



GOVERNANCE

REGULATION 19 – MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES (MTS)

(This version of Regulation 19 was approved by MCD Council on 16 March 2011.)

19.1 - Interpretation

In this Regulation,

- 19.1.1 ‘Recognised Teaching Institution’ means an institution or group of institutions recognised as an ‘Recognised Teaching Institution’ for the purposes of the Degrees of Master of Theology and Doctor of Theology in accordance with Clause 3.5 of Regulation 3.
- 19.1.2 ‘Eligible unit’, ‘Integrative unit’, ‘Specialised unit’ and ‘Required unit’ respectively mean a unit so designated by the Board for the purposes of study towards the Graduate Diploma in Theology or Master of Divinity (Clause 20.1.2 of Regulation 20; Clause 24.1.3 of Regulation 24). A unit may be designated in more than one category.
- 19.1.3 ‘Postgraduate study’ means coursework so designated by the Board, normally assessed by means of one piece of written work of 6,000 words marked by one examiner.

19.2 - Admission and Enrolment

- 19.2.1 A person may seek the permission of the Board to enrol as a candidate for the degree of Master of Theological Studies if he or she has obtained, or is qualified to obtain, the Bachelor of Theology or Bachelor of Divinity degrees of the College, with or without Honours, at a standard deemed acceptable by the Board.
- 19.2.2 The Board may recognise awards in appropriate disciplines of other tertiary institutions, or in exceptional cases advanced levels of relevant professional attainment, for the purposes of enrolling in the Master of Theological Studies; upon such recognition, either in general terms or in relation to particular applications, the Board may proceed as if the applicant fell within the terms of Clause 19.2.1.
- 19.2.3 In exceptional circumstances the Board may recommend to the Council an enrolment which does not otherwise meet the requirements of this Regulation.
- 19.2.4 The Board may only grant permission to enrol if it is satisfied that the candidate will have adequate supervision and access to adequate libraries.
- 19.2.5 Each candidate must be attached to a Recognised Teaching Institution for the whole period of candidature provided that, in exceptional circumstances, the Board may permit a candidate to attend another institution for part of the period of candidature.

- 19.2.6 Where a candidate intends to undertake the Master of Theological Studies using flexible delivery arrangements, the Board must be satisfied as to the candidate's capacity to fulfil the requirements of the degree through these arrangements.
- 19.2.7 Notwithstanding any other provision in these regulations, the Board may require any applicant to demonstrate their fitness for admission by carrying out such work and sitting for such examinations as the Board determines.
- 19.2.8 Unless the Board otherwise determines, the Master of Theological Studies must be completed in not less than three and not more than ten semesters.
- 19.2.9 The Board may discontinue the candidature of any person whom it deems to have made unsatisfactory progress.

19.3 – Course of Studies

- 19.3.1 Each candidate is to proceed on such terms and in conformity with such procedures as are determined from time to time by the Board, in addition to those specified in this Regulation. General determinations made by the Board are to be published by the Registrar; specific determinations applying to a particular candidate are to be communicated to him or her by the Registrar.
- 19.3.2 Normally, no credits towards, or exemptions from, the requirements of the degree will be granted on the basis of studies completed prior to enrolment.
- 19.3.3 Every candidate for the degree must satisfactorily complete, at a standard determined by the Board, 120 points of study from Eligible, Integrative, Specialised or Required units, or equivalent studies as approved by the Board, and the equivalent of 30 points of Postgraduate study as approved by the Board.
- 19.3.4 The course of studies for a candidate may include the following:
- 19.3.4.1 Up to 30 points of supervised ministry placements, as approved by the Board;
 - 19.3.4.2 A synthesis of 12,000 words of an interdisciplinary nature (30 points) directed by a Supervisor approved by the Board, and an oral examination of 60 minutes based on the synthesis before a panel of at least two examiners appointed by the Board (15 points additional to the 30 synthesis points).
 - 19.3.4.3 An oral examination (45 points) of up to one and a half hours before a panel of at least three examiners appointed by the Board, one of whom will normally be from a Recognised Teaching Institution other than that to which the candidate is attached.
 - 19.3.4.4 A Postgraduate 12,000-word research essay (30 points).
- 19.3.5 Each course of studies must be approved by the postgraduate committee of the Recognised Teaching Institution to which the candidate is attached, and confirmed by the Board.

19.4 - Awarding of Degree

19.4.1 Where the candidate has satisfied the examiners and completed the requirements for the Master of Theological Studies, the Board may recommend to the Council that the degree be awarded.

19.4.2 A candidate upon whom the degree of Master of Theological Studies has been conferred is entitled to use the letters 'MTS' as a suffix to their name.

[rewritten 24/11/2004; revised following 2005 Act revision November 30th 2005]

[NB: A person who holds the degree of Master of Theological Studies, and who has obtained a Distinction grade in a 12,000-word Postgraduate essay as part of their course of studies, may seek the permission of the Board to enrol as a probationary candidate for the degree of Master of Arts or Master of Theology; a person who has obtained a High Distinction in the Postgraduate essay grade may seek the permission of the Board to enrol as a probationary candidate for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.]