

Diploma in Christian Studies: Intercultural Studies DipCS(IS)*

level 5, 120 credits



Programme Summary

On completion of the Diploma in Christian Studies students will have developed the capacity to tell the biblical story, to read the Scriptures within their wider historical context and to understand a theological framework for life and ministry. Students will have begun the process of developing the disciplines necessary both to maintain their own spiritual growth and to serve in voluntary leadership capacities within the church and in our world.

The Intercultural Studies strand provides students with an introduction to biblical studies, theological studies and spiritual formation, as well as an initial examination of Christian theology, context, and practice within a particular culture. The aim of the Intercultural Studies strand is to provide graduates who are able to use intercultural skills and practices to bridge gaps among communities in Aotearoa New Zealand, and provide services in local and global Christian ministry, mission organisations, non-governmental and social organisations, and intercultural communities.

Flexible Study Options

Students can study towards the DipCS(IS) on campus in Henderson or Manukau (depending on the timetable). Some courses may be taken 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.

Students who complete the DipCS(IS) may staircase into the second year of the Bachelor of Theology.

Programme Requirements

The DipCS(IS) is a one year full-time (or part-time equivalent) programme. It is made up of eight level 5, 15-credit courses.

2023 Fees

\$818.25 per 15-credit course

\$3,273 per semester full-time (4 courses, 60 credits)

\$6,546 for the full programme (8 courses, 120 credits)

A Student Services fee of \$4 per credit is charged for on-campus courses.

A one-off Student Services Fee of \$60 per semester is charged for Distance Learning course enrolments.

Please see the Fees Schedule for more details (www.laidlaw.ac.nz/fees).

** This programme leads to the New Zealand Diploma in Christian Studies (Level 5).*

Courses

115.515 READING THE BIBLE (15 CREDITS)

Approach the Bible from the perspective of biblical theology, which allows the Bible to tell its own story as a unified grand narrative that culminates in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Explore the unity, diversity, and central themes of the Bible to make sense of the relationship between the Bible, theology, and all of life.

201.515 ENGAGING THEOLOGY (15 CREDITS)

Be introduced to systematic theology and learn to think theologically. You will examine God's self-revelation, how that revelation can be understood, and why it is foundational for Christian faith. You will then explore the arrangement of this revelation into a set of core beliefs and their application to everyday living.

401.515 FORMATION (15 CREDITS)

Explore personal and communal spiritual formation, through engagement with Scripture, theological understandings, and a range of Christian spiritual practices. This reflection will include (1) evaluation of key aspects of your own formation, (2) evaluation of your experiences of personal and communal strategies intended to facilitate spiritual growth, and (3) the development of spiritual practices which will foster your spiritual formation and strengthen your contribution to enhancing human wellbeing within your own social and cultural contexts.

505.515 CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP & MISSION (15 CREDITS)

Explore Christian leadership and mission by means of the evaluation of personal and community faith journeys, ministry programmes within your context, and your own emerging sense of call and mission.

907.515 BICULTURAL RELATIONSHIPS: TIKANGA KAWENATA (15 CREDITS)

Be introduced to Tikanga Māori on the basis of understanding people in their contexts. It combines theological, theoretical, and historical reflection with the development of practices drawn from an integration of these. You will also be provided with an overview of tikanga Māori and theological views of kawenata (covenant) and justice and their application within community leadership in Aotearoa. There will be regular oral activities aimed at developing fluency in the use of te reo and tikanga in a range of settings. The culmination of this oral learning is participation in the Noho Marae, where an overnight stay on a marae provides an integrated opportunity to engage with Māori culture beyond the classroom.

EITHER

312.515 NGĀ HUNGA HOHOURONGO (THE GOSPEL PEACEMAKERS) (15 CREDITS)

Explore an aspect of Māori responses to the introduction of Te Rongopai—the Gospel—to Māori society. The message of the Gospel contends with utu, war, and the law/lore of tapu. This course provides an overview of peace-orientated Christianity and its impact on Māori society through the reception of the Bible as a book of peace.

OR

313.515 A HISTORY OF PACIFIC CHRISTIANITY (15 CREDITS)

Explore the spread of Christianity in the Pacific. You will look at the critical role that Western and Pasifika missionaries played in the process of evangelisation and the historical development of Pacific churches. You will also look at the growth and influence of diaspora Pacific churches and communities in Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia. This course also reflects on the development of Pacific Christianity and its relevance for Christian life, mission, and ministry today.

EITHER

579.515 NGĀ HUNGA MAIA (FAITH-LED MĀORI LEADERSHIP) (15 CREDITS)

Examine the impact of the Bible and the gospel message on both traditional and contemporary Māori leadership. You will explore the influence of early Māori Christian evangelists in changing traditional leadership roles and the continuation of Māori faith-led leadership in contemporary iwi, hāpori and hāhi transformation.

OR

407.515 DISCIPLING PASIFIKA COMMUNITIES (15 CREDITS)

Explore the expertise and skills for discipleship in the local church, local community, and/or global missions. You will develop an understanding of the practical dimensions of Christian ministry by collaborating with Pasifika role models in church environments and professional vocations. This course will prepare you to minister effectively in Christian missions and inter-cultural communities.

EITHER

649.515 WHAKAPAPA O TE ATUATANGA (GENEALOGY AND GOD) (15 CREDITS)

Have an overview of the relevance of genealogy within both Māori society and the biblical scriptures. Explore how both whakapapa Māori and biblical genealogy is key to connecting to Atua (God), tangata (people), and whenua (land), and look at this concept in the context of identity, adoption, and redemption. Identity, adoption, and redemption are central features of biblical genealogy and speak directly to a Christian whakapapa.

OR

217.515 PASIFIKA THEOLOGY

Explore how theology is done contextually in the Pacific region through the examination of Pacific concepts, stories, and socio-politico-economic structures of life. The understanding developed provides a foundation for shaping Pacific ministries based on biblical interpretation, theological reflection, and religious practice.

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

1. Evaluate and apply a broad understanding of theology and biblical foundations to defined contexts based on textual interpretation and religious practice.
2. Evaluate a ministry programme based on strategies that integrate personal and community faith journeys, and the social, cultural and other contextual considerations of defined groups.
3. Use intercultural skills and practices to bridge gaps among communities.
4. Provide necessary services in specific roles required of local and global Christian ministry, mission organisations, non-governmental and social service organisations and intercultural communities.

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READY TO APPLY? ANY QUESTIONS?
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