ETS PROSPECTUS

eds.ac.uk
FIRST OF ALL I’d like to thank you for taking the time to read through the Edinburgh Theological Seminary prospectus.

Edinburgh Theological Seminary is where the past meets the present, where rigorous theology meets modern world views and where the timeless message of the gospel meets unchanging human need.

In a largely secular age it might be tempting for churches to become less specific about what they believe and teach; and in a world where so much focus is on the future, what happened in the past might appear less and less relevant. We believe the opposite. If ever the world needed to hear the message of the gospel in all its depth and abiding validity it is now. We believe that the inner longing of modern humanity can only be satisfied as age old questions are asked about who we are, where we came from and what God has done in Jesus Christ.

500 years ago when a troubled monk, Martin Luther, nailed his “95 Theses” to the door of Wittenberg Castle Church in Germany, little did he know that what began as a local protest would spark off a movement which would change the world forever. As the Reformation spread across Europe, it was only a matter of time before Scotland was affected by what Luther had started; and in 1560 the whole country, from the grass roots upwards, returned to the Bible. The newly reformed church embarked upon a radical program of expansion, insisting upon the Bible in everyday language, uncomplicated gospel worship, education for everyone and help for the poor. The Reformation spelled positive change for Scotland and the western world.

In today’s largely irreligious world the God Question won’t go away because humanity’s basic God-instinct won’t go away. At Edinburgh Theological Seminary, students are uncompromisingly rooted in scriptural doctrine. At the same time, they learn how to engage at the interface between antiquity and modernity. ETS stands unashamedly in Scotland’s greatest tradition. I invite you to train with us, support our vision and join our student body.

IVER MARTIN
PRINCIPAL

'EDINBURGH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY IS WHERE THE PAST MEETS THE PRESENT, WHERE RIGOROUS THEOLOGY MEETS MODERN WORLD VIEWS AND WHERE THE TIMELESS MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL MEETS UNCHANGING HUMAN NEED.'
Edinburgh Theological Seminary has a long history. One of the first things the Free Church of Scotland did after it came into existence in 1843 was to set up a theological college because it saw the value of reformed theological education. We have been here on The Mound ever since. In fact, we are now one of the oldest theological colleges in Scotland.

Though we are an old institution, our aim is to provide theological training for mission in the contemporary world. Our well-designed programmes are ideal for training ministers and pastors, those preparing for mission, as well as those who simply want to develop their own understanding in biblical studies, theology, history and pastoral application.

Our students leave the seminary prepared for meaningful ministries, equipped with a deep understanding of God and his word.

The doctrinal standard of Edinburgh Theological Seminary is the Westminster Confession of Faith. This sets the Seminary firmly in the main-line Christian tradition, particularly with regard to such doctrines as the Trinity and the Incarnation.

Although the various courses are taught from the standpoint of deep personal commitment to Confessional theology, students are expected to interact creatively with other theological traditions and to familiarise themselves with current trends in theology and Biblical studies.

- **AVOWEDLY CONFESSIONAL**
  Sharing the teaching of the Reformation

- **ACADEMICALLY VALIDATED**
  Training valued by the universities

- **BIBLICALLY REFORMED**
  Teaching shaped by the word of God

- **PASSIONATELY VOCATIONAL**
  Preparing God’s people for service

- **ENThusiastically MISSIONAL**
  Reaching the nations with the Gospel

- **A WARM LEARNING COMMUNITY**
  Fostering friendships for the future
ETS: OUR MISSION IN THE 21ST CENTURY

We believe that resourceful evangelism requires robust theology. Our mission is to provide the spiritual training and theological education by which men and women can bring the historic gospel of Jesus Christ to Scotland, the UK, Europe and the wider world.

OUR MISSION GOALS:

▶ To produce full-time teaching ministries fit for mission in the 21st century, by providing effective theological education and vocational training to students for ministry, missionary work and evangelism.

▶ To facilitate – in conjunction with apprenticeships in local churches – the development of ministry skills and Christian character. These are crucial for both men and women as they engage in authentic ambassadorial ministries in a world crying out for human love and care shaped by ministries that are themselves vocational, pastoral and Christ-like in character.

▶ To share our Scottish theological heritage with students from other nations, at the same time gaining enrichment from their insights.

▶ To provide postgraduate research facilities and supervision for the development of those engaging in advanced theological education on a part-time or full-time basis.

▶ To provide postgraduate research facilities in the areas of Scottish Historical Theology, Presbyterian Studies and Missiology.

▶ To provide part-time learning opportunities for lay-preachers, elders and others, male and female, who are interested in theology and Biblical Studies.

▶ To organise and provide in-service training for ministers, missionaries and other Christian professionals.
Edinburgh Theological Seminary is superbly located, right in the heart of Edinburgh, a city frequently labelled one of the most beautiful cities in the world.

Our building is surrounded by the quirky alleyways, quaint courtyards and cobbled streets that make up Edinburgh’s charming Old Town and we have Edinburgh Castle, St Giles’ Cathedral and the Writers’ Museum right on our doorstep.

The past is never far away. But the present is here, too, with the Scottish Parliament and Edinburgh Festival Centre just down the road and bustling Princes Street only a few minutes’ walk away.

The capital boasts the largest collection of historic buildings, museums, art galleries, entertainment venues and theatres of any city in Scotland. With trams, railway and bus stations within easy walking distance from ETS, students have the choice of living within the city itself or commuting from elsewhere.
ETS has become a highly effective resource in the work of the gospel in Scotland. We are now able to expand, serving the wider church, becoming a training provider for Scotland, Europe and the rest of the world.

THE SEMINARY is actively implementing a varied, flexible and dynamic teaching curriculum. We have also formulated a cutting-edge syllabus of programmes that are right up to date with the issues and needs of Scotland. We are now in a position to offer the highest standards of academic study alongside a wide range of hands-on practical experience.

We are keenly aware that, above all else, our greatest need is for God to continue to provide, equip and bless in all that we seek to do in his name, by his strength and for his glory.

ETS: OUR VISION

It is our hope that by 2020:

▶ ETS will have around 300 students, on a range of programmes, making it a leading training provider in Scotland.

▶ ETS will have become the core missional resource for the Free Church of Scotland as the hub for joined-up thinking and strategizing about taking the gospel to Scotland, the UK, Europe and beyond,
thus serving the Mission Board (Home and International), and indeed, a range of mission societies.

ETS will be providing the wider Church of Christ, nationally and internationally, with key missiological resources for planting and nurturing growing churches.

By training those who will in turn ‘teach others also’, ETS will play a central part in the spread of the confessional witness of the reformed church by geometrical progression, multiplying across the world.

ETS will have reincarnated the missional ideals of the early Free Church which established the first chair of missions in the western world.

ETS: FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

ETS plans to design, develop and deliver the following programmes and initiatives to ensure that the Christian Church has the resources to engage in God’s mission in Scotland, UK, Europe and beyond:

- Further develop the new Mission Centre through which we can respond to the needs of the church serving in the contemporary world, offering courses in the following areas:
  - Serving Together: Gifts For Local Mission
  - Setting Out: Mentored For Mission
  - Time Out: Refreshment In Mission
  - Digging Deep: Research For Mission

- Establish a Centre for Presbyterian Studies.

- Extend the Ph.D level Postgraduate programme through the University of Glasgow.

- In collaboration with the University of Glasgow, to offer a new module - Gaelic and the Gospel - to enable ETS to support interaction with Scottish Gaelic culture and its links with the church and its gospel.

ETS AND THE WIDER CHURCH

Our vision takes account of the developing needs expressed by our gospel partners in the Free Church and in other denominations.

A key development has been our collaboration with the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC) who view ETS as one of their recommended training institutions. To help reach potential FIEC candidates, they now deliver an Independent Ministry Module at ETS which is taught alongside the degree course. We are delighted to facilitate this.

Increasingly, by God’s grace, Edinburgh, which was once at the forefront in stimulating the evangelical missionary movement of the 19th and 20th centuries that carried the Good News ‘from the West to the rest’, can once again become a focus for training those who will become messengers and missionaries to the UK, Europe and beyond – making disciples in all nations.

