

## Dissertation in Church Law (TMM48760)

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Module Level: 7

Module Credit Value: 60

Pre-requisites: None

Co-requisites: None

Excluded Combination of Modules: None

**Aims:** To provide the student with an opportunity to follow up an area of interest in depth.

To enable the student to develop skills in research methods in church law, in critical thinking, argumentation and the articulation of original ideas.

To lay the foundations for possible future work in the relevant subject area being researched at research degree level.

**Content:** Participants will, in consultation with the tutor, identify a topic, issue, or ministerial area relevant to study and research in church law.

The proposed title of the dissertation, together with a brief description and initial bibliography, is negotiated with an appropriate supervisor and agreed by the TEI's Board of Studies and External Examiner.

The student arranges supervisions and organises a timetable and plan for his/her work. An introductory meeting with the year group will introduce the dissertation, and one towards the end of the process will provide additional input and encouragement.

The area chosen may enhance and integrate study from the taught module programme providing the independent study is clearly distinguished from the content of such taught modules.

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

***Subject Specific Knowledge [SSK 1, 2, 3, and 4]***

Demonstrate a systematic understanding and in-depth knowledge of an area of study or of professional practice in church law that is informed by the methodologies and findings of research and original thinking at current boundaries of the subject.

Understand, assimilate and evaluate critically advanced scholarship and research methodologies and findings in the chosen area(s) of church law.

Demonstrate an understanding of a range of methods of analysis and inquiry in church law, and an in-depth engagement with methods applicable to their chosen field of research or enquiry.

Give a critical and comprehensive account of a range of methods for relating their chosen field of study to aspects of faith, church and society.

***Subject Specific Skills [SSS: 1,2, 3, and 4]***

Apply their knowledge to undertake independent investigation of an area of study or of professional practice that is relevant to church law, reaching valid conclusions, some of which may be original, and report these findings effectively within the conventions of the relevant academic or professional community.

Evaluate and apply methodologies, develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, propose new hypotheses.

Reflect theologically in a sophisticated and rigorous manner, exercising sound judgement when engaging systematically and creatively with complex, unpredictable and ambiguous realities in canon law, in the church, and the world today.

Contribute to the debate at the forefront of their chosen area(s) of study or practice.

***Key Skills [KS 1, 2, and 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'.
Contact Hours:	Teaching methods to be specified by each TEI, using the 'Guidelines for Modes of Teaching and Learning'.
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 undergraduate modules.