

Master in Theology Degree Programme

The Master of Theology (M.Th.) degree programme at Tainan Theological College and Seminary (TTCS) is designed for those who seek to undertake scholarly research and reflection for pastoral or teaching ministries through broadening theological knowledge and to gain research skills for more advanced research degrees.

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 M.Th. 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 scholars and 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 M.Th. degree requires a minimum of two years of full-time study. Residency in Tainan is required for one year, during which students should complete 24 semester units of course work, write a comprehensive examination and obtain approval of thesis proposals from the faculty. Students will be encouraged to begin the thesis-writing process during this residency. Those who wish to stay in Tainan during the second year are advised to seek funding from their home church or partner organizations. TTCS neither offers support nor assumes financial responsibility for students during this second year. Rare and extreme cases will be evaluated independently.

Students who successfully complete the 24 semester units of course work and the comprehensive examination will receive a certificate of "Completion of Coursework" during the graduation ceremony at the end of their first year in the programme. After successful completion of the thesis, the degree of M.Th. will be awarded. A student may elect to return to Taiwan to participate in the graduation ceremony or to have the degree awarded in absentia and the diploma posted to his or her address of record.

Admission Requirements

1. Eligible applicants will already hold a 4-year (or equivalent) university level degree plus the Master of Divinity (or equivalent) degree. Both degrees must be from schools recognized by regional accrediting agencies.
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 M.Th. level will be advised to enroll in either the Master of Religious Studies (MRS) or Certificate in Mission Studies programme.

Degree Requirements

The M.Th. degree is awarded at the conclusion of a two-year programme of studies, research and writing. Eight courses (24 semester units), a comprehensive examination and successful completion of a thesis paper are all required, as is at least one academic year of residence in Tainan .

1. 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.
2. Completion of four elective courses, among which one may be taken from a department other than Theology. (TTCS has departments of church music and social work)
3. Successful completion of a comprehensive examination at the end of the first year.
4. Submission of an accepted thesis of 30,000 to 40,000 words length on a topic approved by the International studies Committee of TTCS. The thesis will be written under the supervision of a faculty-appointed advisor. Residency in Tainan is not compulsory during the thesis-writing phase.

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 supported with:

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.

Scholarship Opportunities

Scholarships are awarded to candidates who have been sponsored by the General Secretary of their church or the President of their theological institution. There are 5 scholarship awards offered to M.Th. candidates:

1. TTCS Scholarship: Covers tuition and living expenditure. Each year one student from a WCRC member communion and one student from a CCA member communion are given preference. The Admissions Committee chooses the recipients.
2. PCT/CWM Scholarship: Available to members of CWM churches endorsed by their sponsoring church. Applications are made to the CWM, which chooses the recipients, using the TTCS application. For more information, go to: www.cwmission.org or contact Sudipta Singh at the Empowerment and Training Division of the CWM at empowerment@cwmission.org.
3. PCT Pacific Island Church Scholarship: Available to endorsed members of Pacific Island churches. Preference is given to members of CWM churches but others are also eligible. Applicants first obtain admission to TTCS and then apply to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan. For more information, contact: ecu@mail.pct.org.tw or visit <http://english.pct.org.tw/>.
4. CCA Travel Grant: Available to members of CCA churches who are admitted for the degree. Applications must be endorsed by the central office of the applicant's church and submitted directly to CCA. For more information, contact: egy@cca.org.hk.
- 5- Church of Scotland Scholarship: Applicants from churches that are partner churches of the Church of Scotland are eligible to apply for this scholarship. However, it is only available to people nominated and endorsed by the General Secretary of their home church. Applicants must apply to TTCS for admission and also apply to CoS for a scholarship using forms that the Church of Scotland sends to the its partner churches' head office every year. CoS currently has partner churches in Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, Sudan, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Bangladesh, Burma, India, Korea, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore, Srilanka, Thailand, Cuba, Jamaica, Trinidad, and more.

Interested candidates from Asia contact: Mr Sandy Sneddon, Asia Secretary, World Mission Council, Church of Scotland – E-mail: ssneddon@cofscotland.org.uk

Interested candidates from Africa and the Caribbean contact: Mrs Jennie Chinembiri, Africa and Caribbean Secretary, World Mission Council, Church of Scotland – E-mail: jchinembiri@cofscotland.org.uk

Interested candidates from the Middle East contact: Mr Kenny Roger, Middle East Secretary, World Mission Council, Church of Scotland – E-mail: kröger@cofscotland.org.uk