

Interdisciplinary Study of Local Churches (TMM41720)

Module Level: 7

Module Credit Value: 20

Pre-requisites: None

Co-requisites: None

Excluded Combination of Modules: None

Aims:

To enable students to critically assess and apply the potential contribution of anthropology, history, organisational studies, sociology and theology and their relevance to the research of local churches.

To encourage students to develop a critical understanding of the practical aspects of conducting research into local church and of evaluating the resulting data.

To enable students to gain a critical understanding of the use of specific research methodologies and evaluate their applicability to local church studies.

The module is intended to develop students' capacity to evaluate their own perspectives and research and to reflect on the possible implications of their work for the church's future.

Content:

The nature of the research enterprise as applied to the study of local churches.

Critical engagement with the current range of perspectives and analytical tools offered by anthropology, history, organisational studies, sociology and theology.

The execution of small-scale self-directed research into local churches that is theoretically and methodologically well-informed, taking particular account of dimensions of local churches such as context, worship, work, resources, people and power.

Learning Outcomes: By the end of the module students will be able to:

Subject Knowledge [SSK 1, 3]

Demonstrate a critical comprehension of a range of different disciplines in relation to their application to the research of local churches.

Critically assess the potential contributions of the methodologies and findings of anthropology, history, organisational studies, sociology and theology and their relevance to the research of local churches.

Subject Skills [SSS 1, 2]

Demonstrate a critical understanding of the practical aspects of conducting research into local church and of evaluating the resulting data.

Make effective use of specific methodologies and research methods and evaluate their applicability to local church studies.

Display appropriate pastoral sensitivity and ethical awareness when proposing and conducting research into the local church.

Key Skills [KS 1, 2, 3]

Carry out systematic and creative research into complex issues and communicate their findings with clarity, sensitivity, fairness and imagination to specialist and non-specialist audiences.

Demonstrate initiative, self-direction and independence in tackling and solving problems, and in planning and implementing tasks.

Exercise their independent learning skills to pursue further professional development or academic study.

Modes of Teaching and Learning	Teaching methods to be specified by each TEI, using the 'Guidelines for Modes of Teaching and Learning'.
Learning Hours	Learning hours to be specified by each TEI using the 'Guidelines for Learning Hours'.
Formative Assessment	Formative assessment to be specified by each TEI in line with the published guidelines on formative assessment.
Summative Assessment	Summative assessment to be specified by each TEI using the published guidance on assessment patterns for postgraduate modules.
Indicative Reading	Indicative reading to be specified by each TEI in line with the published guidelines on creating bibliographies for postgraduate modules.