

2023

MASTER OF ARTS POST-GRADUATE DIPLOMA

BIBLICAL STUDIES
INTERCULTURAL STUDIES
COUNSELLING

EQUIPPING TEACHERS, COUNSELLORS, WRITERS,
AND RESEARCHERS FOR THE CHURCH



Colombo Theological Seminary
Resources to the Church for the Transformation of Nations

THE MA/PGDip PROGRAMME

Designed to equip teachers, writers, counsellors, and researchers for the Church

The CTS MA programme is designed to provide local students the opportunity to benefit from international standards of scholarship without having to leave the country or give up work and/or ministry to pursue education at master's level. While the courses do require a high level of commitment and periods of intense work, they have been designed with today's active Christian in mind. Classes are held on weekday evenings and Saturdays, and students can enroll at any time during the year.

SPECIALISED TRACKS

BIBLICAL STUDIES

This track provides the student the opportunity to develop a clear grasp of the various methodological approaches to the interpretation of biblical and related texts, to clearly evaluate the appropriateness of the application of particular hermeneutical methods to specific texts, and to become proficient in the use of the various tools available for biblical studies.

INTERCULTURAL STUDIES

This track provides the student the opportunity to develop a biblical and theological foundation for missiological theory and reflection, to understand and learn to exegete culture, to become familiar with anthropological theories and issues relating to intercultural communication with special reflection on one's own ministry context.

COUNSELLING

Designed to train Christians to be competent counsellors, who will be able to:

Counsel: By integrating the Christian faith and up-to-date counselling theories to provide effective counselling in diverse, clinical, educational, and ministry settings.

Educate: By training others - especially Sinhala - and Tamil-language Christian counsellors.

Write: By producing Bible-based, contextually-relevant resource material in English, Sinhala, and Tamil that will help in promoting relational and emotional healing and wellbeing

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Active involvement in a local church
- A minimum of a bachelors-level qualification
- Fluency in English (spoken and written)

MA/PGDip COURSES 2023

The Gospel of John (9th – 28th January) [ONLINE]

The course locates its context, authorship, date, and literary character in the Gospel of John. It then attempts to study the story of Jesus in three sections: the first part dealing with the public ministry of Jesus, where Jesus revealed his glory through the signs; the second part presenting Jesus' private ministry with the disciples; and the third part relating to his passion and resurrection, a revelation of his glory. Besides these, the course also pays close attention to the significant motifs such as sonship, Holy Spirit, mission, eschatology, and ethics that further highlight this Gospel's richness and set it apart from the Synoptic Gospels. Thus, this Gospel presents an opportunity for a child to wade and an elephant to swim in a stream. The concluding part of the course will also explore the contemporary relevance of John's Gospel.

Interpersonal Reconciliation in a Shame-Oriented Culture (6th – 25th March) [ONSITE]

We all know the distress and disruption caused by conflicts that are not properly resolved. Most of us react to conflict according to a conflict script, which we learn from our culture. This course explores aspects of honour-shame cultures, like Sri Lanka, that affect conflict and its resolution. It will further seek to discover how the New Testament, also written in an honour-shame culture, can help believers re-write their conflict script to become better peacemakers.

Creation and Ethics

***God's Designs from the Beginning* (8th – 27th May) [ONSITE]**

The biblical story is a story of creation, fall, redemption and final consummation. Unfortunately, creation is often seen as the least important theological and ethical part of that story. This course will seek to show why creation is vital for Christian ethics, and demonstrate its significance in a wide range of contemporary ethical issues, drawing primarily from Genesis 1-2. Issues from the creation story include: the goodness of creation (i.e. money, sex, and power), human dignity from creation in God's image, creation care, marriage and sexuality, social institutions, human work, the ethical significance of the Sabbath, human finitude, and embodied souls (or ensouled bodies). We will conclude the course by discussion on how to live a Creation Ethic in a complex, fallen world.

