

FEES AND ENROLMENT

The fees for 2026 have not yet been set. They will be available on the University website at a later stage.

To enrol go to: otago.ac.nz and click on "Apply now for 2026".

Postgraduate Study Options from the Theology Programme

Students wishing to undertake postgraduate study via distance have a range of options:

- Postgraduate Certificate in Chaplaincy
- Postgraduate Diploma in Chaplaincy
- Postgraduate Diploma in Faith-based Leadership and Management
- Postgraduate Diploma in Ministry
- Postgraduate Diploma in Theology
- Master of Chaplaincy
- Master of Faith-based Leadership and Management
- Master of Ministry
- Master of Arts
- Master of Theology
- PhD

For more information on postgraduate study, contact the administrator at theology@otago.ac.nz

Further information

Theology Programme
University of Otago

PO Box 56
Dunedin 9054
Tel +64 3 479 8639
Email theology@otago.ac.nz

Or contact AskOtago: ask.otago.ac.nz
Phone: 0800 80 80 98
otago.ac.nz/theology

DISTANCE LEARNING

2026 Theology @Otago

By distance learning

Theology@Otago

Theology for the whole of life.

The Theology Programme at the University of Otago offers papers in Biblical Studies, Christian Thought and History, Ministry and Pastoral Studies by distance learning for students throughout New Zealand and overseas. Students can complete a Diploma in Theology, Bachelor of Theology, Diploma for Graduates, and a range of postgraduate qualifications, or contribute papers towards other university qualifications, including the Bachelor of Arts. Students can also take individual papers without working towards a qualification.

For course advice, contact the administrator at theology@otago.ac.nz

THEOLOGY

In Theology, students explore the various dimensions of the Christian faith. This includes the following subject areas:

Biblical Studies (BIBS) helps students to explore the historical and cultural world of the Bible, and to interpret the biblical texts. Biblical Studies papers are divided into Old Testament and New Testament.

Biblical Languages offer students the opportunity to study Biblical Greek and Biblical Hebrew. Language papers are offered at 100-, 200-, 300-, and 400-level. First-year language papers assume no prior knowledge.

Christian Thought and History (CHTH) includes studying the development of the Christian Church (Church History) and the critical exposition and analysis of Christian thought (systematic theology). It also includes papers on Christian ethics, and on the relationship between Christianity and wider society.

Pastoral Studies (PAST) and **Ministry (MINS)** present a multidisciplinary study of church life, offering students the opportunity to reflect on the practice of Christian ministry.

PAPERS ON OFFER IN 2025 and 2026

Papers in Biblical Studies, Biblical Languages, Christian Thought and History, Ministry and Pastoral Studies are variously offered at 100-, 200-, 300-, and 400-level.

PRE-CHRISTMAS SUMMER SCHOOL 2025

(10 November–13 December 2025)

CHTH 231/331 Christianity, War and Violence

SEMESTER 1, 2026

Papers with an intensive

BIBS 324/423	Special Topic: Women in the New Testament and Early Church (intensive, 26–30 January, Dunedin)
PAST 323/MINS 415	Christian Ministry in te ao Māori (intensive 9–13 February, Lower Hutt)

Papers taught by videoconference

BIBS 121	Interpreting the New Testament
BIBS 131	Introductory New Testament Greek Language 1
BIBS 226/326	Jesus in the New Testament
CHTH 102	The History of Christianity
CHTH 212/312	Spirit, Church and Sacraments
CHTH 218/318	The Person and Work of Christ
CHTH 320/420	Public Theology and Social Justice
CHTH 338/424	Theology, Money and Markets
HEBR 131	Introductory Biblical Hebrew 1
PAST 216/316	Current Perspectives on Pastoral Care
PAST 324/MINS 424	The Chaplain as Ceremonial Leader
PAST 326/MINS 416	Pastoral Theology: Pacific Perspectives

SEMESTER 2, 2026

Papers with an intensive

CHTH 236/336	Māori Theology and Religion (intensive 29 June–3 July, Ohope Marae)
PAST 322/MINS 414	Christian Theology and the Arts (intensive 6–10 July, Dunedin)

Papers taught by videoconference

BIBS 112	Interpreting the Old Testament
BIBS 132	Introductory New Testament Greek II
BIBS 211/311	God, Land and Exile in the Hebrew Prophets
CHTH 111	Doing Theology
CHTH 131	God and Ethics in the Modern World
CHTH 207/307	History of Christianity in the Pacific
CHTH 224/324	Theology and the Environment
CHTH 235/335	Special Topic: Tikanga Māori, Spiritual Regulation, and the New Zealand State
CHTH 319/415	Reconciliation, Christian Ethics and Public Theology
HEBR 132	Introductory Biblical Hebrew II
PAST 321/MINS 413	Missional God, Missional People
PAST 318/MINS 410	Pastoral Care in Dying, Grief and Loss

PRE-CHRISTMAS SUMMER SCHOOL 2026

(9 November–12 December 2026)

CHTH 217/317 Special Topic: Theology and Science

FULL YEAR

Papers taught by videoconference

BIBS 213/313/411	Hebrew Old Testament Exegesis
BIBS 223/323/421	Greek New Testament Exegesis

In addition, it is possible for distance students to do a 400-level research essay.

Contact the Programme for more details.

METHODS OF DISTANCE LEARNING

Distance learning papers in Theology are taught through videoconferences, one-week intensives, teaching days, and online. This allows students to have direct contact with their lecturer and to interact with other students studying the papers. For almost all papers, students receive course material, reading material, and general administrative information. Students also have access to the University's distance library service.

VIDEOCONFERENCES

Students participate in videoconferences via Zoom. Videoconferences are generally run as tutorials, with discussions around key topics essential to the paper.

TEACHING DAY

Some papers may also include elements of face-to-face teaching (teaching days). These sessions take place near the beginning of the course and are either held in Wellington or via Zoom. Students can use this time to meet the lecturer, get to know other students and discuss the course in depth.

INTENSIVES

Students attend a compulsory five-day, full-time block course, generally before the beginning of the semester. This week covers all the required contact hours, and students complete the rest of the paper through assessments submitted during the semester.

ONLINE

Students participate in online forums to discuss questions related to the course materials. Each forum covers about two weeks' worth of material, and students can contribute at any time during the discussion. In addition to responding to questions set by the lecturer, students are encouraged to identify other matters from their reading for discussion.

You will find more details on the Programme's website:

otago.ac.nz/theology