

Programme Specification

DipHE Salvation Army Officer Training

<i>School:</i>	Humanities
<i>Subject area:</i>	Theology
<i>Entry from academic year:</i>	2025/26
<i>in the month(s) of</i>	September
<i>Awarding institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Teaching institution:</i>	William Booth College
<i>Delivery location:</i>	William Booth College
<i>Programme/s accredited by:</i>	
<i>Exit awards:</i>	DipHE Salvation Army Studies CertHE Salvation Army Officer Training CertHE Salvation Army Studies
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	
<i>QAA subject benchmark statement(s):</i>	Theology and Religious Studies
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	Full-time residential for 2 years Part-time distance learning for 4 years
<i>Language of study:</i>	English
<i>Paired with Foundation Year</i>	No
<i>Study abroad opportunities:</i>	No
<i>Opt-in YSJU Placement Year opportunity:</i>	No
<i>Excluding a year-long placement/professional experience, are there placement/field trip/work experience(s) totalling 20 days or more?</i>	Yes

Introduction and special features

The Diploma of Higher Education in Salvation Army Officer Training has been designed by William Booth College (WBC) specifically to meet the requirements of officer training and is intended to help you gain relevant academic knowledge, deepen your understanding of faith, and develop essential ministry skills. This can be summed up as training in 'knowing, being and doing'.

To facilitate this training, the course comprises four broad fields of study: 1) Spiritual Growth and Leadership Development; 2) Biblical Studies; 3) Faith and Practice; 4) Mission and Ministry.

Formal study is supported by experiential learning through placements and other avenues of personal development within ministry. In addition, you will reflect on your ministry placement experiences in communities of practice designed to help you strengthen the connections between theory and real-world experience.

The DipHE can be studied either full-time as a residential or commuting student, or part-time as a placement-based distance learner. Distance learners will follow a flexible individual learning pathway. Their study is managed and monitored by WBC's Practice-Based Learning Coordinator. There are specific opportunities for Distance Learners to attend campus events and access face-to-face tutorial support throughout their study.

Teaching will be delivered by academically qualified tutors who have experience of Salvation Army ministry in a variety of contexts.

Some distinctive emphases of this programme of study are:

- Biblical literacy. You will develop a good knowledge of the Bible, the skills to handle it responsibly, and the confidence and understanding to apply it to ministry as a Salvation Army officer.
- Practical Christian character and lifestyle formation. You will consider subject areas such as spirituality and ethics in relation to the core question of what it means to be a spiritual leader in The Salvation Army in contemporary contexts.
- Church history. You will gain a broad understanding of key moments in the history of the church, and the place of The Salvation Army within the body of Christ.
- Pastoral ministry and missional leadership. Areas you will explore include engagement with pastoral and personal issues, community outreach and mission projects, and what it means to relate to secular society.
- Management skills. You will develop the competencies of a Salvation Army officer in areas such as financial stewardship, safeguarding, and the day-to-day management of ministry expressions.
- The consistent integration of spiritual life (being), academic study (knowing), and practical ministry (doing). You will have observed a variety of Salvation Army officers and ministry contexts and undertake a number of work-based placements which will enable you to embed theory in practice and allow practice to shape your understanding of academic theory and personal spiritual formation. The successful completion of this programme should enable you to proceed to ordination, commissioning, and appointing, as set out in The Salvation Army's *International Orders and Regulations for Salvation Army Officer Training*.

Qualifying students who do not progress to ministry as a Salvation Army Officer but have completed the requisite credits will receive a CertHE/DipHE Salvation Army Studies.

Admissions criteria

Admission to the course is dependent upon satisfying the requirements of The Salvation Army's candidates selection criteria; you will have completed vocational testing and assessment prior to being accepted for training as an officer in The Salvation Army.

If you do not have traditional qualifications, you may be asked to undergo basic English and numeracy assessment before embarking on the course.

If your first language is not English, and you do not have qualifications in English or from an English-speaking country, you will need to take an IELTS test or an equivalent qualification accepted by the University (see <https://www.yorks.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/>).

Programme aim(s)

The programme aims to:

1. Equip you to develop knowledge and understanding in the areas of spiritual growth and leadership development, biblical studies, faith and practice, and mission and ministry (Knowing).

2. Support you to nurture the disposition and character of a Salvation Army officer, underpinned by the formation practices which are the essential foundations of spiritual leadership in The Salvation Army (Being).
3. Enable you to develop the necessary mission and ministry skills to work effectively as a Salvation Army officer (Doing).

Programme learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the programme students will be able to:

Level 4

- 4.1 Express a foundational understanding of the sources, nature and key themes of Christian theology, belief and practice, including specific features of The Salvation Army by describing key concepts in applied theology, biblical interpretation, pastoral care and missiology.
- 4.2 Exhibit comprehension of foundational themes and practices in the development of spiritual and personal maturity, exhibiting self-awareness and understanding of vocation.
- 4.3 Relate formal classroom learning to the vocational context of Salvation Army leadership, demonstrating the application of modes of theological reflection.
- 4.4 Practice the workplace skills required for an effective Salvation Army officer, such as communication, teamwork, leadership, administration and pastoral care as identified in the Corps Competencies and Orders and Regulations for Salvation Army Officers.
- 4.5 Identify and explain the contribution that the Christian faith could make to a culturally diverse society in areas such as poverty, identity, race and justice.
- 4.6 Identify relevant source materials, summarise the arguments of others fairly, and communicate ideas with clarity through a variety of means, including written, oral and visual presentations.

