip students and scholars  
to renew their communities  
with a faith as intelligent as it is  
courageous.



# HAERE MAI WELCOME

Laidlaw is committed to scholarly discovery, holding all truth to be embedded in the creative love of a communicating God. Sound research enables discovery of the nature of God as revealed in his creative and redemptive acts of self-communication.

This is a task performed together. Fruitful enquiry emerges from communities. Out of shared assumptions and commitments new questions may be asked, debated and contested. Scholarship thus involves engaged enquiry, built out of commitment, as well as appropriate distance.

Located within the School of Theology, the Laidlaw Graduate School (LGS) seeks to nurture and train emerging scholars through strong postgraduate programmes and the building of a strong scholarly community in which students and established scholars work closely together, each gaining from the engagement of ideas.

We invite you to join this community.

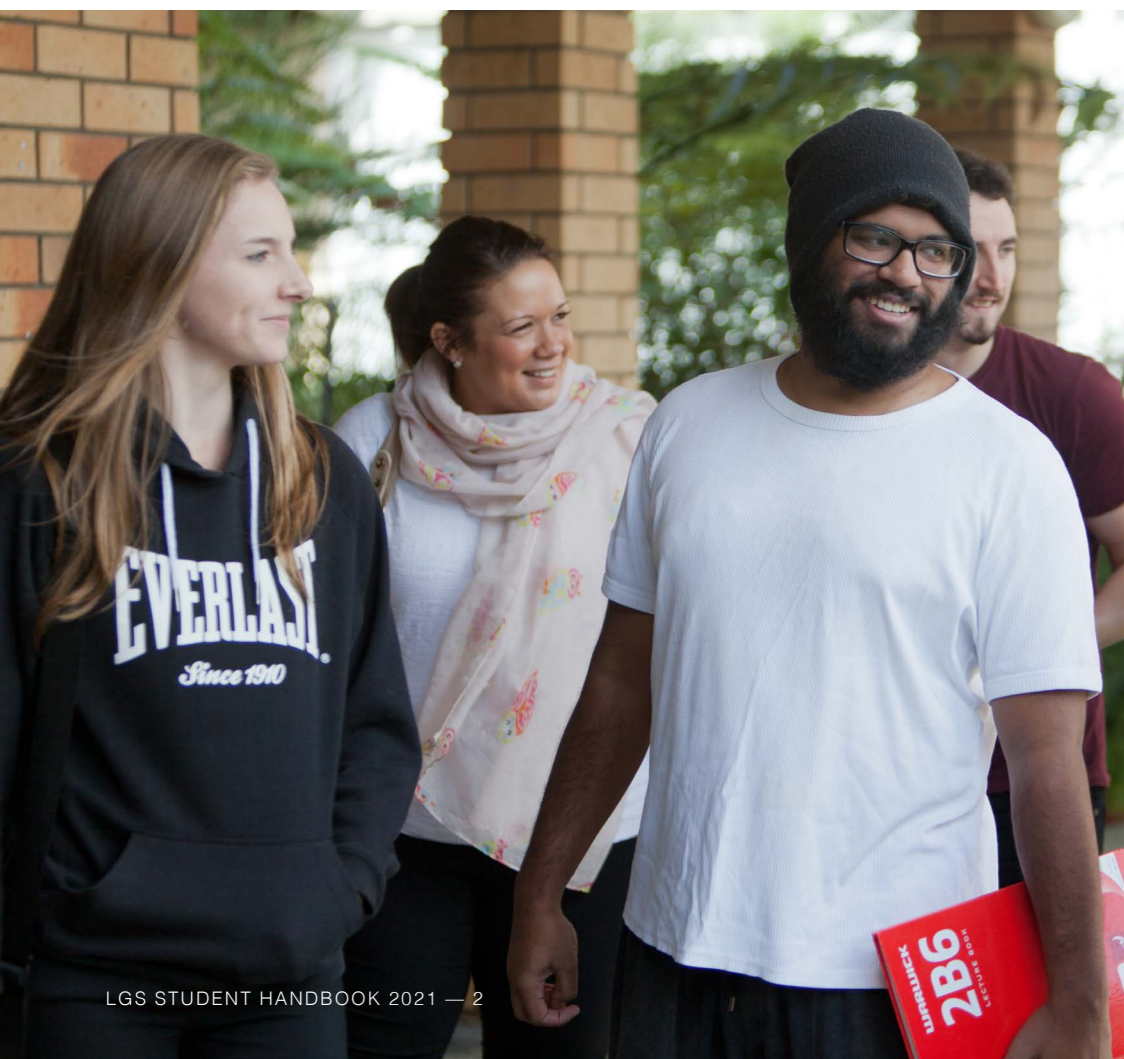
## IN THIS HANDBOOK YOU WILL FIND INFORMATION ABOUT:

- Postgraduate Programmes
- Postgraduate Courses Offered in 2021
- Master of Theology Research

## CONTACT DETAILS

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NOTE: All reasonable efforts have been made to ensure that the information in this Student Guide is accurate and current. However, Laidlaw College is not liable, and makes no guarantee that this information will not be changed or updated. Accordingly, changes and updates may be made without prior notice. This guide can be downloaded from the Laidlaw website ([www.laidlaw.ac.nz/postgraduate-study](http://www.laidlaw.ac.nz/postgraduate-study)), and the online version will always contain the latest information.



Laidlaw College is an evangelical, interdenominational tertiary institution committed to the provision of theological education throughout the whole of New Zealand. Laidlaw College has campuses in Henderson, Manukau and Christchurch – as well as distance learning options, that together offer students a great deal of flexibility in how they structure their study.

Laidlaw College is registered by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) under provisions of the 1989 Education Act and its amendments and is accredited to teach programmes listed in this handbook, all of which have been approved by the Authority.

Last updated: 25 February 2021

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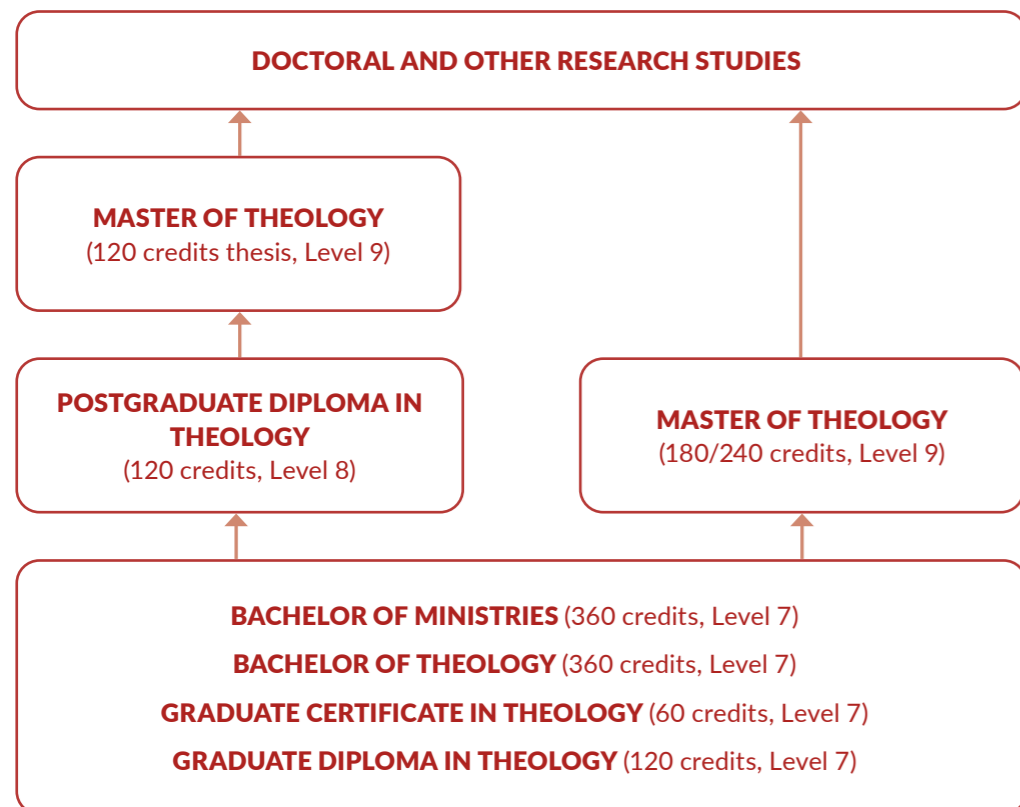
## GRADUATE PROFILE

Laidlaw College aims to educate and prepare graduates who will transform communities. Postgraduate studies can play a particular role in this. It is at this level that students learn how to find their own voice and to produce engaging and persuasive cases for their insights. The opportunity to focus, conduct research and produce a substantive piece of writing enables a reach and impact quite different from that of undergraduate study. We aspire for our graduates to be effective 'culture agents' for the Gospel. Laidlaw's Masters

graduates fulfill this in a variety of ways. Some enter or return to church and mission leadership roles, others go on to doctoral study as preparation for a teaching career. Still others apply their deep faith development and advanced integrative skills to roles in business, community service, education, the arts, sports administration – in fact all vocations can gain from those who can think through issues carefully and articulate them in a profound manner.



# STUDY PATHWAYS



# POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN THEOLOGY (PGDipTh)

## Programme Summary

NQF Level	8 – 120 credits
Duration	Full-time for 2 semesters, part-time options available
Places	Open – Selection criteria apply
Campus	Henderson
Tuition Fee	\$7,284 per full-time year of study plus Student Services Fee
Web	<a href="http://www.laidlaw.ac.nz/postgraduate-study">www.laidlaw.ac.nz/postgraduate-study</a>

## Career Opportunities

### Church Leadership

Paid employment in areas such as:

- Associate Pastor
- Christian writing
- Church based ministries
- Cross-cultural ministries
- Inter-cultural ministries
- Para-church work
- Pastoral ministry

Professional development

Effective service as a church member

Personal Christian growth

Workplace Christians

Further study at Master's and doctoral level

## Outline

The Postgraduate Diploma in Theology (PGDipTh) programme provides an advanced level theological qualification for those who have already completed a recognised Bachelor's level or a Graduate Diploma qualification in Theology. The PGDipTh programme consists of taught courses.

