

PROSPECTUS

POSTGRADUATE STUDIES AY2023

Equipping Ambassadors for Christ in Marketplaces
Integrate your Faith with Work, Church and Society



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Principal's Welcome	4
QUALITY	
Vision and Mission	5
Equipping Ambassadors for Christ in Marketplaces	6
Theological Position	7
BGST Lifelong Learning	8
Accreditation & Recognition	9
BGST Team	10
RELEVANCE	
Postgraduate Programme Curriculum	13
GCBS	15
GCTS	16
GCSF	17
GDCS	19
DipTS	20
MATIS	22
MDiv	24
Theological Application and Practice (TAP)	27
Progressive Integrative Learning Pathway	27
Practicum Training	28
ENGAGE Ministry Skills Formation	29
Course Catalogue	31
Course Descriptions	33
Scripture	33
Tradition	38
Integrative Studies	42

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FLEXIBILITY

General Information

Academic Year	50
Calendar of Events (with Public Holidays)	50
Onboarding	51
Educational Resources	51
Study Commitment	51
Maximum Period for Programme Completion	51
Leave of Absence	52
Financing Your Education	52
Tuition, Fees and Expenses	52
Payment of Fees	53
BGST Community and BGST Collective	53

Student Information

Signing up for BGST Programmes and Courses	54
Categories of Students	54
Programme Admission Requirements	55
Transfer of Credits and Exemptions	55
Programme Acceptance	56
Course Schedule	56
Course Registration	56
Learning Modes: Live SPL	56
Audit Course Credit Course	57
Course Types: Core Elective Etc	57
Assignment Guidelines	58
Assignment Submissions, Deadlines and Extensions	58
Grading and Transcripts	59
Graduation Requirements	60
FAQs	60



PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

When BGST was established in 1989, her founders had one simple aspiration: that the whole of God's people may become effective ambassadors for Christ (2 Cor 5:20) wherever God has called them to, whether this was at their workplaces, churches, or the communities they are engaged in. This means applying their faith in the different contexts and challenges that they encounter in the marketplace, whether they are teachers, engineers, businesspeople, or civil servants.

This is no simple task, as it requires much theological reflection, ministry skills development, and spiritual formation. Marketplace Christians seeking to equip themselves must also work around the manifold commitments they have at home, work, church, and other areas of ministry.

To enable them in this endeavour, BGST seeks to provide marketplace Christians with quality theological education that is flexible and relevant for their contexts.

Quality Education involves not only equipping Christians with a strong foundation in God's Scriptures, but also the rich theological, cultural, and spiritual traditions of the Church. We grow in wisdom, courage, and love by standing on the shoulders of our spiritual forefathers.

Flexible Education requires BGST to develop an adaptive academic system, and to employ a wide range of teaching methods and digital learning. This is to enable students to learn at their own pace, remain engaged with their classmates, while still being able to balance their studies with their diverse commitments at home, work, and church.

Finally, Relevant Education calls for careful studies of the contemporary issues and disciplines, whether this is Asian cultures, business practices, or cultural challenges, and to bring these into dialogue with Christian theology, so that our students can forge innovative approaches to engage the world and to disciple the next generation.

We welcome you to join the BGST community and to embark on your journey of becoming effective ambassadors of Christ!

Yours,
Dr Lai Pak Wah
Principal

VISION

That all Christians
grow in Christ-likeness
and live out their calling
to fulfil God's creative
and redemptive purposes
in the Church and the marketplace



MISSION

BGST provides flexible, relevant and
quality education that draws upon
Scripture, Christian Tradition, and
Integrative Studies



EQUIPPING AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST IN MARKETPLACES

CHRISTIANS IN MARKETPLACES

Christ not only creates and redeems us from our sins, but is also the Lord of every moment and aspect of our lives. For this reason, Christian salvation is never *just* personal, but cosmic - it is Christ calling us to participate in His transformation or re-creation of all humanity and the world.

This renewal of creation involves not just our worship and ministry in the church. It also reaches deep into the work we do, the cultures and technologies we create, the leisure we enjoy, and the things we love - whether books, sports, food, or the arts. It permeates the communities we engage with, whether religious, academic, social, or business.

In ancient times, the Romans have places for these diverse activities: marketplaces (or *agoras* in Greek). These public squares and bazaars are spaces where businesses trade, public policies are practised, religious activities are observed, and cultures are celebrated.

Today, these diverse **marketplaces** include offices, factories, studios, government, civil society, and churches. Here, Christians are called to be **Ambassadors for Christ (2 Cor 5:20)** displaying the fullness of His salvation: His wisdom, healing and restoration. We demonstrate how the Christian faith can be **integrated** with and transform our work, church, and society.

BECOMING AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST

BGST aspires to equip Christians to become effective Ambassadors for Christ in their marketplaces. To integrate their faith with work, church, and society,

Ambassadors for Christ are:

i. Assured of Christ's Love: Knowing that they are children of God, loved by the Father, through the Son, in the Spirit.

They proclaim:

ii. Christ for All Creation: By fulfilling God's creative and redemptive purposes in the workplace, church, and society

iii. Christ for All Seasons: By desiring to learn and grow together, whenever we are in life.

THEOLOGICAL POSITION

The sole authority of the doctrines of Biblical Graduate School of Theology (BGST) is the revelation of God given in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

BGST also acknowledges the significance of the theological heritage handed down to the Christian church through the historic creeds, confessions and catechisms, in particular, the Apostles' Creed and Nicene Creed, in informing BGST's formation of its chief tenets of doctrine, of which the abbreviated form is as follows.

We believe in the divine, verbal and plenary inspiration of the Holy Scriptures in the original languages, their consequent inerrancy and infallibility and, as the Word of God, their supreme and final authority in faith and life.

We believe that the whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary for His own glory, man's salvation, faith and life is either expressly set down in Scripture or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture: to this nothing at any time is to be added, whether by new revelation of the Spirit or by tradition of men.

We believe in one God existing in three co-eternal Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We believe that Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of Mary when she was a virgin and is true God and true man.

We believe that man was created in the image of God, but sinned through the fall of Adam, thereby incurring not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God; and that all human beings are born with a sinful nature and become sinners in thought, word and deed.

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died a propitiatory and expiatory death as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice and that all who repent of their sins and believe in Him are justified before God on the grounds of His death and resurrection.

We believe in the bodily resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His ascension into Heaven and in His exaltation at the right hand of God, where He intercedes for us as our High Priest and Advocate.

We believe in the personal, visible and imminent return of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We believe that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ and to convict and regenerate the sinner, indwell, guide, instruct and empower the believer for godly living and service.

We believe that Christ instituted the Sacrament of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, which shall be observed by His Church till He returns.

We believe in the eternal security, bodily resurrection and eternal blessedness of the saved, and in the bodily resurrection and eternal punishment of the lost.

We believe that the universal church possesses a spiritual unity and purity realised in the Headship of Christ over His Church, and in the church being the Body of Christ.

BGST LIFELONG LEARNING

We live in a disruptive and complex world, where the challenges and concerns of our marketplaces change rapidly.

To help Christians integrate and apply their faith continually, BGST offers an extensive lifelong learning pathway. Students can start from short 2-hour micro-learning courses or 1-4 months long ENGAGE Ministry Skills formation modules. They can also equip themselves through our modular postgraduate courses, which are stackable from our Graduate Certificates to our Master of Divinity programmes.

Holistic Curriculum

To equip Christians to become ambassadors for Christ in their marketplaces, BGST offers a **Holistic curriculum** that forms them theologically, spiritually, and in their ministry skills.

1. Theological Formation

Developing the ability to interpret and obey Scripture, understand our rich Christian traditions, and apply their learning in their diverse marketplaces.

2. Spiritual Formation

Cultivating an intimate relationship with Christ, motivated by God's love, and discern His Spirit's guidance as they work, serve, and lead in their marketplaces.

3. Ministry Skills Formation

Acquiring the skills to lead well, communicate effectively, and minister winsomely as they engage the concerns of their marketplaces.

Adaptive Learning Approaches

BGST's adaptive educational approaches are designed to equip Ambassadors for Christ as they work, serve, and live out their faith in their marketplaces.

1. Flexible

BGST adopts a range of learning modes, from 'live' classes (both in-person or online), blended learning, or self-paced online learning. 'Live' classes are offered during evenings or Saturday weekends. Classes are modular and stackable towards accredited programmes.

2. Contextualised

BGST adopts different adult learning approaches - including case studies, group projects, mentoring, coaching and spiritual direction - to help our students apply their learning to their marketplaces.

3. Integrative

BGST devotes two-thirds of every course and curriculum to content learning, and the remaining one-third to Theological Application and Practice (TAP), that is, learning how to engage church ministry, marketplace concerns, and contemporary societal issues.

ACCREDITATION & RECOGNITION

ACCREDITATION

The BGST programmes listed here are accredited by the Asia Theological Association.

- GDCS - Graduate Diploma in Christian Studies
- MATIS - Master of Arts in Theology and Integrative Studies*
- MDiv - Master of Divinity

** Note: From AY2023, MATIS will be renamed from Master of Arts in Theology and Inter-disciplinary Studies to Master of Arts in Theology and Integrative Studies.*

RECOGNITION

BGST is recognised by the Ministry of Education as a private school offering religious education. We can accept foreign students for full-time study. While keeping our autonomous status, we are open to a fraternal relationship with other theological schools which share our mission and goals and our theological position. Our Graduate Diploma in Christian Studies, Master of Arts in Theology and Interdisciplinary Studies, and Master of Divinity are recognised by Regent College (Vancouver) and other reputable theological schools. BGST and Regent College have an established agreement on the transfer of BGST credits to Regent. Please contact the admin office for more details.

BGST TEAM

COUNCIL

The Council is responsible for the overall direction, staffing and finances of the School.



A/Prof Kenny Tan
Chairman
Chair, HRC



Rev Barney Lau
Vice-Chair
Chair, GNC



Mr Brian Chew
Treasurer
Chair, FC



Dr Lai Pak Wah
Secretary
Ex-officio Member



Dr Quek Swee Hwa
Founding Principal
Member, GNC



Mr Gregory Lee
Member, FC & GNC

GNC - Governance and Nomination Committee
HRC - Human Resource Committee
FC - Finance Committee

EXECUTIVE TEAM



Dr Lai Pak Wah
Principal, Dean



Ms Lynn Yong
Head, Administrative
Services



Dr Tan Seng Kong
Head, Technology
& Resources

BGST STAFF



Ms Daisy Sim
Manager, Finance
Services



Ms Janice Mungcal
Executive, Academic
and Resources



Ms Kristine Komlosy
Associate, Publicity
& Graphics Design



Ms Sarah Phua
Associate, Accounts

BGST TEAM

FACULTY

The Faculty is responsible for the academic programme of BGST. The Principal supervises the work of the Faculty comprising lecturers, mentors and tutors.

Resident Faculty



Dr Lai Pak Wah
Principal, Dean
and Lecturer,
Church History and
Historical Theology



Dr Tan Seng Kong
Lecturer,
Systematic and
Spiritual Theology



Mr Quek Tze-Ming
Lecturer,
New Testament

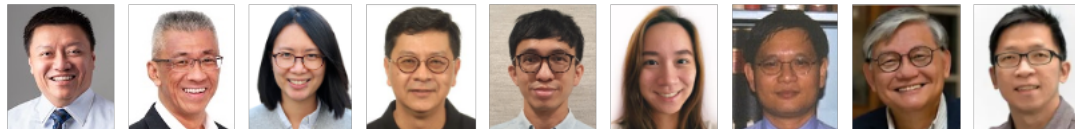


Mr Hor Guo Yi
Lecturer, ENGAGE
and Registrar

Associate Lecturers, Mentors & Tutors



(L-R): Dr Steve Garber; Dr Philip Satterthwaite; Mr Leow Wen Pin; Mr Victor Wibowo; Ms Jasmine Foo; Dr Clive Lim; Dr Suzanne Choo; Rev Dr Lim Kar Yong; Dr Marie Joy Pring; Mr Chng Eu-Lee.



(L-R): Mr Michael Low; Dr Ho Boon Tiong; Mrs Constance Fourie; Rev Stanley Tay; Dr Tan Kok Choon; Ms Benita Lim; Rev Dr Oh Boon Leong; Rev Dr Tan Soo-Inn; Mr Ho Wei Hao.



(L-R): Dr Jeremy Chew; Mr David Leong; Dr Vincent Ooi Kean Hong; Mr Low Kwang Meng; Rev Song Cheng Hock; Rev Ivan Tan; Ms Dawn Yip; Rev Dr Alby Yip; Ps Kirk Tan.



(L-R): Dr Kara Martin; Prof Tony Lane; Mr Anthony Siow; Ms Anita Yap; Ms Seah Chiew Kwan; Mrs Priscilla Chua; Dr Tong Mee On; Rev Cheng Eng Hwa; Dr Chan Lin Ho.



