

## Programme Specification

### Award and title:

**BA (Hons) Applied Theology**

**BA (Hons) Applied Theology with Christian Leadership**

**Graduate Diploma Applied Theology**

**Diploma of Higher Education Applied Theology**

**Certificate of Higher Education Applied Theology**

**Certificate of Higher Education Applied Theology with Youth Ministry**

**Certificate of Higher Education Applied Theology with Pastoral Care**

*School:*

School of Humanities, Religion and Philosophy

*Subject area:*

Theology

*Entry from academic year:*

2026-27

*in the month(s) of*

September

*Awarding institution:*

York St John University

*Teaching institution:*

Irish Bible Institute (IBI)

*Delivery location:*

Irish Bible Institute, Dublin

*Programme/s accredited by:*

*Exit awards for BA(Hons):*

Certificate of Higher Education Applied Theology  
Diploma of Higher Education Applied Theology  
BA (Ord) Applied Theology

*UCAS code / GTTR / other:*

Not applicable

*Joint Honours combinations:*

Not applicable

*QAA subject benchmark statement(s):*

TRS 2022

*Mode/s of study:*

Undergraduate periods of study<sup>1</sup>:

BA (Hons): 3 years full time / 6 years part time or 7 years part time (if by evening for Level 4)

DipHE: 2 years full time / 4 years part time or 5 years part time (if by evening for Level 4)

CertHE: 1 year full time / 2 years part time or 3 years part time (if by evening for Level 4)

GDip: 1 year full time / 2 years part time

*Language of study:*

English

*Paired with Foundation Year*

No

*Study abroad opportunities:*

No

*Opt-in YSJU Placement Year opportunity:*

No

*Excluding a year-long placement/professional experience, are there placement/field trip/work experience(s) totalling 20 days or more?*

<sup>1</sup> The standard period of study will apply unless otherwise stated

## Introduction and special features

As a Christian college, we have a distinct understanding of the purpose of theological education that is expressed in the following areas.

### 1) Scope – who is theological education for?

We are committed to delivering an educational programme that serves God's mission (*missio Dei*), namely one that helps men and women live a life within God's vision for individuals, church and the world. This means that, while you will study for a higher education degree in applied theology, we do not see an academic qualification as an end in itself. Rather, we view it as helping you to interpret all of life theologically enabling you to serve effectively within your sphere of influence, wherever that may be. Since theological education reaches beyond the realm of the sacred into all spheres of life - the personal, the professional and the public - we seek to overcome any sense of a "sacred" / "secular" divide in our programme.<sup>2</sup> This broader perspective impacts who we understand theological education to be for. It is not merely education for professional leaders or ordained clergy, it is about theological education for all God's people for all of life in order to empower them to serve in a wide spectrum of ministries in the church and beyond.

### 2) Scripture

The Bible lies at the heart of Christian theological education. In terms of the programme this has at several implications. First, you will learn to read and interpret the Bible as an unfolding narrative of God's redemptive mission and the church's place within that mission. Second, you will develop exegetical and hermeneutical skills of how to interpret and apply the Scriptures to today's world. Third, you will learn to appreciate how the books of the Bible reflect many different genres and historical contexts and how this diversity continues to speak into contemporary contexts and issues. Fourth, you will engage with how Christian theology historically has been developed in dialogue with the Bible and other sources of theology such as reason, tradition, and experience.

### 3) Context

All theology needs to be applied to specific contexts, and the focus of the degree is to help you think about and address issues posed within life, work, ministry and mission within contemporary Ireland. Culture is fluid and ever-changing and so the degree programme will engage with new questions and challenges facing the church. In Ireland, as in much of Western Europe, these include issues such as a fast-evolving post-Christendom reality, an increasingly multi-cultural and multi-religious society, pluralisation in all areas of life including sexual ethics, gender and personal identity, the powerful forces of capitalism and globalisation and their impact on the environment, and continuing revolutions in information technology, the internet and artificial intelligence. As you progress through the degree you will have opportunity to engage in your own research on questions or issues that you find particularly important.

### 4) Whole Person

IBI's motto is 'Head, Heart and Hands', relating to cognitive, affective and behavioural domains of learning. Put differently, we believe the best form of learning is holistic, involving the whole person and goes beyond mere knowledge or information. The BA programme is designed to integrate these three domains within your learning experience throughout the degree.

An emphasis on 'Head' enables you to engage critically with the Bible and theology and think through and research implications for everyday life, mission and ministry in contemporary Ireland. You will be required to examine and critically engage with a broad range of theological opinions, including those with which you disagree. This is an important discipline in learning and reflecting and will enable you to develop in each of

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<sup>2</sup> Greene, M., Shaw, I., 2021. *Whole-Life Mission for the Whole Church: Overcoming the Sacred-Secular Divide Through Theological Education*. Langham Global Library.

the domains of learning. This will help you critically to reflect on your own life and ministry experiences as part of the process of constructing a theologically informed, self-reflective and practically competent applied theology.

An emphasis on 'heart' emphasises that all Christian life and ministry revolves around love for God and others. Christian character is of primary importance within theological education.

An emphasis on 'Hands' emphasises that truth is truly learned as it is put into practice within day-to-day life within Christian ministry, the marketplace and in mission.