## Admission Requirements

Candidates will be admitted to the Postgraduate Diploma in Theology programme:

- Where the candidate has completed a recognised three-year Bachelor's degree in Theology or Ministry, with a grade point average of 7.0 (B) in courses of the qualifying undergraduate programme at NZQA levels 6 and 7.
- Where the candidate holds a recognised Bachelor's level degree in a discipline other than Theology or Ministry and has completed a bridging programme such as Laidlaw's 120 credit Graduate Diploma in Theology with a grade point average of 7.0 (B) at NZQA level 7.
- In exceptional circumstances the relevant Academic Head may allow entry to candidates who hold Laidlaw's 60 credit Graduate Certificate in Theology with a grade point average of 7.0 (B) at NZQA level 7.
- In exceptional circumstance the relevant Academic Head may, at their discretion, give special admission to candidates who have successfully completed an alternate academic programme that meets the standard required to enter postgraduate study. Each application will, however, be considered in light of the applicant's overall background and ability to benefit from the programme. The onus is on students to provide details of all qualifications and experience relevant to the application process.

## Exit Qualification

A Postgraduate Diploma in Theology may be awarded to students as an exit qualification:

- Where students have successfully completed at least 120 credits of taught courses in the MTh programme at NZQA level 8, but who do not wish to complete a research project.
- Where students have successfully completed at least 120 credits of taught courses in the MTh programme at NZQA level 8, but they have not achieved the required grade point average of 7.0 (B) to continue to a research project. (See Master of Theology Research Pre-requisites p.21.)



# MASTER OF THEOLOGY (MTh)

## Programme Summary

NQF Level	9 – 120, 180 or 240 credits
Duration	Full-time for 2-4 semesters, part-time options available
Places	Open – Selection criteria apply
Campus	Henderson
Tuition Fee	\$7,284 per full-time year of study plus Student Services Fee
Web	<a href="http://www.laidlaw.ac.nz/postgraduate-study">www.laidlaw.ac.nz/postgraduate-study</a>

## Accelerated Pathways

Theology graduates may pursue postgraduate study by an accelerated pathway which reduces the credit requirements of the MTh. With careful planning a full-time student may be able to complete the degree within a calendar year! See Admission Requirements and Pathways.

## Outline

The Master of Theology (MTh) programme provides an advanced level theological qualification for those who have already completed a recognised Bachelor's level qualification in theology and want to upgrade their qualifications in a specific area to extend their understanding of Christian ministries. The MTh combines a programme of taught courses and written thesis or dissertation. The degree provides opportunity for Master's level biblical and theological study related to the fields of Biblical Studies, Christian Thought and History, Mission and Pastoral Studies and Professional Studies.

## Structure

The Master of Theology degree is at least 240 credits except where:

- it builds on a Bachelor's degree with Honours or an equivalent qualification, or significant relevant professional experience, in which case it can be fewer than 240 but no fewer than 120 credits of which no less than 90 must be at NZQA level 9.
- it builds on a three-year Bachelor's degree or an equivalent qualification completed with a Grade Point average of at least 7.0 (B) in level 6 & 7 courses, in which case it can be fewer than 240 but no fewer than 180 credits of which no less than 60 must be at NZQA level 9.

## Objectives

On completion of the MTh programme, students should be able to:

- evaluate critically a wide spectrum of literature in each of the coursework areas and in the areas of the research undertaken;
- demonstrate mastery of the issues of debate in each of these areas;
- give a fair and informed account of representative points of view in each subject area;
- write a coherent narrative survey which is internally consistent, interacts critically with central issues, and demonstrates ability to form a reasoned opinion;
- utilise sound hermeneutical principles in contextualising biblical theology within the subject areas studied;
- demonstrate advanced skills of research, critical analysis and constructive synthesis, and application so as to make a significant contribution to knowledge in their area of specialisation;
- demonstrate the distinctive contribution of biblical and theological principles to central issues in their subject areas;
- participate in the international academic discussion of their field of study with a competence appropriate to Master's level;
- reflect on the professional, ethical and relational implications of their study for ministry in the modern world; and
- make available to the service of the church appropriate aspects of current scholarship in their field of study

## Admission Requirements and flexible structures

### Level 8 Entry

#### 180 Credit MTh

MTh degree may be completed with 180 credits:

- Where the candidate has completed a recognised three-year Bachelor's degree in Theology or Ministry, with a grade point average of 7.0 (B) in courses of the qualifying undergraduate programme at NZQA levels 6 and 7.

#### 240 Credit MTh

- MTh degree requires 240 credits:
- Where the candidate has completed a recognised three-year Bachelor's degree in Theology or Ministry, with a grade point average of 7.0 (B) in courses of the qualifying undergraduate programme at NZQA levels 6 and 7.
- Where the candidate holds a recognised Bachelor's level degree in a discipline other than Theology or Ministry and has completed a bridging programme such as Laidlaw's 120 credit Graduate Diploma in Theology with a grade point average of 7.0 (B) at NZQA level 7.
- In exceptional circumstances, the relevant Academic Head may allow entry to candidates who hold Laidlaw's 60 credit Graduate Certificate in Theology with a grade point average of 7.0 (B) at NZQA level 7.
- In exceptional circumstance the relevant Academic Head may, at their discretion, allow special admission to candidates who have successfully completed an alternate academic programme that meets the standard required to enter postgraduate study. Each application will, however, be considered in light of the applicant's overall background and ability to benefit from the programme. The onus is on students to provide details of all qualifications and experience relevant to the application process.

### Level 9 Entry

MTh degree may be completed with 120 credits:

- Where the candidate has completed an approved four-year Honours degree in Theology or Ministry with first or second class honours.
- Where the candidate has completed an approved Postgraduate Diploma in Theology with a grade point average of 7.0 (B).
- In exceptional circumstance the relevant Academic Head may, at their discretion, allow special admission to candidates who have successfully completed an alternate academic programme that meets the standard required to enter postgraduate study. Each application will, however, be considered in light of the applicant's overall background and ability to benefit from the programme. The onus is on students to provide details of all qualifications and experience relevant to the application process.

# ADVANCED RESEARCH DEGREES (MPhil, PhD)

The Master of Philosophy (MPhil) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) are advanced research degrees, suitable for preparation to be an academic scholar and teacher. Under a memorandum of agreement with Auckland University of Technology (AUT) graduates of Laidlaw Graduate School may apply to enrol in the AUT MPhil or PhD programme and to undertake research in theology under the supervision or co-supervision of LGS faculty. Such students are subject in all respects to the regulations of AUT and should familiarise themselves with the AUT Calendar available on the AUT website [www.aut.ac.nz](http://www.aut.ac.nz). Students interested in any of these options should contact the Head of Theology.

Under another agreement, with the Department of Theology at the University of Otago, students may apply to enrol in the Otago PhD with an endorsement from Laidlaw Graduate School. If accepted by the University of Otago they may then satisfy the Otago residency requirements at a Laidlaw campus and with the approval of Otago, receive some of their supervision from LGS.

As an affiliated institution of the Australian College of Theology (ACT), Laidlaw offers a number of ACT postgraduate programmes including the Doctor of Ministry, Doctor of Theology, and Doctor of Philosophy.

Further details on advanced research degree options are available on the AUT website [www.aut.ac.nz](http://www.aut.ac.nz), the University of Otago website [www.otago.ac.nz](http://www.otago.ac.nz), or the Australian College of Theology website [www.actheology.edu.au](http://www.actheology.edu.au). Students interested in exploring this option should consult the Head of Theology.

# GENERAL INFORMATION & REGULATIONS

General Information and regulations governing academic life at Laidlaw College form part of the portfolio of documents that makes up Laidlaw College's Academic Calendar. These regulations can be viewed online at [www.laidlaw.ac.nz/gen-regs](http://www.laidlaw.ac.nz/gen-regs).

We would like to draw your attention to the following general regulations which apply specifically to postgraduate students:

## Transfer credits and Recognition of prior Learning (RPL)

Application may be made to transfer credits from another tertiary institution. See the regulations for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) in the General Information and Regulations handbook found here <https://www.laidlaw.ac.nz/prospectus-and-handbooks/#genregs>. If after credit recognition there remains a shortfall of credits to complete a postgraduate programme, these must be made up by enrolment in one or more level 8 courses. In some circumstances, and with the permission of the postgraduate lead academic, a 15 credit course at level 7 may be undertaken for this purpose.

## Approved Study at Another Institution

A student who is enrolled in a Laidlaw College postgraduate programme and who concurrently enrolls and completes courses at another tertiary institution, which they wish to credit to their Laidlaw College qualification must:

- Seek from the Head of Theology or nominee prior approval of the proposed concurrent enrolment and confirmation that the course will satisfy the regulations and requirements for the qualification for which the student is enrolled at this College and that appropriate credit may be granted.
- Apply for credit in accordance with these regulations when the official results are known.
- Where prior approval has not been sought, credit will not normally be granted.

## Continuous Enrolment

It is a graduate school policy that enrolment into the Master of Theology programme must be continuous, requiring enrolment in each subsequent semester after first enrolment. As such, your enrolment status at postgraduate level should always fall into one of these four categories:

- Enrolled
- Deferred (level 8 only)
- Suspended (level 9 only)
- Extended (Thesis D paper only, please see the information below on 'Extensions').

This policy does not include the summer semester.



## Deferments and Suspensions

Should a situation arise in which you cannot maintain your continuous enrolment you should apply for a deferment at level 8 or a suspension at level 9.

### Deferment

- Students enrolled in level 8 taught courses who cannot enrol for the upcoming semester should apply for a deferment using the 'Application for Deferment / Suspension' Form.
- The application should be submitted well in advance of the semester it pertains to.
- The completed form should be submitted to the Academic Head via the Postgraduate Administrator.
- A deferment of one semester will be granted.
- Up to two deferments during level 8 studies will be permitted.
- There is no fee associated with this application.

### Suspension

- Students enrolled in level 9 thesis or dissertation courses who cannot enrol for the upcoming semester should apply for a suspension to their studies, using the 'Application for Deferment/ Suspension' Form.
- The application should be submitted well in advance of the semester it pertains to.
- The completed form should be submitted to the Head of Theology via the Postgraduate Administrator.
- This application should be supported by the research supervisor.
- A suspension may be granted of up to one semester and students may be granted no more than one suspension during their level 9 studies.
- A student will not have access to supervision or library services during the suspension of their studies.
- There is no fee associated with this application.