(L-R): Ms Amy Ang; Mr Chiang Wen-Wei; Rev Dr David Wong; Rev Barney Lau; Rev Dr Desmond Soh; Rev Dr Beh Soo Yeong.

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME CURRICULUM

EQUIPPING YOURSELF TO BE AN AMBASSADOR FOR CHRIST

As Christians grow in our faith, we need to deepen and broaden our theological, spiritual and ministry skills formation so that we can better integrate our faith to our work, church ministry and societal engagements.

BGST’s postgraduate curriculum is created to support this. You can do so either by taking a course, or one of our Graduate Certificates or Graduate Diplomas. Each of these courses and Graduate programmes are stackable and allows you to transfer your credits and progress to BGST’s Masters degrees. The aim always is to provide maximum flexibility for you to learn at your own pace and develop yourselves over time.

PROGRAMMES LIST

The postgraduate programmes are:

P1.	GCBS	Graduate Certificate in Biblical Studies
P2.	GCTS	Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies
P3.	GCSF	Graduate Certificate in Spiritual Formation
P4.	GDCS	Graduate Diploma in Christian Studies
P5.	DipTS	Diploma in Theological Studies
P6.	MATIS	Master of Arts in Theology and Integrative Studies
P7.	MDiv	Master of Divinity

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME CURRICULUM

GRADUATE CERTIFICATES

BGST's Graduate Certificates are the shortest postgraduate programmes in our lifelong learning pathway. Each Graduate Certificate is structured to provide Christians with a broad-based understanding of Scripture, Christian Tradition, and Integrative Studies, and how these can be applied to enable Christians to integrate their faith with work, church, and society. Most importantly, Christians should also develop the basic skills of discerning God's guidance in their life and decision making.

The Graduate Certificate allows students to start their learning from three areas of interest

- (1) Biblical Studies,
- (2) Theological Studies or
- (3) Spiritual Formation.

The goal of the programme is personal transformation. All graduates should:

Have an introductory knowledge of Scripture, and Christian Traditions and Christian Spirituality, and Integrative Studies;

Have basic competencies in their certificate's area of focus: Biblical Studies, Theological Studies, or Spiritual Formation;

Be able to draw insights from their learning to grow in Christ-likeness, discern their calling, and apply their learning to their personal lives.

Programme Duration, Stacking and Credit Transfer

Duration: 1 year Full-time
 2 years Part-time

Graduate Certificates are stackable to: => GDCS / DipTS
 => MATIS
 => MDiv

- ***Note: With effect from AY2023, Graduate Certificates' credit requirements have increased from 12 to 15 credits.***

P1. GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN BIBLICAL STUDIES (GCBS)

The Graduate Certificate in Biblical Studies (GCBS) is an excellent first step to better understand the Bible. You will learn about Scripture, how to interact with, unpack and apply biblical history and teachings. Graduates of GCBS will acquire competencies in Biblical Studies, be equipped with an introductory knowledge of Scripture and Christian Spirituality, and be able to draw insights from these to grow in Christlikeness.

GCBS is right for you if:

- ✦ You are looking for foundational programme to deepen your understanding of Scripture.
- ✦ You would like to have a taste of theological training.
- ✦ You are looking for a structured academic programme with some flexibility.

Total Credits Needed for GCBS Certification: 15 Credits

Course Code	Courses	Credits
Core Courses	Total Credits Needed	15
Scripture		
OT 101	Old Testament Foundations 1	3
NT 101 OR NT 102	New Testament Foundations 1 OR New Testament Foundations 2	3
HE 101	Biblical Hermeneutics and Interpretation	3
Tradition		
CS 101	Christian Spirituality 1	1.5
CS 102	Christian Spirituality 2: Practicum (Practicum Credit)	1.5
Integrative Studies		
IS 100	Everyday Christianity	1.5
MM 100	Discerning Your Life	1.5

P2. GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN THEOLOGICAL STUDIES (GCTS)

If you are looking to study Theology in a structured academic manner, the Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies (GCTS) is a good starting point. You will explore how to interpret Biblical texts; gain understanding of Christian History; apply theology in your everyday life, and form your own set of beliefs, values, and way of life that reflect the teachings of the Bible.

Graduates of GCTS will acquire competencies in Theological Studies, have an introductory knowledge of Scripture and Christian Tradition (including Spiritual Discernment), and be able to draw insights from these to grow in Christlikeness.

GCTS is right for you if:

- ✦ You are interested in Christian history, spirituality and faith.
- ✦ You would like to have a taste of theological training.
- ✦ You are looking for a structured academic programme with some flexibility.

Total Credits Needed for GCTS Certification: 15 Credits

Course Code	Courses	Credits
Core Courses	Total Credits Needed	15
Scripture		
HE 101	Biblical Hermeneutics and Interpretation	3
Tradition		
CH 101 or CH 102	History of Christianity 1 or History of Christianity 2	3
TS 101	Christian Theology for Everyday Life	3
CS 101	Christian Spirituality 1	1.5
CS 102	Christian Spirituality 2: Practicum (Practicum Credit)	1.5
Integrative Studies		
IS 100	Everyday Christianity	1.5
MM 100	Discerning Your Life	1.5

P3. GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN SPIRITUAL FORMATION (GCSF)

Christ has called us to cultivate a deeper and more intimate relationship with Him. Our spiritual formation, however, can be hindered in two ways. Some of us may be comfortable with understanding faith cognitively, but many wrestle with how imagination and emotions fit into Christian formation. Others may struggle to differentiate a human experience with an authentic encounter with God.

For these reasons, there is a crucial need for personal spiritual discernment and more importantly, co-discernment in community, and with experienced guides. Through the Graduate Certificate for Spiritual Formation (GCSF), BGST hopes to help Christians establish a biblical understanding of spiritual formation and how to apply it.

GCSF is right for you if:

- ✦ You desire to grow and lead others in the journey of spiritual formation.
- ✦ You are a leader already involved in a small group.
- ✦ You are a marketplace Christian who aspires to bring spiritual formation into your workplace in creative ways.
- ✦ You are a church ministry leader who want to be equipped to accompany fellow Christians in their spiritual journey.
- ✦ You desire to be involved in inter-generational ministry as a spiritual guide.

Total Credits Needed for GCSF Certification: 15 Credits

Course Code	Courses	Credits
Core Courses	Total Credits Needed	15
Scripture		
HE 101	Biblical Hermeneutics and Interpretation	3
Tradition		
TS 101	Christian Theology for Everyday Life	3
CS 101	Christian Spirituality 1	1.5
CS 102	Christian Spirituality 2: Practicum (Practicum Credit)	1.5
CS 211	Ancient Wisdom for Everyday Spirituality 1	1.5
CS 212	Ancient Wisdom for Everyday Spirituality 2	1.5
Integrative Studies		
IS 100	Everyday Christianity	1.5
MM 100	Discerning Your Life	1.5

GRADUATE DIPLOMAS

The Graduate Diplomas build on the basic foundation laid by the Graduate Certificates. Each Graduate Diploma is aimed at developing students' ability to flourish spiritually at work, and to help them begin engaging the concerns of their work, Church, and society.

All graduates should:

1. Have a foundational knowledge of Scripture, Christian Traditions and Spirituality, and Integrative Studies.
2. Be able to draw insights from their learning to grow in Christ-likeness, flourish spiritually at their workplaces, and to engage the concerns of contemporary culture and society.

Students can opt for either the Graduate Diploma in Christian Studies (GDCS) or the Diploma in Theological Studies (DipTS).

- i. GDCS is offered solely by BGST. Its curriculum emphasizes the students' spiritual formation through practicums. It also develops their ability to apply their biblical and theological learning in their marketplaces by devoting 30% (9 credits) of its curriculum to Theological Application and Practice (TAP).
- ii. DipTS is jointly offered by BGST and TTC. It provides students the flexibility of completing the programme by taking courses either at TTC or BGST (subject to specific guidelines). Students can also opt to take the entire DipTS in either TTC or BGST. TTC Courses are offered mainly in the day, while BGST courses are conducted during weekday evenings, Saturdays, or in Self-paced Learning (SPL) mode to provide additional flexibility to working students.

While most BGST students start with the Graduate Certificate, students can also be admitted directly into the GDCS or DipTS Programmes.

Programme Duration, Stacking and Credit Transfer

Duration: 1 year Full-time
 4 years Part-time (GDCS)
 5 years Part-time (DipTS)

Graduate Diplomas are stackable to: => MATIS
 => MDiv

Credit transfer to TTC:

Up to 15 credits are transferable to TTC's Bachelor of Divinity, or Master of Divinity programmes, subject to TTC's validation process.

P4. GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN CHRISTIAN STUDIES (GDCS)

The Graduate Diploma in Christian Studies (GDCS) is designed to provide Christians in all walks of life with a foundational understanding of Christian faith, tradition and practice. It aims to help students reflect theologically, grow spiritually, and integrate their faith with all aspects of their lives, whether at home or at work, in church or in the public square.

The required courses introduce some of the main theological disciplines (such as Scripture, Hermeneutics, Systematic Theology, Church History, Christian Spirituality and Integrative Studies) as well as courses which address the practicalities of living for God in Asia in the 21st century.

GDCS is right for you if:

- ✦ You want a comprehensive foundational programme to increase your knowledge of the Christian faith.
- ✦ You are finding ways to reflect theologically, grow spiritually and integrate your faith with areas of work and living.
- ✦ You are exploring ways to integrate your faith in the context of your culture and society.

Total Credits Needed for GDCS Accreditation: 30 Credits

ð Core Required Courses: 25.5 Credits

ð Elective Courses: 4.5 Credits

Course Code	Courses	Credits
Core Courses	Total Credits Needed	25.5
Scripture		
OT 101	Old Testament Foundations 1	3
NT 101 or NT 102	New Testament Foundations 1 or New Testament Foundations 2	3
HE 101	Biblical Hermeneutics and Interpretation	3
Tradition		
CH 101 or CH 102	History of Christianity 1 or History of Christianity 2	3
TS 101	Christian Theology for Everyday Life	3
CS 101	Christian Spirituality 1	1.5
CS 102	Christian Spirituality 2: Practicum (Practicum Credit)	1.5
Integrative Studies		
IS 100	Everyday Christianity	1.5
IS 101	Christianity, Culture and Society	3
MM 100	Discerning Your Life	1.5
MM 101	Discerning Your Work	1.5
Electives	Total Credits Needed	4.5
	Ministry Skills (MS) Elective	1.5
	From Any Subject Areas	3

Students can take up to 3 credits of practicum credits (including CS102). A practicum course is graded pass or fail and will not contribute to the overall GPA of the programme.

P5. DIPLOMA IN THEOLOGICAL STUDIES (DipTS)

The Diploma in Theological Studies (DipTS) is a joint programme offered by BGST and Trinity Theological College (TTC). It is particularly designed for lay people and working professionals to help those who desire foundational but also high-quality theological education for either their own development or in preparation for serving as lay leaders in the Church. It can also be taken by those who desire to be involved in Christian ministries but are not intending to or yet to seek ordination.

Students can register for this programme at either BGST or TTC. Courses at TTC are offered mainly in the day, while courses offered at BGST are conducted during weekday evenings, Saturdays, or in Self-paced Learning (SPL) mode, to provide flexibility and accessibility to working students. DipTS credits are recognised and transferable to more advanced theological programmes at either BGST or TTC.

For credit transfers to TTC, up to 15 credits are transferable to TTC's Bachelor of Divinity, or Master of Divinity Programmes, subject to TTC's validation process.

DipTS is right for you if:

- ◆ You want a comprehensive foundational programme to increase your knowledge of the Christian faith.
- ◆ You are finding ways to reflect theologically, grow spiritually and integrate your faith with areas of work and life.
- ◆ You are or will be serving as a lay leader in your church or in other ministries.

