

## Master in Religious Studies Degree Programme

The Master of Religious Studies (MRS) degree programme at Tainan Theological College and Seminary (TTCS) is designed for those who seek to undertake coursework and reflection for pastoral or teaching ministries through broadening theological knowledge and to gain international exposure.

TTCS has pioneered the development of third world theological discourse that takes political and cultural contexts seriously. Though third world theology and its logical development has a primary place in the programme of study and research, TTCS welcomes applicants from all regions and churches who desire to sharpen their knowledge of Christian tradition and its function.

The English language MRS degree focuses on the discipline of theology. It has been created to meet the demand for well-informed leaders of the churches in Asia. The programme addresses concerns raised by contextual approaches to theological thinking in the third world, aiming to equip church leaders to encounter present realities from a Christian perspective. It builds upon several years of TTCS experience with international students who have attended this school through an exchange programme operated in conjunction with the Council for World Mission (CWM).

The MRS degree requires a minimum of one year of full-time study. Residency in Tainan is required during the first year, during which sufficient courses for completion of the degree (24 semester units) will be offered.

### Admission Requirements

1. Eligible applicants will already hold a 4-year (or equivalent) university level degree from a school recognized by a regional accrediting agency.
2. Eligible applicants must be proficient in the English language. A certificate from the educational institution where the applicant last attended is required to prove efficiency in English. The TTCS language center will further conduct an English language placement examination to applicants after arrival on campus. Students whose English language proficiency is judged deficient for the needs of work at the graduate level will be advised to enroll a programme leading to the award of a Certificate in Mission Studies.

### Degree Requirements

The MRS degree is awarded at the conclusion of a single-programme of studies, research and writing. This will include successful completion of four core courses with a minimum grade of 70 (out of 100). Core courses are: a) Theological Methodology; b) Theological Inquiry of Contextual Reading of the Bible; c) Survey of Contextual Theologies; and d) Theological Discourse in the Taiwanese context. Four further elective courses, among which one may be taken from a department other than Theology, round out the programme. (TTCS has departments of church music and social work)

## Application Procedure

An application form is attached below but it can also be obtained by download from the TTCS web page (<http://www.ttcs.org.tw/en/downloads.htm>).

Applications should be submitted with the following supporting documentation:

1. A recent curriculum vita
2. Official Transcripts of marks (sent directly from the registrar of the schools attended)
3. Photocopies of diplomas
4. Copies of scholarly articles or papers written by the applicant OR an essay of at least 400 words detailing the applicant's perspective on theology and Christian ministry.
5. Two letters of recommendation assessing the ability of the applicant to pursue graduate level academic studies in English.