

Programme Title: Biblical Studies (BS) Final Award: Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert)

Programme Distinctives:

- This PGCert is an advanced, postgraduate certificate that is designed to enhance prior theological training by enabling mastery of the biblical Greek language;¹
- An integrated strategy of teaching, learning and assessment that enables the student to demonstrate the intended learning outcomes;
- A flexible and innovative online distance education programme that prioritises accessibility and enables students to benefit from structured learning resources in their own time and at their own pace;
- A multi-sensory engagement with biblical Greek designed to enable long-term retention of the language and develop skills in biblical translation;
- Online learning is enhanced by a combination of video lectures, interactive web-based exercises and Cerego (a tool which builds on the latest in cognitive science to help students learn faster and remember longer).

Vocational Opportunities:

- The course is designed to provide a professional qualification in specialist vocational skills for ministers of religion;²
- The course is also designed to prepare students for ongoing research in theology, especially, but not limited to, subjects within Biblical Studies.

Criteria for Admissions

Typically, a 2.1 honours degree or above or equivalent qualification acceptable to PTFI where Theology and/or Divinity is the main subject area OR where it is one of the joint subjects in an honours degree. In the case of the latter, the modules in Theology and/or Divinity must be of 2.1 level or above, OR a 2.1 honours degree or equivalent qualification acceptable to PTFI in a subject other than Theology/Divinity, and a Graduate Diploma in Theology with normally at least 5 out of the 6 modules with a mark of 60% or above.

Note: For overseas students a 2.1 honours degree is normally equivalent to a Cumulative Grade Point Average of 3.3 or higher from an accredited institution.

¹ This is in line with section 1.2 of the QAA's [Characteristics Statement: Master's Degree](#) which states that Postgraduate diplomas and certificates 'will often be offered alongside specialised/advanced master's programmes to facilitate continuing professional development at different stages of a professional career'.

² This is in line with section A1.1 of the QAA's [Subject Benchmark Statement: Theology and Religious Studies](#) which states that 'some [taught master's-level degrees] provide professional qualifications for specialist vocational skills'.

We require all applicants whose first language is not English to have one of the following qualifications as evidence of their English language ability:

- An undergraduate or master's degree that was taught and assessed in English in a majority English speaking country as defined by UK Visas and Immigration.³
- International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Academic module (not General Training): overall score of 7.0 with at least 6.5 in each category.⁴
- Pearson Test of English, Academic: PTE(A) total 67 (at least 61 in each of the 'communicative skills' sections).
- Cambridge Proficiency (CPE) or Cambridge Advanced (CAE): total 186 (at least 176 in each module).

Degrees taught and assessed in English must be no more than three years old at the beginning of the PGCert programme. Language tests must be no more than two years old at the beginning of the degree programme.

Successful applicants are enrolled as members of Union Theological College, Belfast.

Portfolio Required for Application:

Prospective students are required to complete the online application and to supply the following as proof that they meet the entrance requirements for this programme. Please note that there is a non-refundable application fee.

- Curriculum vitae
- Sample of academic work (2,000 words)
- Two signed references (at least one of which must be an academic reference)
- Verified academic transcript(s) and a verified copy (or copies) of degree certificates (and, if necessary, an official English translation)
- English language requirement certificate (if applicable)
- A copy of the photo page of your passport (non-EU students)

Mode of Study	Full Time
Type of Programme	Postgraduate Taught (PGT)
Total Credits for Programme	60 CATS
Length of Programme	12 months full-time or 24 months part-time
Exit Award	Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert)
Awarding Institution/Body	The Presbyterian Theological Faculty, Ireland (PTFI)
Teaching Institution	Union Theological College, Belfast

³ For the list of recognised countries visit <https://www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa/knowledge-of-english>

⁴ The IELTS (International English Language Testing System) Academic test is our preferred test. Details can be obtained from local British Council Offices.

Framework for Higher Education Qualification	Level 7
QAA Benchmark Group	Theology and Religious Studies (2014) http://www.qaa.ac.uk/assuring-standards-and-quality/the-quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements
Programme coordinator:	Dr. Zachary Cole (Lecturer in Biblical Studies, Union Theological College, Belfast)
External Examiner Name:	Dr. Sean Adams (Senior Lecturer in New Testament and Ancient Culture, University of Glasgow)

Successful applicants

Successful applicants will be given access, free of charge, to an online orientation course which serves as a prerequisite to the PGCert content ("First Steps"). The orientation course introduces students to the online software, the basics of the Greek language (the alphabet, pronunciation and simple vocabulary) and typing in Greek. Students must score a passing mark on two short tests before they are given access to the PGCert modules.