P5. DIPLOMA IN THEOLOGICAL STUDIES (DipTS) - CON'T

Total Credits Needed for DipTS Accreditation: 37 Credits (TTC) / 37.5 (BGST)

ð TTC Core Required Courses: 30 Credits

ð TTC Elective Courses: 7 Credits

ð BGST Core Required Courses: 30 Credits

ð BGST Elective Courses: 7.5 Credits

Course Code	Credits	BGST Courses	TTC Courses
Core	30		
Scripture			OT NT Biblical Interpretations
OT 101	3	Old Testament Foundations 1	Old Testament 1 & 2 (6 Cr)
OT 102	3	Old Testament Foundations 2	
NT 101	3	New Testament Foundations 1	New Testament 1 & 2 (6 Cr)
NT 102	3	New Testament Foundations 2	
HE 101	3	Biblical Hermeneutics and Interpretation	Introduction to Biblical Interpretation (3 Cr)
Tradition			
CH 101	3	History of Christianity 1	<u>Church History</u> History of Global Christianity 1&2 (6 Cr)
CH 102	3	History of Christianity 2	
TS 101	3	Christian Theology for Everyday Life	<u>Theology</u> Theology 1, 2 & 3 (9 Cr)
TS 211	3	Christian Theology 1	
TS 212	3	Christian Theology 2	
Electives	7.5 / 7		
Christian Spirituality Electives			Gospel and Culture
CS 101	1.5	Christian Spirituality 1	Religions OR Elective (3 Cr)
CS 102	1.5	Christian Spirituality 2: Practicum (Practicum Credit)	
Marketplace Ministry & Integrative Studies Elective			Elective
MM 100	1.5	Discerning Your Life	Elective (3 Cr)
MM 101	1.5	Discerning Your Work	
IS 100	1.5	Everyday Christianity	
			TTC Compulsory Course: Theological Studies and Ministry (1 Cr) (applicable for TTC only)

Notes on DipTS Course Registration:

- Students taking Old Testament, New Testament, Theology and Church History core courses should take the courses in each course category entirely in either school. That is, if you take Old Testament 1 at TTC, you must complete Old Testament 2 with TTC. If you take History of Christianity 2 at BGST, you must complete History of Christianity 1 with BGST.
- Students must take at least 60% of their courses with the school where they are enrolled in.
- The elective requirements of BGST's DipTS has been revised with effect from AY2023.

P6. MASTER OF ARTS IN THEOLOGY AND INTEGRATIVE STUDIES (MATIS)

The Master of Arts in Theology and Interdisciplinary Studies (MATIS) develops the theological and integrative competencies of our Graduate Diploma graduates and their ability to apply their learning to engage their marketplaces. All graduates are:

1. **Competent in interpreting Scripture**, Christian Traditions and Spirituality, and Integrative Studies, and **integrating** these learning foci.
2. Able to **nurture themselves and others** in Christ-likeness to live out their calling at work, church, and society.

To help our students apply their learning and develop their ministry skills, the MATIS devotes 35% (21 Cr) of its curriculum to Theological Application and Practice (TAP).

Ministry Research Project or Research Thesis Options

While students can complete their MATIS entirely by course work, they can also undertake a Ministry Research Project or a Research Thesis as part of their programme requirements. They can do so by devoting 6 credits of electives to their thesis. Specifically, they must first complete a Guided Study (1.5Cr) to understand and identify the scope of their project or thesis, before embarking on the project and thesis itself (4.5Cr). With this option, students should note that they will need to complete 1.5Cr more electives than what is required in the MATIS (4.5Cr).

a. Ministry Research Project OR

Guided Study Elective	1.5 credits
Ministry Research Project (TH393)	4.5 credits

b. Research Thesis

Guided Study Elective	1.5 credits
Research Thesis (TH395)	4.5 credits

TOTAL CREDITS	6 credits
---------------	-----------

Students can take up to 6 credits of practicum credits (including CS102 and other Ministry Skills electives). A practicum course is graded pass or fail and will not contribute to the overall GPA of the programme. Practicum courses will be indicated in the Course Schedule when offered.

Note: MATIS used to be called Master of Arts in Theology and Inter-disciplinary Studies. The term 'Integrative' has now been adopted instead. 'Integrative' allows for some disciplines to be more important than others. The use of this term enables BGST to emphasise that while (i) robust theological application requires one to become inter-disciplinary, (ii) the Bible remains primary discipline out of the many.

MATIS graduates will be competent in engaging Scripture, Christian Tradition (including Church History, and Spiritual Discernment) and Integrative Studies. They will learn to nurture themselves and others in Christ-likeness to live out their calling in the Church and the marketplace.

MATIS is right for you if:

- ✦ You are in the marketplace and want to grow your understanding of the Christian faith.
- ✦ You are looking for comprehensive theological training with both depth and breadth.
- ✦ You are exploring leadership roles in your church and in other ministries

Programme Duration, Stacking and Credit Transfer

Duration: 2 year Full-time
6 years Part-time

MATIS is stackable to: MDiv

P6. MASTER OF ARTS IN THEOLOGY AND INTEGRATIVE STUDIES (MATIS) - CON'T

Total Credits Needed for MATIS Accreditation: 60 Credits

ð Core Required Courses: 55.5 Credits

ð Elective Courses: 4.5 Credits

Course Code	Courses	Credits
Core Courses	Total Credits Needed	55.5
Scripture		
OT 101	Old Testament Foundations 1	3
OT 102	Old Testament Foundations 2	3
NT 101	New Testament Foundations 1	3
NT 102	New Testament Foundations 2	3
HE 101	Biblical Hermeneutics and Interpretation	3
Tradition		
CH 101	History of Christianity 1	3
CH 102	History of Christianity 2	3
TS 101	Christian Theology for Everyday Life	3
TS 211 or TS 212	Christian Theology 1 or Christian Theology 2	3
CS 101	Christian Spirituality 1	1.5
CS 102	Christian Spirituality 2: Practicum (Practicum Credit)	1.5
-	Any Other Christian Spirituality Course	3
Integrative Studies		
IS 100	Everyday Christianity	1.5
IS 101	Christianity, Culture and Society	3
IS 211	Asian Religions Seminar	3
IS/TS 253	Ethical Issues in Asia	1.5
-	Any Integrative Studies (IS) Elective	1.5
MM 100	Discerning Your Life	1.5
MM 101	Discerning Your Work	1.5
MM 103	Christians in a Disruptive & Digital World	1.5
MM 211	Marketplace Integration Seminar	3
-	Any Ministry Skills (MS) elective such as teaching, preaching, and/or leadership electives. This includes the ENGAGE Certificate Leadership programmes. Some MS electives may be practicum credits.	4.5
Electives	Total Credits Needed	4.5
	From Any Subject Areas	4.5

P7. MASTER OF DIVINITY (MDIV)

The Master of Divinity (MDiv) builds on the MATIS competencies to develop our students into skilled pastoral leaders, capable of leading churches and Christian communities. Its specific aims are two-fold: (a) to enable our MATIS graduates to stack up their ministry and pastoral skills training and prepare for the pastoral vocation; and (b) to provide them with the biblical language competencies and a range of pastoral skills to minister effectively.

All MDiv graduates are:

1. **Skilled pastoral leaders** who effectively expound Scripture and Christian traditions, and to draw on integrative studies for leading their churches and communities.
2. Able to **nurture themselves and lead others** in Christ-likeness to live out their calling at work, church, and society.

The Biblical language requirement for MDiv is for 1.5 years (9 credits) of studies in either Biblical Hebrew (BH111, BH112, and BH211 / BH212) or Biblical Greek (BG111, BG112, and BG211 / BG212). Students also have the option to take a combination track where they take any 9 credits of BH 111, BH 112, BG 111 / BG 112. It is recommended for students to commence EITHER Biblical Hebrew or Biblical Greek early in their programme of studies.

To equip our students with the ability to apply their learning and engage their stakeholders winsomely, 40% (36 credits) of the MDiv is devoted to Theological Application and Practice (TAP).

Students can take up to 9 credits of practicum credits (including CS102, CS112 / CO101 and other Ministry Skills practicum courses). A practicum course is graded pass or fail and will not contribute to the overall GPA of the programme.

MDiv is right for you if:

- ✦ You are looking for a robust programme with breadth and depth to be better equipped to serve.
- ✦ You want to be more thoroughly equipped as a pastoral leader.
- ✦ You are considering a leadership position within your church or in other ministries.

P7. MASTER OF DIVINITY (MDIV) - CON'T

Total Credits Needed for MDiv Accreditation: 90 Credits

ð Core Required Courses: 84 Credits

ð Elective Courses: 6 Credits

Course Code	Courses	Credits
Core Courses	Total Credits Needed	84
Scripture		
OT 101	Old Testament Foundations 1	3
OT 102	Old Testament Foundations 2	3
NT 101	New Testament Foundations 1	3
NT 102	New Testament Foundations 2	3
HE 101	Biblical Hermeneutics and Interpretation	3
Biblical Languages		
Either Hebrew Track		
BH 111	Biblical Hebrew 1	3
BH 112	Biblical Hebrew 2	3
BH 211 OR BH 212	Biblical Hebrew Readings and Exegesis 1 OR Biblical Hebrew Readings and Exegesis 2	3
Or: Greek Track		
BG 111	Biblical Greek 1	3
BG 112	Biblical Greek 2	3
BG 211 OR BG 212	Biblical Greek Readings and Exegesis 1 OR Biblical Greek Readings and Exegesis 2	3
Or: Introductory Combination Track		
BH 111 BH 112 BG 111 BG 112	Any 3 courses of BH 111, BH 112, BG 111 / BG 112: Biblical Hebrew 1 Biblical Hebrew 2 Biblical Greek 1 Biblical Greek 2	9

Table listing continue on following page

P7. MASTER OF DIVINITY (MDIV) - CON'T

Table listing continue from previous page

Course Code	Courses	Credits
Core Courses	Total Credits Needed	84
Tradition		
CH 101	History of Christianity 1	3
CH 102	History of Christianity 2	3
TS 101	Christian Theology for Everyday Life	3
TS 211	Christian Theology 1	3
TS 212	Christian Theology 2	3
CS 101	Christian Spirituality 1	1.5
CS 102	Christian Spirituality 2: Practicum (Practicum Credit)	1.5
CS/CO 112 OR CO 101	Spiritual Care and Direction (Practicum Credit) OR Basic Counselling Skills (Practicum Credit)	3
CS 211+2 OR CS xxx	Ancient Wisdom for Everyday Spirituality 1 (1.5Cr) + Ancient Wisdom for Everyday Spirituality 2 (1.5Cr) OR any other Christian Spirituality (CS) Course (3Cr)	3
Integrative Studies		
IS 100	Everyday Christianity	1.5
IS 101	Christianity, Culture and Society	3
IS 211	Asian Religions Seminar / Philosophies Shaping #21CAsia	3
IS/TS 253	Ethical Issues in Asia Marketplace Ethics in Asia	1.5
	Any Integrative Studies (IS) Course	1.5
MM 100	Discerning Your Life Text	1.5
MM 101	Discerning Your Work	1.5
MM 103	Christians in a Disruptive & Digital World	1.5
MM 211	Marketplace Integration Seminar	3
CM 101	Pastoral Theology & Ministry	1.5
AT 331/332	Field Education	1.5
ME/IS 101	The Church in Mission ME/IS101 requirement is changed to	3
-	Ministry Skills (MS) Course. This includes at least 3 credits in Teaching and Learning, 3 credits in Preaching and 1.5 credits in Worship and Liturgy.	7.5
-	Any ENGAGE Leadership Certificate	4.5
Electives	Total Credits Needed	6
	From Any Subject Areas	6

MS221 or any other 3 cr preaching elective
or MS121 teaching & discipleship or any
teaching and learning course
1.5 MS141 Worship & Liturgy or any other W&L
course

THEOLOGICAL APPLICATION AND PRACTICE (TAP)

To equip our students to apply their learning and to engage others in a winsome manner, BGST devotes 1/3 of every course and curriculum to Theological Application and Practice (TAP). There are two components in TAP:

1. **Application Learning:** Where the ability to apply one's faith and theology is developed by enhancing our Inter-disciplinary or integrative studies training. This involves developing both Marketplace Ministry (MM), Integrative Studies (IS) and Missions & Evangelism (ME) content and courses.
2. **Engagement Learning:** Where the ability to engage others using communication or ministry skills such as teaching, facilitation, coaching, and leadership is developed. This involves the use of Ministry Skills (MS) courses such as Applied Theology (AT), CO (Counselling), Christian Education (CE) and Church Ministry (CM) courses.

Often, ministry skills are better formed through practicums. These may be delivered either as

- (a) postgraduate practicum courses, or
- (b) under the ENGAGE Ministry Skills Formation initiative.

See following pages for more details on practicum courses and ENGAGE.

PROGRESSIVE INTEGRATIVE LEARNING PATHWAY

The design of BGST's postgraduate programmes enables students to develop and deepen their theological application and practice (TAP) as they progress from the Graduate Certificate to the MATIS or MDiv. Every programme incorporates Marketplace Ministry (MM) and Integrative Studies (IS) to help students learn how to apply their faith to their everyday lives before progressing to the implications for their work, church, and society. Ministry Skill courses are also required from GDSCS onwards to help students build a wide range of ministry and communication skills. The following illustrates the progression pathway from the Graduate Certificate to the MDiv.

Programme	Marketplace Formation Focus	Marketplace Ministry	Integrative Studies	Ministry Skills
GCBS GCTS GCSF	Personal	Discerning Your Life (MM 100)	Everyday Christianity (IS 100)	
GDSCS	Workplace	Discerning Your Work (MM 101)	Christianity, Culture and Society (IS 101)	Elective
MATIS	Society	Marketplace Integration Seminar	Asian Religions Seminar Ethical Issues in Asia (IS 253) IS Electives	Elective
MDiv	Church			Elective

THEOLOGICAL APPLICATION AND PRACTICE (TAP)

PRACTICUM TRAINING

While theological training requires a robust intellectual study of Scripture, Tradition, and Integrative Studies, it should be augmented with an emphasis on how the intellectual learning can be applied to the students' and their communities' day to day lives. For this reason, practicum training is emphasised in BGST's curriculum.