## 5) Community

The communal nature of Christianity means that Christian theological education will be strongly relational. We believe that your learning will happen best in relationship with other students and with teachers. This means that within IBI both staff and students are active participants within a community of learning, worship and study that includes activities like small groups, corporate gatherings, a student-staff retreat and a community ethos of informal accessibility to teachers. This helps to promote an environment where learning happens both inside and outside the classroom. It also reflects a belief that in theological education the life of the teacher matters just as much as the content they present in class. This ethos is reinforced by IBI's identity as a non-denominational college that reflects an openness to different churches, cultures and traditions, a key element in developing critical thinking and informed awareness of perspectives different to your own.

Since the Coronavirus Pandemic, students can study either 'in room' or 'on Zoom'. Our commitment to learning in community means that significant investment has been made in technology to enable everyone to see and hear one another in class and to facilitate full participation in class discussions, breakout rooms and oral presentations by students learning remotely. Outside of class, 'remote' students can participate in small groups, corporate worship, student-staff retreats and ministry activities.

### **Options within Level 4:**

- Level 4 can either be taken via daytime (part-time over two years or full-time in one year) or by evening classes over three years (students take up to three modules each year, completing eight modules in total). Not all the modules listed on page 9 below will necessarily be available.
- It is possible to register for the Certificate of Higher Education Applied Theology with Youth Ministry. This allows students with a particular vocational and/or professional interest in Youth Ministry to gain an award. Students taking this option would complete 30 credits related to the subject in question. If evening students wish to study for this award they can complete VIB4024M and VIB4022M via day classes.
- Similarly, it is possible to register for the Certificate of Higher Education Applied Theology with Pastoral Caring. This allows students with a particular vocational and/or professional interest in Pastoral Care to gain an award. Students taking this option would complete 30 credits related to the subject in question. If evening students wish to study for this award they can complete VIB4025M and VIB4019M via day classes.

### **Options within Level 5 and Level 6:**

- After completing Level 4 you can continue within the BA (Hons) Applied Theology or have the option of registering for a named award BA (Hons) Applied Theology with Christian Leadership. This allows specialisation if you have a particular vocational and/or professional interest in this area.
- At Level 6 students must complete one of the two dissertation options. There is a double credit long dissertation / research project module (8,000 words, 40 credits) which provides opportunity for independent research which can include fieldwork in relation to a relevant aspect of applied

theology. There is also a 'short dissertation' (4000 words, 20 credits) which provides opportunity for independent research which can include fieldwork in relation to a relevant aspect of applied theology. Students can only do one of the two dissertation options.

## **Admissions criteria**

There are two entry routes on to BA in Applied Theology degree.

They also apply if you wish to apply for one of the three Certificate of Higher Education in Applied Theology entry routes.

We welcome applicants from any route.

### **1) Academic entry**

Minimum entry requirements into the programme are according to [YSJU criteria](#):

Irish Leaving Certificate (ILC) grades (Higher Level) are [converted into UCAS points with a minimum of 96 UCAS points required](#).

### **2) Associate status entry**

We also welcome students who do not have traditional academic qualifications to apply via our Associate Route. It is open to students who have the life or ministry experience to indicate that they can study at undergraduate level. Normally this is evidenced by referees and discussed at interview. Usually, it applies to people who have been out of formal education for 3 years or more, so who are over 21, and who have a pass at Leaving Certificate English or equivalent. You will be well supported academically and personally during your studies. Many students have entered the programme this way and done very well.

Your admission on to the programme will be determined by an assessment of your potential to contribute to and benefit from your proposed course of study and by academic, personal, professional and other relevant criteria.

## **Graduate Diploma**

Direct access to Level 6 is possible via the Graduate Diploma. This is for applicants who are unable to meet the entry requirements for the MA but have either a degree in another subject or an appropriate professional qualification and either lay or ordained ministerial experience.

## **Recognition of Accredited Prior Learning (RPL)**

A candidate who has studied theology at another recognised institution may be able to transfer credits and enter a programme with advanced standing. Contact our Academic Administrator to discuss options.

The onus is on you to demonstrate that the studies you have completed have an equivalence to our programme. The BA Programme Committee will examine each application on a case by case basis.

*\* Relevant professional/Christian ministry means significant involvement over a period of at least two years in the broad area of Christian ministry (either paid or lay).*

## **International students**

### **1. Non-EU citizens/residents**

Due to Irish Government policy, IBI is not in a position to accept applications from those who require a student visa to study in Ireland.

### **2. EU-citizens/residents**

If your first language is not English, you need to take an IELTS test or an equivalent qualification accepted by the University (see <https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/>).

## Named awards

You can enrol on any of the named Certificate, Diploma or BA awards on entry to the programme.

If you enrol for the BA (Hons) Applied Theology award you may change to the BA (Hons) Applied Theology with Christian Leadership award at the end of Level 4.

Students who enrol for and complete the Certificate of Higher Education Applied Theology or the Certificate of Higher Education Applied Theology with Youth Ministry, or the Certificate of Higher Education Applied Theology with Pastoral Caring will be able to continue their studies and transfer to any of the Higher Education Diploma or BA (Hons) named awards. In such cases students will not receive a Certificate of Higher Education award.

Students who have successfully completed and graduated with the Certificate of Higher Education Applied Theology or the Certificate of Higher Education Applied Theology with Youth Ministry or the Certificate of Higher Education Applied Theology with Pastoral Caring will be permitted to enrol in Level 5 of either the Diploma or BA (Hons) named awards provided it is within 5 years of the completion date of their Certificate of Higher Education award.