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- Develop ETS Engage, our online resource hub, designed to provide access to a variety of cross-media materials ranging from academic articles to pastoral and discipleship resources which will be of benefit to the church at various levels.
ETS is currently developing a Mission Centre in order to meet the current needs of the church for its mission in Scotland, throughout the UK, and globally.

The Centre will be based in the newly-refurbished upper floors at ETS.

The Centre will have access to courses already offered on the campus, such as the Individual Study Programme, Access to Theology, Diploma in Christian Youth Work and the Sabbatical Studies in Theology and Mission.

In addition to its own study area on floor 7 of ETS, the Centre will have access to the larger lecture rooms for workshops, conferences, etc., offering an attractive variety of training programmes with the focus on mission.

It is anticipated that distance learning will enable ETS to deliver many of the courses offered at the Mission Centre.

**The Mission Centre will serve the following groups:**

- Members and leaders of local congregations
- Pastors and missionaries at the start of their service
- Serving ministers, missionaries and others who wish to develop their knowledge and skills further through short courses
- Christians who wish to carry out formal research in Missiology
Do you want to carry out research on a topic that will help you in your mission work? Or do you plan to be involved in theological education with a focus on mission? To meet such needs, we offer the Master of Theology by Research (see page 24) in an area of mission that you wish to explore.

Alternatively, pending validation by the University of Glasgow, you have the option to do our new Master of Theology in Missiology by Taught Courses (see page 26), exploring the following areas:

- Bible, Theology, and Mission (Core)
- History and Mission (Option)
- Current Issues in Mission (Option)
- Mission into the Twenty-first Century (Option)
Stephanie Golz
BTh Student at ETS

'It has been a pleasure to study at ETS! Both the students and staff create a warm atmosphere unlike any other establishment in my experience. I anticipate my final year here fondly ... even the Greek classes!'
Undergraduate Studies
Bachelor of Theology (BTh)

The BTh is designed to provide vocational training for those preparing for the pastoral ministry and other forms of full-time Christian service.

The BTh may be taken full-time (four days a week), or part-time (two days a week). After three years successful study (or up to six, if you prefer), you will hold a degree from the University of Glasgow, one of Britain’s oldest and most famous universities.

We believe that our Bachelor of Theology degree offers those preparing for the Christian ministry a core academic programme suited for life-long Christian service. If you would like a stimulating, challenging, comprehensive, in-depth education in Biblical Studies, Christian Theology and related disciplines, we can offer you a well-designed curriculum, excellent facilities and first-class tuition. As you progress through your studies, you will rub shoulders with a student body which is remarkably cosmopolitan in composition, making lifelong friendships that will span the globe.

While the Presbyterian Church Ministry Module is offered to meet contemporary needs within a Presbyterian tradition, we also offer an Independent Church Ministry Module to meet the needs of those who belong to an independent tradition. This new 96-hour Module, delivered in association with the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches, makes this core course of theological education ideal for other denominations (e.g. Baptist, Pentecostal, Brethren).

▶ See page 18 for more information about the ministry training modules.

BTh (without Greek and Hebrew)

This is the same programme as the previous one, but with less emphasis on Greek and Hebrew.

It is specifically aimed at preparing for other avenues of full-time Christian service for both men and women who require an understanding of Christian truth in depth, and skill in communicating that truth.

This is designed for full-time mission workers in all denominational groups.

BTh (Part-time)

The BTh timetable permit students to study two days a week (Tuesdays and Wednesdays, or Thursdays and Fridays) and complete the course in anything up to six years.

This will help students who may not be able to move to Edinburgh for the three year period. They can, instead, remain where they are, and, if required, stay overnight in Edinburgh one day a week and complete the programme.

It is also designed to work with the current approach to training for preachers and other Christian workers which utilises local apprenticeships alongside theological education. We already have a number of students doing this, and it is certainly a growing market.

Distance Learning

It is now possible to do the BTh through online distance learning. This option is great for those who for a variety of personal reasons simply cannot make the move to Edinburgh – employment, family, financial constraints, illness or disability.

▶ See page 42 for more information about Distance Learning.

BTh (with Greek and Hebrew)

This is specifically aimed at training full-time teachers and preachers within the framework of our niche market of Reformed, Confessional Theology. This is designed not only for those from the Presbyterian tradition, but also other denominational groups and the wider Christian church as a whole.
BTh - Programme of Studies

The Degree of Bachelor of Theology normally follows a prescribed curriculum: one course in each of Elementary Greek (or elective) and Elementary Hebrew (or elective); Church History 1, Church History 2 (Scottish, or elective), Systematic Theology 1 and 2, Practical Theology 1 and 2, Old Testament 1 and 2, and New Testament 1 and 2.

Each course consists of two consecutive semester-long modules (each semester is of fifteen weeks’ duration).

Students are able to take short mission courses from the ETS Mission Centre to supplement their theological studies on the BTh.

Candidates will be required to submit a 10,000 word dissertation. The area of study may be chosen from any one of the Seminary’s five departments.

Typically, holders of the degree will be able to:

► Engage in competent exegesis and exposition of the Christian scriptures
► Demonstrate a professional knowledge of Christian belief and of the history of Christian thought
► Evaluate differing theological and religious positions
► Identify and analyse issues and problems in current biblical, theological and religious scholarship
► Articulate and defend personal theological beliefs
► Communicate the Christian faith effectively
► Provide basic pastoral care

Entrance Requirements

For admission to the BTh programme applicants will normally require university entrance qualifications. For example: SQA Highers, or their equivalent: AAB, BBBB, ABBC.

The Senate will take into account not only conventional academic qualifications, but also vocational or professional experience, completion of appropriate access courses or possession of Edinburgh Theological Seminary’s own Certificate in Theology or Diploma in Christian Studies.

Thomas Davis, BTh Graduate

"The BTh course has been superb: it is stimulating, challenging, exciting, fascinating and rewarding. I cannot commend it more highly! To be taught the truths of scripture in a warm, welcoming, stimulating environment with the fellowship and support of students and lecturers alike was an enormous privilege from which I have grown in knowledge, skills and faith."

Richard Gamble, BTh Student

"The BTh programme provides a wonderful combination of rigorous and reverent Christian scholarship. I have found my experience at ETS to be enormously beneficial. The course is designed to dig deep theological foundations and to equip for a lifetime of ministry and study. It is a pleasure to be a part of the learning community at ETS and I commend the BTh in the highest possible terms."

THINKING OF APPLYING FOR THE BTH?
FIND OUT MORE:
www.ets.ac.uk
E-mail: offices@ets.ac.uk
Tel: +44(0)131 226 5286
Individual Study Programme

This course is a superb opportunity to tailor a personalised course of study to meet your needs. Students can take modules from any of the ETS departments - Old and New Testament, Systematic Theology, Church History, Apologetics, Practical Theology and the ETS Mission Centre.

At ETS, we believe that theological education is more acute now than ever. It is for this reason that we offer the Individual Study Programme which is both relevant and accessible.

This programme is an attractive option to a range of people – particularly those who intend to go into Christian mission, or missionaries on furlough. It is also ideal for those who simply wish to deepen their understanding of core, biblical, theological, practical and missional issues from a Reformed perspective.

▶ This programme may also be taken with Distance Learning options (see page 42).
▶ The ISP is also offered as part of our Mission Centre (see page 10).

Flexibility

In keeping with the flexible nature of the Individual Study Programme, ISP courses can be taken at one of two levels:

**Auditor:** Students attend class but are not required to complete coursework or take end of semester examinations.

**Degree Credit:** Students complete coursework and take end of semester examinations and are assessed to the standard required by the Bachelor of Theology Programme.

Awards

All students who complete their courses successfully will receive due certificates of recognition at the Seminary’s Annual Awards Ceremony.

Students assessed at Degree Credit level may, with the permission of Glasgow University, use these ISP modules toward the Bachelor of Theology degree awarded by Glasgow University to students at Edinburgh Theological Seminary.