Types of Practicum Courses

There are 3 types of practicum courses in BGST: MDiv Field Education (MS/CM311), some Christian Spirituality courses (e.g., CS102, CS105 and CS115) and some Ministry Skills courses. All Practicum courses are graded Pass or Fail.

Some practicum courses are compulsory. CS102, for example, is required in all Graduate Credits. So are Field Education and Spiritual Care and Direction (CS112) / Basic Counselling Skills (CO101) for the MDiv programme. Others are offered as electives.

Students planning to take GDCS, MATIS or MDiv should note that the sum total of their practicum credits cannot be more than 3, 6 and 9 credits respectively.

Programme	Compulsory Practicum Courses	Additional Practice Credits Allowed
GDCS	CS 102 (1.5 Cr)	1.5 Cr
MATIS	CS 102 (1.5 Cr)	4.5 Cr
MDiv	CS 102 (1.5 Cr) MS/CM 311 (1.5 Cr) CS 112 / CO 101 (3 Cr)	3 Cr

CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY AND MINISTRY SKILLS PRACTICUM

1. Christian Spirituality Practicum Courses

Christian Spirituality and Formation is a key emphasis in BGST's training. We provide a wide range of courses (such as CS101, CS211 and CS212) to help our students deepen their love for God. Students who complete them will be awarded course credits.

The school recognises, however, that spiritual growth requires more than just an intellectual study of the Christian spiritual traditions. More importantly, students must engage in spiritual disciplines and prayer on a prolonged period, often guided by a spiritual mentor. For this reason, some of our Christian Spirituality courses are offered as practicum credits (e.g., CS102).

2. Ministry Skills Practicum Courses

To become effective ambassadors of Christ, students must not only develop their theological competency and learn how to apply these at work and church, but also develop the skills of engaging their communities in a winsome manner. This requires ministry skills training that, sometimes, require prolonged practice rather than essay writing. For example, learning how to facilitate conversations, coaching or counselling. For these reasons, some ministry skill electives will be offered as practicum credits.

THEOLOGICAL APPLICATION AND PRACTICE (TAP)

ENGAGE MINISTRY FORMATION FOR PRACTICUMS

Often, postgraduate practicum courses may not be the best 'vehicles' for specific ministry skills formation. Facilitation and coaching skills, for example, require far more practicums than theory. While such training will not qualify as postgraduate courses, they remain crucial for developing church leaders to minister more effectively.

To provide more pedagogical flexibility, the ENGAGE initiative was launched to offer a broader range of integrative and practical ministry skills training. While some of these ENGAGE modules and certificates (such as the leadership certificates) may be transferable to the postgraduate programmes as course or practicum credits, some will remain non-accredited, depending the nature of the training. For more details, see the next section on ENGAGE.

ENGAGE MINISTRY SKILLS FORMATION

BGST recognises that ministry skills training is important to equip marketplace professionals to apply and communicate their faith. These include skills like leadership, facilitation, teaching, coaching, engaging contemporary issues and etc. Such training, however, is practical oriented and requires a blended pedagogy. That is, to integrate theological, spiritual, and practical-experiential approaches in the learning process.

The ENGAGE initiative was launched in 2021 to create a platform for such hybridised training, which may not fit the traditional requirements of our postgraduate courses.

As and when possible, and to provide flexibility for our postgraduate students, we benchmark ENGAGE modules to the Asian Theological Association (ATA) postgraduate requirements for course credits. This is to allow our students to transfer their ENGAGE modules towards the fulfilment of their postgraduate requirements.

CREDIT TRANSFER

When an ENGAGE module is list as transferable, its workload will be equivalent to at least 1 credit of postgraduate free elective (or 40 hours of academic work). Typically, such academic work includes class time/ lectures, assignments, and readings. This credit can be transferred to BGST's postgraduate studies upon fulfilment of the module requirements.

For ease of transfer, ENGAGE Certificates and some ENGAGE modules are packaged in terms of 1.5, 3 or 4.5 credits. This will be stated in each ENGAGE module or certificate.

In the event that a module consists only of 1 credit, it must be accumulated with other ENGAGE modules for ease of credit transfer. So, two ENGAGE modules of one credit each can offset one 1.5 credit of postgraduate elective.

For ENGAGE modules that do not fulfil course credit requirements (due to their practical nature), these can be transferred to the postgraduate system as practicum credits. Each ENGAGE Certificate or module will indicate whether it can be transferred as a course or practicum credit. Students should note the maximum number of practicum credits they can earn for a degree programme.

ENGAGE MINISTRY SKILLS FORMATION

ENGAGE LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATES

To help pastoral and lay leaders develop their leadership competencies, BGST offers 2 leadership certificates at least once every 2 years.

1. **ENGAGE Certificate in Pastoral Leadership (ECPL112)**

The ECPL is designed for pastoral leaders and senior lay leaders. Consisting of 4 modules (each about 10 hours long), the ECPL introduces the biblical and theological perspectives of leadership, and provides frameworks and practices for spiritual self-leadership. Students will also learn how to design and lead teams, and coordinate their organisational strategy and design. Finally, students will develop perspectives to managing, coaching, and engaging different stakeholders from board members, pastoral staff, and church volunteers. To help students apply their learning, pastoral and spiritual mentors will provide one to one mentoring. They will also undertake a team psychometric assessment to understand their team profiles and how to help their team members effectively.

2. **ENGAGE Certificate in Lay Leadership (ECLL112)**

The ECLL is designed for emerging lay leaders who have yet to become managers or leaders at their workplace. They do not have transferable leadership skills for their ministry. The Certificate provides students with a broad-based knowledge of biblical interpretation, Christian theology and history, and spiritual care and formation. It also introduces the basics of Christian leadership and how to lead teams. To strengthen their ministry skills, students will acquire frameworks and insights into project management, communications, and church governance. To help students apply their learning, pastoral mentors will provide one to one mentoring. They will also undertake a team psychometric assessment to understand their team profiles and how to help their team members effectively.

CREDIT TRANSFER FOR ECPL AND ECLL

The ENGAGE leadership certificates are 4.5 credits each (ECPL112 and ECLL112). They can be taken to offset either the 4.5 credit leadership elective requirement in the MDiv or the Ministry Skills or Free Elective requirements in the other postgraduate programmes.

REGISTRATION

You can register for any ENGAGE Certificate Programmes, its modules, or events here: <https://www.theologyforlife.sg/collections/engagecerts>

COURSE CATALOGUE

BGST courses are categorised into 3 focus thrusts: Scripture, Tradition and Integrative Studies. Following is a catalogue of core and elective courses categorised accordingly.

A. SCRIPTURE

A1.	OT	Old Testament Studies
A1.1	OT101	Old Testament Foundations 1
A1.2	OT102	Old Testament Foundations 2
A1.3	OT391	Old Testament Guided Study
A2.	NT	New Testament Studies
A2.1	NT101	New Testament Foundations 1
A2.2	NT102	New Testament Foundations 2
A2.3	NT161/2	Study Trip to Israel - The New Testament in its Ancient Context
A2.4	NT220	The Reliability of the Gospels
A2.5	NT223	Formation and Discipleship in Mark's Gospel
A2.6	NT231	Between the Testaments: 400 Not-So-Silent-Years
A2.7	NT/IS282	Jesus on the Silver Screen
A2.8	NT364	Reading Revelation Ethically
A2.9	NT391	New Testament Guided Study
A3.	HE	Hermeneutics
A3.1	HE101	Biblical Hermeneutics and Interpretation
A4.	BH	Biblical Hebrew
A4.1	BH111	Biblical Hebrew 1
A4.2	BH112	Biblical Hebrew 2
A4.3	BH211	Biblical Hebrew Readings and Exegesis 1
A4.4	BH212	Biblical Hebrew Readings and Exegesis 2
A5.	BG	Biblical Greek
A5.1	BG111	Biblical Greek 1
A5.2	BG112	Biblical Greek 2
A5.3	BG211	Biblical Greek Readings and Exegesis 1
A5.4	BG212	Biblical Greek Readings and Exegesis 2

B. TRADITION

B1.	CH	Historical Studies
B1.1	CH101	History of Christianity 1
B1.2	CH102	History of Christianity 2
B1.3	CH/CS260	The Roots of Christianity
B1.4	CH391	Church History Guided Study
B2	TS	Theological Studies
B2.1	TS101	Christian Theology for Everyday Life
B2.2	TS211	Christian Theology 1
B2.3	TS212	Christian Theology 2
B2.4	TS/IS230	Cultural Apologetics through Conversations
B2.5	TS/IS233	The Seamless Life
B2.6	TS/IS253	Ethical Issues in Asia
B2.7	TS391	Theological Studies Guided Study

COURSE CATALOGUE - CON'T

B. TRADITION - CON'T

B3	CS	Christian Spirituality
B3.1	CS101	Christian Spirituality 1
B3.2	CS102	Christian Spirituality 2: Practicum
B3.3	CS105	Spiritual Disciplines for Self-Care
B3.4	CS/CO112	Spiritual Care and Direction
B3.5	CS211	Ancient Wisdom for Everyday Spirituality 1
B3.6	CS212	Ancient Wisdom for Everyday Spirituality 2
B3.7	CS/CH260	The Roots of Christianity
B3.8	CS391	Christian Spirituality Guided Study

C. INTEGRATIVE STUDIES

C1	IS	Integrative Studies
C1.1	IS100	Everyday Christianity
C1.2	IS101	Christianity, Culture and Society
C1.3	IS211	Asian Religions Seminar
C1.4	IS219	Intergenerational Ministry in the Singapore Church
C1.5	IS/TS230	Cultural Apologetics through Conversations
C1.6	IS231	Postmodernism, Feminism, and Social Justice: Why Should the Church Care?
C1.7	IS/TS233	The Seamless Life
C1.8	IS/AT236	Theology of Music in Worship and Faith Formation
C1.9	IS/ME245	Asian Theology
C1.10	IS/TS253	Ethical Issues in Asia
C1.11	IS/NT282	Jesus on the Silver Screen
C1.12	IS/MM303	Gospel, Poverty, and Injustice
C1.13	IS391	Integrative Studies Guided Study
C2	MM	Marketplace Ministries
C2.1	MM100	Discerning Your Life
C2.2	MM101	Discerning Your Work
C2.3	MM103/4	Christians in a Disruptive and Digital World
C2.4	MM211	Marketplace Integration Seminar
C2.5	MM241	Money, Possession and Faith
C2.6	MM/IS303	Gospel, Poverty, and Injustice
C2.7	MM391	Marketplace Ministries Guided Study
C3	MS – Ministry Skills	
C3.1	AT/IS236	Theology of Music in Worship and Faith Formation
C3.2	AT247/248	Proclaiming God's Word
C3.3	AT331/332	Field Education
C3.4	AT391	Applied Theology Guided Study
C3.5	CE101	Learning and the Art of Teaching
C3.6	CM101	Pastoral Theology and Ministry
C3.7	CM220	Liturgy & Worship
C3.8	CO101	Basic Counselling Skill
C3.9	CO/CS112	Spiritual Care and Direction
C3.10	ME101	The Church in Mission
C3.11	ME/IS245	Asian Theology
C3.12	TH393	Ministry Research Project
C3.13	TH395	Research Thesis

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

The following BGST course descriptions specify whether the course offered is a core or elective course, and whether it is taken only for practicum credits. It also describes the frequency of the course offered; the semester it will be offered in, and any pre-requisites needed to register for the course.

ENTRY-LEVEL COURSES

If you are new to BGST and wondering where to start, consider one of the following 'entry-level' core courses:

Old Testament Studies	OT 101/102	Old Testament Foundations 1, 2
New Testament Studies	NT 101/102	New Testament Foundations 1, 2
Biblical Hermeneutics	HE 101	Biblical Hermeneutics and Interpretation
Theological Studies	TS 101	Christian Theology for Everyday Life
Historical Studies	CH 101/102	History of Christianity 1, 2
Christian Spirituality	CS 101/102	Christian Spirituality 1, 2
Integrative Studies	IS 100	Everyday Christianity
Marketplace Ministry	MM 100/101	Discerning Your Life/Work

A. SCRIPTURE

A1. OT – Old Testament Studies

The Old Testament (OT) merits study both in its own right, and as essential background for understanding the New Testament. All our OT courses aim to give students a better understanding of the OT and the world in which it originated. We offer both general surveys of the entire OT and detailed studies of specific books and topics. In addition, we want our students to see Old and New Testaments as forming an organic whole in which God's plan of salvation is set out in its entirety. In other words, we take the OT seriously as part of Christian Scripture. Finally, we believe that the OT addresses issues of vital concern for Christians today, and hope that through our courses students will be better able to apply the OT to their own lives and circumstances.