Level 5

- 5.1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the complexity and breadth of the sources, nature and key themes of Christian theology, belief and practice, including specific features of The Salvation Army, by utilizing appropriate critical methods in the study of applied theology, biblical interpretation, pastoral care and missiology.
- 5.2 Explain in detail the key themes and practices in the development of spiritual and personal maturity, and relate these to critical self-evaluation and reflection, expressing with clarity convictions about vocation and ministry.
- 5.3 Apply formal learning to the vocational context of Salvation Army leadership, through the critical use of reflective practice methodologies.
- 5.4 Demonstrate critically informed competence in the workplace skills required for an effective Salvation Army officer, such as communication, teamwork, leadership, administration and pastoral care as identified in the Ministry and Leader Competency Framework and Orders and Regulations for Salvation Army Officers.
- 5.5 Explain in depth the contribution that the Christian faith could make to a culturally diverse society in areas such as poverty, identity, race and justice. Represent with fairness and integrity a range of views, including those which are different from their own, demonstrating sensitivity to the convictions and claims which arise in different faith traditions, theological perspectives and marginalised voices.
- 5.6 Undertake independent research across the disciplines and communicate ideas with clarity through a variety of means including written, oral and visual presentations.

Programme structure

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Module status	
					Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non-compensable (NC) or compensable (X)
VWB4001M	4	1 or 2	Practices of Spiritual Formation	20	O	X
VWB4002M	4	1 or 2	Spiritual Formation for Ministry	20	O	X
VWB4003M	4	1 or 2	Introduction to Biblical Studies	20	C	X
VWB4004M	4	1 or 2	Introduction to Salvationist Belief	20	C	X
VWB4005M	4	1 or 2	Introduction to Christian Theology	20	C	X
VWB4006M	4	1 or 2	Foundations for Ministry	20	C	X
VWB4007M	4	1 or 2	Mission and Ministry Placement	20	C	X
VWB4008M	4	1 or 2	Fitness to Practise	0	C	NC
VWB5001M	5	1 or 2	Practices of Spiritual Formation	20	O	X
VWB5002M	5	1 or 2	Spiritual Formation for Ministry	20	O	X
VWB5003M	5	1 or 2	Applied Biblical Studies	20	C	X
VWB5004M	5	1 or 2	Christian Themes	20	C	X
VWB5005M	5	1 or 2	Faith in Context	20	C	X
VWB5006M	5	1 or 2	Ministry in Practice	20	C	X
VWB5007M	5	1 or 2	Leadership in Practice	20	C	X
VWB5008M	5	1 or 2	Fitness to Practise	0	C	NC

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

Students will experience:

1. **Independent and collaborative learning.** You will be supported in the acquisition and development of both generic and subject-specific skills, knowledge and understanding. Active participation within a supportive community of practice recognises that learning is a social activity providing both stimulation and challenges. Active participation in Christian community provides supports both personal spiritual growth (being) and opportunities for experiential learning (doing),
2. **Learning for life and future ministry.** Learning focuses upon holistic development and application to the context of officer ministry within The Salvation Army, supported by a range of ministry placements where practice-based learning takes place. Creative, flexible, and critical thinking is encouraged in order to prepare students for diverse contexts of future leadership practice.
3. **Practice-informed learning and teaching.** The curriculum is informed by contemporary research and practice. You will move beyond the acquisition of knowledge by developing skills in personal research and reflection facilitating understanding rooted in experience. Access to a range of ministry experiences assists with the development of ministry and leader competencies. Teaching is informed by scholarship, ministry experience, feedback and consultancy.
4. **Supportive digital engagement.** Learning and teaching activities are supported by digital learning resources. Moodle provides a repository for programme support documentation, resources for directed learning activities and extended learning. Engagement between students and with staff may be enhanced through online discussions and electronic communication. Onsite classes use digital presentation tools and may also utilise video-conferencing or recordings when appropriate.

5. **A variety of teaching and learning methods** are employed across the programme including lectures, seminars, tutorials, directed reading, practical classes, field trips, independent study, communities of practice and work-based placements. Distance-learning students will participate in a number of designated learning activities using the methods above, but generally undertake a higher proportion of self-directed learning through engagement with distance learning materials, via a range of online resources and activities.
6. **Assessment:** students are assessed both formatively and summatively. Assessment methods include written assignments, portfolios, and oral presentations. All assessments include an element of personal reflection requiring the student to not just articulate their learning but also their ability to apply the learning to personal formation and ministry practice.
7. **Work-related Experiential Learning:** students will undertake a work placement module at Level 4 in order to embed the foundational practical skills of a Salvation Army officer in a supported working environment. Students will build on these foundational skills throughout further mission and preaching practice at Level 5.

Progression and graduation requirements

The University's [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.

Students who pass level 4 modules but fail VWB4008M will receive a CertHE Salvation Army Studies.

Students who pass level 5 modules but fail VWB5008M will receive a DipHE in Salvation Army Studies.

Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University Mission, Culture and Values](#)
- [University 2026 Strategy](#)
- [QAA subject benchmark statements](#)
- [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications](#)

Date written / revised:

Programme originally approved: