

# Community Ministry

## Awards in this programme:

- Postgraduate Certificate:  
In Community Ministry  
(60 Credits)
- Postgraduate Diploma:  
In Community Ministry  
(PG Cert plus 60 Credits)
- Masters Degree:  
In Community Ministry  
(PG Diploma plus 60 Credits)

## Mode of study

Blended learning through part time study for up to three years (with a full time option over 1 year). Each module requires attendance for taught sessions one day every three weeks during a semester at Oasis College in central London or at Staffordshire University (depending on module selection). The flexible nature of the programme means you can build your award from a combination of modules and exit at one of three postgraduate levels.

## Programme introduction

Postgraduate study provides a significant opportunity for experienced practitioners to reflect on their work and develop critically informed strategies for personal, professional and organisational development. These awards will equip you to work with increasing effectiveness alongside local churches and the wider community.

The programme is a collaborative arrangement with Staffordshire University and this allows us to offer a rich variety of core and optional modules (in London and Stoke-On-Trent). It also provides you with access to greater diversity and expertise in teaching personnel, and means you will engage with a range of students across professional disciplines.

## Who is this programme for?

The Community Ministry awards are designed to support the continuing professional development of workers and volunteers in the field of Christian Ministry involving work with communities. The majority of our students will be mature students returning to study after being 'in practice' for some years; some students will be progressing directly from an undergraduate qualification seeking to extend their academic studies and qualifications to Masters level.

## What experience do I need?

Applications are invited from persons with existing academic qualifications and none, who have significant experience in a paid or voluntary role in the sector, and can demonstrate their aptitude to working at M level. Each student is assessed on their own merit through application statements, references and an informal interview.

## What will I be doing?

The underpinning philosophy for the programme is an approach to study that can be described as 'theo-praxis'. This means the programme is a combination of theological reflection and sociological analysis of practice. This distinctive blend is designed to equip students with the theoretical and practical skills required for operating at the forefront of academic and professional disciplines. Structurally this results in four aspects to the programme:

### 1. A Common Core Module

All four MA awards commence with a common core module called: *'Understanding Contexts for Community Ministry'* (30 Credits) This module provides the foundation for practical analysis and theological reflection throughout the programme and is delivered at Oasis College, London.

### 2. An Award Specific Core Module:

All awards include a core module that covers the skills, knowledge and understanding required for developing professional practice in community work. For this award, the core module is called: *'Managing Community Practice'* (30 Credits). This module is delivered at Staffordshire University in Stoke.

### 3. Optional Modules:

The awards allow for a choice from a range of optional modules to the sum of 45 credits. These options can be selected from modules that form part of the Ministry Development programme at Oasis College, London or Staffordshire University.

## Optional modules include:

- *'Christian Pastoral Care'*
- *'The Bible in Christian Ministry'*
- *'Re-Expressing Church in Emerging Culture'*
- *'Interfaith Working'*
- *'Advanced Evaluation in Community Programmes'*
- *'Partnership Working'*
- *'Empowering Communities'*
- *'Making it happen with Community Arts'*
- *'Advanced Commissioning of Local Services'*
- *'Working with Groups in a Youth or Community Work Context'*
- *'Getting Communities involved'*
- *'Project Cycle Management'*
- *'Managing Regeneration'*

### 4. Research Module & Dissertation:

All four MA awards include a core module on *'Research Methods'* (15 credits) in the teaching block prior to commencing the dissertation. This module prepares students for the rigour of undertaking an *'M level dissertation'* (60 credits) in the field of their chosen award as the final module of their MA programme.

## How will I be assessed?

Each taught module is assessed by a word-processed assignment or a combination of a word-processed assignment and a class presentation. Assignments may vary in style and length according to the subject and may include formal essays, reports, journals and portfolios. The word count for assignments is typically 3,500 words and at Master's level participants produce a 15,000 word dissertation.

**What support will I get?**

Oasis College offers a supportive learning environment and those returning to study after a break will be supported to develop the study skills to meet Masters level standards. You will receive support from your module tutors and will be allocated a personal tutor for the duration of your award. We offer 24/7 access to the College campus in addition to on-line tools and resources. There is also a team of support services staff with expertise in ICT, student and library services, Furthermore there are your fellow students and, because Oasis College is a small community, you will be able to draw on their support throughout your studies.

**What can I do with this qualification?**

Successful completion of the programme will provide graduates with the required skills to adopt senior positions of leadership within their community, organisation or denomination – in paid and substantial voluntary positions. It will provide graduates with the credentials for career progression and strategic leadership capabilities. It is also anticipated that the programme will foster an interest in further postgraduate study towards research degrees at doctorate level and develop an interest in careers within higher education.

**When can I start?**

Postgraduate awards commence in September each year. We accept applications throughout the year until available course spaces are filled.

**How do I apply?**

You apply directly to the College by downloading an electronic version of the application form from our website or contact us to send a copy to you. On receipt of your application form we will respond within ten days to confirm receipt and invite you to interview.

**How much does it cost?**

Fees are payable per module for part-time students. The fee for a 30 credit module is £495.00 and can be paid by instalments. The total fee for the sum of modules (180 credits) that make up the Masters award is £2970.00 (also the full time fee). All fees are subject to annual increases.

For more information on student finances, loans and grants visit:

[www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance)

**Can I visit Oasis College?**

Yes, we welcome visitors to the College. We hold regular Open Days where you can meet staff and students and dates are published on our website. You can also contact us to arrange a visit to talk with a postgraduate tutor.



Postgraduate programmes are validated by our academic partner Staffordshire University

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**Oasis College**

**Masters Programme in:  
Community Ministry**