A1.1 OT101 – Old Testament Foundations 1

[Core] 3 Credits. Offered Every Year, in S1.

This course surveys the contents of the OT and seeks to do justice to two aspects of the OT: (1) the specific historical, geographical and cultural contexts in which the OT originated; (2) the fact that the OT is now part of Christian scripture. The aim of the course is to introduce students to the OT and its world, and to some of the resources available for understanding the OT, and to help students to see how the OT and NT fit together to form one coherent account of God's dealings with humankind. The Pentateuch and all the Historical Books are covered in this course.

A1.2 OT102 – Old Testament Foundations 2

[Core] 3 Credits. Offered Every Year, in S2.

This course is a continuation of OT101, but it can be taken before OT101 if desired. OT102 covers most of the prophets, the Psalms and Wisdom literature.

A1.3 OT391 – Old Testament Guided Study

[Elective] 1.5 Credits. Offered All Year Round.

This guided study is for students who wish to explore a specific area of study within the field of OT. Upon approval of a topic, the student will engage in independent research under the supervision of a faculty member. For students planning to write a Research Thesis, it is compulsory to take a guided study on the thesis topic first.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

A2 NT – New Testament Studies

The documents which make up the New Testament (NT) are foundational to the Christian faith, for they testify to God's Final Word, His Son. They are also some of the most influential documents ever written. As with our OT courses, our NT courses aim to give students a better understanding of the NT and the world in which it originated. We offer both foundational studies of the whole of the NT and detailed studies of specific books and topics. Since we believe that the NT addresses issues of vital concern for Christians today, we hope that through our courses students will be better able to apply the NT to their own lives and circumstances.

A2.1 NT101 – New Testament Foundations 1

[Core] 3 Credits. Offered Every Year, in S1.

NT Foundations 1 and 2 survey the entire contents of the NT in two semesters. Students will be drawn into the world of the NT and encouraged to interact with the themes and message contained within each piece of writing in the NT. In so doing, students can better examine the implications of the NT's message for Christians and for the Church today. NT101 is a general introduction to the four Gospels and Acts. Students can expect a survey of major interpretive approaches, as well as a consideration of historical and cultural issues. These include the synoptic problem and the literary relationship of the Gospels; the problem of the historical Jesus; the genre, historical setting, message and structure of each of the Gospels and Acts.

A2.2 NT102 – New Testament Foundations 2

[Core] 3 Credits. Offered Every Year, in S2.

This is a continuation of NT101. Students may begin with NT102 and finish with NT101. NT102 covers the Epistles (Pauline and Catholic) and Revelation. Students can expect to learn about: (1) the introductory issues pertaining to each document (author, date, occasion, genre, content, etc.) including factors in the first century, e.g., social, political, religious, that influenced the life and ministry of the first readers/hearers; (2) the theological message of each document; and (3) their relationships to, and differences from, each other.

A2.3 NT161/2 – Study Trip to Israel: The New Testament in its Ancient Context

[Elective] 1.5/3 Credits.

The ancient world that Jesus and the disciples walked is one that is considerably different from our modern world. Unfortunately, so much Bible reading today takes place without sufficient consideration of the context of this ancient world, leading to much misunderstanding of Scripture. To address this, this course will provide participants an in-depth, in-person understanding of ancient Israel that lies behind the New Testament (NT). Through seminars and a study trip, the lecturer will take participants on a deep dive into the historical, cultural, and theological background of the NT. In contrast to holy land tours for the general public that emphasise sacred sites, this trip is developed for keen learners interested on visiting historically-rich sites that shed light on the world of the NT. This will be complemented by a constant emphasis on the NT, especially the gospels, to ensure that knowledge gained translates into spiritual insight.

A2.4 NT220 – The Reliability of the Gospels

[Elective] 1.5 Credits. Offered All Year Round. SPL.

At the very heart of the Christian faith is the person of Jesus of Nazareth. The documents from which we learn almost all we know about him are the four New Testament Gospels. But are they historically reliable? How can we know? Were they reliably transmitted and translated? Do other Gospels besides Matthew, Mark, Luke and John contain trustworthy information about Jesus? Why are Matthew, Mark and Luke so similar to each other and why is John so different from all three of them? Can we believe in the amazing miracles stories they contain, including a virgin birth and resurrection from the dead? These and related questions will be the focus of our investigation.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

A2.5 NT223 – Formation and Discipleship in Mark’s Gospel

[Elective] 1.5 Credits.

Mark’s Gospel – probably the earliest written account of the life of Jesus – is shortest and sharpest of the gospels. Vivid and fast-paced as a story; it is mysterious and challenging as a summons. Through an exegetical study of Mark, we will experience how the Gospel grabs readers by the collar and confronts them with the big question “What does it mean to follow this Jesus?”; and appropriate the answers for our own Spiritual Formation and Discipleship.

A2.6 NT231 – Between the Testaments: 400 Not-So-Silent Years

[Elective] 1.5 Credits.

The 400 years between Malachi, the last book of the Old Testament to the birth of Christ is often thought to be a period of divine silence. Yet, this is the period of Second Temple Judaism, which is not only significant for the development of Judaism and Jewish identity but also a time when Jewish literature and the Hebrew canon took shape. This course will provide a broad overview of this historically rich era and how informs our understanding and interpretation of the Old and New Testaments.

A2.7 NT/IS282 – Jesus on the Silver Screen

[Elective] 3 Credits. Offered Every 2 Years.

Portrayal of Jesus and Christ Figures on Film. Through our viewing of some Jesus films, as well as clips from other movies, we will explore the portrayals of Jesus in modern films. By comparing these portrayals to those found in the Gospels and their modern interpreters, we examine how modern biblical scholarship may (or may not) influence contemporary cinema. Furthermore, we will observe what these films tell us about their makers, their expectations of the audiences, and what roles these films play in shaping them.

A2.8 NT364 – Reading Revelation Ethically

[Elective] 3 Credits. Offered Every 2 Years.

The Last Word on Empire, Economics, Ecology. Christians have responded to Revelation in one of two ways: some admit they do not understand it, finding its many visions disturbing, and so avoid reading it altogether. While there are those who claim that they do understand it, treating it as an inexhaustible mine for the wildest ‘end-time’ speculations, and so become utterly fixated on the latest theories for every detail. In this course, we place Revelation in its first-century historical context, and thus open a window into the political, economic, social challenges that affect the early Christian communities living under Roman rule in what is now modern Turkey. We will read Revelation as ‘an apocalyptic prophecy in the form of a circular letter,’ an alternative vision of reality which transcends everyday space and time in order to motivate specific responses from these Christians. In this way, Revelation is a book of discipleship, calling for ethical responses be it in the area of empire, economics or ecology.

A2.9 NT391 – New Testament Guided Study

[Elective] 1.5 Credits. Offered All Year Round.

This guided study is for students who wish to explore a specific area of study within the field of New Testament. Upon approval of a topic, the student will engage in independent research under the supervision of a faculty member. For students planning to write a Research Thesis it is compulsory to take a guided study on the thesis topic first.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

A3. HE – Hermeneutics

Bible study is easy: you simply open your Bible and let God speak to you. Yes? Experience shows that it is not quite as straightforward as that. The more you know about the world the Bible came from and the more you reflect on what actually takes place when you read and apply scripture today, the more competent a reader of the Bible you will be.

A3.1 HE101 – Biblical Hermeneutics and Interpretation

[Core] 3 Credits. Offered Every Year, in S1/2

‘Inspired’; ‘infallible’; ‘authoritative’; ‘the Word of God’. Many Christians in Singapore would be happy to describe the Bible in those terms. But the Bible has to be interpreted and applied by men and women who are usually far from inspired, and who are all too prone to error (though they may still claim the authority of Scripture for what they say). The result can be that falsehood is propagated in God’s name, and that the Bible is turned from being the saving and healing revelation of God into something harmful and even destructive. It is not enough to have a ‘high’ doctrine of Scripture: we must also interpret Scripture accurately. The main subject of this course is the interpretation and application of Scripture. The course aims to help you reflect seriously on what is involved in interpreting the biblical text. During the course several necessary aspects of biblical interpretation (e.g., word studies, the relevance of the historical context) will be considered.

A4. BH – Biblical Hebrew

A working knowledge of Biblical Hebrew helps those who wish to engage in serious study of the Old Testament. The student needs go beyond a knowledge of the elements of Biblical Hebrew to acquire some fluency in reading the Old Testament in Hebrew, along with an understanding of issues relating to Hebrew exegesis. This is the level to which we hope to bring students of our Hebrew courses.

A4.1 BH111 – Biblical Hebrew 1

[Core] 3 Credits. Offered Every 3 Years, in S1. Only for Credit.

BH111 and BH112 together cover the elements of Biblical Hebrew. At the end of these two courses students should be able to, with the help of reference tools, tackle most OT narrative texts and some of the simpler poetic texts. We use as a textbook C.L. Seow, *A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew* (2nd, rev. ed.; Nashville, Abingdon, 1995); BH111 will take students approximately half-way through the book. The course includes frequent practice in the reading and translation of texts taken from the Hebrew Bible, and introduces some standard reference works.

A4.2 BH112 – Biblical Hebrew 2

[Core] 3 Credits. Offered Every 3 Years, in S2. Only for Credit. Pre-requisite: BH111.

See BH111.

A4.3 BH211 – Biblical Hebrew Readings and Exegesis 1

[Core] 3 Credits. Offered Every 3 Years, in S1. Only for Credit. Pre-requisite: BH112.

[Law and Narratives] This course aims to develop skills in understanding and interpreting Old Testament (OT) narrative texts. A significant part of the course will be taken up with class reading of a selection of OT narrative texts, with the aim of improving students’ knowledge of Biblical Hebrew. Emphasis will be placed on developing a working exegetical method, learning how to use reference tools and commentaries, and translating the fruits of exegesis into sermon and Bible study outlines. Particular attention will be paid to the syntax and distinctive literary techniques of OT narrative.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

A4.4 BH212 – Biblical Hebrew Readings and Exegesis 2

[Core] 3 Credits. Offered Every 3 Years, in S2. Only for Credit. Pre-requisite: BH211.

[Writings and Prophets] This course introduces students to a selection of OT poetic texts. Class reading of OT poetic texts will be an important part of the course: Psalms, prophetic texts and wisdom texts will all be covered. Attention will be paid to the distinctive literary features of the different types of OT poetry in wisdom and prophetic texts, in particular to the varieties of poetic parallelism and its significance for interpretation. By the end of the course, students are expected to be able to do independent work in Hebrew exegesis. They will be encouraged to exercise a critical use of commentaries and make profitable use of the Hebrew-based reference tools.

A5. BG – Biblical Greek

A working knowledge of New Testament (NT) Greek helps those who wish to engage in serious study of the NT. The student needs go beyond a knowledge of the elements of NT Greek to acquire some fluency in reading the NT in Greek, along with an understanding of issues relating to exegesis of the NT Greek. This is the level to which we hope to bring students of our Greek courses. In BGST, students will be taught Modern (ethnic) Greek pronunciation rather than Erasmic pronunciation.

A5.1 BG111 – Biblical Greek 1

[Core] 3 Credits. Offered Every 3 Years, in S1. Only for Credit.

BG111 and BG112 together cover the elements of NT Greek. At the end of these two courses, students will be expected to master the elements of the NT Greek (vocabulary and grammar) and be familiar with some basic reference tools important to the study of NT Greek. The course involves frequent practice in the reading and translation of texts taken from the NT Greek and the Septuagint. The reward is the thrill of being able to go directly to the biblical text and see its meaning and significance; and to develop a greater understanding of the decisions and conclusions made in commentaries and bible translations.

A5.2 BG112 – Biblical Greek 2

[Core] 3 Credits. Offered Every 3 Years, in S2. Only for Credit. Pre-requisite: BG111.

See BG111.

A5.3 BG211 – Biblical Greek Readings and Exegesis 1

[Core] 3 Credits. Offered Every 3 Years, in S1. Only for Credit. Pre-requisite BG112.

For maximum benefit, students should have also completed HE101.

[Epistles] BG211 and [Gospels] BG212 form the second year of the Biblical Greek curriculum. They build on the vocabulary and grammar (morphology and syntax) learned in BG 111-112, AND the exegetical method introduced in HE101 (Biblical Hermeneutics and Interpretation). Using various NT texts as 'learning sites', students will develop their ability to read NT Greek, and gain further experience in the methods and tools involved in Greek exegesis, such as phrasing (outlining), textual criticism, grammatical analysis, word analysis, historical-cultural analysis. BG211 focuses on the literary genre of the epistle.