Students who have successfully completed and graduated with the Diploma of Higher Education Applied Theology will be permitted to enrol in Level 6 of either of the BA (Hons) Applied Theology named awards provided it is within 5 years of the completion date of their Diploma of Higher Education award.

## Programme aim(s)

The overall aims of the programme are drawn from Irish Bible Institute's '[Portrait of a Graduate](#)' and the [YSJU Graduate Attributes](#). These aims are set out below in a way that highlights the cognitive, affective and behavioural domains of learning that the programme engages (IBI refers to these as head, heart and hands).

Taught within a Christian learning community, this programme aims to:

- expand and deepen your knowledge and experience of God;
- enable you to embrace a critically informed understanding and experience of the Bible and Christian theology in the context of mission and ministry in contemporary Ireland;
- develop the character, attitudes and skills for authentic Christian living, mission, ministry, and leadership.

## Programme learning outcomes (PLOs)

Programme learning outcomes describe measurable and assessed outcomes and therefore describe what you will be able to do at the completion of each level of the degree – whether Level 4 (Certificate), Level 5 (Diploma) or Level 6 (BA Hons).

| LEVEL 4   | LEVEL 5   | LEVEL 6  |
|---|---|--|
| 4.1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of key sources, figures or themes relevant to the study of applied theology (e.g., the Bible, Jesus, pastoral caring, discipleship, communication, mission) | 5.1 Demonstrate critical understanding of key concepts, sources, themes or debates in applied theology  | 6.1 Demonstrate a critically informed understanding of key concepts, sources, themes or debates in applied theology, engaging with relevant recent scholarship |
| 4.2 Demonstrate research skills to evaluate and develop sound responses to a range of theological, biblical or ministry issues  | 5.2 Use research skills critically to evaluate and propose sound responses to a range of issues (e.g., theological, biblical, ethical, pastoral or missional) | 6.2 Use the research skills of a critically informed independent learner/practitioner to evaluate and propose creative responses to a diverse range of issues  |

| LEVEL 4   | LEVEL 5  | LEVEL 6   |
|---|--|---|
|   |  | (e.g., theological, biblical, ethical, pastoral or missional)   |
| 4.3 Evaluate biblical texts and/or theological ideas, representing the arguments of others accurately, with structured and coherent arguments, using a selection of skills to communicate them effectively.   | 5.3 Critically evaluate biblical texts and/or theological ideas, representing the arguments of others accurately, using a selection of skills to communicate them effectively to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.   | 6.3 Critically evaluate biblical texts and/or theological ideas, using a selection of skills to communicate them effectively to both specialist and non-specialist audiences taking account of complexity and ambiguity.  |
| 4.4 Reflect on learning in the programme to develop skills and abilities to serve effectively in their local context  | 5.4 Reflect critically on learning in the programme to develop skills and abilities for effective service in a variety of Christian ministry contexts  | 6.4 Engage in advanced critical reflection on learning in the programme to develop skills and abilities for effective Christian service in complex and changing ministry contexts   |
| 4.5 Engage in self-reflection to cultivate biblical and theological values and virtues (such as humility, truthfulness, love, kindness, justice, integrity and empathy) essential for authentic Christian character and service   | 5.5 Engage in critical self-reflection and self-leadership to cultivate biblical and theological values and virtues essential for authentic Christian character and service  | 6.5 Engage in advanced self-critical reflection and self-leadership to cultivate biblical and theological values and virtues essential for authentic Christian character and service  |
|   | 5.6 Show critical awareness of the cultural context (e.g., social, historical or religious influences) for Christian ministry and mission in contemporary Ireland  | 6.6 Demonstrate advanced critical understanding of the complex cultural context (e.g., social, historical or religious influences) for Christian ministry and mission in contemporary Ireland   |
| <p><b>Key Skills:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• basic IT skills, ability to communicate orally and in writing</li> <li>• ability to organise and manage own learning</li> <li>• working with others</li> <li>• adhere to academic conventions and demonstrate proficiency in essential study skills</li> </ul> | <p><b>Key Skills:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• develop autonomy and self-management as a learner;</li> <li>• begin to engage in research activity</li> <li>• further develop technical and IT skills as appropriate to the discipline</li> <li>• adhere to academic conventions and demonstrate competence in a range of study skills</li> </ul> | <p><b>Key skills:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• employ IT effectively</li> <li>• identify personal values, skills, personality traits, interests, strengths and weaknesses</li> <li>• understand the changing nature of work and Christian ministry</li> <li>• identify and apply decision making processes</li> <li>• present themselves positively to others</li> <li>• manage transitions</li> <li>• effectively organise and manage personal learning</li> <li>• employ a range of study and research skills making effective critical use of a wide range of primary and secondary sources</li> <li>• work with others on learning/project tasks</li> <li>• engage in problem solving</li> <li>• the capacity to undertake appropriate further training of a professional or equivalent nature</li> </ul> |

## Programme structure

### Rotation of modules

Level 4 modules are offered each year and provide a foundational platform from which you progress to Levels 5 and 6 (see the table below).

Level 5 and Level 6 modules will be delivered in rotation so that each module in each level is delivered bi-annually. In the table below you can see which rotation each module is on. All Rotation 1 modules are offered one year and all Rotation 2 modules are offered the next year. For example, *Developing Old Testament Theology* (VIB5031M/ VIB6031M) is offered within Rotation 2. If you come into Diploma level when Rotation 2 modules are on offer, you can take VIB5031M. If you enter Diploma level when Rotation 1 modules are on offer, then you can take *Developing Old Testament Theology* in your final year at Level 6 (VIB6031M).