Developing Christian Educators (10th – 29th July) [ONSITE]

One of the Church's core mandates is to equip all Christians to attain maturity (Ephesians 4:12-13). The two fields through which the Church fulfills this mandate are Christian education and theological education. *Developing Christian Educators* will provide foundations for any kind of teaching ministry in Christian churches and theological education. It will familiarise you with major theories pertaining to teaching, learning, and human development. It will also provide practical guidelines on how to develop effective educational programmes, formulate and articulate strategic learning objectives, and achieve outcomes that are biblically based, contextually appropriate, and life-transforming.

Primeval History *Genesis 1-11* (6th – 25th November) [ONSITE]

Primeval History: Genesis 1-11 is a narrative study of what is generally called 'Pre-History' – the account of the beginning of everything: creation and humans, sin and its effects, salvation history, languages, nations, etc. The course will entail a verse-by-verse reading of the text, in tandem with references to relevant ancient Near Eastern and West Asian literature and background. It will also discuss how today's Christians can best transpose the 'then and there' of the text to the 'here and now', so as to apply it in our communal and personal contexts.

Refer the CTS Course Catalogue for details of undergraduate courses

MA/PGDip FACULTY 2023



Asish Koshy
MA, DTh (NT)

Serves as Associate Professor of New Testament at the South Asia Institute for Advanced Christian Studies (SAIACS, India). Before joining SAIACS, he served at Union Biblical Seminary (Pune), and Gospel for Asia Biblical Seminary (Kerala). His publications include *Identity, Mission and Community: A Study of the Johannine Resurrection Narrative* and *Christian Engagement in Social Change: The Role of Theological Education* (co-editor).



Mano Emmanuel
FCCA, BTh, MA, PhD

Head of Academic Advancement at CTS. Graduate of the London School of Theology (UK). She was awarded a PhD in Peace Studies from the Asia Graduate School of Theology (Philippines). A Local Preacher of the Methodist Church. Author of *To Faith Add Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Doctrine*. Formerly, Academic Dean at CTS. Her previous career was as an accountant in London's West End.



Dennis P Hollinger
BA, MDiv, MPhil,
PhD

President Emeritus and Distinguished Senior Professor of Christian Ethics at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (USA). An author whose books include *The Meaning of Sex: Christian Ethics and the Moral Life*; *Head, Heart, Hands: Bringing Together Christian Thought*; *Passion and Action*; and, *Choosing the Good: Christian Ethics in a Complex World*. Has served as the co-editor for the Eerdmans book series, 'Critical Issues in Bioethics'. He is a Distinguished Fellow with the Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity in Bannockburn, IL.



Tabea Binder
MDiv, MTh, PhD

She had her basic theological training in Germany and Belgium. In 2021 she completed her doctoral studies from Colombia International University (US). From 2004-2018 Tabea served as a theological educator in various Asian countries. She was a full-time faculty member and MA-Programme Coordinator at CTS from 2012-2015. Currently, she leads a Christian Adult Education programme in Berlin, Germany, and teaches at various Bible colleges in Europe. She specialises in Christian Education, Church History, Biblical Studies, and Christian Spirituality.



Havilah Dharamraj
BSc, MA, PhD

Head of Department (Old Testament) at the South Asia Institute for Advanced Christian Studies (SAIACS, India), where she formerly also served as Academic Dean. Having earned an MSc in Biochemistry, she went on to obtain an MA in Christianity from SAIACS, and subsequently a PhD from the University of Durham (UK). She is a contributor and editor (OT) of the *South Asia Bible Commentary* and serves on the Committee for Bible Translation for the NIV.