A5.4 BG212 – Biblical Greek Readings and Exegesis 2

[Core] 3 Credits. Offered Every 3 Years, in S2. Only for Credit. Pre-requisite BG211.

[Gospels] BG212 focuses on the literary genre of the gospel. Adding to the tools learned in BG211, students will now use a synopsis of the NT Greek to examine the synoptic problem, and learn the methods involved in form and redaction criticism.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

B. TRADITION

B1. CH – Historical Studies

The study of church history is no less than a study of God's salvific work, as it is worked out through diverse social, cultural, geographical and political contexts over the last 2,000 years. The aim of historical studies is therefore two-fold: to arrive at a deeper appreciation of our diverse historical and theological heritage and to benefit from the spiritual insights and the lessons learnt by our spiritual forefathers, so that we may better prepare ourselves for the challenges that the new century will bring.

B1.1 CH101 – History of Christianity 1

[Core] 3 Credits. Offered Every Year, in S1.

In History of Christianity 1, students will be introduced to the theological, historical and spiritual development in, what John Calvin calls the 'Golden Age of the Church', that is, the age of the church fathers (second to fifth centuries). From here, we will then examine the history of three major streams of Christianity, namely Western, Orthodox and Oriental Christianities, from the Middle Ages right up to the pre-Reformation period. The guiding principle for our course is to consider the relevance of these historical movements for contemporary Protestant/ Evangelical Christianity and to benefit from the spiritual insights of our Christian forefathers. Chronologically speaking, we will cover the first 1,500 years of church history.

B1.2 CH102 – History of Christianity 2

[Core] 3 Credits. Offered Every Year, in S2.

This course continues the story first unfolded in CH101, by introducing students to the important theological, historical and spiritual movements between 1500-2001. Our journey begins in Europe with the advent of the Protestant Reformation, which will permanently change the face of religion in the Continent and, subsequently, the whole world. This is followed by an analysis of the developments that follow this Reformation: the rise of American and English Protestantism and spirituality, the growth of the evangelical movement, especially in America, and the Catholic Counter Reformation. Attention will also be given to the Enlightenment period, which would significantly influence and also challenge the claims of the Christian faith. Following these, we will turn our attention to the development of Christianity worldwide, with a focus on Christianity in China, in particular, and Asia in general.

B1.3 CH/CS260 – The Roots of Christianity

[Elective] 3 Credits. Offered Every 2 Years.

The Patristic period or the period of the Church Fathers (2nd to 5th centuries) is one of the most important eras of the Christian Church. Some of the key tenets of our Protestant faith, such as salvation by grace and the doctrine of the Trinity, find their doctrinal roots from this era. The aim of this course is to equip students with the historical, theological and spiritual background necessary for appreciating and benefitting from the teachings of the early church fathers. Besides covering a wide range of theological, historical and spiritual topics, students will spend a considerable time reading patristic texts, discussing and reflecting on the contemporary relevance and application of patristic teachings in the 21st century.

B1.4 CH391 – Church History Guided Study

[Elective] 1.5 Credits. Offered All Year Round.

This guided study is for students who wish to explore a specific area of study within the department of Church History. Upon approval of a topic, the student will engage in independent research under the supervision of a faculty member. For students planning to write a Research Thesis it is compulsory to take a guided study on the thesis topic first.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

B2 TS – Theological Studies

Theology is a discipline that seeks to make sense of who God is and of humanity's place within the purposes and works of God in the world. It takes seriously the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments and the teachings of the Christian church as important sources of theological knowledge. It also seeks to understand the knowledge acquired from these sources in the context of societal and churchly issues which are pertinent to Christian faith and living.

B2.1 TS101 – Christian Theology for Everyday Life

[Core] 3 Credits. Offered Every Year, in S1.

As an introductory course on Christian theology, the content of our faith will be understood in the context of "the one, holy, catholic, (i.e., universal), and apostolic church" as confessed in the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed (A.D. 381). The lectures will follow the overall Trinitarian structure of the Creed, and where applicable, read in light of the Protestant-Reformation heritage. Weekly sessions will involve reading, reflection & response (as well as discussion during online zoom sessions) to topical readings, both primary and secondary.

B2.2 TS211 – Christian Theology 1

[Core] 3 Credits. Offered Every 2 Years. Pre-requisite: TS101.

"Nearly all the wisdom we possess," John Calvin insists, "consists of two parts: the knowledge of God and of ourselves." Nothing is more foundational in theology than a right understanding of God. But we can only know God in His revelation of Himself to us. And when we do this, we discover that He has revealed fundamental truth about ourselves. This course examines the great truths about God and Humankind that make up the prelude to the Gospel of Redemption in Jesus Christ.

B2.3 TS212 – Christian Theology 2

[Core] 3 Credits. Offered Every 2 Years. Pre-requisite: TS101.

This course continues the study of Christian doctrines begun in Christian Theological 1 (TS211). It looks at the outworking of God's redemptive purposes through the Son and Spirit in the church and world. The doctrinal loci will cover: the persons and missions of Christ and His Spirit (Christology & Pneumatology), Salvation (Soteriology), the Church (Ecclesiology), and the Last Things (Eschatology). Tutorials and off-site readings will focus on engagement with and understanding of primary sources. At every point we will reflect on the personal and practical bearings of these truths on our lives and for the world today.

B2.4 TS/IS230 – Cultural Apologetics through Conversations

[Elective] 3 Credits. Offered Every 2 Years.

We are often unfamiliar with the questions that others wonder about the Christian faith. Most apologetics discussions also take place over conversations – at home, over meals, in church and at the workplace. TS/IS230 provides not only theological-spiritual perspectives and analytical frameworks for apologetic conversations, but also introduce skills for discerning, conversing, and listening to our friends. The topics covered range from classical concerns like the reliability of the Bible and historicity of the resurrection to the cultural concerns of our day, such as Christian misbehaviour, anti-intellectualism, and how to engage the LGBTQ+ community.

B2.5 TS/IS233 – The Seamless Life

[Elective] 1.5 Credits.

We all want to make sense of life, of who we are and why we are, of the relationship of our deepest beliefs about faith, hope, and love to the rest of life, personally and publicly. This course will challenge us to move beyond the fragmented sense of reality that seems in the air we breathe in the 21st-century, offering a more coherent vision of the whole of life, our labour and love, our work & worship; pushing against the dualisms that so easily entangle us, we will argue instead for a more seamless life in which all of life is holy because all of life matters to God. Through conversations and lectures, films and short stories, we will explore the coherence of the cosmos and of our place in it, by grace forming the eyes of our hearts to see more seamlessly the world that is really there.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

B2.6 TS/IS253 – Ethical Issues in Asia

[Core] 1.5 Credits. Offered Every 2 Years, in S2.

Ethical issues arise in today's world as a result of the rapid and far-reaching changes caused by movements like globalisation, and the increased sophistication and pervasiveness of technology in all of life. Issues arise for Christians because our values are at variance with the world's. Thus, all Christians need a theological framework which can guide thought and action and develop Christian character. By way of readings, discussions and case studies, this course will provide a framework within which Christians can make moral choices especially for ethical issues such as those related to the beginning and end of life, sexuality, marriage and family, wealth and poverty.

B2.7 TS391 – Theological Studies Guided Study

[Elective] 1.5 Credits. Offered All Year Round.

This guided study is for students who wish to explore a specific area of study within the department of theological studies. Upon approval of a topic, the student will engage in independent research under the supervision of a faculty member. For students planning to write a Research Thesis it is compulsory to take a guided study on the thesis topic first.

B3 CS – Christian Spirituality

Spiritual formation has always been understood by the early Christians as the practical outworking of Christian theology. As a 4th century monk puts it, 'Prayer is theology and theology is prayer'. In the last two centuries, however, the spiritual insights of our forefathers have often been downplayed by our modern and technocratic beliefs that the past is 'old-fashioned' while the future and the new is always better. The aim of Christian Spirituality courses, therefore, is to introduce students to the diverse traditions and practices of Christian Spirituality over the last 2,000 years, so that the lessons learnt here may complement our evangelical understanding of spiritual formation and help us avoid the spiritual pitfalls that the 21st century will may yet bring to our lives.

B3.1 CS101 – Christian Spirituality 1

[Core] 1.5 Credits. Offered Every Semester, in S1 & S2.

The organising framework for this course will be the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6. This course will have four components: establishing the framework for Christian Spirituality in its biblical and historical development; relationship with God; relationship with self; relationship with others.

B3.2 CS102 – Christian Spirituality 2: Practicum

[Core] 1.5 Credits. [Practicum Credit] Offered All Year Round. Pre-requisite: CS101.

Both Scriptures and Christian tradition have emphasized the close relationship between theological reflections and personal spirituality. Proper theological reflection should give rise to a greater love for God which, in turn, informs our knowledge of God. More than that, this transformative knowledge of God should also deepen our self-knowledge. Unfortunately, the transition from theological learning to self-knowledge and personal is not always straight forward. Some students don't do so and end up having a 'head full of knowledge but nothing much in the heart.' For this reason, CS102 is introduced as a Spiritual Formation Practicum (SFP) to help students renew and deepen their love for God, improve their own self-knowledge (of their strengths and weaknesses), and also help discern their role in Christ's mission for the world. To avoid student pre-occupation with academic performance, and to help them focus on deepening their relationship with God, this course will not be graded. Only a Pass will be awarded upon completion.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

B3.3 CS105 – Spiritual Disciplines for Self-Care

[Elective] 1.5 Credits. [Practicum Credit] Offered Every Year.

Am I able to hold my bundle of emotions (thoughts, feelings, visceral experiences and urges) so that I do not simply react to situations but respond in a way that reflect that I am a follower of Christ? Perhaps we struggle with this in stressful situations, with anger, sadness, anxiety and other emotional experiences in our day-to-day living. There is hope. We learnt from neuroscience that it is possible to regulate our emotions through new experiences. As part of our self-care, we can tap on Christian spiritual disciplines to create new emotional experiences that make space for God in our life. In this space we open ourselves to be more aware of God's presence, to notice and hold our inner experiences with more openness, to discern with greater clarity what God is saying to us through his Word in our situation, & to allow the Holy Spirit to enable us to act in a way that brings greater love, praise and service to God. This course is experiential; it is for anyone who desires to experiment with embracing the Christian spiritual disciplines in their ordinary living towards greater emotional well-being. May we receive and experience God's grace in our emotional self-care.

B3.4 CS/CO112 – Spiritual Care and Direction

[Core] 3 Credits. [Practicum Credit] Offered Every 2 Years, in S2.

What is spiritual care and direction? For the lecturer, it is a journey of longing and grace. For the spiritual carer, it is a journey of longing to know God deeper as one loves God and neighbour in the doing of spiritual care and direction; and to one's delight, experiencing God's abundant grace for both self and people in the process. For the people, it is a journey of longing for wholeness as a person and of encountering God's grace on the journey in and through the person of the spiritual carer. The focus of this module is essentially lay counselling. It is broad and practical-oriented. The spiritual carer will be introduced to a process-based counselling framework as well as embark on a journey of Spirit-controlled self-leadership of their inner world so as to provide care from the inside out. Attending and spiritual listening skills will be introduced and practiced.

B3.5 CS211 – Ancient Wisdom for Everyday Spirituality 1

[Core] 1.5 Credits. Offered Every 2 Years.

Reading the Spiritual Classics of Christianity. This is an introduction to the Christian spiritual traditions and practices over the last 2,000 years. Christian spirituality has always been grounded on the love of God the Father, as it is expressed through the sacrificial love of His Son and the Gift of His Holy Spirit. For every generation of Christians, their particular responses to this love of the Triune God have always taken place in the context of their social-cultural history and challenges. This, in turn, has given rise to a wide variety of Christian spiritual traditions, such as the Patristic, Benedictine, Cistercian, Orthodox, Coptic, Chinese Nestorian, Reformed and Evangelical movements, just to name a few. For contemporary Christians, there is great value in learning from these spiritual forefathers: this will not only allow us to see clearly the spiritual threats and opportunities that we now face, but will also provide us with spiritual resources, exemplary models and fresh perspectives necessary to address such contemporary challenges.

B3.6 CS212 – Ancient Wisdom for Everyday Spirituality 2

[Core] 1.5 Credits. Offered Every 2 Years

Since Pentecost, the Spirit of God has been at work in the Church, teaching Christians His Word, leading them in paths less travelled and enabling them to grow and mature in Christ. While partaking in the one and the same Spirit of Christ, Christians have often experienced the teachings and guidance of God in diverse ways. This course will familiarise students with the sociocultural, philosophical, theological, and spiritual context and teachings of every spiritual classic that the class will read. As a continuation of CS211, we will work through the classic spiritual writings exploring various themes of Christian spirituality from the magisterial Reformers onwards. The objective of this course, then, is to survey the history of Christian spirituality across the second millennium of the church, looking in particular at the diverse writings and experience of Christian men and women of that era. Drawing on their spiritual insights, we trust that this ancient wisdom may still be used by God to guide us in our everyday spirituality.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

B3.7 CS/CH260 – The Roots of Christianity

[Elective] 1.5 Credits. Offered Every 2 Years.