Expected duration of the orientation is about ten hours total.

Information for PTFI ministerial candidates

The PG Certificate in Biblical Greek comprises three modules of Greek grammar and translation (see below). Upon successful completion of these three modules, the student will have satisfied the current requirements of the General Assembly for Greek language study.

REGULATION INFORMATION

Programme Specific Regulations

In line with FHEQ standards the PGCert comprises 60 CATS points at master's level 7. All taught modules will be assessed by 50% coursework and 50% exam. The assessment regime enables students to demonstrate the learning outcomes intended for the programme. For the three taught modules (each 20 CATS) there are three assessment elements:⁵

- Mastering vocabulary in the Cerego app 10%
- Written assignment 40%
- Grammar and translation exams 50%

The pass mark for each taught module is 50%. A re-sit will be available for any taught module, the pass mark to be capped at 50% for classification purposes.

⁵ See 'Assessment' in the [QAA's Subject Benchmark Statement](#) 4.20.

Under certain circumstances, at the discretion of the programme coordinator, students may retake a module.

The three modules must be completed in sequential order, and a passing mark must be earned before progressing to the next module.

EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF PROGRAMME

Building upon the competencies and skills of previous theological study, a PGCert degree is awarded to students who, during the programme, have demonstrated:

1. A developed understanding of biblical Greek grammar and vocabulary;
2. A high degree of competence in reading and translating a number of selected texts from the New Testament in its original language;
3. A developed ability to evaluate critically techniques employed in the exegesis of the Greek New Testament;
4. A high degree of independence and self-direction in learning;
5. An appreciation of the vocation of the Christian minister.

TEACHING METHODS

A wide variety of teaching and learning methods are employed and include the following:

- Video lectures and presentations to provide in-depth and repeated explanation of grammatical concepts
- Multi-sensory, interactive engagement with the biblical text
- Technology-based learning through a platform that utilises study sets with the innovative educational tool Cerego and quizzes for self-assessment
- Frequent and focused assessment and feedback through quizzes and tests
- Guided reading and translation of primary texts
- Guided introduction to exegetical tools and resources

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Learning Outcomes: Knowledge & Understanding

By the end of the programme, the student should demonstrate:

- A nuanced understanding of New Testament Greek grammar;
- A knowledge of vocabulary occurring 25 times or more in the New Testament;
- A comprehension of selected texts from the New Testament in its original language;
- A mature understanding of techniques for New Testament exegesis.

Teaching/Learning Methods and Strategies

- Online lectures provide students with focused and repeated explanation of grammatical concepts.
- A range of interactive and multi-sensory web-based exercises enable students to master the grammar and syntax of the language.
- Cerego sets help students gain fluency and mastery of Greek vocabulary and quizzes are provided to aid in self-assessment.
- Guided reading develops comprehension of key exegetical techniques.

Methods of Assessment

- Cerego sets assess the degree of mastery of Greek vocabulary
- Frequent grammar quizzes provide formative feedback for students and supervisors
- Exams provide summative assessment
- Written assignments provide formative and summative feedback on comprehension of exegetical techniques.

2. Learning Outcomes: Subject-Specific and Intellectual Skills

On completion of the course, the student will have acquired:

- An ability to read, analyse, and interpret selected texts from the New Testament in its original language;
- An ability to translate the New Testament into English;
- An ability to employ a range of advanced exegetical techniques and defend interpretive decisions;
- An ability to evaluate critically current research in the field;
- An ability to develop original exegetical resources relevant to Christian ministry.

Teaching/Learning Methods and Strategies

- A range of interactive and multi-sensory web-based exercises enable students to master the grammar and syntax of the language.
- Cerego sets help students gain fluency and mastery of Greek vocabulary and quizzes are provided to aid in self-assessment.
- Additional reading and learning resources teach exegetical skills, allow for critical interaction with techniques in the field, and demonstrate the move from exegesis to application in Christian ministry.