MA COUNSELLING

CORE COURSES

Counselling Foundations*

Human Development and Counselling

Counselling Theories and Techniques I

Counselling Theories and Techniques II

Couple Therapy

Multicultural Counselling and Professional Ethics

Trauma and Crisis Counselling

Psychological Disorders

**Successful completion of this course is an entry requirement for the programme*

ELECTIVE COURSES

Counselling for Addictions

Child and Adolescent Counselling

Gender and Sexuality – Counselling Perspectives

Community Mental Health Approaches

Note:

The above list is a representative selection. Elective courses will be confirmed annually

Counselling Foundations (12th Sep – 28th Nov)

This course is designed to ensure you have a firm foundation in counselling skills. It will cover topics such as understanding the person of the counsellor, developing the therapeutic relationship, observing and using nonverbal communication, establishing goals, understanding the process of growth, and appropriately using empathy, authenticity, immediacy and confrontation. It will integrate biblical and theological reflection with current counselling practice. It will also give you guidance on recognising explicit and implicit spiritual concerns being presented by those you counsel.

PROGRAMME REQUIREMENTS

BIBLICAL STUDIES

INTERCULTURAL STUDIES

THOSE WITH A THEOLOGY DEGREE

Those who hold an accredited theology degree are required to complete:

- 30 MA/PGDip credits (= 10 MA/PGDip courses of 3 credits each)
- Practicum and Spiritual Formation Essay

THOSE WITHOUT A THEOLOGY DEGREE

Those who do not hold a theology degree are required to complete:

- 30 MA/PGDip credits (= 10 MA/PGDip courses of 3 credits each)
- 30 undergraduate credits
- Practicum and Spiritual Formation Essay

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT FOR MA PROGRAMME

- A Dissertation

COUNSELLING

THOSE WITH A THEOLOGY DEGREE

Those who hold an accredited theology degree are required to complete:

- 30 MA credits (= 10 MA courses of 3 credits each)
- 2 Internships (3 credits each)
- 1 Project (6 credits)

THOSE WITHOUT A THEOLOGY DEGREE

Those who do not hold a theology degree are required to complete:

- 30 MA credits (= 10 MA courses of 3 credits each)
- 30 theological credits*
- 2 Internships (3 credits each)
- 1 Project (6 credits)

** Holders of the CTS Advanced Certificate in Counselling*

Those who hold the CTS ACC are given advanced standing, and are required to complete a quantum of courses in consultation with the MA Programme Coordinator in lieu of the 30 theological credits as mentioned above.

MA/PGDip COURSES

A typical MA/PGDip course is taught over 3 weeks
in 7 sessions:

Session 1: Monday 6pm - 10pm

Session 2: Monday 6pm - 10pm

Session 3: Friday 6pm - 10pm

Session 4: Saturday 9am - 5pm

Session 5: Monday 6pm - 10pm

Session 6: Friday 6pm - 10pm

Session 7: Saturday 9am - 5pm

3 MONDAY EVENINGS | 2 FRIDAY EVENINGS | 2 SATURDAYS

Students are granted one month from the completion
of each course to submit course assignments

Online schedules may vary from the above

FEES

Please contact the MA Coordinator/Student Accounts
for further details on programme costs and scholarships.

Important: *Those registering for a course
for the first time must submit
a letter of recommendation from your pastor.*

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Meet with the MA Coordinator.
You may set up an appointment by contacting
the MA Coordinator via ma@cts.lk or 011 2890809.

STEP 1

Complete and hand in your registration
form (along with the full payment) for your
introductory course to the Academic Office.

STEP 2

Hand in the completed programme application
before your second MA/PGDip course.

STEP 3

ROOTED IN THE WORD
SKILLED TO SERVE
COMMITTED TO THE CHURCH

SPECIAL FEATURES OF THE MA/PGDip PROGRAMME

Exposure to proven scholars
from around the world.

No prior theological qualifications required.

Affords those with secular degrees the
opportunity to engage in theological studies.

Relevant to Christians in ministry
as well as in the marketplace.

Three specialised tracks to choose from:
Biblical Studies
Intercultural Studies
Counselling

Access to a wide range of relevant resources.

Study at your own pace.

FOR MORE DETAILS
THE ACADEMIC OFFICE

189 DUTUGEMUNU STREET, KOHUWELA
TEL: 011 2890809
EMAIL: MA@CTS.LK
WEB: WWW.CTS.LK