The Patristic period or the period of the Church Fathers (2nd to 5th centuries) is one of the most important eras of the Christian Church. Some of the key tenets of our Protestant faith, such as salvation by grace and the doctrine of the Trinity, find their doctrinal roots from this era. The aim of this course is to equip students with the historical, theological and spiritual background necessary for appreciating and benefitting from the teachings of the early church fathers. Besides covering a wide range of theological, historical and spiritual topics, students will spend a considerable time reading patristic texts, discussing and reflecting on the contemporary relevance and application of patristic teachings in the 21st century.

B3.8 CS391 – Christian Spirituality Guided Study

[Elective] 1.5 Credits. Offered All Year Round

This guided study is for students who wish to explore a specific area of study within the field of Christian Spirituality or Spiritual Theology. Upon approval of a topic, the student will engage in independent research under the supervision of a faculty member. For students planning to write a MATIS Thesis it is compulsory to take a guided study on the thesis topic first.

C. INTEGRATIVE STUDIES

C1 IS – Integrative Studies

The aim of Integrative Studies is to apply Christian theology to engage the diverse contemporary issues faced by the Church and society. Broadly speaking, there are two approaches. The first is to bring Christian theology into dialogue with the topic or disciplines in concern, such as gender studies, arts, climate change, digital technologies and marketplace industry concerns. Such concerns that address these issues are categorised as either Integrative Study (IS) courses or Marketplace Ministry (MM) courses. The second approach is to develop theologically informed ministry approaches and skills to prepare Christians to engage contemporary concerns. Courses offered here are categorised under Applied Theology (AT), Church Ministry (CM), Counselling (CO) and Missions (ME). These include topics like Preaching, Christian Education, Pastoral Ministry, Liturgy and counselling.

C1.1 IS100 – Everyday Christianity

[Core] 1.5 Credits. Offered Every Year.

Christ is not only Lord of our Sundays, but what we do in our everyday lives – from sports, food, and the arts, to the music, leisure, and Asian cultures that we enjoy. The course provides the theological perspectives for understanding the different aspects of our everyday lives, so that we can bring them under the Lordship of Christ!

C1.2 IS101 – Christianity, Culture and Society

[Core] 3 Credits. Offered Every Year, in S2. Pre-requisite: HE101.

In today's complex and complicated world, Christians need to bring together various disciplines and skills so as to be able to first, understand the challenges, and then secondly to respond with Christian grace and wisdom. With this deeper and fuller understanding then, comes the ability to live well, and to be his witnesses. To do this, an interdisciplinary approach is needed, which will include the following dimensions: (1) Contextual: to develop awareness and sensitivity to key issues that concern life in contemporary Singapore by identifying and analysing case studies taken from the local context. (2) Integrative: to integrate theological studies and vocational life by offering basic frameworks of thought. (3) Theological: to facilitate socio-cultural analysis that is guided by biblical and theological reflection.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

C1.3 IS211 – Asian Religions Seminar

[Core] 3 Credits. Offered Every 2 Years.

Asian is the cradle to some of the world's oldest religions: Buddhism, Daoism, Confucianism and Hinduism. These religious traditions are still very 'alive' and important to millions of Asians. As Christians living in Asia, it is our mission to engage and dialogue with people of other faiths, so as to build bridges for the proclamation of the gospel in Asia. Despite living in such a multi-religious society, many Asian Christians still have superficial knowledge of the religious beliefs of their neighbours. The aim of this course is to introduce students to Buddhism, Confucianism, Hinduism and Tribal religions, and consider how we may engage these traditions meaningfully in the 21st century. Topics included in this course are the method for the study of world religions and a biblical theology of religions through an interaction of selected religious texts. Throughout the course, practical implications for gospel and culture, evangelism and inter-religious dialogue, the destiny of the unevangelized and the mission of the local church will be also explored.

C1.4 IS219 – Intergenerational Ministry in the Singapore Church

[Elective] 1.5 Credits. Offered Every Year, in S2.

We live at a unique point in history where at least five generations are living and working together. Each generation has been shaped by different formative experiences: for the Silent Generation—World War 2 and the Great Depression; for Generation X and onwards—the advent of the internet. Because of this, the ways we view life and faith are different. While it is wrong to overgeneralise the characteristics of each generation, and indeed each individual is in many ways unique, there are also common trends we see in the different generations. This has resulted in misunderstanding and conflict in our families, our organisations, and in the church as well, between those from different generations. One of the fallouts from this conflict is that young adults (millennials) are leaving our churches. This is a challenge the church has not faced before. Guided by the scriptures, we believe that the church of Christ is meant to be a body where her members are united, diverse, and interdependent. Therefore, it is critical that we work at understanding the different generations in churches today; to help the different generations understand themselves and each other, to minimise conflict between the generations, and to help each generation contribute their unique strengths so that the church can be healthy and whole for God's purposes.

C1.5 IS/TS230 – Cultural Apologetics through Conversations

[Elective] 3 Credits. Offered Every 2 Years.

We are often unfamiliar with the questions that others wonder about the Christian faith. Most apologetics discussions also take place over conversations – at home, over meals, in church and at the workplace. TS/IS230 provides not only theological-spiritual perspectives and analytical frameworks for apologetic conversations, but also introduce skills for discerning, conversing, and listening to our friends. The topics covered range from classical concerns like the reliability of the Bible and historicity of the resurrection to the cultural concerns of our day, such as Christian misbehaviour, anti-intellectualism, and how to engage the LGBTQ+ community.

C1.6 IS231 – Postmodernism, Feminism, and Social Justice: Why Should the Church Care?

[Elective] 1.5 Credits.

Throughout scripture, believers are called to discern the times which involves understanding global movements and how they have shaped worldviews within and beyond the church. From the late 20th century, 3 movements have fundamentally shaped contemporary culture – postmodernism, feminism, social justice. In this course, we examine the historical emergence of these movements and influential concepts such as post-truth, intersectionality, gender performativity alongside some of the key tensions that have emerged such as gender versus sexuality, equity versus equality, rights versus virtues-based approaches to justice, among others. In particular, we discuss how Christian scholars have critiqued as well as engaged with postmodern, feminist and social justice concepts. We consider how Christians can respond when these concepts conflict with Christian values and the opportunities these concepts may have in informing biblical interpretation, the role of women in the church, and the church's role in effecting transformative changes in the world.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

C1.7 IS/TS233 – The Seamless Life

[Elective] 1.5 Credits.

We all want to make sense of life, of who we are and why we are, of the relationship of our deepest beliefs about faith, hope, and love to the rest of life, personally and publicly. This course will challenge us to move beyond the fragmented sense of reality that seems in the air we breathe in the 21st-century, offering a more coherent vision of the whole of life, our labour and love, our work & worship; pushing against the dualisms that so easily entangle us, we will argue instead for a more seamless life in which all of life is holy because all of life matters to God. Through conversations and lectures, films and short stories, we will explore the coherence of the cosmos and of our place in it, by grace forming the eyes of our hearts to see more seamlessly the world that is really there.

C1.8 IS/AT236 – Theology of Music in Worship and Faith Formation

[Elective] 3 Credits.

TBA

C1.9 IS/ME245 – Asian Theology

[Elective] 1.5 Credits. Offered Every Year, in S2.

Christianity has been in Asia for at least 2000 years, and Asians have been theologising - reflecting theologically - through the issues of the context. That task continues as Christians today also consider critically the issues such as ancestor veneration, materialism, inequalities, among others and present the church's views on them. Secondly, we should communicate the truths of the gospel sin, salvation, and redemption in ways which resonate within the Asian context. This course will critically explore some theologies as expressed by Asian Christians and determine their value and place in the Asian context today. Students will also learn to develop frameworks that will guide them in the task of understanding the Asian context so as to begin theologising in ways that are suitable, relevant and meaningful. Students should then be able to lead others into developing theologies which will be biblically grounded, historically connected and contextually relevant.

C1.10 IS/TS253 – Ethical Issues in Asia

[Core] 1.5 Credits. Offered Every 2 Years, in S2.

Ethical issues arise in today's world as a result of the rapid and far-reaching changes caused by movements like globalisation, and the increased sophistication and pervasiveness of technology in all of life. Issues arise for Christians because our values are at variance with the world's. Thus, all Christians need a theological framework which can guide thought and action and develop Christian character. By way of readings, discussions and case studies, this course will provide a framework within which Christians can make moral choices especially for ethical issues such as those related to the beginning and end of life, sexuality, marriage and family, wealth and poverty.

C1.11 IS/NT282 – Jesus on the Silver Screen

[Elective] 3 Credits. Offered Every 2 Years.

Portrayal of Jesus and Christ Figures on Film. Through our viewing of some Jesus films, as well as clips from other movies, we will explore the portrayals of Jesus in modern films. By comparing these portrayals to those found in the Gospels and their modern interpreters, we examine how modern biblical scholarship may (or may not) influence contemporary cinema. Furthermore, we will observe what these films tell us about their makers, their expectations of the audiences, and what roles these films play in shaping them.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

C1.12 IS/MM303 – Gospel, Poverty, and Injustice

[Elective] 1.5 Credits.

The Bible reveals that God is deeply concerned for the welfare of the vulnerable groups in society, and Christians are called to follow as Christ did: to proclaim good news to the poor, freedom for the prisoners, sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour (Luke 4:18). However, believers, especially the middle-class church, remain unable to perceive the poor, especially, those that are hidden from plain sight. This course aims to sensitise students to problems that affect those in the margins of the society, and to familiarise the students to Biblical and theological motifs that pertain to the poor. In this way, the students will not only have to see the poor in their hiddenness, but see them in light of God's Word. This course is specifically developed to be relevant to heart-landers who want to understand and begin to work against poverty and injustice in their own setting, as well as in the contexts of their neighbouring majority world countries.

C1.13 IS391 – Integrative Studies Guided Study

[Elective] 1.5 Credits. Offered All Year Round.

This guided study is for students who wish to explore a specific area of study within the field of Integrative Studies. Upon approval of a topic, the student will engage in independent research under the supervision of a faculty member. For students planning to write a Research Thesis it is compulsory to take a guided study on the thesis topic first.

C2 MM – Marketplace Ministries

C2.1 MM100 – Discerning Your Life

[Core] 1.5 Credits. Offered Every Year, in S2.

Christians are saved not just for eternal life (John 3:16). We are called to be effective ambassadors of Christ (2Cor 5:20) who can participate in God's creative and redemptive purposes in our workplaces, churches, and societies. Our roles in this mission are bound up with how Christ has shaped our lives, training, experiences and even transitions. It is also informed by the talents he has called us to steward. This takes much discernment of the Spirit's guidance. MM100 facilitates this process by providing biblically insights to how our work and lives matter for God's mission of transforming the world. It will also provide analytical frameworks, tools, and spiritual mentoring to aid our discernment of how we can how we fulfil our ambassadorial role.

C2.2 MM101 – Discerning Your Work

[Core] 1.5 Credits. Offered Every Year, in S1.

This course addresses the need for vocational counselling in the broadest biblical sense, including understanding of giftedness and the theology of vocation, work and ministry; receiving help in moving towards a suitable occupational expression; and developing spiritual disciplines appropriate for those wanting to find more satisfying and fruitful service.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

C2.3 MM103/4 – Christians in a Disruptive and Digital World

[Core] 1.5/3 Credits. Offered Every 2 Years.

Navigating Trends, Challenges & Opportunities. Disruptions have been a key concern for business leaders in the last two decades, as noted in Clayton Christensen's Innovator's Dilemma (1997). Since then, we have seen not only traditional businesses disrupted but also the pace of disruption accelerating due to the advent of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR). As the recent COVID19 pandemic has shown, the Church is also not immune to disruptions. Christian leaders now find themselves grappling with how to disciple Christians in a rapidly changing world, up against challenges as wide ranging as the stress of remote work, economic recessions, shifts in geopolitics and economic structures, and the unfamiliarity of ministering in a digital world. The aim of this course is to survey the above challenges and to introduce the theological, spiritual, and interdisciplinary resources that can enable the Church to disciple Christians and to further God's kingdom in this new normal. Students will also have opportunities to dialogue with industry experts and practitioners on the challenges of digital disruptions and consolidate their learning through a group project.

C2.4 MM211 – Marketplace Integration Seminar

[Core] 3 Credits. Offered Every 2 Years.

To become effective ambassadors for Christ in our marketplaces, Christians must not only lead themselves and others well at work, but must also understand the practices, challenges, and policies in their industries, whether government, banking, technology, or the arts. This course provides the theological perspectives, frameworks, and analytical tools for discerning these issues and the opportunity for Christians to work out their responses with the help of experienced industry mentors.

