

# THE COMMON AWARDS

Programme Specification

Postgraduate Diploma in Church Law

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Name of programme .....	3
2. Department .....	3
<b>AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES .....</b>	<b>3</b>
3. Educational aims .....	3
4. Programme learning outcomes .....	5
<b>DELIVERY OF THE PROGRAMME.....</b>	<b>6</b>
5. Learning and teaching methods .....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
6. Summative assessment methods .....	6
7. Formative assessment policy .....	6
8. Assessment criteria.....	6
<b>STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAMME .....</b>	<b>7</b>
9. Outline syllabus for the programme.....	7
10. Research training element of the programme .....	7
11. Indicate which modules are pre- / co-requisites within the programme .....	7
12. Typical Admissions Requirements .....	8
13. Field trips, placement and related opportunities.....	8

## 1. Name of Programme

---

Postgraduate Diploma in Church Law

## 2. Department

---

Theology and Religion

### AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

## 3. Educational and Formational Aims

---

The educational and formational aims of the programme are described in terms of the people for whom it is designed, the pedagogy it embodies and the purpose it is intended to fulfil.

‘Church Law’ refers to the systems of regulation that churches use to order their life (although in some church traditions other expressions are commonly used). Church law has been described as ‘the domestic law of the Church – the code of faith, morals and discipline’ and as ‘applied ecclesiology.’ The word ‘law’ in this document is generally to be understood as referring to church law.

### People

The aim of this programme is to offer postgraduate education in church law:

1. for candidates for authorised ministry who have already studied theology to degree level
2. as continuing professional development at an advanced level for individuals whose ministry involves ecclesiastical administration and governance (such as archdeacons and elected synodical representatives)
3. for individuals wishing to pursue church law studies at postgraduate level.

The programme aims to offer education that is accessible to students with a wide range of professional and personal circumstances: many will be mature students, many will be employed and therefore studying part time, and many will be in active ministry. The programme will therefore be available in a variety of modes of learning and teaching, including traditional full-time learning, part-time learning, and distance learning supported by online and face-to-face engagement.

Successful completion of this degree does not qualify the recipient to practise law.

### Pedagogy

The aim of this programme is to offer learning and teaching that:

1. enable students to pursue academic study and/or professional development in church law at postgraduate level

2. facilitate academically rigorous and research-oriented engagement with a range of disciplines and/or specialisms within church law that is oriented towards the life of the church and wider society in the twenty-first century
3. by their modes of assessment and methods of learning and teaching enable students to develop as lifelong reflective learners.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the programme is to offer personal and professional development for those whose ministry involves ecclesiastical administration and governance, as well as to satisfy the aspirations of those students who undertake their studies to enhance, broaden, and deepen their discipleship and ministry in other contexts.

From a professional point of view, the aim of the programme is to:

1. offer pathways of study that support the ministry and development of those engaged in ecclesiastical administration and governance (e.g. archdeacons or elected synodical representatives)
2. satisfy the aspirations of those students who undertake their studies to enhance, broaden, and deepen their discipleship and ministry in other contexts
3. provide a firm basis from which to pursue postgraduate research in church law.

From a personal perspective, the aim of this programme is to develop dispositions that contribute to the Church's reflective self-understanding and the effectiveness of its mission and ministry.

The aims of the programme are that learners completing the programme will have become:

1. open to the questions, insights and ongoing formation generated by engagement with research and thinking at the forefront of the discipline of church law, and willing to go on being transformed by them
2. aware of the critical skills and disposition needed to go on reading independently in the field of church law, understood as applied ecclesiology
3. more passionate, articulate, and prayerful advocates for the mission and ministry of the Church
4. more generous, open, and empathetic in engaging and cooperating with others in their own church communities, in ecumenical contexts, and in wider society, while, as appropriate, expressing their own identity with integrity and sensitivity.

## **4. Programme Learning Outcomes**

---

### **Subject Specific Knowledge (SSK)**

*On successful completion of the programme, students will be able to:*

1. Demonstrate a systematic understanding and depth of knowledge of areas of study or of professional practice in church law that is informed by research and original thinking at current boundaries of the subject.
2. Understand, assimilate, and evaluate critically methodologies and findings of advanced scholarship and research in church law.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of a range of methods of analysis and inquiry in church law and an in-depth engagement with methods applicable to their chosen field of research or enquiry.