Programme Duration

The ISP is very flexible. It may be undertaken part-time or full-time, and often ranges from one semester to two years depending on the number of selected modules or courses.

Fees

The course fee depends on the number of modules taken. See the ETS website for details – ets.ac.uk
Riaz Mohammed
Doctor, Edinburgh
“I would have no hesitation in recommending the ISP to anyone who wishes to know more about the Scriptures and the Christian Faith - whether you have an academic background or simply wish to use your time wisely to know more about the Christian Faith and grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.”

Hamish Alexander, Retired
ISP Student
“The willingness of ETS to make available these programmes to students who, perhaps for reasons of time, location, employment are unable, or may not require to pursue full time undergraduate study, is of tremendous benefit to many people. The possibility of choosing particular subjects from within the undergraduate programme, and of pursuing the study of these at an appropriate, and to a desired academic level, has for me been an enormously attractive feature of ETS.

These programmes can be specifically tailored to supplement – or complement - existing qualifications, in preparation for Postgraduate studies, or simply for the enjoyment of studying for it’s own sake. I cannot speak too highly of the lecturers I have studied under. The quality of preparation and delivery has been outstanding and within a clear framework of Reformed Theology.

I have found that personal attendance has been academically beneficial, with a number of fellow students coming from different countries as well as from a range of church traditions. My experience thus far has been intellectually challenging yet spiritually enriching at a time in life when both elements provide significant personal encouragement.”

Entrance Qualifications
No formal entrance qualifications are required for the Individual Study Programme.

Students intending to study at Degree Credit level, however, would normally require university entrance qualifications as detailed in the Bachelor of Theology section.

The Senate will take into account not only conventional academic qualifications, but vocational or professional experience, completion of appropriate access courses, or possession of the Seminary’s own Certificate in Theology or Diploma in Christian Studies.

THINKING OF APPLYING FOR THE ISP? FIND OUT MORE:
www.ets.ac.uk
E-mail: offices@ets.ac.uk
Tel: +44(0)131 226 5286
Training for Church Leaders

ETS seeks to serve a variety of church fellowships. The following two courses are offered to provide supplementary training for those who are to serve as leaders in either Presbyterian or Independent fellowships.

**Certificate in Presbyterian Church Ministry**

Presbyterian Churches are a huge part of the worldwide church of Jesus Christ. This course is designed to enable students to rethink Presbyterianism in a challenging and helpful way.

This course is designed to highlight the biblical reasons for holding to helpful Presbyterian Church principles and practices, not only at a conceptual level, but in the real world of gospel ministry.

**Course Content**

There are two sections to the course: Church Principles and Church Practice. Under the former, students explore issues such as confessional standards, church government, the role of women, the relation of the church to the state, church membership, the sacraments and worship. Church practice will cover areas such as the eldership, the diaconate, the presbytery and the general assembly, as well as the practice of church discipleship and discipline.

On completion of the course, students will have developed a greater appreciation of the biblical basis for Presbyterian Church principles and practice. This will help students in their own gospel ministry and in fostering within fellow leaders and worshippers an understanding of the hugely helpful convictions that underlie Presbyterianism, while learning to respect other Christians who have alternative views on secondary issues.

**Who is the course for?**

This course is open to other students from inside and outside the church. All students at ETS intending to go into the full-time preaching ministry within Presbyterian denominations are expected to do this course. It is equally suitable for all office-bearers (elders and deacons) in a Presbyterian church (or similar).

**When does the course take place?**

While much of the material is accessible online, the course is delivered over a series of monthly seminars between September and April, with Church Practice and Church Principles offered in alternate years. It normally takes two years to complete the course.

**Certificate in Independent Church Ministry**

Independent churches are a growing force for the Gospel in 21st Century Scotland. They come in all shapes and sizes and with a variety of historical backgrounds. Those who serve in them need to be well trained both theologically and in the practicalities of leading a self-governing church.

To help equip those workers FIEC has partnered with ETS to provide training geared specifically to the needs and dynamics of those churches. As a network of over 500 Independent churches of all types (Baptist, Brethren, Congregational, Mission Hall, etc.) across the UK, FIEC is uniquely placed to provide wisdom and practical instruction in this area. A range of experienced pastors and ministry leaders from across the UK will lead sessions sharing their own experiences and knowledge.

Those attending will gain an understanding of the theology underpinning Independency and its history. In addition sessions will look at practical issues such as Training, Mission, Care of Workers, Inter-Church Discipline, and how Appointment and Ordination works in Independency. Those who attend - either in person at ETS, or by distance learning options - and complete an optional assignment will be eligible for the ETS Certificate in Independent Church Ministry.

**Who is this course for?**

This course is for students preparing to serve in Independent Churches, but is also open to others who may be serving in such churches or who could just benefit from the course.

**When does the course take place?**

The course runs on Tuesday afternoons at 2pm over 14 weeks. Each session consists of two 45-minute halves with a short break in the middle.

▶ These courses may be studied either on-campus or by distance learning, or a combination of both. This helps to make them available to a wide group of interested students.
▶ Interested? See website for further information on course fees and application - ets.ac.uk

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Studying at ETS is a real privilege, but it is also hard work. When students come to the Awards Ceremony at the end of the Seminary year, however, it all seems to be worth it. Those who have excelled are given prizes, and all our students who have completed their programme of studies are cheered by the folks who gather in the distinguished surroundings of St Columba’s Free Church in Edinburgh.

The ceremony has become one of the highlights in the ETS calendar where a good number of seminary friends join with staff and students to celebrate the students’ hard work and encourage the work of the Seminary.

The Awards Ceremony is also an ideal way for the Seminary to connect with the church, and an opportunity for ETS supporters and the wider church to support the Seminary, be encouraged about the work, unite in thanksgiving as well as the opportunity to get to know current and graduating students.

Every year at the ceremony, it is a tradition that one of the leaving students gives a speech on behalf of his/her colleagues. In return, those who are entering their final year choose someone who will express encouragement to these friends who are leaving the Seminary. While the humour is always refreshing, the speeches convey a heartfelt affection born out of the friendships forged during years of study together.

The Principal closes the formal part of the evening by taking the opportunity to address the student body from Scripture – short-term students as well as those who are completing their graduate studies - focusing in particular on those who are leaving to embark on a life-time of Christian service.

▶ Keep an eye out on the ETS website and social media for the date of our next Awards Ceremony in May – everyone is welcome!
"The whole curriculum at ETS is rooted in a solid, Biblical and Confessional basis. Students have a solid place to stand theologically, but there is also room to explore the theology, to grow and to develop."

**Dr Sinclair Ferguson**
Theologian and MTh Supervisor
Postgraduate Studies
Master of Theology in Scottish Church History and Theology (MTh) (by Taught Courses)

A unique postgraduate programme, exploring our theological heritage within the context of Presbyterianism, Scottish Theology and Scottish Church History.

This is a programme delivered by means of prescribed courses involving either one year of full-time (on-campus) study or two years part-time (off-campus) study. It is designed primarily for graduates in History or Theology and the course will serve as an introduction for further research in Scottish Church History and/or Scottish Theology at doctoral level. It will also be attractive to those whose desire is to develop their academic interests without necessarily proceeding to doctoral level.

The programme will also provide a useful historical and theological framework for church leaders who are assessing the need for change in the contemporary church.

This programme is proving to be attractive to people who wish to study Presbyterianism, Scottish Theology, Scottish Church History or even Gaelic historical and theological documents. The range of students, thus, is international and national.

In the first semester, students will be required to complete a compulsory Research and Study Skills module which will introduce them to the world of postgraduate study in the relevant areas together with the first of three main modules. In the second semester, students will study the second and third main modules.

Each main module will be assessed by means of three 3,000-word essays. At the completion of the taught modules, students will then write a 15,000-word dissertation on a topic of their own choice, under the guidance of a supervisor. The main supervisor for each candidate will be a member of ETS academic staff. There will be a second supervisor appointed by the University of Glasgow.