For part-time students at Level 5 and 6, the same principle applies. The specific modules you will take within each level will depend on the module rotations available to you.

Some modules such as VIB5020M *Ministry and Personal Development 2*, VIB6021M *Ministry and Personal Development 3*, VIB5038M *Ministry and Personal Development 2 (Leadership)*, VIB6038M *Ministry and Personal Development 3 (Leadership)*, and the Level 6 *Long Dissertation* (VIB6023M) and *Short Dissertation* (VIB6022M) are level specific and are delivered every year.

Students from Level 5 and 6 study together in the same classroom with separate seminars and tutorials. Students at Levels 5 and 6 studying the same module simultaneously will be working with distinct aims, assessments and learning outcomes appropriate to their particular level. A module taken at Level 5 cannot later be taken at Level 6 (see barred combinations in the table below).

## Named awards

### **Certificate of Higher Education Applied Theology with Youth Ministry**

Within Level 4, selected modules are non-compensatable for the award Certificate of Higher Education in Youth Ministry for a total of 30 credits. They are:

- *Ministry and Personal Development 1 (Youth Ministry)* (VIB4024M)
- *Youth Ministry* (VIB4022M)

### **Certificate of Higher Education Applied Theology with Pastoral Caring**

Within Level 4, selected modules are non-compensatable for the award Certificate of Higher Education in Pastoral Caring for a total of 30 credits. They are:

- *Ministry and Personal Development 1 (Pastoral Caring)* (VIB4025M)
- *Introduction to Pastoral Care* (VIB4019M)

### **BA (Hons) Applied Theology with Christian Leadership**

After Level 4, you may choose to enter the Christian Leadership named award. You will take specific modules related to your chosen named award at Levels 5 and 6 amounting to 80 credits. These modules, for the award of BA (Hons) Applied Theology with Christian Leadership are:

- *Developing Christian Leadership* (VIB5028M / VIB6028M)
- *Ministry and Personal Development 2 (Leadership)* (VIB5038M)
- *Ministry and Personal Development 3 (Leadership)* (VIB6038M)
- *Church: Theology and Practice (Leadership)* (VIB5039M / VIB6039M)

### Certificate of Higher Education Applied Theology

| Code     | Level | Rotation | Title                               | Credits | Module status                                |   |
|----------|-------|----------|-------------------------------------|---------|--|---|
|          |       |          |                                     |         | compulsory or optional to take <b>C or O</b> | non-compensable or compensable <b>NC or X</b> |
| VIB4013M | 4     | Annual   | Ministry and Personal Development 1 | 15      | C [day]<br>O [evening]                       | X   |
| VIB4014M | 4     | Annual   | The Story of the Bible              | 15      | O  | X   |
| VIB4015M | 4     | Annual   | Interpreting and Applying the Bible | 15      | O  | X   |
| VIB4016M | 4     | Annual   | Overview of the Old Testament       | 15      | O  | X   |
| VIB4017M | 4     | Annual   | The Life and Teaching of Jesus      | 15      | O  | X   |
| VIB4018M | 4     | Annual   | The Story of the Church             | 15      | O  | X   |
| VIB4019M | 4     | Annual   | Introduction to Pastoral Care       | 15      | O  | X   |
| VIB4020M | 4     | Annual   | Christian Discipleship              | 15      | O  | X   |
| VIB4021M | 4     | Annual   | Communication in a Ministry Context | 15      | O  | X   |
| VIB4022M | 4     | Annual   | Youth Ministry                      | 15      | O  | X   |
| VIB4023M | 4     | Annual   | Independent Study                   | 15      | O  | X   |

### Certificate of Higher Education Applied Theology with Youth Ministry

| Code     | Level | Rotation | Title  | Credits | Module status                                |   |
|----------|-------|----------|--|---------|--|---|
|          |       |          |  |         | compulsory or optional to take <b>C or O</b> | non-compensable or compensable <b>NC or X</b> |
| VIB4024M | 4     | Annual   | Ministry and Personal Development 1 (Youth Ministry) | 15      | C  | NC  |
| VIB4022M | 4     | Annual   | Youth Ministry                                       | 15      | C  | NC  |
| VIB4014M | 4     | Annual   | The Story of the Bible                               | 15      | O  | X   |
| VIB4015M | 4     | Annual   | Interpreting and Applying the Bible                  | 15      | O  | X   |
| VIB4016M | 4     | Annual   | Overview of the Old Testament                        | 15      | O  | X   |
| VIB4017M | 4     | Annual   | The Life and Teaching of Jesus                       | 15      | O  | X   |
| VIB4018M | 4     | Annual   | The Story of the Church                              | 15      | O  | X   |
| VIB4019M | 4     | Annual   | Introduction to Pastoral Care                        | 15      | O  | X   |
| VIB4020M | 4     | Annual   | Christian Discipleship                               | 15      | O  | X   |
| VIB4021M | 4     | Annual   | Communication in a Ministry Context                  | 15      | O  | X   |
| VIB4023M | 4     | Annual   | Independent Study                                    | 15      | O  | X   |