Methods of Assessment

- Cerego sets assess the degree of mastery of Greek vocabulary
- Frequent grammar quizzes provide formative feedback for students and supervisors
- Exams provide summative assessment
- Written assignments provide formative and summative assessment on the competency of exegetical skills, critical evaluation of recent research, and ability to develop exegetical resources relevant to Christian ministry.

3. Learning Outcomes: Generic Skills

Postgraduate students of Theology develop a range of generic, or transferable, skills appropriate to a wide variety of professional situations:

- Competence in IT skills at an appropriate level
- Ability to identify and analyse primary data
- Ability to work independently
- Self-directed learning
- Self-discipline

Teaching/Learning Methods and Strategies

- Participation in the online distance programme will further develop IT competency
- Since the coursework requires students to work on agreed deadlines, the students are enabled to become independent and self-directed learners within the overall structure of the PGCert

Methods of Assessment

- Transferable skills are normally not assessed formally but are required for the effective completion of the programme.

Programme Requirements

A student will take a total of 60 CATS of modules as outlined below.

Module Title	Level/ stage	CATS	Availability in semester			Duration			Assessment		
			S1	S2	S3		Core	Option	Coursework %	Practical %	Exam %
PTF111 Greek Reading 1	7	20	•	•	•	15 weeks	•		50%		50%
PTF112 Greek Reading 2	7	20	•	•	•	15 weeks	•		50%		50%
PTF113 Greek Reading 3	7	20	•	•	•	15 weeks	•		50%		50%

Brief Summaries of taught modules

Greek Reading 1 (PTF111)

- Video lectures by Dr. Mark Dubis, Dr. Nicholas Ellis and more
- Covers: Greek cases, gender, first and second declensions, adjectives, article, prepositions, conjunctions, adverbs, verbal tense and aspect, active voice, indicative mood, person and number and εἶμι
- Translation and exegesis of the Gospel of John chapters 1-3
- 200 words of Greek vocabulary using Cerego
- Development of lexical analysis through word studies

- 5,000-word written exegetical assignment
- Duration: 10–15 hours per week for 15 weeks

Greek Reading 2 (PTF112)

- Video lectures by Dr. Mark Dubis, Dr. Nicholas Ellis and more
- Covers: pronouns, middle/passive voice, tense/aspect, mood, commands and prohibitions, contract verbs, participles
- Translation and exegesis of the Gospel of Matthew chapters 5–7
- 125 words of Greek vocabulary using Cerego
- Development of clausal analysis
- 5,000-word written exegetical assignment
- Duration: 10–15 hours per week for 15 weeks

Greek Reading 3 (PTF113)

- Video lectures by Dr. Mark Dubis, Dr. Nicholas Ellis and more
- Covers: stative verbs, perfect tense, advanced participles, liquid verbs, μ -verbs, conditional sentences, third declension, advanced cases, advanced pronouns, special uses of the article
- Translation and exegesis of 1 Thessalonians
- 125 words of Greek vocabulary using Cerego
- Development of textual criticism
- 5,000-word written exegetical assignment
- Duration: 10–15 hours per week for 15 weeks

Suggested Resources

All required course materials will be provided to students electronically. However, the following additional resources are recommended:

Novum Testamentum Graece, Greek text and critical apparatus: Nestle-Aland 28th edition,
(Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 2012)

W. F. Arndt, and F. W. Gingrich, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (University of Chicago Press, 1979)

C. R. Campbell, *Basics of Verbal Aspect in Biblical Greek* (Zondervan, 2008)

J. Duff, *Elements of New Testament Greek*, 3rd ed. (Cambridge University Press, 2005)

C. L. Irons, *A Syntax Guide for Readers of the Greek New Testament* (Kregel Academic, 2016)

S. Kubo, *A Reader's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament* (Zondervan, 1975)

J. P. Louw, and E. Nida, *Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains*
(United Bible Societies, 1988)

W. D. Mounce, *Basics of Biblical Greek*, 3rd ed. (Zondervan, 2009)

W. D. Mounce, *A Graded Reader of Biblical Greek* (Zondervan, 1996)

D. B. Wallace, *Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics: An Exegetical Syntax of the New Testament*
(Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996)

SEMESTER DATES

The PGCert in Biblical Greek can be completed in as few as 12 months (full-time) or as much as 24 months (part-time). Admission to the PGCert in Biblical Greek can take place at the beginning of any semester, autumn (usually beginning in September), spring (usually beginning in January), or summer (usually beginning in May).