Students will select any three of the following modules in consultation with the Programme Director.

**Scottish Church History:**
- The Scottish Reformation (including the pre-Reformation period)
- The Second Reformation to the Marrow Controversy (1578-1723)
- The Scottish Enlightenment to the Twentieth Century (1723-1929 and beyond)

**Scottish Theology:**
- The Doctrine of the Church in Scottish Presbyterianism, 1560-1690
- The Political Theology of Scottish Presbyterianism, 1560-1707
- The Doctrine of the Atonement in Scottish Theology, 1740-1920
Entrance Requirements
for Master of Theology
(by Taught Courses)

Applicants for admission would normally be expected to hold a good honours degree in History or Theology/Divinity of a recognised university or college/seminary, or the Bachelor of Theology degree of Edinburgh Theological Seminary at distinction or merit level.

In exceptional circumstances, applicants without this qualification might be admitted subject to having an alternative qualification, at an approved level of achievement, appropriate to their proposed field of study, and subject to any conditions laid down by the Seminary Senate with the agreement of the Higher Degrees Committee of the University of Glasgow.

Language Requirements

For those who do not have English as their first language, the minimum requirement in the various English examinations is as follows: IELTS 6.5.

Roy McDaniel
Graduate Student, Louisville, Mississippi, United States

“I’m deeply thankful I was able to pursue an MTh. at Edinburgh Theology Seminary. It undoubtedly sharpened my theology and enriched my ministry. The coursework (in church polity, the atonement, and political theology), the academic rigor of the program, and the guidance of my supervisor all instilled in me a sense of theological judgment and practical wisdom that I dearly need for my work in the church. I praise God for ETS.”

THINKING OF APPLYING FOR THIS COURSE? FIND OUT MORE:

www.ets.ac.uk

E-mail: offices@ets.ac.uk
Tel: +44(0)131 226 5286
Master of Theology (MTh)
(by Research)

The MTh provides an opportunity to engage in research for ministers, pastors, elders, and committed believers who belong not only to the Presbyterian tradition, but to the wider Christian church. It is designed to enable such students to specialise in an area of systematic theology, biblical studies, church history or practical theology.

This is a research-based degree involving either one year of full-time (on-campus) study or two years' part-time (off-campus) study. The research may cover biblical studies, church history, practical theology or mission.

Edinburgh was at the forefront in stimulating the evangelical missionary movement of the 19th and 20th centuries that carried the Good news ‘from the West to the rest.’ As the mission movement in the 21st century increasingly moves in the reverse direction, the ETS postgraduate programme seeks to prepare missionaries to Europe to make disciples in a post-Christian milieu.

Moreover, nations beyond Europe are aware of the need for their brightest pastors to become teachers in theological education which can influence the future of their national churches.

This degree will be of particular benefit to those who will become teachers in theological education, aiming to shape the theology of their own churches.

The main supervisor for each candidate will be a member of Edinburgh Theological Seminary teaching staff. There will be a second supervisor appointed by the University of Glasgow.

Candidates will be required to submit a 40,000-word thesis and they may be required to undergo an oral examination. In addition, full-time candidates will be expected to attend the programme of postgraduate seminars arranged by the Seminary. Part-time candidates will be expected to attend those seminars relevant to the subject of their own research.

Entrance Requirements for Master of Theology (by Research)

Applicants for admission would normally be expected to hold a good honours degree in History or Theology/Divinity of a recognised university or college/seminary, or the Bachelor of Theology degree of Edinburgh Theological Seminary at distinction or merit level.

In exceptional circumstances, applicants without this qualification might be admitted subject to having an alternative qualification, at an approved level of achievement, appropriate to their proposed field of study, and subject to any conditions laid down by the Seminary Senate with the agreement of the Higher Degrees Committee of the University of Glasgow.

Language Requirements

For those who do not have English as their first language, the minimum requirement in the various English examinations is as follows: IELTS 6.5.
Jim Sayers - MTh Graduate  
Communications Director,  
Grace Baptist Mission, Abingdon,  
England  

“Studying the MTh by research at ETS was ideal for me. I could choose a subject relevant to my work in world mission, study in spare time and at my own pace. My supervisor was mission-minded, encouraged my good ideas and calmly led me away from blind alleys. Additional supervision from Glasgow University made my thesis more robust without compromising my evangelical convictions. Thank you to all at ETS for this experience.”

Andy Longwe  
Pastor, Cumbernauld Free Church, Scotland  

“The research Masters programme at Edinburgh Theological Seminary is a wonderful opportunity to do rigorous theological research in a unique and unparalleled environment – with literally thousands of books, journals and literature at your disposal and under lecturers whose sole aim is to help you love, glorify and revere God more.

The MTh at ETS shapes heart, mind, body and soul. Most importantly, it gives one the ability to further deepen their study of God’s word and God’s work in history for the sake of serving the church. I highly recommend it, especially if you want to be further equipped for gospel ministry in the local church.”

THINKING OF APPLYING FOR THIS COURSE? FIND OUT MORE:  
www.ets.ac.uk  
E-mail: offices@ets.ac.uk  
Tel: +44(0)131 226 5286
Master of Theology in Missiology (MTh) (by Taught Courses)

This new postgraduate programme forms part of our ETS Mission Centre and will be attractive to those whose want to develop their academic interests in mission, whether local or global, and to develop knowledge and skills that will make them more effective in their chosen career.

The programme is delivered by means of prescribed courses at ETS involving either one year of full-time study or two years part-time study. The programme may be completed on or off campus. The course is designed primarily for graduates in Theology or other relevant disciplines and could serve as an introduction for further research in Missiology at doctoral level.

In the first semester students will be required to study a compulsory Research and Study Skills module which will introduce them to the world of postgraduate study in the relevant areas together with the first of three main courses. In the second semester, students will study the second and third main courses. Each main course will be assessed by means of three 3,000-word essays. At the completion of the taught courses, students will then write a 15,000-word dissertation on a topic of their own choice, under the guidance of a supervisor.

The main supervisor for each candidate will be a member of ETS academic staff. There will be a second supervisor appointed by the University of Glasgow.

Areas for Study

In addition to the compulsory Study Skills and Research course, students will take a core course plus any two further optional courses in consultation with the Programme Director.

Bible, Theology, and Mission (Core)

This covers topics such as definitions, Bible and mission, theology and mission and characteristics of a distinctively reformed missiology.

History and Mission (Option)

This covers topics such as principles of historiography, important ‘histories of mission’, key historical periods, key organisations and events and key figures in missiology.

Current Issues in Mission (Option)

This covers topics such as World Christianity; globalisation, urban mission and church planting, contextualisation, world religions, ‘integral mission’, Pentecostalism, migration and refugees.

Mission into the Twenty-first Century (Option)

This covers topics such as mission strategy, training for mission, biblical literacy and Scripture engagement, preaching and communication in a digital age, discipleship in a digital age, member care and business as mission.

Entrance Requirements

Applicants for admission would normally be expected to hold a good honours degree in Theology/Divinity of a recognised university or college/seminary, or the Bachelor of Theology degree of Edinburgh Theological Seminary at distinction or merit level. Applications may also be considered from applicants holding a qualification in another discipline appropriate to their proposed field of study (for example, anthropology, religious studies, history, linguistics), at an approved level of achievement, and subject to any conditions laid down by the Seminary Senate with the agreement of the Higher Degrees Committee of the University of Glasgow.

The admissions process normally includes an interview in person or by means of video-conference technology. If appropriate, you may be asked to produce a short paper to demonstrate English language capability.

Language Requirements

Applicants whose first language is not English will normally be required to provide documentary evidence of an IELTS score of 6.5 or its equivalent.
**Professor Ivor Davidson**  
University of Aberdeen

"The proposed MTh in Missiology is well-conceived. It should meet an important need for a programme at this level which integrates major biblical, historical and systematic theological issues in a practically-oriented fashion, exploring the principles and methods of mission from a Reformed perspective within contemporary cultural contexts. It promises to develop the engagement of students with the relationship between theology and culture, and to expand their understanding and integration of the intellectual as well as practical issues that attend the tasks of mission in a complex, pluralist world. The programme should sit well with established and new strengths in ETS, and with strategic aspirations to develop a Mission Centre. As either a terminal Master’s programme for Theology graduates or a potential transition to doctoral research in the field, the venture should be of real value to a range of students."