### Certificate of Higher Education Applied Theology with Pastoral Caring

| Code     | Level | Rotation | Title   | Credits | Module status                                |   |
|----------|-------|----------|---|---------|--|---|
|          |       |          |   |         | compulsory or optional to take <b>C or O</b> | non-compensable or compensable <b>NC or X</b> |
| VIB4025M | 4     | Annual   | Ministry and Personal Development 1 (Pastoral Caring) | 15      | C  | NC  |
| VIB4019M | 4     | Annual   | Introduction to Pastoral Care                         | 15      | C  | NC  |
| VIB4014M | 4     | Annual   | The Story of the Bible                                | 15      | O  | X   |
| VIB4015M | 4     | Annual   | Interpreting and Applying the Bible                   | 15      | O  | X   |
| VIB4016M | 4     | Annual   | Overview of the Old Testament                         | 15      | O  | X   |
| VIB4017M | 4     | Annual   | The Life and Teaching of Jesus                        | 15      | O  | X   |
| VIB4018M | 4     | Annual   | The Story of the Church                               | 15      | O  | X   |
| VIB4020M | 4     | Annual   | Christian Discipleship                                | 15      | O  | X   |

|          |   |        |                                     |    |   |   |
|----------|---|--------|-------------------------------------|----|---|---|
| VIB4021M | 4 | Annual | Communication in a Ministry Context | 15 | O | X |
| VIB4022M | 4 | Annual | Youth Ministry                      | 15 | O | X |
| VIB4023M | 4 | Annual | Independent Study                   | 15 | O | X |

### Diploma of Higher Education Applied Theology

| Code     | Level | Barred combination | Rotation   | Title                                     | Credits | Module status                         |  |
|----------|-------|--------------------|------------|---|---------|---------------------------------------|--|
|          |       |                    |            |   |         | compulsory or optional to take C or O | non-compensable or compensable NC or X |
| VIB4013M | 4     |                    | Annual     | Ministry and Personal Development 1       | 15      | C                                     | X                                      |
| VIB4014M | 4     |                    | Annual     | The Story of the Bible                    | 15      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB4015M | 4     |                    | Annual     | Interpreting and Applying the Bible       | 15      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB4016M | 4     |                    | Annual     | Overview of the Old Testament             | 15      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB4017M | 4     |                    | Annual     | The Life and Teaching of Jesus            | 15      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB4018M | 4     |                    | Annual     | The Story of the Church                   | 15      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB4019M | 4     |                    | Annual     | Introduction to Pastoral Care             | 15      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB4020M | 4     |                    | Annual     | Christian Discipleship                    | 15      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB4021M | 4     |                    | Annual     | Communication in a Ministry Context       | 15      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB4022M | 4     |                    | Annual     | Youth Ministry                            | 15      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB4023M | 4     |                    | Annual     | Independent Study                         | 15      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB5020M | 5     |                    | Annual     | Ministry and Personal Development 2       | 20      | C                                     | X                                      |
| VIB5021M | 5     |                    | Annual     | Independent Study                         | 20      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB5024M | 5     | VIB6024M           | Rotation 1 | Christian Faith and Contemporary Culture  | 20      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB5025M | 5     | VIB6025M           | Rotation 1 | Christian Ethics                          | 20      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB5026M | 5     | VIB6026M           | Rotation 1 | Christian Mission in Contemporary Ireland | 20      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB5027M | 5     | VIB6027M           | Rotation 1 | New Testament Christology                 | 20      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB5028M | 5     | VIB6028M           | Rotation 1 | Developing Christian Leadership           | 20      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB5029M | 5     | VIB6029M           | Rotation 1 | The Story of the Irish Church             | 20      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB5030M | 5     | VIB6030M           | Rotation 1 | New Testament Epistles                    | 20      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB5031M | 5     | VIB6031M           | Rotation 2 | Developing Old Testament Theology         | 20      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB5032M | 5     | VIB6032M           | Rotation 2 | Enabling Biblical Interpretation          | 20      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB5033M | 5     | VIB6033M           | Rotation 2 | Issues in Contemporary Theology           | 20      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB5034M | 5     | VIB6034M           | Rotation 2 | Developing Pastoral Care                  | 20      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB5035M | 5     | VIB6035M           | Rotation 2 | Teaching and Preaching the Bible          | 20      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB5036M | 5     | VIB6036M           | Rotation 2 | Church: Theology and Practice             | 20      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB5037M | 5     | VIB6037M           | Rotation 2 | The Spirit, Character and Christian Life  | 20      | O                                     | X                                      |

