

Postgraduate Certificate in Theology (PGCertTh)

Level 8, 60 credits

Flexible Study Options

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

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

The PGCertTh caters for:

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

Programme Requirements

The PGCertTh is a one semester full-time (or part-time equivalent) postgraduate certificate programme. It is made up of two Level 8 courses of 30 credits each.

Courses

Any two 30-credit taught courses at Level 8.

On completion of the Postgraduate Certificate in Theology Laidlaw College graduates will:


- 1. Evaluate critically a wide spectrum of literature in each of the coursework areas and in the areas of the research undertaken.**
- 2. Demonstrate mastery of the issues of debate in each of these areas.**
- 3. Give a fair and informed account of representative points of view in each subject area.**
- 4. Utilise sound hermeneutical principles in contextualising biblical theology within the subject area studies.**
- 5. 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.**
- 6. Reflect on the professional, ethical, and relational implications of their study for ministry in the modern world.**

2025 Fees

Domestic: \$2,070 per 30-credit course. **\$4,140** for programme (2 courses, 60 credits).

International: \$6,030 per 30-credit course. **\$12,060** for programme (2 courses, 60 credits).

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



Laidlaw Postgraduate Courses 2025

Semester One 2025

R351.830 POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH AND WRITING

Dr Samuel Carpenter and Rev. Dr Sarah Penwarden
18 - 21 February | Wed-Thur 9am - 5pm, Fri 9am - 1:30pm
2 - 4 April | Wed-Thurs 9am - 5pm, Fri 9am - 1:30pm

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

R512.830 FOUNDATIONS OF MINISTRY SUPERVISION

Rev. Dr Karen Kemp and Dr David Crawley
5 - 7 March | 9am - 4:30pm
7 - 9 May | 9am - 4:30pm

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

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

R155.830 LUKE-ACTS AND THE CONTEMPORARY EVANGELISTIC CHALLENGE

Rev. Dr Mark Keown
11 - 13 March | 9am - 4:30pm
27 - 29 May | 9am - 4:30pm

This course looks at the central theme of evangelism in Luke's two-volume Gospel work (Luke-Acts) and its application to the contemporary evangelistic challenge. Using an evangelistic hermeneutic whereby we ask the text to inform us evangelistically, we travel through Luke-Acts, we will engage with the text, other evangelistic and biblical scholars, always with a special eye on the challenge of continuing to evangelize Aotearoa New Zealand. We will seek to discern through the Spirit what God is saying to us concerning the task ahead. Students will complete three assignments whereby they engage with Luke-Acts, scholarship, and a contemporary context.

R525.830 LEADING ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE

Rev. Dr Karen Kemp and Prof Mary-Kate Morse
25 - 29 March | Tue-Fri 9am - 5pm, Sat 9am - 1pm

This course locates Christian Leadership and Formation as fundamentally geared towards healthy systemic change in tune with the kingdom purposes of God. It engages with the physical, relational, contextual, and spiritual complexities of transformation processes. Students will create a contextualized model for transformation which attends to a specific need for change in a community system.

R236.830 ETHICS

Rev. Dr Myk Habets
19 - 23 May | 9am - 5pm

This course attempts to discern what it means to live as God's people in the world today. Special attention will be given to the nature of Christian existence as shaped by the story of God's history with Israel, in Jesus, and through the Church. Particular attention will be given to what ethics is and how Christian ethics is distinctive, before turning to how certain qualities of character are necessary for the display of a Christian witness in the various (political, economic, medical, physical) spheres of life. The focus of the course will be on applied ethical case studies and pastoral ethics in order to begin to apply one's moral theology to everyday ethical issues.

R801.830 THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS FOR EDUCATION IN AOTEAROA

Miriam Fisher
14 - 16 April | 9am - 5pm

In this course students will engage in biblical theology and make links to the cultural landscapes in the educational context of Aotearoa. The course will provide an opportunity to engage in discussion around Christian theology and how it relates to the vocation of teaching, Christian education, and this current cultural moment. The cultural influences and formation of Christian teachers and their spirituality will also be a focus of the course.

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

R361.830 RESEARCH PAPER

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

Semester Two 2025

R351.830 POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH AND WRITING

Dr Samuel Carpenter and Rev. Dr Sarah Penwarden
By distance throughout the Semester.

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

R508.830 REFLECTIVE PRACTICE FOR MINISTRY

Rev. Dr Maja Whitaker and Rev. Dr Graeme Flett
18 - 22 August | Mon-Thur 9am - 4:30pm, Fri 9am - 12:30pm

This course explores the postures and practices that allow people in ministry to flourish in their ministry context. Students will learn to critically evaluate their ministry environment both culturally and contextually, to develop practices of discernment and habits of mind that produce resilience over the long-term, and to understand what they bring to their ministry role from their own personality, context and as a participant in community, and all learning is grounded in the student's own ministry context.

R513.830 DEVELOPING A MINISTRY SUPERVISION PRACTICE

Rev. Dr Karen Kemp and Dr David Crawley
30 July - 1 Aug | 9am - 4:30pm
10-12 Sept | 9am - 4:30pm

Pre-requisite: R512.830

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

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

R121.830 OLD TESTAMENT NARRATIVE: ITS MESSAGE AND METHOD

Dr John de Jong
25-29 August | 9am - 5pm

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 and application of narrative form and content in different cultural contexts is also considered.

R234.830 ADVANCED ECCLESIOLOGY

Dr Greg Liston and Prof Kimlyn Bender
28 July - 1 August | Mon-Thur 9am - 5pm, Fri 9am - 1pm

This course provides an advanced exploration of selected contemporary issues and trends in the doctrine and practice of ecclesiology. Various understandings of the church, as expounded by contemporary theologians and exhibited in practice across different cultures and denominations are examined and evaluated through the lenses of Scripture, tradition, reason and experience. This course equips students to derive a rigorous and robust understanding of what the church is, God's intention for it as compared with its current realisation, and to investigate how this understanding affects pragmatic decisions about what the church does. It equips students to make wise ecclesial decisions based on coherent theological understanding in the complex cultural landscapes that exist with Aotearoa New Zealand and beyond.

R361.830 RESEARCH PAPER

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

UPDATED 31 OCTOBER 2024

READY TO APPLY? ANY QUESTIONS?

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