**Professor Crawford Gribben**  
Queen’s University Belfast

"The new ETS initiative, a MTh in Missiology, addresses a major gap in postgraduate provision and has the potential to enrich religious and other organisations across the sector. I warmly welcome and support the possibilities it will create."

**Dr David Reimer**  
Edinburgh University

"I am in support of this programme: it both appropriately complements the existing BTh, and extends the scope of theological education for the ETS constituency in a welcome and meaningful way."

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**THINKING OF APPLYING FOR THIS COURSE? FIND OUT MORE:**

[www.ets.ac.uk](http://www.ets.ac.uk)

E-mail: offices@ets.ac.uk  
Tel: +44(0)131 226 5286
Students who take the degrees validated by the University of Glasgow - Bachelor of Theology and Master of Theology - are able to celebrate the completion of their studies by graduating from one of the UK’s most esteemed universities.

Graduate with a Degree from the University of Glasgow
Recent ETS Graduates along with Professor John Briggs, Vice-Principal, University of Glasgow
"The size of ETS has made it really easy to get to know people and be welcomed in to become part of the family. The opportunity to spend time with other people who are in full-time ministry has been great, and hearing their stories has been so encouraging to me."

IRENE BAYNE
Sabbatical Studies Student from Dunedin, New Zealand
"There’s a difference between having an environment where you train people for ministry and a group who, mutually in partnership, train people together for the future. There’s a real sense of fellowship, prayer and commitment to one another."

ROBIN SYDSERFF
CHALMERS CHURCH, EDINBURGH

Flexible Learning
The Saturday Courses

Open to anyone, these part-time courses are an excellent way of gaining more than would normally be offered in church on Sunday whilst being less demanding than a full-time theological course. With the ability to access lectures online, it is possible to complete the courses at your own pace and from the comfort of your own home.

One Saturday a month from September through to April, three lectures are delivered by ETS and guest lecturers. These lectures, which are also available for access online, are specially designed to stretch your Christian mind, and deepen your understanding of God’s word.

No prior qualifications are necessary for taking these courses.

Who are these courses for?
The Saturday Courses are of great benefit to the ordinary church member, male and female, who have a longing to dig deeper into the gospel.

These courses are also intended for office-bearers - to encourage them to learn how to approach theological, biblical, historical and pastoral issues and thus to develop a greater study of the word of God.

Students tend to be from an interdenominational base, some of whom meet in the various venues (Edinburgh, Ayr and Stornoway) and others doing it all by distance learning through online video lectures.

There are two levels of award available in these courses:

Certificate in Theology
This course is a 2-year part-time course in Biblical Studies, Practical Theology, Christian Discipleship and Christian doctrine. To qualify for the Certificate in Theology, the student is required to submit six essays (normally up to three essays each year).

Diploma in Christian Studies
This is a further 2-year course for those who have already gained their Certificate in Theology. To qualify for the Diploma in Christian Studies, the student is required to complete the Certificate in Theology and to submit a further six essays (normally up to three essays each year).

Course Length
One Saturday a month, 10.00am to 3.15pm running from September through to April.

Venues
You can join us at one of these venues or complete the course online.

- Edinburgh Theological Seminary, Edinburgh
- Stornoway Free Church (by live video-conferencing)
- Ayr Free Church

Previous Lecture Series include:

- God’s Plan of Redemption: The Covenant
- The Exalted Christ
- Living as Reformed Christians in the 21st Century
- Wisdom for the 21st Century Christian
- No Going Back: Journeying with Christ in the Letter to the Hebrews
- Mission and the Local Church

▶ Visit ets.ac.uk for current fees and information about this year's lecture series.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO REGISTER FOR THE SATURDAY COURSE?

You can register online at www.ets.ac.uk
E-mail: offices@ets.ac.uk
Tel: +44(0)131 226 5286

The Saturday Course is a relaxed and friendly environment in which to learn, and a great opportunity to meet new people from other churches.

Megan Gray, Women’s Worker, Cumbernauld Free Church

“The Saturday Course has been a great source of encouragement to me. It’s accessible, engaging and really helps students to understand more about the Bible and who Jesus is. The Saturdays themselves are quite diverse, as we learn from faithful teachers about a range of aspects of the Christian faith. The teaching is set in a beautiful and historic building and it’s easy to make friends with other people on the course.”

Iain Gray, Lawyer, Ayr

“For the last 4 years, the Saturday Course has been my training ground in which the Lord has built up my faith and developed a discipline of in-depth study of His Word. The variety and quality of lecturers, together with the mixture of classic and contemporary topics, have provided me with a wider and deeper understanding of Scripture. Completing the essays has been a vital tool in helping me grasp the great doctrines and practical outworkings of the Christian faith. Soli Deo gloria.”
Access to Theology

This is a 48-hour course of studies designed to offer students an overview of the component parts of a programme in theological education.

This course is ideal for anyone looking for a broad but rigorous introduction to theological study or those who may wish to pursue further studies in theology but lack entrance qualifications. It is also an ideal theological component for some of the courses that will in due course be offered through the ETS Mission Centre (see page 10) - e.g., Eldership, Diaconate, Youth Worker courses.

While completion of the programme may be an end in itself for such interested Christians, it may prove helpful in preparing some students to embark on some of the longer programmes at ETS such as the Individual Study Programme or the Bachelor of Theology.

Distance Learning

It is also possible to do this course by distance learning, joining the class in real-time video, audio and data. This means that wherever you are, this course is easily accessible.

▶ See pages 42-43 for more information about Distance Learning.

Course Material

The areas covered by the course are the following:

• Old Testament (10 hours)
• New Testament (10 hours)
• Introduction to Systematic Theology (12 hours)
• Introduction to Church History (8 hours)
• Introduction to Practical Theology (8 hours)

Course Duration

This programme will be delivered at ETS on Tuesday evenings, 6.30 pm – 8.30 pm, September – May.

Entry Requirements

▶ There are no formal entry requirements for this course.

Course Award

On successful completion of the course, all students will be awarded a Completion of Studies certificate at the Seminary’s Annual Awards Ceremony in May.

Darren Graham
Service Engineer, Workington

"The Access to Theology course has given me a great and solid grounding in the basic systematics of Theology, and helped me grow as a Christian - in fact, studying God’s Word in my personal life has never been more eye-opening. I’d highly recommend this course to anyone who is looking for a better understanding of God and His Word. I’m not academic, but the course subjects and lecturers make it easy to be interested, all the while, helping you grow in the knowledge and understanding of God."

Course Fees

▶ Visit ets.ac.uk for current fees.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO REGISTER FOR THE ACCESS TO THEOLOGY COURSE?

You can register online at www.ets.ac.uk

Alternatively, you can contact the secretary for further details:

E-mail: offices@ets.ac.uk
Tel: +44(0)131 226 5286

Nicola Graham
Ministry Apprentice, Workington

“I have loved my time studying Access to Theology at ETS. Though it has challenged me at times, I have found the coursework to be very beneficial, building within me with a solid understanding of Scripture through writing essays and taking exams. The lecturers have been great; they are very knowledgeable, helping me when required and quick to answer any questions I may have.

The option to study this course via distance has been a great practical help for me and the software has been easy to use. This course has really helped me in many ways; from my own personal walk with the Lord to my work in the Church, helping, equipping and guiding me in my ministry and providing me with the knowledge I need to teach others. I would highly recommend this course to anyone who is eager to learn more of God’s word on a deeper level. If you’re thinking of applying, you won’t regret it!”
Sabbatical Studies in Theology and Mission

This course is a fantastic opportunity for short-term, supervised research in your chosen area of interest or, if you prefer, hands-on specialist training in mission and ministry.