## Extensions

For information on extensions for assignments during taught MTh courses, see the General Information and Regulations section of the Academic Calendar – [www.laidlaw.ac.nz/gen-regs](http://www.laidlaw.ac.nz/gen-regs).

### Time allowed to complete a Programme of Study

All programmes have a maximum number of semesters or years in which you have to complete your programme. You will need to complete your programme within these time limits or have a deferral or extension approved. Deferrals and extensions may be approved if you are unable to complete because of exceptional circumstances beyond your control.

Unless otherwise specified in the regulations for a particular programme the standard time limits given below apply:

PROGRAMME	CREDITS	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME
Postgraduate Diploma	120	1 year/2 semesters	3 years
Master's Degree	180	1.5 years/3 semesters	4 years
	240	2 years	6 years*

\* Including the time taken to complete internal credits transferred.

The opportunity to continue beyond these time limits will be considered on a case by case basis and with approval of the Academic Head.

In exceptional circumstances, the Academic Head may approve a personal programme of study which does not conform to the above requirements, however the total number of credits required for the completion of the programme cannot be adjusted.

## Flexible Design, Individual Pathways

With 180 and 240 credit pathways, completed using 60, 90 or 120 credits research options, Laidlaw's MTh can be designed to suit the interests and opportunities of the candidate. The chart on the next page sets out some typical student pathways to completion (assumes full-time).

If doing a Thesis, students typically begin with Thesis A and progress through B to C to D as applicable. Each part is 30 credits worth of study.

If doing a Dissertation, students complete Dissertation A and B. Each part is 30 credits worth of study.

## Typical Master of Theology Configurations

240 CREDIT MTH WITH 60 CREDIT DISSERTATION	240 CREDIT MTH WITH 90 CREDIT THESIS	240 CREDIT MTH WITH 120 CREDIT THESIS	180 CREDIT WITH 90 CREDIT THESIS (FAST TRACK)
Taught Course 1 Level 8 – 30 credits	Taught Course 1 Level 8 – 30 credits	Taught Course 1 Level 8 – 30 credits	Taught Course 1 Level 8 – 30 credits
Taught Course 2 Level 8 – 30 credits	Taught Course 2 Level 8 – 30 credits	Taught Course 2 Level 8 – 30 credits	Taught Course 2 Level 8 – 30 credits
Taught Course 3 Level 8 – 30 credits	Taught Course 3 Level 8 – 30 credits	Taught Course 3 Level 8 – 30 credits	Taught Course 3 Level 8 – 30 credits
Taught Course 4 Level 8 – 30 credits	Taught Course 4 Level 8 – 30 credits	Taught Course 4 Level 8 – 30 credits	Thesis B Level 9 – 30 credits
Taught Course 5 Level 8 – 30 credits	Taught Course 5 Level 8 – 30 credits	Thesis A Level 9 – 30 credits	Thesis C Level 9 – 30 credits
Taught Course 6 Level 8 – 30 credits	Thesis B Level 9 – 30 credits	Thesis B Level 9 – 30 credits	Thesis D Level 9 – 30 credits
Dissertation A Level 9 – 30 credits	Thesis C Level 9 – 30 credits	Thesis C Level 9 – 30 credits	
Dissertation B Level 9 – 30 credits	Thesis D Level 9 – 30 credits	Thesis D Level 9 – 30 credits	

## Grades for PGDipTh and MTh

Grades for PGDipTh and MTh (both taught courses and research papers, including thesis and dissertations) will be given as a numerical percentage first, which will then be converted into a letter grade. As an example, a high A would be awarded an 89, a low A would be awarded an 85, and a solid A would be awarded an 87. The range of each of the grades is noted below:

A+	90-100	Exceptional	Distinction
A	85-89	Excellent	
A-	80-84	Superior	
B+	75-79	Very Good	Merit
B	70-74	Good	Pass
B-	65-69	Competent	
C+	60-64	Satisfactory	
C	55-59	Acceptable	
C-	50-54	Marginal	

## Postgraduate Appeals

If a postgraduate student or their supervisor feels that he or she is not able to establish an effective working relationship, either party may petition the Postgraduate Committee for the appointment of a new supervisor. If either the student or the supervisor feels that the student's work is not proceeding satisfactorily for reasons outside of their control, either party may, after consultation with the other, approach the Postgraduate Committee, for assistance.

If the student considers the assessment process has been inadequate or unfair, he or she may apply to the Academic Head through the Postgraduate Committee for a review of the process. If that is not satisfactory, an appeal to the Principal may be sought. In such cases, the relevant school will ensure that the issues of concern are addressed expeditiously to avoid significant loss of time in regard to the student's research or funding.

# MASTER OF THEOLOGY COURSES OFFERED IN 2021

## LIDLAW FIELDS OF STUDY

- 100 Biblical Studies (incl. Languages)
- 200 Christian Thought
- 300 History of Christianity
- 350 Research
- 400 Spirituality
- 500 Pastoral and Contextual Studies
- 600 Cross-Cultural Mission
- 650 Marketplace Studies
- 800 Education
- 900 Counselling

## COURSE NUMBERING AND CREDIT SYSTEM

The Laidlaw course numbering system follows this pattern:

- The first digit indicates the field of study (e.g. 1 = Biblical Studies, 8 = Education, 9 = Counselling).
- The second and third digits further define the level and/or subject area (e.g. 120 = Old Testament).
- The first digit after the decimal point indicates the National Qualifications Framework level.
- The second and third digits after the decimal point indicate the credit value of the course (e.g. 15 = 15 credits, 30 = 30 credits).
- One credit is equivalent to ten hours of learning. A 15 credit course = 150 hours of learning.

## Courses for 2021

Unless otherwise stated, MTh taught courses are held on the Henderson Campus. Please allow approximately six weeks ahead of lecture blocks for pre-course assignment work. Courses are subject to viability requirements and may not be offered pending student enrolments.

For full course details please consult the MTh Summary Document or the website: [www.laidlaw.ac.nz](http://www.laidlaw.ac.nz)



## Semester One 2021

### **R351.830 POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH AND WRITING**

DR GREG LISTON

23 – 26 FEBRUARY AND

29 MARCH – 1 APRIL 2021 | 9AM - 5PM

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.

### **R154.830 ROMANS AND THE MISSION OF GOD**

DR MARK KEOWN

3 – 7 MAY 2021 | 9AM - 5PM

(PLUS ZOOM CALLS 3 MARCH, 14 APRIL | 7:30-9:30PM)

Romans has some of the most profound theology in the NT. Written by Paul on his third great Antiochian mission as he prepares to deliver a financial collection gathered from gentile churches for the Jerusalem believers, it anticipates subsequent mission to Rome and then to the yet-unreached region of Spain. Its rich theology is foundational for our understanding of the gospel of salvation and affirms the law-free gospel Paul so passionately proclaimed. Romans and the Mission of God will read and consider Romans from the perspective of mission. We will explore missional aspects of the letter to the Romans and draw out implications for mission today, in what will be a transformational experience for us all.

### **R540.830 FOUNDATIONS IN VOCATIONAL THEOLOGY**

DR ROSHAN ALLPRESS;

SEMINARS: 4 MARCH, 15 APRIL, 12 MAY | 7-9PM;

WORKSHOPS: 26 MARCH, 29TH MAY | 9AM-4PM;

ONLINE ENGAGEMENT

Foundations in Vocational Theology is a course for those who want to think through their calling in a deep way, and to develop a theological framework for what God has called them to do. It involves developing a Biblical picture of calling, group discussions with others who are thinking through their own vocations and thinking about how we each might live out our calling more faithfully.

## Semester Two 2021

### **R351.830 POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH AND WRITING**

DR GREG LISTON

BY DISTANCE THROUGHOUT SEMESTER

Subject to NZQA approval.

(see description in Semester One)

### **R404.830 NARRATIVE APPROACHES TO SPIRITUAL CARE: UNCOVERING STORIES OF HOPE**

DR DAVID CRAWLEY

13-17 SEPTEMBER 2021 | 9:30AM - 4:30PM

(PLUS ZOOM CALLS 28 JULY, 13 OCTOBER | 7.30-9.30)

“We are a ‘storied people’ because the God that sustains us is a ‘storied God’” (Stanley Hauerwas). We are shaped by our stories - personal stories, family stories and the larger narratives of our social and cultural contexts. People looking for spiritual or pastoral care often come with very problem-focused stories which are draining their lives of hope. This course will explore these ideas and teach you how to engage in conversations which will help people uncover and live out alternative stories of hope for their lives.

### **R115.830 INTERPERSONAL FORGIVENESS IN THE SCRIPTURE: FROM FURY TO FORGIVENESS**

DR RICHARD NEVILLE

16 -20 AUGUST AND

18-22 OCTOBER 2021 (MORNINGS ONLY | 9AM-12PM)

An injury, once inflicted, cannot be undone. The impossibility of changing the past is one reason giving and receiving forgiveness is indispensable. The rather humble notion of forgiveness turns out to be the means of addressing the dilemma of the irreversible, of remedying the contagion of revenge and ruined relationships, and of promoting the proper functioning of families and communities. This course is an opportunity to investigate forgiveness. We will look at its history in the West, and at contemporary discussions of forgiveness across disciplines. The heart of this course, however, will be a close reading of the biblical testimony on forgiveness. Students who take this course will gain significant insight into forgiveness, and the important role of emotion in the Christian life. It is designed to be both academically rigorous, and deeply practical.

### **R216.830 THIRD ARTICLE THEOLOGY: DOING THEOLOGY WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

DR MYK HABETS AND DR GREG LISTON;

TBA

One of the most exciting areas of research in theology today concerns the Holy Spirit. At the cutting-edge of research on the Holy Spirit is what is called Third Article Theology or TAT. In the Creed, the Holy Spirit is the Third Article – hence the name! But in the Creed, the Holy Spirit is not simply concerned with himself, but with the Trinity, with salvation, with the church, with ministry, and with the future. So TAT looks at theology from the perspective of the Spirit. That is what is so interesting, so useful, and so important about TAT. In this course, we will look at key doctrines such as the Trinity, Christology, salvation, the church, and the future, and we will apply this theology to ministry, mission, and our everyday lives. We will also interact directly with a number of scholars from around the world who are contributing to TAT. Join us as we explore theology in a deeply Spiritual way in this course on Third Article Theology.