Delivery mode: W = weekly delivery; B = block delivery

## BA (Hons) Applied Theology

| Code     | Level | Barred combination | Rotation   | Title                                     | Credits | Module status                         |  |
|----------|-------|--------------------|------------|---|---------|---------------------------------------|--|
|          |       |                    |            |   |         | compulsory or optional to take C or O | non-compensable or compensable NC or X |
| VIB4013M | 4     |                    | Annual     | Ministry and Personal Development 1       | 15      | C                                     | X                                      |
| VIB4014M | 4     |                    | Annual     | The Story of the Bible                    | 15      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB4015M | 4     |                    | Annual     | Interpreting and Applying the Bible       | 15      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB4016M | 4     |                    | Annual     | Overview of the Old Testament             | 15      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB4017M | 4     |                    | Annual     | The Life and Teaching of Jesus            | 15      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB4018M | 4     |                    | Annual     | The Story of the Church                   | 15      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB4019M | 4     |                    | Annual     | Introduction to Pastoral Care             | 15      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB4020M | 4     |                    | Annual     | Christian Discipleship                    | 15      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB4021M | 4     |                    | Annual     | Communication in a Ministry Context       | 15      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB4022M | 4     |                    | Annual     | Youth Ministry                            | 15      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB4023M | 4     |                    | Annual     | Independent Study                         | 15      | O                                     | X                                      |
|          |       |                    |            |   |         |                                       |  |
| VIB5020M | 5     |                    | Annual     | Ministry and Personal Development 2       | 20      | C                                     | X                                      |
| VIB5021M | 5     |                    | Annual     | Independent Study                         | 20      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB5024M | 5     | VIB6024M           | Rotation 1 | Christian Faith in Contemporary Culture   | 20      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB5025M | 5     | VIB6025M           | Rotation 1 | Christian Ethics                          | 20      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB5026M | 5     | VIB6026M           | Rotation 1 | Christian Mission in Contemporary Ireland | 20      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB5027M | 5     | VIB6027M           | Rotation 1 | New Testament Christology                 | 20      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB5028M | 5     | VIB6028M           | Rotation 1 | Developing Christian Leadership           | 20      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB5029M | 5     | VIB6029M           | Rotation 1 | The Story of the Irish Church             | 20      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB5030M | 5     | VIB6030M           | Rotation 1 | New Testament Epistles                    | 20      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB5031M | 5     | VIB6031M           | Rotation 2 | Developing Old Testament Theology         | 20      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB5032M | 5     | VIB6032M           | Rotation 2 | Enabling Biblical Interpretation          | 20      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB5033M | 5     | VIB6033M           | Rotation 2 | Issues in Contemporary Theology           | 20      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB5034M | 5     | VIB6034M           | Rotation 2 | Developing Pastoral Care                  | 20      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB5035M | 5     | VIB6035M           | Rotation 2 | Teaching and Preaching the Bible          | 20      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB5036M | 5     | VIB6036M           | Rotation 2 | Church: Theology and Practice             | 20      | O                                     | X                                      |
| VIB5037M | 5     | VIB6037M           | Rotation 2 | The Spirit, Character and Christian Life  | 20      | O                                     | X                                      |
|          |       |                    |            |   |         |                                       |  |
| VIB6021M | 6     |                    | Annual     | Ministry and Personal Development 3       | 20      | C                                     | X                                      |
| VIB6022M | 6     | VIB6023M           | Annual     | Short Dissertation                        | 20      | C                                     | NC                                     |
| VIB6023M | 6     | VIB6022M           | Annual     | Long Dissertation                         | 40      | C                                     | NC                                     |

|          |   |          |            |   |    |   |   |
|----------|---|----------|------------|---|----|---|---|
| VIB6024M | 6 | VIB5024M | Rotation 1 | Christian Faith and Contemporary Culture  | 20 | O | X |
| VIB6025M | 6 | VIB5025M | Rotation 1 | Christian Ethics                          | 20 | O | X |
| VIB6026M | 6 | VIB5026M | Rotation 1 | Christian Mission in Contemporary Ireland | 20 | O | X |
| VIB6027M | 6 | VIB5027M | Rotation 1 | New Testament Christology                 | 20 | O | X |
| VIB6028M | 6 | VIB5028M | Rotation 1 | Developing Christian Leadership           | 20 | O | X |
| VIB6029M | 6 | VIB5029M | Rotation 1 | The Story of the Irish Church             | 20 | O | X |
| VIB6030M | 6 | VIB5030M | Rotation 1 | New Testament Epistles                    | 20 | O | X |
| VIB6031M | 6 | VIB5031M | Rotation 2 | Developing Old Testament Theology         | 20 | O | X |
| VIB6032M | 6 | VIB5032M | Rotation 2 | Enabling Biblical Interpretation          | 20 | O | X |
| VIB6033M | 6 | VIB5033M | Rotation 2 | Issues in Contemporary Theology           | 20 | O | X |
| VIB6034M | 6 | VIB5034M | Rotation 2 | Developing Pastoral Care                  | 20 | O | X |
| VIB6035M | 6 | VIB5035M | Rotation 2 | Teaching and Preaching the Bible          | 20 | O | X |
| VIB6036M | 6 | VIB5036M | Rotation 2 | Church: Theology and Practice             | 20 | O | X |
| VIB6037M | 6 | VIB5037M | Rotation 2 | The Spirit, Character and Christian Life  | 20 | O | X |

Delivery mode: W = weekly delivery; B = block delivery

### BA (Hons) Applied Theology with Christian Leadership

| Code     | Level | Barred combination | Rotation   | Title  | Credits | Module status                                |   |
|----------|-------|--------------------|------------|--|---------|--|---|
|          |       |                    |            |  |         | compulsory or optional to take <b>C or O</b> | non-compensable or compensable <b>NC or X</b> |
| VIB4013M | 4     |                    | Annual     | Ministry and Personal Development 1              | 15      | C  | X   |
| VIB4014M | 4     |                    | Annual     | The Story of the Bible                           | 15      | O  | X   |
| VIB4015M | 4     |                    | Annual     | Interpreting and Applying the Bible              | 15      | O  | X   |
| VIB4016M | 4     |                    | Annual     | Overview of the Old Testament                    | 15      | O  | X   |
| VIB4017M | 4     |                    | Annual     | The Life and Teaching of Jesus                   | 15      | O  | X   |
| VIB4018M | 4     |                    | Annual     | The Story of the Church                          | 15      | O  | X   |
| VIB4019M | 4     |                    | Annual     | Introduction to Pastoral Care                    | 15      | O  | X   |
| VIB4020M | 4     |                    | Annual     | Christian Discipleship                           | 15      | O  | X   |
| VIB4021M | 4     |                    | Annual     | Communication in a Ministry Context              | 15      | O  | X   |
| VIB4022M | 4     |                    | Annual     | Youth Ministry                                   | 15      | O  | X   |
| VIB4023M | 4     |                    | Annual     | Independent Study                                | 15      | O  | X   |
|          |       |                    |            |  |         |  |   |
| VIB5038M | 5     |                    | Annual     | Ministry and Personal Development 2 (Leadership) | 20      | C  | X   |
| VIB5028M | 5     | VIB6028M           | Rotation 1 | Developing Christian Leadership                  | 20      | C  | NC  |
| VIB5039M | 5     | VIB6039M           | Rotation 2 | Church: Theology and Practice (Leadership)       | 20      | C  | NC  |
| VIB5021M | 5     |                    | Annual     | Independent Study                                | 20      | O  | X   |