In general, the programme is for students who wish to take some time for sabbatical research in any specialist area, including Systematic Theology, Biblical Studies, Historical Studies, Missiological Studies and Pastoral Theology. Library and computing facilities will be provided. Where required, church-based or community based placements may be arranged in addition to supervised research.

This is a very flexible programme tailored to meet the needs of those already in Christian ministry, or for those training for Christian service, such as the following:

• Those who already have a theology degree (such as our Bachelor of Theology) and require additional specific mission and ministry training.
• Those who are already engaged in ministry apprenticeships and require core theological training, but not at degree level.
• Those who are preparing for missionary service at a local or international level and require some tailored training in theology, mission or ministry.
• Those who are elders and deacons and who require training for the mind, alongside the development of character and pastoral skills.

Theology Exploration

Sabbatical researchers can choose a topic for research from any one of the theological disciplines which are offered at the Seminary: Old Testament and Hebrew, New Testament and Greek, Systematic Theology, Practical Theology, Church History and Missions.

Ministry Exploration

This may involve some academic research on an area of interest, supplemented by short-term mentoring with practitioners who have appropriate expertise in the area chosen for study. Such research with a practical direction can include areas such as the following: urban evangelism, mentoring/discipleship, Christian counselling, youth work, preaching seminars, leadership training, church planting, ethics and pastoral care.

Mini-Sabbaticals

Those already involved in Christian ministry who wish to take a sabbatical break of a few weeks or several months can make use of the Seminary facilities to engage in mini-sabbatical research. This research can take place in any area of Theology or Mission and provide an opportunity to gain a renewed perspective in the area in which they have a particular interest. E.g., Urban Evangelism, Pauline Ethics, The Reformation, etc.

Overall this programme offers:

• Short-term supervised research in an area of relevance to your interest and mission.
• Some tailored training in theology, mission or ministry.
• Training for the mind, alongside the development of character and pastoral skills.

▶ This course will also be offered as part of our new Mission Centre – see page 10.

Programme Cost

▶ Visit ets.ac.uk for current fees

Entry Requirements

▶ There are no formal entry requirements for this course.
INTERESTED IN DOING SABBATICAL STUDIES AT ETS?

You can apply online at www.ets.ac.uk

Alternatively, you can contact the secretary to discuss your requirements:

E-mail: offices@ets.ac.uk
Tel: +44(0)131 226 5286

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**Irene Bayne**
University Women’s Worker, Dunedin, New Zealand

"I have really loved my time here at ETS! The staff have been really flexible, allowing me to sit in on any class that would be helpful to me. I have particularly enjoyed the Christian Counselling course, which will be very helpful in my university ministry at home.

It has been really cool to be in a place where God is at work, where people are concerned for others, growing in their knowledge and love of Christ and seeking to reach out and make an impact in their communities. I have really loved my time here and would wholeheartedly recommend ETS to anyone who is thinking of studying here!"

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**Gareth Burke**
Minister, Stranmillis Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Belfast, Ireland

"The Sabbatical programme at ETS was very worthwhile on a few fronts. It was a refreshing change from the routine of pastoral ministry, a time for stimulating study and an opportunity to interact with ETS staff who were both friendly and encouraging but who also expected their assignments to be returned on time! If you get the opportunity – go for it. You and your ministry will benefit enormously."
Diploma in Christian Youth Work

This exciting part-time course is primarily designed to give theological and practical training for those who intend to become full-time Christian youth workers. It may also be used as a refresher course for those already involved in Christian youth work.

The course is created in such a manner that will enable students to complete much of it online. All lectures can be accessed and downloaded; supervisory interaction will take place through a combination of face to face appointments, discussions using video-conferencing facilities, Skype, or other online chat technologies. Course workshops will also provide opportunities for regular and meaningful contact.

Course Components

There are six components to the course:

- Understanding God
- Understanding Yourself
- Understanding the Young
- Understanding the Goals
- Understanding the Methods
- Understanding the Resources

Course Duration

It is expected that the course will benefit both those who are already involved in youth work as well as those who desire to serve in this capacity.

Consequently, it is designed to be an online course taken at one’s own pace, assuming that some people are already in employment. However, the course must, ordinarily, be completed within twelve months of beginning the course.

On successful completion of the course, all students will be awarded the Diploma in Christian Youth Work at the Seminary’s Annual Awards Ceremony in May.

Course Assessments

The assessments are in two forms.

Presentation Assessments. This requires the student to distill the theological content of certain lectures and put it into a form in which it might be communicated to a particular named age group (e.g., 5-7, 8-11, 12-14, 15-18).

Essay Assessments. This second type of assessment is more standard. The student is required to write four 2,000-word essays.

Course Placements

Though much of the lecture aspect of the course can be completed online, all students are required to work alongside a Youth Worker(s) who will supervise for a total of 6 weeks. Students will be assigned placements by the Course Supervisor after consultation with the student. The placements will involve various forms of work with young people: e.g., school work; church work; camps work.

Entry Requirements

▶ There are no formal entry requirements for this course.
Susan MacLean
Youth Worker, Skye & Wester Ross

"Whether you are a seasoned Christian Youth worker or just starting out, this course is suitable for all. By looking at understanding God, understanding ourselves and understanding the youth that we work with, this course challenges us to think about what we are doing and why we are doing it. Combining this with consideration to methods and resources, completing this course leaves you excited and ready to face the world of Christian Youth work."

INTERESTED IN TAKING THE DIPLOMA IN CHRISTIAN YOUTH WORK?

You can apply online at www.ets.ac.uk
E-mail: offices@ets.ac.uk
Tel: +44(0)131 226 5286
‘The facilities at ETS are outstanding, both in terms of the Seminary’s geographical location and its proximity to the great theological library in New College. I would also encourage people to study here because of the Seminary’s combination of academic commitment and, at the same time, deep involvement in the life of the Church.’

DR SINCLAIR FERGUSON
While students will always get the best learning experience by coming to ETS for their whole course of studies, there are situations where it can really help to have the Distance Learning alternative. There will be students who for a variety of personal reasons simply cannot make the move to Edinburgh – employment, family, financial constraints, illness or disability. For such people, the Distance Learning options we provide will be a huge help.

Increasingly at ETS, our mission is to offer a range of courses which are both theologically rich and practically relevant to the everyday Christian. So, we understand that our courses must be as accessible as possible to people all over the country as they develop their understanding and engage in local and international mission – Distance Learning is crucial to this goal.

The following courses can be attended via distance learning.

Bachelor of Theology (BTh)
This is our main degree programme, designed for those who wish to gain an in-depth appreciation of Biblical Studies (Old and New Testament), Systematic Theology, Church History and Practical Theology.

- See page 14 for more info about this course.

The BTh can now be done with Distance Learning options, full-time or part-time. Through real-time audio and video, students are able to be part of each class as it takes place, interacting with both lecturer and students in a rich learning environment.

ETS is keen to ensure that those who join the B.Th programme by distance learning benefit from both lecturer support and personal contact with their peers. For this reason, we encourage all UK based students to attend if at all possible four days per semester in Edinburgh so as to continue to form bonds of fellowship and learning with their colleagues.

For the BTh, there will be a limited number of Distance Learning admissions per academic session.

Individual Study Programme (ISP)
The ISP is the perfect option for those who would like a personalised course of study to meet their particular needs. Modules can be taken from any of the departments - Old and New Testament, Systematic Theology, Church History, Practical Theology and the ETS Mission Centre.

- See page 16 for more info about this course.

Access to Theology
This course is designed as an introduction to theological study. It consists of modules in Biblical Studies (Old and New Testament), Systematic Theology, Church History and Practical Theology.

Sabbatical Studies in Theology and Mission
The Sabbatical Studies in Theology and Mission can be as long or as short as you wish and it is possible to use Distance Learning technology to have some supervised research in an area of your interest.

- See page 36 for more info about this course.

Diploma in Christian Youth Work
This new and exciting part-time course is primarily designed to give theological and practical training for those who intend to become full-time Christian youth workers.