# ALL POSTGRADUATE COURSES

### **R101.830 TEXT AND LANGUAGE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT**

In this course three aspects of the Greek of the New Testament will be studied: 1. Understanding how the language works (recent developments in grammar, focusing on how a text progresses its argument), 2. Tackling the problem of differences between Greek manuscripts (textual criticism, making informed decisions), and 3. Learning how the Greek can be put into English (translation theory and practice). Students wishing to attend the course should have attained an intermediate level of NT Greek language.

### **R115.830 AS WE FORGIVE OTHERS: INTERPERSONAL FORGIVENESS IN THE SCRIPTURE**

Interpersonal forgiveness is one of the most profound ethical teachings bequeathed to us, and yet it has received surprisingly little attention from biblical scholars. This course is an opportunity to explore the biblical teaching on forgiveness in a focused manner. The engine room of the course will be a careful reading of texts from the Old and New Testaments. We will sharpen our work in the text by setting it in the context of other biblical themes (divine forgiveness, justice, imprecation, etc.), and by bringing it into dialogue with insights from other disciplines and with the realities of true-life stories of forgiveness.

### **R121.830 OLD TESTAMENT NARRATIVE: ITS MESSAGE AND METHOD**

(ENGLISH OR HEBREW EXEGESIS)

This course is a study of the content and form of Old Testament narrative, and the hermeneutical and theological issues raised by narrative approaches to the Old Testament, illustrated by study of selected Old Testament narrative texts. The significance for preaching of narrative form and content is also considered.

### **R124.830 ISAIAH, PREACHING IN THE SHADOW OF EMPIRE**

(ENGLISH OR HEBREW EXEGESIS)

This subject will examine how the book of Isaiah expounds Israel's core scriptures in response to changing circumstances in 'the shadow of Empire'. Taking a literary-theological approach to the whole of Isaiah we will pay special attention to chapters 40-55 and to the four 'Servant Songs' within them. Key areas of interest are the image of God, mišpāt (biblical 'justice'), and how Isaiah acts to shape its audience both as servants and as shapers of servants.

### **R125.830 EZRA-NEHEMIAH**

(ENGLISH OR HEBREW EXEGESIS)

This course is the study of the text of Ezra-Nehemiah and its social and historical context including an exploration of the factors that shaped post-exilic Judah and the emergence of Judaism. Contemporary areas of scholarly debate such as the relationship of the narrative to history and the impact of the Neo-Babylonian invasion will be critically assessed. The characters of Ezra and Nehemiah in the text and tradition will be examined and evaluated. Some issues concerning the reception history, new interpretative methods and application of the text in contemporary contexts will be explored.

### **R127.830 HEBREW POETRY AND THE HUMAN CONDITION**

This course takes a literary approach to Hebrew Poetry in the Bible. The stylistics and forms of Hebrew Poetry are engaged as well as close reading and exegesis of exemplar texts. The relation between poetics and creative expression in light of the human condition is reflected upon. The subsequent life of Hebrew Poetry in Judeo-Christian tradition and in western literature is also considered.

### **R128.830 ISSUES IN HEBREW WISDOM**

Based primarily on the wisdom texts of Job, Ecclesiastes and Proverbs, this course addresses a range of key issues in connection with the concept of wisdom in the Old Testament and its place in Israelite society. Its distinctiveness and commonality with respect to the Old Testament and the wider ancient Near Eastern context is considered, as well as its relationship to broader themes of creation, covenant, law, and redemptive history. Both the sources of the wisdom tradition, and its connection with later wisdom in the Second Temple period and in the New Testament are also examined.

### **R140.830 THE GOSPEL AND ITS PROCLAMATION**

Our everyday world is an increasingly dynamic mix of faiths, philosophies, cultures and ideologies in both local and global contexts. In such a world, Christians and their communities still have the imperative to share Christ but often struggle with traditional paradigms of the gospel and its effective proclamation. This course goes deeply into New Testament understandings of the gospel and its presentation, providing a basis for sharing the gospel in today's complex situations.

### **R144.830 THE EPISTLE TO THE PHILIPPIANS**

The course involves a detailed discussion of the book of Philippians and its relevance for today. The course includes detailed analysis of the key critical issues related to the book; different views of central themes and rhetorical strategy; and detailed exegesis of the text. Attention is paid to secondary literature, especially recent secondary literature to foster interaction with current discussion. In addition, students are encouraged to relate the key issues in Philippians with the contemporary Christian scene today. Students will be encouraged to read a range of introductory material before the course generally acquainting them with the issues related to the interpretation of Philippians. These issues will be discussed in the first part of the lecture program. The remaining time will be spent working through the text of Philippians, pericope by pericope and verse by verse. At times there will be pauses to discuss an issue at hand in terms of the broader redemptive story, theology and especially the other letters of Paul. After each pericope time will be spent discussing and applying what has been presented to today's world.

### **R145.830 THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS**

(ENGLISH OR GREEK EXEGESIS)

This course focuses on the Epistle to the Hebrews setting in the first century and as part of the literature of the Second Temple period, and encourages the student to gain a thorough appreciation of the Epistle's content, developing argument, and theological stance. Special attention is paid to the use of the Old Testament in Hebrews, in an attempt both to grasp the author's hermeneutic, and to wrestle with still larger questions regarding the nature of canonical theology and of biblical theology.

### **R147.830 THE THEOLOGY OF LUKE ACTS**

Luke wrote more of the New Testament than any other writer, but these two books are among the most ignored in Biblical study. The course will look at how Luke presents Christology, the unique way he presents the gospel, core response terms for soteriology, the important theme of reconciliation, the church's coping with multi-cultural realities, his emphasis on ethics and parables, a developed understanding of Israel, the role of money, the importance of Jesus' return and the way in which the kingdom is presented. The course will show the connection between these ideas and their contemporary relevance.

### **R148.830 THE SOCIAL WORLD OF THE APOSTLE PAUL**

This course is fundamentally historical in nature, seeking to understand the world in which the apostle Paul and his converts lived. The course also makes heavy use of social-scientific methods (sociology, anthropology, etc.), drawing on cross-cultural models and theories to explain the social dynamics of the Greco-Roman world and how the early Christians engaged with it.

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### **R152.830 THE JOHANNINE LETTERS**

The course involves a detailed discussion of the New Testament letters 1, 2 and 3 John and their relevance for today. The course includes detailed analysis of the key critical issues related to these letters; different views of central themes and rhetorical strategy; and detailed exegesis of the text. Attention is paid to secondary literature, especially recent secondary literature to foster interaction with current discussion. Special attention will be paid to the theological interpretation of the Johannine letters with particular reference to contemporary Christian faith and life.

### **R153.830 DANIEL AND THE APOCALYPTIC**

This course is an exegetical study of the twelve chapters of the book of Daniel, including attention both to critical issues of interpretation arising therein, and to the contextualised application of the message of Daniel in our own day. Special attention will be paid to the accompanying theological themes of wise participation in the divine life. Key themes within Daniel and their place in Christian thought will be highlighted. The course also includes background treatment of the thought world of biblical wisdom and apocalyptic literature, and the place of Daniel in the Persian and Hellenistic periods of history.

### **R154.830 ROMANS AND THE MISSION OF GOD**

Romans has some of the most profound theology in the NT. Written by Paul on his third great Antiochian mission as he prepares to deliver a financial collection gathered from gentile churches for the Jerusalem believers, it anticipates subsequent mission to Rome and then to the yet-unreached region of Spain. Its rich theology is foundational for our understanding of the gospel of salvation and affirms the law-free gospel Paul so passionately proclaimed. Romans and the Mission of God will read and consider Romans from the perspective of mission. We will explore missional aspects of the letter to the Romans and draw out implications for mission today, in what will be a transformational experience for us all.

### **R201.830 KNOWLEDGE, REALITY, AND GOD: THEOLOGY AND WESTERN THOUGHT**

This course examines the challenges presented to Christian theology by key developments in Western thought. This course will closely examine the responses by Christian thinkers to the changing environments of western thought on such issues as rationalism, materialism and the ideology of the state. Extensive use will be made of primary works.

### **R202.830 GOD'S WORLD: THEOLOGY AND SCIENCE IN CONVERSATION**

Science and religion are often portrayed as being locked in a centuries old battle with each other. If God is the Lord of the heavens and the earth and all that's in it, then nothing should be further from the truth. This course is conversation between theology and science, with topics including: creation and cosmology; evolution; being human; the nature of science and theology interaction; and the ethical implications for theological and scientific beliefs in dialogue.

### **R209.830 UNIQUE CHRIST, PLURALIST WORLD**

Traditional Christian claims about Jesus Christ have centred on the example, uniqueness, finality and universality of the revelation and salvation offered in him. These claims are widely rejected in the contemporary world - and in some parts of the church - as unsustainable, exclusivist and even harmful. This theologically cross-disciplinary course will: re-examine the Biblical foundations for the claims (giving special attention to Jesus' self-understanding, actions and teaching in the Gospels, and to his resurrection); outline some of the subsequent Biblical and theological developments; consider and respond to a variety of challenges to Christian claims about truth, particularity, and universality in our contemporary and postmodern contexts. The course will then develop a well-informed contemporary restatement of the example, uniqueness, finality and universality of Christ, including some implications for the assessment of other religions and for mission in a pluralist and multi-religious world.

### **R213.830 CHRISTOLOGY IN FOUR DIMENSIONS**

Christologies have often been analysed as being driven "from above" or "from below". This course engages recent Christological themes, exploring theology with Christ at the centre of a theological vision which takes a fully-orbed incarnation seriously.

### **R214.830 EVANGELICAL THEOLOGY**

Evangelical Theology is one of the most influential shapers of contemporary Christianity. This course explores its core convictions, impact, spirituality and contemporary relevance. It pays particular attention to the theological contribution of Stanley J Grenz, and explores his project to revision evangelical theology, and the theological method he developed. By examining the lively debate Grenz's work has precipitated, the course will help students to examine, understand and evaluate the inherent tensions within evangelicalism and the challenges it faces.

### **R215.830 THEOLOGIAN IN CONTEXT**

This course is a close study of one major theologian (or a group of closely related theologians), past or present, in the intellectual context of their day. Through the study of selected writings of the theologian and secondary sources, their theological method and commitments will be analysed and their contribution to theology, faith and life. In the 2021/2021 Summer Semester, the focus of the course is C.S. Lewis.