4. Give a critical and comprehensive account of a range of methods for relating issues in church law to aspects of faith, church, and society.

### **Subject Specific Skills (SSS)**

*On successful completion of the programme, students will be able to:*

1. Apply their knowledge to undertake independent investigation of areas of study or of professional practice, reaching valid conclusions, some of which may be original, and report these findings effectively within the conventions of the relevant academic or professional community.
2. Evaluate and apply methodologies, develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, propose new hypotheses.
3. Reflect theologically in a sophisticated and rigorous manner, exercising sound judgement when engaging systematically and creatively with complex, unpredictable, and ambiguous realities in the world today.

### **Key Skills (KS)**

*On successful completion of the programme, students will be able to:*

1. Carry out systematic and creative research into complex issues and communicate their findings with clarity, sensitivity, fairness, and imagination to specialist and non-specialist audiences.
2. Demonstrate initiative, self-direction, and independence in tackling and solving problems, and in planning and implementing tasks.
3. Exercise their independent learning skills to pursue further professional development or academic study.

## DELIVERY OF THE PROGRAMME

### 5. Learning and Teaching Methods

---

Teaching methods are to be specified by each TEI using the published guidance on modes of teaching and learning.

### 6. Summative Assessment Methods

---

Summative assessment to be specified by each TEI using the published guidance on assessment patterns for postgraduate modules.

### 7. Formative Assessment Policy

---

Formative assessment to be specified by each TEI using the published guidance on assessment patterns for postgraduate modules.

### 8. Assessment criteria

---

TEIs are required to use the published Common Awards Assessment Criteria for all Common Awards programmes. The Common Awards specific assessment criteria are aligned to Durham University's generic assessment criteria and Level Descriptors.

## STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAMME

### 9. Outline syllabus for the programme

Total credits overall:	Minimum credits at Level 7:	Maximum credits at Level 6 , or language modules at levels 4 and 5:
120 credits	90 credits	30 credits

The programme may be studied full time over 12 months or part time over 2, 3 or 4 years.

**Each TEI will be responsible for developing pathways that ensure all students have the opportunity to achieve the programme learning outcomes.**

#### Compulsory Modules

All students will study the following module (20 credits):

- TMM42220: Research and Reflection: Resources and Methods

#### List A

All students will study 3 modules (60 credits) from List A:

- TMM48420: The Law of Church Governance
- TMM48520: The Law of Doctrine and Liturgy
- TMM48620: The Law of Church-State Relations
- TMM48320: The Law of Rites and Sacraments
- TMM48220: The Law of Ministry
- TMM43720: Reflective Practice: Law and the Public Minister

#### Other Modules

All students will study a further 40 credits:

- *Either* 2 further modules from list A
- *Or* 1 further module from list A and 20 credits of other Common Awards modules.
- *Or* 40 credits of other Common Awards modules.

### 10. Research training element of the programme

All students will undertake the Research and Reflection: Resources and Methods module (TMM42220). The module will equip students to understand and observe appropriate professional and academic codes of conduct and enable them to recognise and act on ethical issues related to their research.

## 11. Indicate which modules are pre- / co-requisites within the programme

---

There are no pre- or co-requisites for modules in this programme.

## 12. Typical Admissions Requirements

---

Normally an upper second-class Honours degree or equivalent in a subject relevant to the proposed course of study. Normally students will need a good degree (or other level 6 qualification, such as a Graduate Diploma) in theology, although graduates (classified as first-class or 2:1 honours) in other disciplines with experience of Theology or Religious Studies to at least undergraduate Certificate level (awarded with credit or distinction, or with an overall mark of at least 60%) may also be admitted to the programme. Given its professional development orientation, students are likely to be preparing for a ministerial or related vocation or be actively engaged in such a profession.

In general, up to a maximum of 40 credits of accredited prior learning may be granted to students who have evidence of, or can demonstrate learning that fulfils, the relevant learning outcomes of the Postgraduate Diploma programme (by completing a portfolio of work, for example).

Students for whom English is their second language should have achieved a score of 7.0 in an IELTS examination, or equivalent.

Each TEI has an Admissions Policy and is responsible for proposing its own specific entry requirements, in line with the generic entry requirements for Common Awards.

## 13. Field trips, placement and related opportunities

---

TEIs should refer to the published guidance on field trips, placements and other related opportunities.