Much of this course is offered online, alongside workshops which provide opportunities for regular contact. It is now possible to do the Biblical Studies and Systematic Theology components of the Access Course as part of the Diploma in Christian Youth Work. Again, this may be done either by personal attendance or by Distance Learning.

Mission Centre Courses
Many of the short courses, the sabbatical studies in mission, as well as the training of members and leaders in the local congregation will make use of distance learning.

- See page 10 for more information about the new Mission Centre.
Distance
Learning
FAQs

IF I HAVE A CHOICE, SHOULD I DO DISTANCE LEARNING OR ATTEND IN PERSON?
Without doubt, you should attend in person.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF ATTENDING IN PERSON?
The shoulder-rubbing experience is quite unique. Students eat together, laugh together, learn together, worship together, and look out for one another. It is also easier to access library resources. And friendships are often forged which will last for a lifetime.

IN WHAT SITUATION MIGHT IT BE HELPFUL TO DO COURSES BY DISTANCE LEARNING?
Where you are keeping up a job locally as well as doing part-time learning at a distance; or financial constraints make it impossible to contemplate moving to Edinburgh for some or all of the time; or, perhaps your disability or illness (or that of someone close to you) prevents you from doing the programme in person.

WILL THERE BE ANY OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH FULL-TIME STUDENTS WHO ARE PRESENT AT ETS?
Yes. Indeed, we expect UK based students to attend if at all possible four days per semester in Edinburgh so as to continue to form bonds of fellowship and learning.

WHERE DO I SIT MY EXAMINATIONS?
If at all possible, we expect you to sit them at ETS. In exceptional circumstances, we will be able to make other arrangements closer to your own home.

IS IT CHEAPER TO STUDY BY DISTANCE LEARNING?
The tuition fees are exactly the same. You may also incur library loan postage costs. However, you will not have to bear the accommodation costs in Edinburgh.

DO I NEED SPECIAL SOFTWARE TO DO COURSES AT ETS BY DISTANCE LEARNING?
No. You will need a laptop/PC with a camera and microphone. Other than that, you will simply access the lectures using an internet browser – usually Chrome or Firefox.

HOW GOOD DOES MY INTERNET CONNECTION HAVE TO BE?
You need a reasonably fast internet connection to benefit from this technology.

WILL I BE ABLE TO SEE, HEAR AND INTERACT WITH THE LECTURER AND OTHER STUDENTS?
Yes. You will be able to access real-time video, audio and data (such as Powerpoint, etc). You will also be able to participate in class discussions and question the lecturer as required.

IS THERE A LIMIT ON HOW MANY STUDENTS CAN DO A PROGRAMME BY DISTANCE LEARNING?
Yes. It depends on the nature of the programme of study.

IS IT POSSIBLE TO DO DISTANCE LEARNING AT ETS FROM OUTSIDE THE UK?
This may be possible, dependent on the quality of the internet connection and its impact on the student learning experience. Different time zones may also present an issue for students.
A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN ETS STUDENT

Edinburgh Theological Seminary is a unique place to study. Our tall building, with its beautiful historic rooms enchantingly captures the very essence of Old Edinburgh. Whilst we exist principally as an academic and vocational training ground teaching our students robust theology suitable for 21st century evangelism, our small community also offers a unique and enriching student experience.

Classes are from Tuesday to Friday, with four hours of classes each morning. Positioned high up on the Mound, many of our classroom windows have a breath-taking panoramic view over Princes Street, the north of Edinburgh, to the Firth of Forth and Fife in the distance. This superb view also acts as a constant reminder of what we are about as a seminary: reaching the nations with the gospel of Christ.

ETS seeks to be relevant to the needs of the world we live in – our new range of courses and the emphasis we give to our vision for the future proves just how important this is to us.

Whilst ETS is preparing students to serve in the world as it is today, part of what makes us refreshingly unique is the history and traditions that we have kept in place. Thus, after classes are over, staff and students eat together in the dining room, where a hot lunch is provided. This is a great time for students to catch up with one another and leads into our time of worship which is always led by one of the students.

ETS is known to capture a special place in the hearts of its students, a place where friendships are forged that often last a lifetime.

What better training ground for mission is possible?
REV. JOHN ANGUS MACLEOD, VICE-PRINCIPAL AT ETS, ANSWERS A FEW COMMONLY-ASKED QUESTIONS PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS HAVE ABOUT STUDYING THEOLOGY AT THE SEMINARY.

HOW MUCH THEOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE SHOULD I HAVE BEFORE STARTING THE COURSE?
The courses do assume that you have some understanding of the Bible, and a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. However, it does not assume that you are a great theologian at all. When you leave, however, you will certainly be able to say that you will have a lot more theological knowledge than you had when you came. That’s our speciality!

WHAT ARE THE CLASSES LIKE? (DIFFICULT, CHALLENGING, FUN, INFORMAL?)
I guess a mixture of all of these. Learning God’s truth is exciting and thrilling, but it is also awesome and holy. There is much laughter in the classes as we learn together, and there are also times when we want to bow before God there and then in worship. The learning process will undoubtedly stretch your mind, and the pressure of work is definitely intense at times, but the results are really helpful in the long run.

HOW DIFFICULT ARE THE LECTURES TO UNDERSTAND?
The Bible was given to ordinary people and they can understand it, though sometimes, it takes a while for it to make sense. The lectures in ETS are like that. They are intended to bring us to understand God and his ways better than ever by explaining the Bible. A good lecturer will try to make profound things simple. And that’s what we try to do.

HOW MUCH READING IS INVOLVED?
Well, you can’t study theology without reading. We can even teach you to read the Bible in Greek and Hebrew so that you can understand it better! But you will also have to read books that have been written by others so that you can benefit from their research. So, while you will definitely be given guided reading, it will not be overwhelming. You will find that reading is often very good for helping to understand the subject better.

WHAT FACILITIES ARE THERE FOR STUDYING AT ETS?
ETS has excellent facilities for a theological seminary of its size. This includes ample computing provision, Smartboards in each
classroom, wireless connection to the internet throughout the campus, a digitally catalogued library, online research resources, and Moodle (an Online Virtual Learning Environment).

**IS THE COURSE MATERIAL BIASED TO A SPECIFIC THEOLOGICAL VIEWPOINT?**

The doctrinal standard of Edinburgh Theological Seminary is the Westminster Confession of Faith. This sets the Seminary firmly in the main-line Christian tradition, particularly with regard to such doctrines as the Trinity and the Incarnation. More specifically, the theological position of Edinburgh Theological Seminary is: Protestant, Presbyterian, Calvinist, Conservative and Evangelical. However, the Seminary consciously provides a clear welcome to students who may hold different views and come from other traditions. Indeed, although the various courses are taught from the standpoint of deep personal commitment to Confessional theology, students are expected to think on the basis of Scripture and interact creatively with other theological traditions, familiarising themselves with current trends in theology and biblical studies.

**IS ALL THE LEARNING CLASSROOM-BASED?**

Yes, most of the learning is classroom-based. However, there are online courses – such as the Diploma in Christian Youthwork – which incorporates workshops and placements. Within Practical Theology there are also church-placements. In addition, students can also be allocated summer placements if they are preparing for a specific field of Christian service.
IF I WAS THINKING ABOUT BECOMING A MINISTER IN THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, HOW DO I APPLY?

The best thing you can do is to speak to the minister of your church or one of the other leaders who will help you to think through the call to the preaching ministry, and what is involved in the application process. It is really important that you are recommended by your local leaders and other ministers within your area, and get the training which is recommended by the Board of Ministry of the Free Church. It might seem like a long path, but these are the people who have the wisdom to give the best advice and you will have their support and prayers as you study with us at ETS and train for the ministry.

If you want to know more about how to apply to the Free Church of Scotland as a candidate or ordained minister, you will find more information on the Free Church of Scotland website.

CAN SOMEONE FROM ANOTHER DENOMINATION STUDY AT ETS?

Yes, our student body consists of men and women from various denominations.