### **R216.830 THIRD ARTICLE THEOLOGY**

Third Article Theology (TAT) is a new theological movement utilizing a distinctly pneumatological approach to developing Christian doctrine. By examining Christian beliefs and practices through the lens of the Spirit, it aims to equip the church to "act its age" – proclaiming a timely message appropriate for our current context, leading to practical applications for life, mission and ministry. In addition to the lecturers, the course will include sessions from leading TAT scholars from around the world.

### **R220.830 REDEMPTION & CULTURE**

Christianity's incarnational foundation posits a particular relationship to the objects of reality. This course explores what it means to partake of sacramental reality in the forms of culture. It will consider ways of interpreting the world' signs, symbols and paradigms of a 'presence' of grace and seeking the traces of God in culture through key terms that include participation, the other, constraint and freedom, play, ways of hearing and looking, and presence.

### **R221.830 TRINITY AND THEOLOGICAL METHOD**

This course considers the methodological implications of recent Trinitarian theology. How might these insights influence the way in which the task and content of systematic theology is conceived and constructed? Students will take part in an international symposium on Trinitarian method and engage the proposals of significant contemporary theologians.

### **R222.830 CONVERSION AND PERSONHOOD**

This course draws on insights from psychology, philosophy, and neurophysiology in exploring the interrelation of the Christian doctrines of conversion and human personhood within a Trinitarian theological framework. Along the way it critiques various historical and contemporary doctrines of conversion and Christian and secular theories of personhood. It examines the outworking of Reformed doctrine and the consequences of Enlightenment thinking for Evangelicalism while exploring alternative Protestant theologies of conversion and personhood. Theologically, this work centres on Christian understandings of human personhood as both created and redeemed and as Christologically defined, and on the work of the Holy Spirit.

### **R223.830 THEOLOGY AND MEDIA**

This course critically examines key areas of religious communication including the coverage of religion be mass media, how religious communities interact with the media, and how mass media shape perceptions of religion. Particular emphasis will be placed upon the interaction between Christianity and media in both local and global contexts.

### **R230.830 THE THEOLOGY OF HOPE**

This is a seminar-based research course for those intending to focus on systematic theology. Principal attention will be on the proposals for systematic theology generated by Jurgen Moltmann and Wolfhart Pannenberg. The course will engage key primary texts plus the work of those who have embraced aspects of the Theology of Hope in such diverse movements as liberation theology, evangelicalism, political theology, process theology and the emerging church.

### **R231.830 GOD AND SUFFERING**

Where is God in the midst of human suffering? Father Tom Weinandy is widely acknowledged as an expert on this topic, having addressed it in his acclaimed book "Does God suffer?" Suffering is not new, and it is perhaps only in our hermetically sealed modern western luxury that we could ever fool ourselves into thinking it is unusual. So, drawing on a wealth of resources and research, during this course Father Weinandy will present an understanding of God's relationship and interaction with human suffering that is biblically authentic, historically accurate, philosophically convincing, theologically persuasive, and emotionally gratifying.

### **R304.830 THE GOSPEL AND SOCIAL REFORM**

What does it mean to say that the Gospel transforms societies and cultures, as well as people? How have Christians engaged in reform in the past? This tutorial-based course covers the history of Evangelicalism in the British world during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, looking at how commercial, religious and reform networks interacted.

### **R351.830 POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH AND WRITING**

This course focuses on methodology and practical aspects of advanced postgraduate research. Students will reflect on the theological, ethical and missiological implications of research whilst developing advanced skills and methods which will support a research project. A range of scholars will relate their own research experience and projects and students will engage with a number of contemporary approaches to critical research and writing. Students will develop and hone the skills of theological research and writing by designing and implementing a research project in the field of their interest.

### **R361.830 RESEARCH PAPER**

Dependent on supervisor availability. This course offers a student a supervised research essay on an approved topic in an aspect of Theology and/or related discipline. Students can apply to the Head of Theology for enrolment in this course upon the successful completion of R351.830 Postgraduate Research and Writing.

### **R381.930 DISSERTATION A**

This dissertation (A and B) is assessed as Level 9 on the National Qualifications Framework, and is normally undertaken in the final part of a student's MTh candidature.

### **R382.930 DISSERTATION B**

This dissertation (A and B) is assessed as Level 9 on the National Qualifications Framework, and is normally undertaken in the final part of a student's MTh candidature

### **R383.930 THESIS A**

The thesis is assessed as Level 9 on the National Qualifications Framework, and is normally undertaken in the final part of a student's MTh candidature.

A 120 credit, 40,000 word thesis consists of Thesis A, B, C, and D.

### **R384.930 THESIS B**

The thesis is assessed as Level 9 on the National Qualifications Framework, and is normally undertaken in the final part of a student's MTh candidature.

A 120 credit, 40,000 word thesis consists of Thesis A, B, C, and D.

A 90 credit, 30,000 word thesis consists of Thesis B, C, and D.

### **R385.930 THESIS C**

The thesis is assessed as Level 9 on the National Qualifications Framework, and is normally undertaken in the final part of a student's MTh candidature.

A 120 credit, 40,000 word thesis consists of Thesis A, B, C, and D. A 90 credit, 30,000 word thesis consists of Thesis B, C, and D.

### **R386.930 THESIS D**

The thesis is assessed as Level 9 on the National Qualifications Framework, and is normally undertaken in the final part of a student's MTh candidature.

A 120 credit, 40,000 word thesis consists of Thesis A, B, C, and D. A 90 credit, 30,000 word thesis consists of Thesis B, C, and D.

### **R402.830 CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY AND WELLBEING**

Christian spirituality reflects the everyday integration of beliefs, values and practices in relation to the person and work of Jesus Christ. This course critically examines the relationship between Christian spirituality and wellbeing – personal and communal. Topics covered include Christian spirituality in relation to food and hospitality, sport and recreation, the marketplace, health and medicine, and sexuality

### **R404.830 NARRATIVE APPROACHES TO SPIRITUAL CARE**

Utilising postmodern approaches to pastoral care and counselling, together with a participatory theological understanding of Christian spirituality, this course develops a theoretical framework for understanding the ways in which people story—and can be helped to re-story—identity and spiritual experience. This framework has practical relevance for people offering spiritual care to others (e.g. pastors, chaplains, therapists, mentors), although ministry involvement is not a course prerequisite.

### **R504.830 LIVING OUT THE CALL: RISING TO THE CHALLENGE OF BEING A VOCATIONAL LEADER IN GOD'S CHURCH TODAY**

Through identifying the different roles that ministry leaders are called to exercise, and a detailed analysis of the theological and practical factors undergirding diverse ministry approaches, this course will equip students to critically analyse existing approaches to ministry. It will explore the various ways that leaders in Christian ministry can fulfil their calling, with a focus on enabling students to develop a critically informed understanding of their own approach to ministry and the foundational convictions on which it is based.

### **R505.830 STUDIES IN PUBLIC AND CONTEXTUAL THEOLOGY**

This course critically examines the origin, nature and methods of both public theology and contextual theology and their relationship to the wider Christian theological tradition and their application to public issues and contextual matters facing individuals and communities today.

### **R540.830 FOUNDATIONS IN VOCATIONAL THEOLOGY**

This course invites practitioners from a diverse range of vocations to critically reflect on the integration of faith and vocational practice. Engaging with theologically integrative frameworks, approaches and practices students are offered opportunities to reflect on their own vocational practices in relation to God and the world, to address key questions pertinent to their own vocation, and so faithfully enhance their own professional well-being and engagement.

### **R541.830 TOPICS IN VOCATIONAL THEOLOGY**

This course extends foundational work in vocational theology through engagement with practitioners, theologians and key case studies relating to the professional workplace and local and global contexts of wider everyday life.

### **R605.830 THEOLOGY OF MISSION IN THE NEW TESTAMENT**

This course explores the New Testament development of our Triune God's Mission in the world. It investigates: approaches to the Biblical text in studying mission; the mission theme in New Testament Studies; and how the Old Testament's significant missional preparation is fulfilled and expanded in the mission of Jesus and the Apostles, particularly Paul. The course studies features of NT theology/ies of mission, their emphases and inter-relationships; and how the impetus and obligations of New Testament mission theology are appropriated and applied today in different branches of the Christian church. The course aims to establish the essential importance of the mission theme for all theological study and the necessity of a theological grasp of New Testament mission teaching to underpin effective mission practice today.

### **R608.830 ENGAGING ISLAM**

This course focuses on both the study of Islam and on Christian-Muslim engagement. In Part One attention is devoted to a study of the main institutions of Islam: scripture, doctrine, ritual and sectarian groups. Part Two then considers the historical and contemporary manifestations and expressions of Christian-Muslim engagement.

**\*N.B. NOT ALL COURSES ARE OFFERED EVERY YEAR**

# MASTER OF THEOLOGY RESEARCH

## Pre-requisites

To progress to research at Level 9 in the MTh, a student must have achieved a grade point average in Level 8 taught papers of 7.0 (B), excluding the lowest mark achieved (in the case of the dissertation).

## Research Project (Level 9)

### R381.930 DISSERTATION A

This dissertation (A and B) is assessed as Level 9 on the National Qualifications Framework, and is normally undertaken in the final part of a student's MTh candidature.

### R382.930 DISSERTATION B

This dissertation (A and B) is assessed as Level 9 on the National Qualifications Framework, and is normally undertaken in the final part of a student's MTh candidature.

### DISSERTATION (60 CREDITS, 20,000 WORDS)

A dissertation must be the student's own work, and demonstrate mastery of a conceptual understanding of the area or topic discussed which is commensurate with Master's level study. In moving beyond the range of skills appropriate to superior undergraduate degree candidates, the candidate must demonstrate evidence of reading across viewpoints and the ability to report different views with critical academic integrity. They must also demonstrate the ability to take a point of view and sustain it with evidence, and show evidence of analytical skill and ability to assess critically existing scholarly literature.

### R383.930 THESIS A

The thesis is assessed as Level 9 on the National Qualifications Framework, and is normally undertaken in the final part of a student's MTh candidature.

A 120 credit, 40,000 word thesis consists of Thesis A, B, C, and D.

### R384.930 THESIS B

The thesis is assessed as Level 9 on the National Qualifications Framework, and is normally undertaken in the final part of a student's MTh candidature.

