

AGST Alliance

A comparison of our postgraduate Biblical Studies programs

	Post-graduate Diploma in Biblical Studies	Master of Theology (Biblical Studies)	Doctor of Philosophy (Biblical Studies)
For those who are...	<p>... preaching/teaching in an Asian church/Christian organisation, or among Asians elsewhere.</p> <p>... preparing Bible study resources for their church/small groups.</p> <p>... wanting enhanced biblical perspectives for life in contemporary society in Asia and beyond.</p>	<p>... needing a qualification to teach up to the MDiv level.</p>	<p>... giving significant teaching/leadership in their church, denomination or Christian organisation.</p> <p>... in a teaching position in a theological/Bible institution majoring in a field of biblical studies, and need a qualification to teach at a post-graduate level.</p> <p>... a Christian scholar/writer majoring on biblical issues and themes.</p>
Anticipated outcomes	<p>Graduates who ... are competent to <i>'rightly handle the word of truth.'</i></p> <p>... are able to open the Bible with people clearly and contextually, so that individuals and societies (especially in Asia) are transformed.</p>		<p>Graduates who ... are qualified and committed to give significant leadership in the wider Asian church as research specialists in biblical studies.</p>

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Program structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modules (20 credits) Modules are generally 2 credit course, with an optional 3rd credit. Modules span 4 months: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6-7 weeks pre-campus preparation: reading and assignments. - 5-7 day intensive on-campus session. - 6-7 weeks post-campus reading and assignments. 		Submission of a dissertation that reflects original research. [Dissertation length: 80,000 words, excluding references.]
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thesis (9 credits) (Or 2 major papers). The thesis/major papers could be completed in 6-8 months of focused, diligent work. Research skills workshop (1 credit) 	
Starting dates	Students may commence at any module.		Candidates may commence their program at any time.
Full time or part time?	Designed as a part-time program. If modules are taken consecutively, time commitment will be equivalent to about half (50%) a typical full-time seminary work load.		May be completed either full-time or part-time.
		The program could be completed as a full-time course, over about 2½ years of concentrated study.	

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Duration	4 years maximum.	5 years maximum.	7 years maximum.
Campus residential requirements	5-7 day intensive on-campus sessions for each module.		Participate in the annual doctoral colloquium. We also encourage candidates to spend significant time with their supervisors - annually if possible; ... plan for at least 3 months at an appropriate international study centre during their program.
Graduation requirements	Satisfactory completion of the modules for the MTh(Bib. Studies) program.	Satisfactory completion of all the components of the program.	A pass recommended by 3 external, international examiners. An oral defence may be necessary.
Entry requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A first theological degree of a suitable academic level (usually MDiv or its equivalent). • English language proficiency: at least IELTS 6.0 or TOEFL 550 (Computer-based score 213; Internet-based score 80). • Proficiency in biblical languages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↳ At least a working knowledge of OT Hebrew and NT Greek to MDiv level. ↳ For those planning on seminary teaching, completed an approved grammar book in Greek or Hebrew, and passed a pre-acceptance language competency test. • Some practical experience in Christian leadership, especially preaching/teaching. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A post-graduate degree majoring in an area of biblical studies. (The AGST Alliance MTh(Bib. Studies) is a suitable pre-requisite.) • English language proficiency equivalent to at least IELTS 6.5 or TOEFL 575 (Computer-based score 230, Internet-based score 90). • Proficiency to MTh level in at least one biblical language. • Proficiency in German or another modern European language. • Proficiency in a further research language if necessary for the proposed research topic.

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Student focus	<p>Students are encouraged to apply the insights from the modules to their specific teaching/preaching settings.</p> <p>So we encourage students to shape their assignment work and thesis for their specific contexts.</p>		<p>Candidates are actively encouraged to select a focus for their research that they are passionate about.</p> <p>Research in this program is likely to have an applied focus for the Asian context.</p>
Learning approaches	<p>A range of learning methodologies are used in the modules. The on-campus sessions emphasise participation and interaction. On-campus, reflective critical processing of concepts and perspectives is given greater priority than content-transmission – and so the pre-campus preparation is really important.</p> <p>We aim to demonstrate good practice of adult and non-formal learning, learning in community, and integrating spiritual formation with biblical/theological insights.</p>		<p>The PhD(Bib. Studies) is solely research-oriented, guided by 1-2 supervisors.</p>

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