In addition to our validated programmes, we offer Presbyterian Church Ministry and Independent Church Ministry modules to help students serve in different church fellowships.

I WANT TO BECOME A MINISTER OF ANOTHER DENOMINATION - WILL I BE LICENSED ON COMPLETION OF THE BTH?

To enter a Pastoral Ministry you would need to go through whatever route your own church requires. As an academic institution, we do not license ministers; for example, for students intending to go into ministry in the Free Church, it is the Free Church of Scotland that would do this on completion of their studies. If you belong to another denomination, you should approach their administration to see what they require.

We currently have an Independent Ministry Module that will enable the FIEC churches to use ETS as one of their preferred training centres, but it would still be up to those churches to license their own ministers.

DOES ETS HAVE AN OPEN DAY?

Because of the size of our seminary, prospective students find that it is much better to visit the seminary and join the student body for a day, sampling classes and life at the seminary. This would give you the opportunity to see around the rooms of our beautiful Seminary, meet the staff and sit in on classes.

WHAT IS THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS?

As we are not part of UCAS, we do not have the same deadlines. Although we can accept applications through the summer we would recommend you submit your application as soon as possible to avoid disappointment and it would also let us organise our class sizes.

HOW DO I APPLY TO ETS THROUGH UCAS?

As we are a Private Institution, we are not part of UCAS, so applicants are required to apply to us directly. You can find application forms for the various courses through our website www.ets.ac.uk. Alternatively, if you have any questions about any of our courses or would like to get in touch with us directly with regards to applications, please feel free to do so.

I WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BIBLE, BUT DO NOT WISH TO UNDERTAKE A DEGREE PROGRAMME. WHAT COURSE WOULD YOU RECOMMEND?

The Certificate in Theology/Diploma in Christian Studies (known as the Saturday Course) is designed to stretch your Christian mind, and deepen your understanding of God’s word, as is the Access to Theology programme. These courses are for people of all ages and abilities. Alternatively, you can tailor a more thorough course to suit your needs through the Individual Study Programme.

I DON’T HAVE MANY QUALIFICATIONS BUT I WOULD LIKE TO STUDY THEOLOGY AND EVENTUALLY GET A DEGREE. WHAT COURSE WOULD YOU RECOMMEND THAT WOULD HELP ME ACHIEVE THIS GOAL?

ETS has an excellent Access to Theology course which is a 48-hour course of studies designed to offer students an overview of the component parts of a programme in theological education. This is an ideal course for students looking for a broad but thorough introduction to theological study, as well as for those who wish to pursue further studies in theology but lack entrance qualifications. (This would obviously depend on how well you
do in your assessments). For further information, go to the Access to Theology information page.

CAN I STUDY THE B.TH OR ISP WITH A DISTANCE LEARNING OPTION?
Yes. You can find out more information by checking out Distance Learning at ETS - FAQ. We also offer the Saturday Course online, and the Diploma in Christian Youth Work (available to UK residents only). You can find more details about these courses on our website: www.ets.ac.uk.

ARE THE COURSES AT ETS ELIGIBLE FOR SAAS FUNDING?
The B.Th degree programme (both full-time and part-time) is validated by the University of Glasgow and is designated for funding by SAAS. Everybody’s circumstances are different so you would need to contact SAAS directly for more information. If you are a ministerial candidate you may be entitled to second degree funding. This means if you already have a first degree which used 4 years of funding previously, you should be entitled to 3 more years’ payment of Tuition Fees (7 years in total).

DO YOU OFFER ACCOMMODATION OR DO YOU KNOW OF ANY OTHER STUDENTS WHO WANT TO SHARE A FLAT?
ETS is a non-residential institution and it is up to the individual students to organise their own lodgings. We can help out where possible and will inform the students if anyone contacts us with any available accommodation and can let you know as soon as something is available.

Sometimes there are Free Church flats available - to enquire about this, you would need to contact Sharon Fraser in the Free Church Offices directly - sharon@freechurch.org
You can also try the following sites: www.espc.com (Local Estate Agency) www.carrubbers.org/resources/accommodation (Christian accommodation adverts in Edinburgh) www.christianflatshare.org

WHAT KIND OF REFEREES TO I NEED? I AM UNABLE TO ASK ANYONE FOR AN ACADEMIC REFERENCE AS I HAVE NOT STUDIED SINCE I LEFT HIGH SCHOOL, WHICH WAS A LONG TIME AGO. WHAT DO I DO?
If you are a member in your church, the pastor/minister or one of the leaders may well be able to provide an assessment of your ability to cope with the academic nature of the programme for which you are applying. Just inform the Admissions Secretary who will ask the referee to include this in the reference.

I NOTICE THAT AN INTERVIEW IS PART OF THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS. CAN I PREPARE FOR THE INTERVIEW? WHAT SORT OF QUESTIONS WILL I BE ASKED?
The interview is not a high-powered one and is not designed to test your theological ability. We really enjoy the opportunity to meet prospective students, and the interview questions are simply a way for us to get to know you better. The questions we ask provide an opportunity for you to tell us about your background, your ’testimony’ as a Christian (how you came to faith), what you have done since you became a Christian and what you hope to do as a Christian. This way, we can make sure that the course you wish to study will be suitable to you and your requirements.

The interview is also designed to allow the prospective student the opportunity to ask questions of the ETS staff.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

DO YOU HAVE PARTNER INSTITUTIONS ABROAD I CAN STUDY WITH INSTEAD OF COMING TO EDINBURGH?
No, the ETS courses can only be done through ourselves.

HOW DO I GET A VISA TO STUDY AT ETS?
Whenever you have accepted an offer to study at ETS, we will issue a CAS number (Confirmation of Acceptance to Study). You will need this number to apply directly to the UK Visa and Immigration for a Tier 4 Student Visa. For more information, visit www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa

HOW SOON CAN I APPLY FOR A VISA?
You can apply for a Visa no earlier than 3 months before the start of the course. For more information, visit www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa

ON THE VISA APPLICATION IT ASKS HOW MANY POINTS I AM CLAIMING. DO YOU HAVE ANY ADVICE ABOUT THE POINT SYSTEM?
Students applying for entry clearance will be required to score 40 points to be awarded a Student Visa. These 40 points are granted as follows: 10 points if you can show you have enough finances to cover your course fees for the first 12 months and your monthly living expenses (maintenance) for up to 9 months, 30 points for Confirmation of Acceptance of Studies (CAS). The CAS number is generated when a licensed immigration sponsor enters your data into the relevant Home Office electronic system. The CAS confirms you hold an unconditional offer and meet all our academic entry requirements.

CAN I WORK WITH A TIER 4 STUDENT VISA?
You would need to confirm this with UK Visas and Immigration, but generally you may be allowed to work 20 hours a week during term time and full-time during holidays.

WHAT CAN I EXPECT TO PAY FOR LIVING COSTS IN THE UK?
It will depend on your lifestyle, but average monthly costs could be: Rent - £350–£500; Food - £250; Gas/Electricity - £50; Internet/ Mobile phones - £50; Laundry/ Toiletries - £30. You should allow approx. £12,000 per year. This does not include Tuition fees.
ETS Faculty

PRINCIPAL
Rev Iver Martin
BSc., Dip.Th

VICE-PRINCIPAL
Rev John A. MacLeod,
M.A., B.D., M.Phil.
New Testament
Church Principles
Mission

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Rev Professor John R. McIntosh
Church History

Rev Duncan Peters
World Religions

Rev David Robertson
Persuasive Evangelism
Christian Worldviews

Dr Mark Stirling
Practical Theology

Rev Will Traub
Old Testament
COME AND VISIT US!

Why not plan a trip to the beautiful city of Edinburgh and visit the Seminary?

We welcome visitors to the Seminary and would be happy to give you a personal guided tour of the building and its historic rooms. For prospective students, this could be an opportunity to meet the staff and students and sit in on lectures. To book a visit, or find out more about any of our courses, please contact our secretary using the details below.

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www.ets.ac.uk

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