

doctor of ministry programme

ministry research for reflective practitioners



Doctor of Ministry (DMin) at Mattersey Hall

about the course

The Mattersey Hall/Bangor University DMin in Missional Leadership is a three-year, part-time programme which seeks to equip experienced practitioners to undertake serious research in a specific, ministry-related area of study. It is a 'professional doctorate', which means it is vocational and practical in its focus but otherwise expects work of much the same standard as is needed for the (generally more theoretical) PhD.

The DMin is in every sense intended to deliver practical, applied research that can have a direct and specific benefit on the life of a congregation, denomination or network as well as the ministry and personal development of the candidate. And, the graduate studies department as one of Europe's largest Pentecostal/Charismatic ministerial training centres, Mattersey Hall Graduate School is an ideal environment to work on this kind of programme.

The DMin requires the production of an extended thesis of approximately 50,000 words (in years two and three of the course), and, in year one, the completion of two taught modules (for applicants who already hold a Master's degree in a theology-related discipline; we can accept students without such a qualification but in that case you would need to complete up to six taught modules before undertaking the thesis and the course would take longer to complete). Research supervision and the taught modules are both provided in bimonthly cohort meetings which will be held on or near the Mattersey campus.

course content

The two compulsory taught modules which all students will undertake in your first year of DMin studies are:

Research in Ministry

This module will highlight the reflective practice and spiritual formation aspects of research into practical Christian ministry and highlight appropriate methodologies for such research and reflection. The course will highlight the specific needs, interests, opportunities and challenges which relate to research in a ministry-related sphere of theology, highlighting the links between a commitment to lifelong learning, academic tradition in respect of ministry, academic analysis, spiritual formation and reflective practice. This module will be assessed by two essays, one each on spiritual formation and methodology.

Research Design

This module is designed to prepare students who already hold graduate degrees in theology for research at doctoral level, particularly in the practically-orientated fields of theology, and to facilitate the production of a detailed dissertation proposal. The research design module will cover the fundamentals of doctoral studies in the humanities and in theology more specifically, focussing on bibliographic research, research methodologies, interdisciplinary perspectives, research ethics, and most specifically on the structure and design of a doctoral thesis. As such it will have a strong practical focus and provide an opportunity for students to receive detailed feedback on their ideas for ongoing research and their study plans.

As part of the assessed work for the Research Design module you will write a formal proposal for your extended thesis and produce a bibliography for your research. This will mean you can get straight on with the research as soon as you have passed the two taught modules.

After completing the taught modules, you will then have two years to complete your 50,000 word thesis. Here the choice of topic is largely up to you, but it should have a strong practical focus and relate to a specific context where you have detailed knowledge and ongoing involvement (often your church or the organisation your work for). For example, a typical DMin project might look at the growth and development of a church over the past ten years, assessing its strengths and weaknesses and looking at the opportunities and challenges it faces for the future; or use demographic studies of a community to assess what practical needs a church programme might address; or produce a church planting strategy for a region or network; or even write a ministry training programme for a large local congregation, model its implementation and examine the changes that it delivers in church life. Your research should directly benefit you and the people and organisation you work with.

The Graduate School will appoint a named supervisor to guide you through your research and give you detailed feedback on your written work. Additionally at the bimonthly cohort meetings, you will have the opportunity of presenting your work, comparing notes with other students and working together on specific tasks, as well as receiving additional research training and support from the teaching faculty.

At the end of the programme, you will have to face an oral examination (or 'viva') on the contents of your thesis, where you will be expected to evaluate your results and defend your conclusions. If your thesis is accepted you will be awarded the doctoral degree by Bangor University.

There are two alternative routes for admission to the course. We can accept you straight onto the DMin programme for just the two taught modules and dissertation if you have a good Master's degree in a biblical, theological or mission-related subject, with at least one year's relevant work experience (i.e., in a leadership, pastoral, management or administrative position). Any of Mattersey's MTh or MA degrees would be suitable preparation for this programme, though we would expect your grades for the Master's to be comfortably over 60% on our grading scale for admission to the DMin. Continuance on the course is always subject to satisfactory progress, of course. Taken in this format, the DMin is a three year part-time or a two year full-time programme.

Alternatively, if you do not have a Master's degree, you can register for our MMin programme first. This would mean you would take an additional four taught modules with us from our MTh in Practical Theology, MA in Mission or MA in Missional Leadership programmes before starting your doctoral studies formally. This will obviously take you a little longer: this route is a five year part-time or three year full-time programme. Again, we would expect your grades for the MMin component to be over 60% for you to continue to the thesis phase and the DMin proper.

In considering your application we will assess your ability to successfully complete the course, and the anticipated relevance of the qualification to your professional development and future career will be major factors in considering your suitability for the programme. Mattersey Hall Graduate School is a ministry training college and always gives priority to those applicants whose ministry contexts are most likely to benefit from their training.

Please contact us for further information and guidance on our admission requirements.

fees

Current course fees are on our website (at www.matterseyhall.com/fees.htm). Fees include supervision and all course materials including access to the Bangor University online library service. Additional incidental expenditure (including travel and subsistence costs) and the purchase of books will be necessary.

Please note that because of the way the UK government funds the universities, there are separate fee bands for UK/EU and non-European Union students. You must have been ordinarily resident in the EU for at least three years to be eligible for the reduced rate.

Ordinarily 50% of the annual course fee is due upon commencement of the course in October in each year, with the remainder due for payment by the end of May.

application

To apply, please complete the Mattersey Hall Graduate School application form (downloadable from www.matterseyhall.com/apply_grad.htm), ask your referees to complete their sections of the form and return it to us along with the £25 application fee. The application deadline for each intake is 1 September.

contact us

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