A 120 credit, 40,000 word thesis consists of Thesis A, B, C, and D. A 90 credit, 30,000 word thesis consists of Thesis B, C, and D.

### R385.930 THESIS C

The thesis is assessed as Level 9 on the National Qualifications Framework, and is normally undertaken in the final part of a student's MTh candidature.

A 120 credit, 40,000 word thesis consists of Thesis A, B, C, and D. A 90 credit, 30,000 word thesis consists of Thesis B, C, and D.

### R386.930 THESIS D

The thesis is assessed as Level 9 on the National Qualifications Framework, and is normally undertaken in the final part of a student's MTh candidature.

A 120 credit, 40,000 word thesis consists of Thesis A, B, C, and D. A 90 credit, 30,000 word thesis consists of Thesis B, C, and D.

### THESIS (90 CREDITS, 30,000 WORDS / 120 CREDITS, 40,000 WORDS)

Insightful, accurate research lies at the heart of postgraduate study. A thesis submitted for the Master of Theology degree must be a work of literary quality. The style must represent a good standard of prose, as used in published academic theological works. A thesis should demonstrate advanced research skills and critical interaction with existing academic publications in the topic area at a level in advance of that required in other research papers. The work need not present original findings, but it must demonstrate independent research and show a full understanding of the complexity of debate surrounding the topic and be a significant contribution to evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of the existing approaches.

All research must be of acceptable literary style, conform to the requirement for use of non-discriminatory language and contain acknowledgement of all sources and materials quoted. Theses and dissertations must not incorporate any material previously submitted by the candidate for any other degree or similar award.

## Ethics Approval

All staff and students of Laidlaw College undertaking research that involves human participation are required to ensure that their research complies with the highest ethical standards. This includes research that may be undertaken within a taught course. To this end, approval of any research that involves human participants must be submitted to the Laidlaw Ethics Committee for approval. Ethics Committee approval must be granted before any such research commences. Undergraduate research involving human participation will only be approved in exceptional circumstances.

The Ethics Committee will consist of at least five members, drawn from the academic staff with relevant research experience including a minimum of one external member. The Ethics Committee's concern will be to ensure that human rights issues are properly addressed, any potential harm is minimized and managed, informed consent has been obtained, confidentiality and anonymity will be maintained, and that all the necessary documentation to support this is in place.

It is the responsibility of both the supervisor and the researcher to be aware that certain research may need Ethics Committee approval. All documentary evidence required from the researcher, must be in place, and the approval of the ethics committee obtained before investigative procedures involving human subjects and the resultant gathering and storage of information may begin.

All documentary evidence required from the researcher must be in place, and the approval of the ethics committee obtained, before investigative procedures involving human subjects and the resultant gathering and storage of information may begin.

## Human Research Ethics Protocol

The ethics protocol is in four sections:

- Section 1: a statement of policy on research and teaching activities that involve human participants.
- Section 2: an application coversheet, which records the researcher's contact details, the details of the supervisor and the title of the research project.
- Section 3: a checklist of yes/no responses that identifies key issues.
- Section 4: the proforma which provides the Ethics Committee with more detail about the project and particularly the interaction with research subjects.

## Statement of Principles and Policies on Human Research Ethics

Applicants for Ethics Committee approval for research should complete the required forms and submit them to the chair of the Ethics Committee through the Postgraduate Administrator. Final approval of any proposal is subject to an Ethics Committee recommendation. Any teaching and research proposals that require ethical approval must evidence:

- research or teaching merit;
- participants' informed consent which is given free from any form of coercion;
- respect for participants' rights of privacy and confidentiality;
- minimisation of the risk of harm to participants;
- special care for vulnerable participants;
- limitation of, and justification for, any use of methods involving lack of full disclosure such as 'blind' groups, 'double blind' groups, or control groups;
- appropriately qualified supervision;
- avoidance of any conflict of interest;
- respect for societies and cultures of participants;
- freedom to publish the results of research, while maintaining the anonymity of individuals;
- compliance with other standards where appropriate;
- appropriateness of remuneration where applicable..

For guidance on these issues and for an Ethics Protocol form, contact the Graduate School.

## Language Requirements

Students will be required to demonstrate competence in any languages which are required for their research focus. Students wishing to undertake a dissertation or thesis in biblical studies must demonstrate an intermediate level competency in relevant biblical language(s). Where there is uncertainty as to whether language competency is required, the matter should be referred to the Head of Theology for a decision with a recommendation from the Supervisor. Depending on the nature of their research, some students may be required to purchase biblical studies software. Students should consult with their supervisor if unsure. Laidlaw has an agreement with Logos that can provide substantial discounts to qualifying students.

## Preparing a Proposal

The preparation of a research proposal (and if appropriate, an ethics submission) takes place in consultation with your proposed supervisor or supervisors. The research proposal form can be accessed via Moodle or from the Postgraduate Administrator.

Your supervisor will submit the completed research proposal to the Postgraduate Committee at least two months prior to the beginning of the semester in which you will begin your thesis or dissertation (i.e. by December for a semester one start or by May for a semester two start).

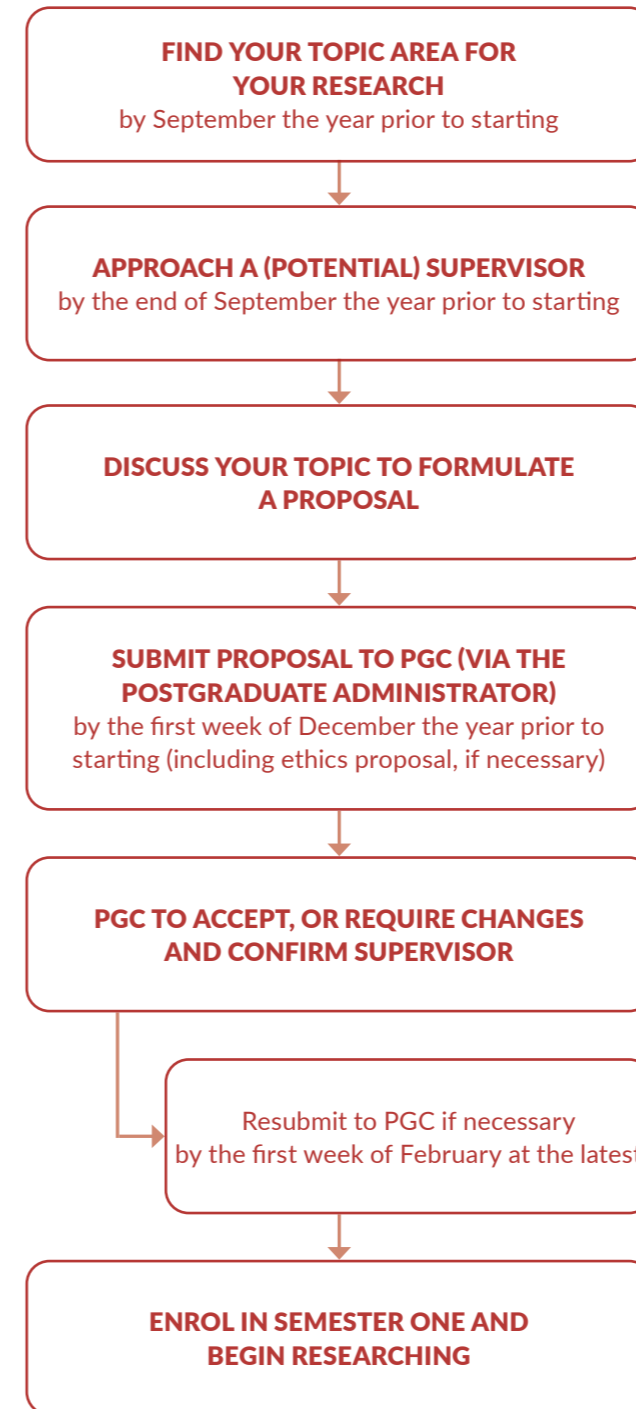
For more information on the proposal process, or to submit your proposal, please contact [lgs@laidlaw.ac.nz](mailto:lgs@laidlaw.ac.nz).

### Level 9 Research Timeline

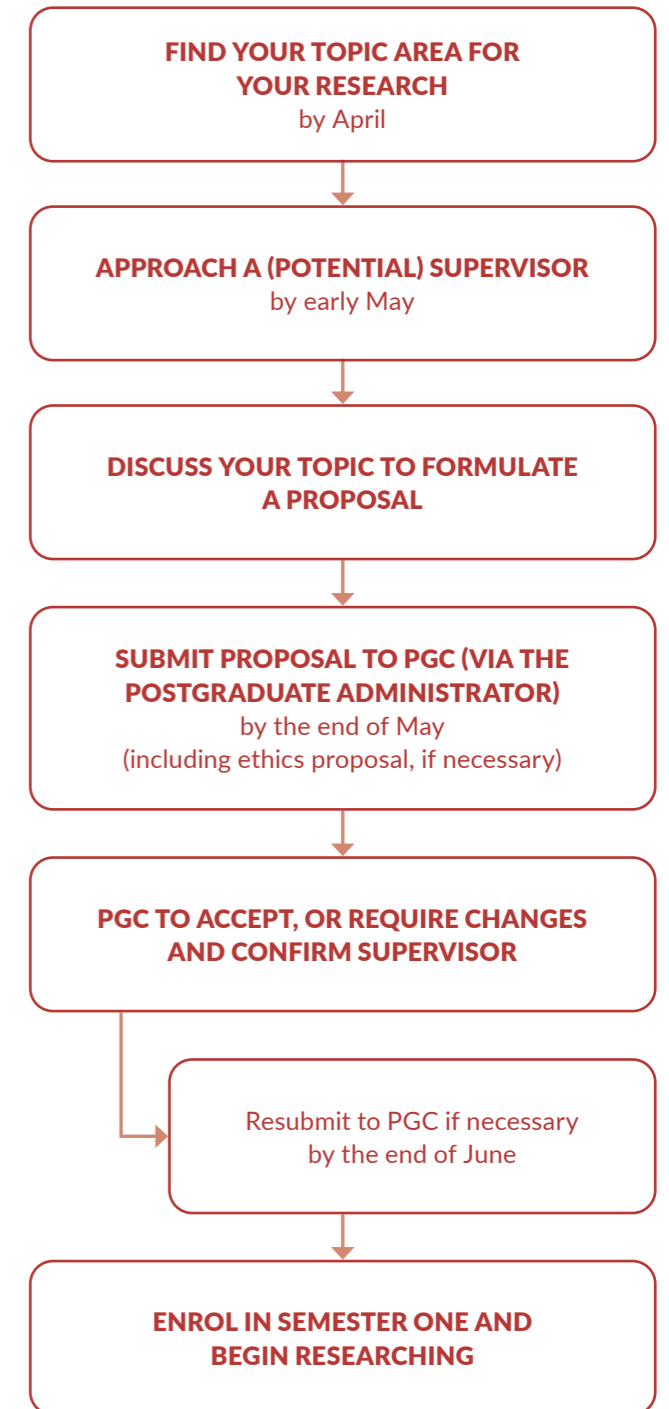
In any given year, students should submit proposals in the first week in December for enrolment the following February; the first week in June for enrolment in July.