|          |   |          |            |  |    |   |    |
|----------|---|----------|------------|--|----|---|----|
| VIB5024M | 5 | VIB6024M | Rotation 1 | Christian Faith and Contemporary Culture         | 20 | O | X  |
| VIB5025M | 5 | VIB6025M | Rotation 1 | Christian Ethics                                 | 20 | O | X  |
| VIB5026M | 5 | VIB6026M | Rotation 1 | Christian Mission in Contemporary Ireland        | 20 | O | X  |
| VIB5027M | 5 | VIB6027M | Rotation 1 | New Testament Christology                        | 20 | O | X  |
| VIB5029M | 5 | VIB6029M | Rotation 1 | The Story of the Irish Church                    | 20 | O | X  |
| VIB5030M | 5 | VIB6030M | Rotation 1 | New Testament Epistles                           | 20 | O | X  |
| VIB5031M | 5 | VIB6031M | Rotation 2 | Developing Old Testament Theology                | 20 | O | X  |
| VIB5032M | 5 | VIB6032M | Rotation 2 | Enabling Biblical Interpretation                 | 20 | O | X  |
| VIB5033M | 5 | VIB6033M | Rotation 2 | Issues in Contemporary Theology                  | 20 | O | X  |
| VIB5034M | 5 | VIB6034M | Rotation 2 | Developing Pastoral Care                         | 20 | O | X  |
| VIB5035M | 5 | VIB6035M | Rotation 2 | Teaching and Preaching the Bible                 | 20 | O | X  |
| VIB5037M | 5 | VIB6037M | Rotation 2 | The Spirit, Character and Christian Life         | 20 | O | X  |
| <hr/>    |   |          |            |  |    |   |    |
| VIB6038M | 6 |          | Annual     | Ministry and Personal Development 3 (Leadership) | 20 | C | X  |
| VIB6028M | 6 | VIB5028M | Rotation 1 | Developing Christian Leadership                  | 20 | C | NC |
| VIB6039M | 6 | VIB5039M | Rotation 2 | Church: Theology and Practice (Leadership)       | 20 | C | NC |
| VIB6022M | 6 | VIB6023M | Annual     | Short Dissertation                               | 20 | C | NC |
| VIB6023M | 6 | VIB6022M | Annual     | Long Dissertation                                | 20 | C | NC |
| VIB6024M | 6 | VIB5024M | Rotation 1 | Christian Faith and Contemporary Culture         | 20 | O | X  |
| VIB6025M | 6 | VIB5025M | Rotation 1 | Christian Ethics                                 | 20 | O | X  |
| VIB6026M | 6 | VIB5026M | Rotation 1 | Christian Mission in Contemporary Ireland        | 20 | O | X  |
| VIB6027M | 6 | VIB5027M | Rotation 1 | New Testament Christology                        | 20 | O | X  |
| VIB6029M | 6 | VIB5029M | Rotation 1 | The Story of the Irish Church                    | 20 | O | X  |
| VIB6030M | 6 | VIB5030M | Rotation 1 | New Testament Epistles                           | 20 | O | X  |
| VIB6031M | 6 | VIB5031M | Rotation 2 | Developing Old Testament Theology                | 20 | O | X  |
| VIB6032M | 6 | VIB5032M | Rotation 2 | Enabling Biblical Interpretation                 | 20 | O | X  |
| VIB6033M | 6 | VIB5033M | Rotation 2 | Issues in Contemporary Theology                  | 20 | O | X  |
| VIB6034M | 6 | VIB5034M | Rotation 2 | Developing Pastoral Care                         | 20 | O | X  |
| VIB6035M | 6 | VIB5035M | Rotation 2 | Teaching and Preaching the Bible                 | 20 | O | X  |
| VIB6037M | 6 | VIB5037M | Rotation 2 | The Spirit, Character and Christian Life         | 20 | O | X  |