Where applicable, students should consult the Ethics Protocol for approval for Human Subject Research located in the General Information and Regulations section of the Academic Calendar of Laidlaw College – [www.laidlaw.ac.nz/gen-regs](http://www.laidlaw.ac.nz/gen-regs).

### February Enrolment (Semester One)



### July Enrolment (Semester Two)



## Supervision

### Appointment of Supervisors

The Postgraduate Committee, in consultation with the candidate, will appoint a supervisor for each research student studying at LGS. Any choice of supervisor initiated by the candidate is, up to that point, provisional upon the approval of the Postgraduate Committee. Students shall discuss their study with their supervisor on a regular, defined schedule.

### Supervision Contract

An explanation of both the duties of students and the duties of supervisors is available from the Postgraduate Administrator. Based on their discussion of these standard expectations, the student and supervisor(s) should draw up a written understanding of how the supervision of the thesis will operate, once a proposal has been accepted by the Postgraduate Committee. A proforma supervision contract is available from the Postgraduate Administrator.

### Research Progress Reports

Research Progress Reports are to be completed by all MTh research candidates, and their supervisor, for every semester they are enrolled. Students submit their report to their supervisor by 23 March and 23 August. Supervisors then add their comments and submit the report to the Postgraduate Administrator by 30 March and 30 August. The Postgraduate Committee is notified of any issues.

### Duties of Laidlaw Graduate School

Students have the right to be well-informed about the LGS examination procedure, the research profile of the supervisor, the presentation requirements of LGS, and any facilities and services to which they are entitled. Problems arising from supervision and disputes which cannot be satisfactorily resolved should be referred to the Postgraduate Committee through the Head of Theology for a review.

### Writing your Thesis/Dissertation

All students must use a recognised academic style for footnoting and bibliographic formatting. The required referencing style is either SBL or Turabian (with SBL the preferred style from 2021). Students should consult the Laidlaw College 'Guidelines for Written Assignments' available on Moodle.

### Plagiarism

It should be noted that plagiarism at level 8 and 9 is considered a serious academic transgression and is not acceptable in any form. Significant plagiarism will be regarded as a disciplinary matter and will result in the failure of the course. Please also refer to the General Regulations Document for a full outline of plagiarism regulations.

## Submission / Thesis Dissertation

### Thesis

The thesis is to be in A4 format, printed on one side of the page only, in 11 or 12 point type script, in at least one and a half line spacing with a left hand margin of at least 30 mm in width, and left justified only. Two copies of the completed thesis are to be spiral bound and submitted to the Postgraduate Administrator for transmission to the examiners. Each thesis copy must be accompanied by a cover sheet not bound in. These are available from the Postgraduate Administrator and need to be signed by the student and supervisor. The thesis must be submitted on Moodle to be checked for plagiarism and as a record of the date of submission.

The copies must have the title, author's name, the institution (Laidlaw Graduate School), year of submission and the award on the front cover. The first page should state the title, author's name, institution (Laidlaw Graduate School), the year and the wording, 'A thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements of the MTh.' There should also be a disclaimer of plagiarism, 'No other source has been used for this thesis except where due acknowledgement has been made in the text.'

Each copy of the thesis must include an abstract, not exceeding 500 words, in a form suitable for separate publication and included as the first page after the table of contents.

### Dissertation

Dissertations should be in A4 format, printed on one side of the page only, in 11 or 12 point type script, in at least one and a half line spacing with a left hand margin of at least 30 mm in width, and left justified only. Two copies are to be spiral bound and delivered to the Postgraduate Administrator for transmission to the examiners. Each dissertation copy must be accompanied by a cover sheet not bound in. These are available from the Postgraduate Administrator and need to be signed by the student and supervisor. The dissertation must be submitted on Moodle to be checked for plagiarism and as a record of the date of submission.

The copies must have the title, author's name, the institution (Laidlaw Graduate School), year of submission and award on the front cover. The first page should repeat the title, author's name, institution (Laidlaw Graduate School), the year and the wording, 'A dissertation submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements of the MTh.' There should also be a disclaimer of plagiarism, 'No other source has been used for this dissertation except where due acknowledgement has been made in the text.' Dissertations should contain a synopsis of about 300 words.

## Extension to Thesis or Dissertation

For students who have come to the end of their enrolment in the Thesis or Dissertation, but have not yet completed their research to a suitable state for submission, one extension of one further semester can be applied for.

An application must be received prior to the original due date of the research project. If an extension application is not received and the paper is not submitted by the due date, the enrolment will be considered to have lapsed and the student will be awarded a grade of "Did Not Complete" (DNC).

- A maximum of one extension per thesis/dissertation will be granted.
- Extensions will only be considered for those enrolled in the final portion of their thesis or dissertation.
- The student should use the Application for Extension to Thesis/Dissertation Form.
- This application must be supported in writing by the research supervisor.
- Conditions may be placed on the extension, such as meeting milestones.
- The form should be submitted for consideration to the Postgraduate Committee, via the Postgraduate Administrator. There is a cost of \$800 to apply for extended status.

## Examination

The MTh thesis and dissertation will be examined by two appropriately qualified examiners, one of whom must be external to Laidlaw, appointed by the Postgraduate Committee. Examinations typically take two to three months, and examiners remain confidential.

Research submitted for the MTh will be evaluated according to the Laidlaw College grading system (see the General Information and Regulations section of the Academic Calendar) based on the following criteria:

(1) Literary style and presentation: skilful use of prose; coherence; clarity; academic bibliographic and footnoting format.

(2) Advanced independent research skills: breadth of reading across a variety of viewpoints; accurate representation of scholarly discussion; appreciation of complexity of debate; historical awareness in use of sources.

(3) Critical evaluation: analysis and synthesis of strengths and weaknesses of existing approaches; ability to sustain a point of view with evidence; critical interaction with international scholarly debate; well-supported conclusions.

(4) Integration of biblical and theological principles with central issues in the subject area, utilising sound hermeneutical principles.

(5) Awareness of contribution of the area of research to the wider academic, ecclesial, missional or social environment; awareness of the professional, ethical and relational implications of their study for ministry.

(6) For theses, overall depth of engagement with topic; ability to marshal and interpret a substantial body of evidence. The examiners are required to report recommending that:

- (a) the thesis be passed with an assigned letter grade;
- (b) the thesis be passed with an assigned letter grade provided the minor amendments in the examiners' reports are completed to the satisfaction of the student's supervisor;
- (c) the thesis not be passed, but opportunity be given for the thesis to be rewritten and resubmitted for examination; or
- (d) the thesis not be passed, with no opportunity for resubmission.

The PGC will award a grade based on the recommendation of examiners. In the event that the examiners disagree on the grade to be awarded the following will occur:

- The Postgraduate Committee will ask the examiners to exchange reports and attempt to reach agreement on the grade to be awarded. If the examiners cannot agree but the difference is within 2 points the Postgraduate Committee will make a decision.

- If the examiners cannot agree to within 2 grade points an external moderator will be appointed to consider the reports and recommend a grade to the Committee. The Postgraduate Committee (or the Academic Head as representative) will then make a decision based on the recommendations.

- If one examiner recommends failing the thesis or dissertation and the other recommends a pass, a third examiner will be appointed. The Postgraduate Committee (or the Academic Head as representative) will then make a decision based on the recommendations.

### Making Corrections to marked Thesis and Dissertations

If thesis or dissertation examiners have required corrections to be made, students are required to complete those corrections within six weeks of being notified of their result. If corrections have not been completed by eight weeks, the Postgraduate Lead will consider appropriate action which may include a further formal extension (which includes the associated enrolment fee of \$800) or allocating a DNC in consultation with the Postgraduate Committee.

### Extension for Resubmission

An extension of one semester will be granted in cases where a thesis or dissertation has been examined and has not been passed, but given the opportunity to be rewritten and submitted for examination. The fee incurred for such an extension will be the equivalent of a normal semester's extension of \$800.

### Thesis/Dissertation Final Submission

The degree will not be awarded without a final copy of the research, corrected in accordance with the submission requirements, being presented to the Academic Head for inclusion in the Deane Memorial Library of Laidlaw College.

In the case of a thesis, a hardbound copy is required. It must have the title, author's name, the institution (Laidlaw Graduate School), year of submission and award in gold-blocked lettering on the front cover and the same on the spine (with abbreviated title). Copies should be single sided, 35mm on the left side, 20mm all around with 1.5 spacing. For bound hardcopies, Laidlaw recommends The Bookbindery (thebookbindery.co.nz).

In the case of a dissertation a spiral bound copy is required. Final copies may be double-sided.

In addition an electronic copy should also be submitted to the Deane Memorial Library by email or USB, accompanied by a Consent Form, available from the Postgraduate Administrator.

### Merit and Distinction

The MTh may be awarded with Merit where a grade point average of 7.5 (B+) is achieved; with Distinction if a grade point average of 8.0 (A-) or greater is achieved. In cases of a narrow margin, the grade of the thesis or dissertation will be considered the determinant.

These designations are available only to those who meet the standard due dates (without taking advantage of the extension).

### Graduation

Students should consult the Laidlaw website [www.laidlaw.ac.nz](http://www.laidlaw.ac.nz) for information on graduation.

## Creative Works Research

### What are creative practices/creative works?

- Creative practice research embraces post-formal ways of knowing i.e. critical thinking expressed via symbolic representation.
- It operates at interdisciplinary borders in order to contribute to knowledge i.e. theology and creative writing.
- It recognises that mainstream or conventional academic studies do not always align or adequately/appropriately express knowledge in some subject areas i.e. interpreting poetry, creative writing, art, understanding human experience, understanding emotions or feelings (desire, love, grief, awe), articulating God.

### The creative works pathway: Master of Theology (Laidlaw College)

#### Thesis/Dissertation presentation comprising an exhibition of creative work and exegesis (project narrative).

The creative works component comprises an exhibition of creative work which may take the form of performance (dance, theatre, haka, waiata), manuscript (novella, novel, anthology, music), fine arts exhibition (whakairo, raranga/textiles/weaving, photography, painting) etc. The exegesis is a critical narrative accompanying the creative work of 20000 words for a 120 credit Master's thesis; 15000 words for 90 credit thesis, 10000 words for a 60 credit dissertation. The thesis is delivered in two parts:

#### [A] CREATIVE WORKS PATHWAY ARTEFACT/EXHIBIT

- intentional creation and curation of a creative artefact
- the artefact performatively enquires into an issue of biblical or theological significance
- the artefact integrates aesthetics, artistic expertise and theology with sophistication
- the artefact is compellingly presented, performed or exhibited

#### [B] CREATIVE WORKS PATHWAY EXEGESIS/NARRATIVE CHAPTER FORMAT/SECTIONS (EXEMPLAR):

- A critical introduction and framing
- A robust review of the literature
- Detailed description of methodologies
- Discussion of relevant theoretical, theological and critical context
- Discussion which overviews and undergirds the creative work
- Discussion of outcomes/contribution to the discipline of theology/biblical studies

### Examination of a creative works thesis

The creative works MTh is examined by an internal and external scholar with relevant specialisation and understanding/appreciation of creative works pathways. Some creative works can be examined in the usual way (thesis emailed to examiners) i.e. manuscript, anthology etc. For a performed or exhibited artefact, the student must work with the college to identify a location (usually on campus), and time so that both examiners have an opportunity to engage with the creative work. The exegesis is provided to the examiners in advance.

### Planning ahead

Creative Works pathways are for postgraduate students who are invested in exploring theological or biblical studies via creative or performative practices. There are opportunities at most New Zealand universities to continue at doctoral level in creative works mode. Creative Works pathways are readily accepted and considered mainstream at both AUT and Auckland University. Some international universities and some NZ theological schools do not recognise creative works pathways so this should be considered by the student when selecting this pathway.

## Postgraduate Study Support

Students commence postgraduate study with the goal of completing. Laidlaw's postgraduate programmes are adapted to part-time study and many find this is the only viable option. However this can mean a long arduous journey to completion. Laidlaw is therefore committed to facilitating full-time and accelerated study. The Summer Semester allows students to advance their study research goals, potentially completing 240 credits in less than two full years.

### Laidlaw Library

Welcome to the Laidlaw Library: [www.laidlaw.ac.nz/library](http://www.laidlaw.ac.nz/library)

Students are encouraged to make the Library homepage their first port of call. There is a wealth of information on the homepage, including links to resources via 'One Stop Search' and the Library catalogue.

In addition to the homepage, there is a library brochure specifically designed for postgraduate students. Other libraries and archives of interest are listed in the brochure.

Tailor-made services for postgraduate students are provided. When a Block Course is being taught, specific books are placed on Desk Copy and Short Loan if material is in high demand.

Up to 30 books can be borrowed at a time with a 90-day loan period. However, books can be recalled for another borrower after two weeks and are then required to be returned within three days. The library can also request items on interloan from other libraries in order to keep students fully resourced. The Library subsidises interloans so the cost is only \$5 per item.

LGS students may arrange access to the Ayson Clifford Library of Carey Baptist College ([www.carey.ac.nz](http://www.carey.ac.nz)) and to the Colin Library of Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College.

### Postgraduate Student Support

Each year a postgraduate student representative is elected. This person is available to assist postgraduate students with student life issues.

### The Blaiklock Centre

All full time research students may apply to the Postgraduate Administrator for study space in the Blaiklock Centre. The purpose of this space is to create a community of support and discovery for postgraduate students writing their theses.

### Air Travel Assistance

Laidlaw Graduate School will assist with funding for air travel to MTh block courses for students who must travel a considerable distance from other parts of New Zealand to Auckland. Students must notify the Postgraduate Administrator in advance of their intention to apply for travel assistance, and have paid their course fees in full before applying. On presentation of air tickets as evidence of payment, students may be reimbursed for return tickets for a maximum of four taught courses. Each return trip will be reimbursed at no more than \$120 for travel from the South Island and no more than \$100 for travel from the Wellington region. Applicants should apply to the Postgraduate Administrator.

## Scholarships

### Farmer Fund Postgraduate Scholarship

**Amount:** 100% tuition fees (excludes student services fee)

**Eligibility:** Any student engaged in full-time research through Laidlaw College in conjunction with the Laidlaw College MTh, AUT MPhil, AUT PhD, or ACT postgraduate programmes<sup>1</sup>

With the generous assistance of the Farmer Fund, Laidlaw College offers up to six annual tuition scholarships to students researching in an area of applied or practical theology. This could include an interdisciplinary project engaging with theology and one or more other disciplines such as education or counselling, or could be an application of theology to a particular sphere of life. A central requirement of these scholarships is the expectation that a practical report or professional resource will be produced alongside the thesis or dissertation itself for the benefit of the church and/or wider community in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Research projects within the Laidlaw College MTh, AUT MPhil, AUT PhD or ACT postgraduate research programmes may be eligible. Securing the support of an approved Laidlaw College research supervisor for the project is a requirement of the scholarship. Students within research programmes spanning multiple years of full-time study, such as PhD or DMin programmes, may apply annually for subsequent tuition funding.

Scholarships will be awarded on the basis of academic and leadership potential and project suitability. Laidlaw College reserves the right not to award any scholarship in any given application round.

Please complete the online application form on Moodle (located in "Forms", under the studying @ Laidlaw tab), and attach the following:

1. **Evidence of eligibility, including institution, programme of study, and supervisor(s) name(s)**
2. **A full academic transcript**
3. **A research plan**
4. **The names of two referees (one of which must be an academic referee).**

<sup>1</sup> ACT postgraduate programmes (MA, DMin or PhD) are offered under the accreditation of The Australian College of Theology, not the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA), and as such are not eligible for student loans.



## Scholarships (continued)

### Matt Alexander Postgraduate Scholarship (Māori)

**Amount:** \$5,000 per semester plus 100% of tuition fees (excludes student services fee)

**Eligibility:** Any Māori student entering their thesis research year within the MTh programme

With the generous assistance of the Longview trust, Laidlaw offers one Master of Theology Scholarship to a Māori student each year. Each Scholarship is worth \$10,000 per year, to which Laidlaw will add a full fees scholarship.

The priority will be students entering the thesis research year. In such cases the scholarship will be for a period of one year (two semesters). In exceptional cases up to three semesters of full-time study (including coursework) may be approved – i.e. \$15000 plus tuition fees).

1. Applicants will be theology or ministry graduates, engaged in or qualified to enter Laidlaw's Master of Theology programme. The scholarships will be for full-time study at Laidlaw for a thesis-based Master of Theology degree.
2. Scholarships will be awarded on the basis of academic and leadership potential. Laidlaw reserves the right not to award either or any scholarship in any given round.

Please complete the online application form ([www.laidlaw.ac.nz/scholarships](http://www.laidlaw.ac.nz/scholarships)), and attach the following:

1. Evidence of eligibility
2. A full academic transcript
3. A study plan
4. The names of two referees.

Successful applicants will meet with members of the Longview Trust to discuss their plans and study.

### Matt Alexander Postgraduate Scholarship (Pasifika)

**Amount:** \$5,000 per semester plus 100% of tuition fees (excludes student services fee)

**Eligibility:** Any Pasifika student entering their thesis research year within the MTh programme

With the generous assistance of the Longview trust, Laidlaw offers one Master of Theology Scholarship to one Pasifika student each year. Each Scholarship is worth \$10,000 per year, to which Laidlaw will add a full fees scholarship.

The priority will be students entering the thesis research year. In such cases the scholarship will be for a period of one year (two semesters). In exceptional cases up to three semesters of full-time study (including coursework) may be approved – ie \$15,000 plus fees).

1. Applicants will be theology or ministry graduates, engaged in or qualified to enter Laidlaw's Master of Theology programme. The scholarships will be for full-time study at Laidlaw for a thesis-based Master of Theology degree.
2. Scholarships will be awarded on the basis of academic and leadership potential. Laidlaw reserves the right not to award either or any scholarship in any given round.

Please complete the online application form ([www.laidlaw.ac.nz/scholarships](http://www.laidlaw.ac.nz/scholarships)), and attach the following:

1. Evidence of eligibility
2. A full academic transcript
3. A study plan
4. The names of two referees.

Successful applicants will meet with members of the Longview Trust to discuss their plans and study.

### International Postgraduate Scholarship

**Amount:** \$3,000 for PGDipTh / \$5,000 for MTh

**Eligibility:** Any first year postgraduate international student (Postgraduate Diploma in Theology and Master of Theology students)

The presence of international students at Laidlaw College adds significantly to the richness and vibrancy of our classrooms, scholarship and community life. We are committed to being an intercultural college and welcome participation in our programmes from students from abroad.

To qualify for consideration of the award of a scholarship you should meet the following criteria:

1. Demonstrate a commitment to what it means to being a Christian
2. Be able to show evidence of a high level of academic achievement in your previous tertiary study history in completed qualifications, and a high level of community involvement.
3. Be able to provide an academic reference as to your ability.
4. Have applied for and been accepted to a programme of study at Laidlaw College

Please complete the online application form.

### Liddle Scholarship for International Students

**Amount:** Up to \$1,500

**Eligibility:** Any current undergraduate/postgraduate (PGDipTh & MTh) international student

The presence of international students at Laidlaw College adds significantly to the richness and vibrancy of our classrooms, scholarship and community life. We are committed to being an intercultural college and welcome participation in our programmes from students from abroad.

To qualify for consideration of the award of a scholarship you should meet the following criteria:

1. Demonstrate a commitment to what it means to being a Christian in Aotearoa New Zealand
2. Be able to show evidence of academic achievement in your first year of study at Laidlaw College, and involvement in the Laidlaw community.
3. Demonstrate genuine financial hardship



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