Delivery mode: W = weekly delivery; B = block delivery

## Graduate Diploma Applied Theology

| Code     | Level | Barred combinations | Rotation   | Title                                     | Credits | Module status                                |   |
|----------|-------|---------------------|------------|---|---------|--|---|
|          |       |                     |            |   |         | compulsory or optional to take <b>C or O</b> | non-compensable or compensable <b>NC or X</b> |
| VIB6021M | 6     |                     | Annual     | Ministry and Personal Development 3       | 20      | O  | X   |
| VIB6022M | 6     | VIB6023M            | Annual     | Short Dissertation                        | 20      | C  | NC  |
| VIB6023M | 6     | VIB6022M            | Annual     | Long Dissertation                         | 20      | C  | NC  |
| VIB6024M | 6     |                     | Rotation 1 | Christian Faith in Contemporary Culture   | 20      | O  | X   |
| VIB6025M | 6     |                     | Rotation 1 | Christian Ethics                          | 20      | O  | X   |
| VIB6026M | 6     |                     | Rotation 1 | Christian Mission in Contemporary Ireland | 20      | O  | X   |
| VIB6027M | 6     |                     | Rotation 1 | New Testament Christology                 | 20      | O  | X   |
| VIB6028M | 6     |                     | Rotation 1 | Developing Christian Leadership           | 20      | O  | X   |
| VIB6029M | 6     |                     | Rotation 1 | The Story of the Irish Church             | 20      | O  | X   |
| VIB6030M | 6     |                     | Rotation 1 | New Testament Epistles                    | 20      | O  | X   |
| VIB6031M | 6     |                     | Rotation 2 | Developing Old Testament Theology         | 20      | O  | X   |
| VIB6032M | 6     |                     | Rotation 2 | Enabling Biblical Interpretation          | 20      | O  | X   |
| VIB6033M | 6     |                     | Rotation 2 | Issues in Contemporary Theology           | 20      | O  | X   |
| VIB6034M | 6     |                     | Rotation 2 | Developing Pastoral Care                  | 20      | O  | X   |
| VIB6035M | 6     |                     | Rotation 2 | Teaching and Preaching the Bible          | 20      | O  | X   |
| VIB6036M | 6     |                     | Rotation 2 | Church: Theology and Practice             | 20      | O  | X   |
| VIB6037M | 6     |                     | Rotation 2 | The Spirit, Character and Christian Life  | 20      | O  | X   |

Delivery mode: *W* = weekly delivery; *B* = block delivery

Please note that not all options may be available every year as they depend on student demand and staff availability.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the table above as non-compensable. A non-compensable module is one that must be passed at the relevant level (with a mark of 40 in order to progress).

### Learning, teaching and assessment

The emphasis of the programme is on your learning experience as a student within the context of a faith-based learning community. It is designed to provide you with as constructive a context as possible as you work towards the programme outcomes. As a student on the programme, you will be well supported by academic and administrative staff within a warm and friendly learning environment. The relatively small size of the institute means that students benefit from a low teacher-student ratio and close tutorial support. Study Skills tutorials and academic support sessions are timetabled within the programme at all three levels to enable you to develop the skills necessary for academic writing, thinking and research as you progress through the degree. At Level 4 all students are required to attend to ensure they have the necessary skills to make a successful transition into HE study.

There is an emphasis throughout the programme on gradual progression from one level to the next across cognitive, affective and behavioural domains of learning. By the end of the degree you will have developed in:

- Cognitive areas such as critical analysis, independent thinking, creative engagement with others' views, reflective practice and the development of writing and research skills.
- Affective areas such as critical self-understanding, self-reflection on the character traits required for Christian ministry, a passion for learning and growing in your faith and an ability to engage with empathy and integrity with the convictions and beliefs of others.
- Behavioural areas such skills of bible interpretation and communication, a commitment to ministry ethics and self-leadership, working well with others, and being an independent learner equipped to research and think biblically and theologically about the challenges that emerge within everyday life and ministry.

Extensive use is made of Moodle Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) within most modules on the programme. This enables you to access reading, class notes, assignments, discussion forums and other media from anywhere with an internet connection.

### **Assessment strategies**

We also recognise that students learn in different ways and so we try to incorporate a variety of learning styles and assessment methods within the programme. Emphasis is laid on continuous assessment rather than formal examinations. Examples include:

- Essays
- Projects
- Oral presentations and sermons
- Written commentary on oral presentation / sermons
- Dissertation
- Research project
- Book reviews
- Student-led seminars
- Seminar papers
- Reflective papers
- Case studies
- Self and peer evaluation
- Portfolio (including experience-based learning opportunities, placement reports and fieldwork reports)
- Engagement with guided reading
- Interpretation paper

Assessment word counts for each level are approximately 2,500 words for 15 credit modules at Level 4 and 3,500 and 4,000 words respectively for 20 credit modules at Levels 5 and 6.

Formative assessment plays an important part of the teaching and learning strategy. It happens in a variety of ways including oral presentations, discussion in class, group work, in-class tests, mentor meetings, forums on Moodle and peer-to-peer and self-evaluation. The feedback you receive from such formative assessment can be crucial to your progress in the summative assessment tasks of the module. It is through this combination of formative and summative assessment that you are encouraged and challenged to develop as an independent thinker. As you progress through the levels of the programme, you are tasked with increasingly complex and challenging learning outcomes which foster increased critical thinking and independence of judgement, encourage self-critical reflection on your own character and attitudes and develop relevant skills for Christian ministry.

## **Work Related Learning**

Within the programme you will have opportunities for work-related learning within a relevant setting. Each year will have at least 70 hours of work-related learning; this can be in a variety of contexts such as how you use skills developed in modules in ministry practice outside IBI, for example, in using the Bible, communication, pastoral care, and applying theological ideas to specific situations.

## **Progression and graduation requirements**

The University's [general regulations](#) for undergraduate awards apply to this programme.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the Programme Structure section as non-compensable.

## **Internal and external reference points**

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University mission and values](#)
- [University 2026 Strategy](#)
- [QAA subject benchmark statements](#)
- [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- [YSJU Qualification Descriptors](#)

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*Date written / revised:*

*Programme originally approved: 25 January 2024*