C2.5 MM241 – Money, Possession, and Faith

[Elective] 1.5 Credits

Nothing is more pervasive and insidious than money. It preoccupies our home, work and even church. A survey by the American Psychological Association found money to be greatest concern among Americans; ahead of the three other key concerns of family, work and health. The rich and the poor are stressed by money for different reasons. In Singapore money has been blamed as the chief culprit in breaking up marriages. Few can claim that money is of no concern to them.

C2.6 MM/IS303 – Gospel, Poverty, and Injustice

[Elective] 1.5 Credits.

The Bible reveals that God is deeply concerned for the welfare of the vulnerable groups in society, and Christians are called to follow as Christ did: to proclaim good news to the poor, freedom for the prisoners, sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour (Luke 4:18). However, believers, especially the middle-class church, remain unable to perceive the poor, especially, those that are hidden from plain sight. This course aims to sensitise students to problems that affect those in the margins of the society, and to familiarise the students to Biblical and theological motifs that pertain to the poor. In this way, the students will not only have to see the poor in their hiddenness, but see them in light of God's Word. This course is specifically developed to be relevant to heart-landers who want to understand and begin to work against poverty and injustice in their own setting, as well as in the contexts of their neighbouring majority world countries.

C2.7 MM391 – Marketplace Ministries Guided Study

[Elective] 1.5 Credits. Offered All Year Round.

This guided study is for students who wish to explore a specific area of study in Marketplace Ministries. Upon approval of a topic, the student will engage in independent research under the supervision of a faculty member. For students planning to write a Research Thesis it is compulsory to take a guided study on the thesis topic first.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

C3 MS – Ministry Skills

C3.1 AT/IS236 – Theology of Music in Worship and Faith Formation

[Elective] 3 Credits.

TBA

C3.2 AT247/248 – Proclaiming God’s Word

[Core] 1.5/3 Credits. Offered Every 2 Years.

Sermon Preparation and Delivery. This is an introductory course on preaching, which focuses primarily on the theology of preaching and the art of sermon preparation and delivery. While recognising that there are many valid forms of preaching, this course will focus mainly on expository preaching.

C3.3 AT331/332 – Field Education

[Core] 3 Credits. [Practicum Credit] Offered Every Year, S1.

Field education is a 2-year compulsory program (1.5 credits per year, totalling 3 credits) where MDiv students undertake supervised ministry in a host organisation (a church or parachurch). Each year, students will be assigned to a specific ministry within the host organisation so that they can acquire practical training and experience in pastoral ministry.

C3.4 AT391 – Applied Theology Guided Study

[Elective] 1.5 Credits. Offered All Year Round.

This guided study is for students who wish to explore a specific area of study within the department of Applied Theology. Upon approval of a topic, the student will engage in independent research under the supervision of a faculty member. For students planning to write a Research Thesis it is compulsory to take a guided study on the thesis topic first.

C3.5 CE101 – Learning and the Art of Teaching

[Core] 1.5 Credits. Offered All Year Round. SPL.

Learning is a central feature of everyday life. Human beings are created by God as “learning creatures” with curiosity, intelligence, and an amazing capacity to learn and grow throughout an entire lifetime. This course is designed to shape reflective practitioners of learning and teaching. It is meant to equip people for enhanced and more effective teaching in a wide variety of settings, including their workplaces, congregations, community organizations, or formal school or university settings. Its structure is built around exploring nine inter-related components: learners, teachers, settings, contexts, worldview, goals, content, methods, and assessment.

C3.6 CM101 – Pastoral Theology and Ministry

[Core] 3 Credits. Offered Every 2 Years.

The Essentials of Ministry This course seeks to provide students (both lay-leaders and those preparing for ministry) with a theological foundation and practical understanding of pastoral ministry. It integrates three dimensions of learning, namely (1) personal reflection, (2) ministry insights and (3) research-based learning. Some of the topics covered are the call to ministry, meaning of ordination, women in pastoral office, shepherding, the pastor of the worshipping community, ministry of sacraments, pastoral visitation, etc.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

C3.7 CM220 – Liturgy & Worship

[Core] 1.5 Credits. Offered Every 2 Years

This course explores the place of liturgy in Christian worship and living. The approach is integrative, i.e., scriptural, theological, historical and contemporary resources will be used to consider the subjects of liturgy worship, liturgical time, sacramental theology and the ordinances/sacraments of baptism and communion. Students will be encouraged to make informed and critical reflections of liturgical practices in their own traditions in the light of liturgical practices in other traditions.

C3.8 CO101 – Basic Counselling Skills

[Core] 3 Credits. [Practicum Credit] Offered Every 2 Years.

Although the Church emphasises the importance of discipleship, she is often weak in fostering friendship and genuine connections. This course will equip students to develop a comprehensive framework of help through the theological lenses of God's grace and sanctification. It also introduces practical skills for listening, helping, and caring for others by connecting deeper with them, and gaining a greater awareness of what trigger them and why.

C3.9 CO/CS112 – Spiritual Care and Direction

[Core] 3 Credits. [Practicum Credit] Offered Every 2 Years, in S2.

What is spiritual care and direction? For the lecturer, it is a journey of longing and grace. For the spiritual carer, it is a journey of longing to know God deeper as one loves God and neighbour in the doing of spiritual care and direction; and to one's delight, experiencing God's abundant grace for both self and people in the process. For the people, it is a journey of longing for wholeness as a person and of encountering God's grace on the journey in and through the person of the spiritual carer. The focus of this module is essentially lay counselling. It is broad and practical-oriented. The spiritual carer will be introduced to a process-based counselling framework as well as embark on a journey of Spirit-controlled self-leadership of their inner world so as to provide care from the inside out. Attending and spiritual listening skills will be introduced and practiced.

C3.10 ME101 – The Church in Mission

[Core] 3 Credits. Offered Every 2 Years, in S1.

God acts in the world, in creation and redemption, and looking forward to a time of consummation. This mission of God, has a church, the people of God who are also called to be and to act out God's work in the world today. This mission, then, has to be holistic and seek to bring fullness and flourishing to all of people and communities, so as to bring the 'whole gospel to the whole world.'

C3.11 ME/IS245 – Asian Theology

[Core] 1.5 Credits. Offered Every Year

Christianity has been in Asia for at least 2000 years, and Asians have been theologising - reflecting theologically - through the issues of the context. That task continues as Christians today also consider critically the issues such as ancestor veneration, materialism, inequalities, among others and present the church's views on them. Secondly, we should communicate the truths of the gospel sin, salvation, and redemption in ways which resonate within the Asian context. This course will critically explore some theologies as expressed by Asian Christians and determine their value and place in the Asian context today. Students will also learn to develop frameworks that will guide them in the task of understanding the Asian context so as to begin theologising in ways that are suitable, relevant and meaningful. Students should then be able to lead others into developing theologies which will be biblically grounded, historically connected and contextually relevant.

C3.12 TH393 – Ministry Research Project

[Elective] 4.5 Credits. Offered All Year Round

Students who wish to conduct detailed field study on a topic of interest in Integrative Studies and Marketplace Ministry may do so via a Ministry Research Project. A project is typically 15,000-20,000 words in length.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

C3.13 TH395 – Research Thesis

[Elective] 4.5 Credits. Offered All Year Round

Students who wish to conduct detailed research on a topic of interest in Biblical Studies, Theology, History, Christian Spirituality, Integrative Studies and Marketplace Ministry may do so via a thesis. A thesis is typically 15,000-20,000 words in length.

NOTE:

BGST occasionally offers new elective courses as part of our semestral offerings. Some courses listed in the catalogue are offered once every 2-3 years. Please consult the Course Schedule each semester for available courses in your period of interest.

ACADEMIC YEAR

BGST's Academic Year runs from July to June each year in two semesters. Semester 1 runs from July – December, while Semester 2 runs from January – June.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS (WITH PUBLIC HOLIDAYS)

	Month	Date(s)	Event
2023	January-May		Semester 2 Courses
	January	1-2	New Year's Day
		22-24	Chinese New Year
	February	10	Webinar Series
	March	31	Deadline For Applying To Graduate In May
	April	7	Good Friday
		9	Easter
		22	Hari Raya Puasa
		29	Graduands Tea
		30	Deadline To Submit All Assignments (For Graduating Students)
	May	1	Labour Day
		20	32 nd Convocation
	June	3	Vesak Day
		29	Hari Raya Haji
	July-November		Semester 1 Courses
	July	17	Dedication-Cum-Orientation
			Webinar Series
	August	9	Singapore National Day
	October		Webinar Series
	November	24	Annual Dinner
		12-13	Deepavali
	December	25	Christmas
2024	January-May		Semester 2 Courses
	January	1	New Year's Day
	February		Webinar Series
		10-12	Chinese New Year
	March	29	Good Friday
		31	Deadline For Applying To Graduate In May
	April	10	Hari Raya Puasa
		30	Deadline To Submit All Assignments (For Graduating Students)
	May	1	Labour Day
		23	Vesak Day
		4	Graduands Tea
		18	33 rd Convocation
	June	17	Hari Raya Haji
		22	Student Theological Conference *

* Student Theological Conference is held every 2 years

ONBOARDING

To welcome and onboard our new students, we have a BGST welcome pack in the form of a micro-learning course that is accessible online to help students orientate to BGST life as a student. Please visit – *Welcome to BGST* – from this site: <http://courses.bgst.edu.sg>

Students can also have the option to journey along together with an Alumni during their time with BGST as a theological student through the Alumni Mentorship Programme. Please write in to contact@bgst.edu.sg to inform of your interest.

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

BGST's Education Resources comprise of two digital libraries and a print library. The Digital Theological Library (DTL) allows access to over 1 million digital books, 60 million articles. The Overdrive Digital Resource (ODR) allows access to around 600 e-books and a few audiobooks. The print library is a physical library located at BGST's office. Please see *Library Opening Hours* on our website to plan your visit.

All courses are supported by the Thinking Learning Management System (LMS). To learn how to use the LMS, please visit our online onboarding course – *Welcome to BGST* – from this site: <http://courses.bgst.edu.sg>

STUDY COMMITMENT

Most students start with 1-2 courses in one semester. On average, students need to devote 7.5 hours each week for a 3-credit class. Over a semester, the time commitment for a 3-credit course is:

Lectures:	30 hours
Required Readings, Assignments, Tutorials, Exams (if any):	90 hours
Total:	120 hours

You can adjust the number of courses to take, depending on the availability of your time and commitments. If you are in a programme study, please see the required course credits to fulfil for your programme. Each programme has a maximum duration for completion.

MAXIMUM PERIOD FOR PROGRAMME COMPLETION

BGST programmes can be taken either full-time or part-time over an extended number of years. The maximum period of completion of programmes, depending on the nature of commitment are:

	<u>Full-time</u>	<u>Part-time</u>	<u>Credits</u>
GCBS GCTS GCSF	1 year	2 years	15
GDCS	1 year	4 years	30
DipTS	1.5 years	5 years	37
MATIS	2 years	6 years	60
MDiv	3 Years	8 years	90

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

If you require a leave of absence, possibly due to:

1. Work re-location or significant workload issue;
2. Unforeseen family commitments; or
3. Health issues, e.g., surgery, illnesses

You can write to BGST for a Leave of Absence from your study for up to a period of 6 months. This would be subject to case-by-case review and approval.

FINANCING YOUR EDUCATION

To keep the cost of our students' education affordable, 80% of our ministry is funded through donations as a charity. During the course of their studies, students will pay fees including annual student fees, course fees and miscellaneous fees, such as graduation fees. Foreign students residing in Singapore are expected to finance their own accommodation costs and living expenses.

TUITION, FEES, AND EXPENSES

To participate in BGST's learning community, all students must pay an annual Student Membership subscription at the start of each Academic Year in July. Programme students and those taking courses on credit are also required to pay an annual Library Membership fee.

Please visit <https://courses.bgst.edu.sg/pages/fees> for the full list of applicable fees in addition to the Course Fees and Programme Fees.

COURSE FEES

<u>Taken for...</u>	<u>Audit</u>	<u>Credit</u>	<u>CS102 / MM100</u>
1.5 Credit Course	\$150	\$300	\$600
3 Credit Course	\$300	\$600	

These course fees are effective from AY2023 onwards.

Some 1.5 credit courses, such as CS102 and MM100 employ psychometric profiling tools, team coaching, and one-to-one spiritual mentoring. Due to their higher costs, they are priced like 3 credit courses.

PROGRAMME FEES

<u>Programme</u>	<u>Fees</u>
GCBS	\$3,600
GCTS	\$3,600
GCSF	\$3,600
GDCS	\$6,600
DipTS	\$8,100
MATIS	\$12,600 or \$14,000 (incl. ENGAGE Leadership Certificate)
MDiv	\$20,000 (incl. ENGAGE Leadership Certificate)

ENGAGE MINISTRY SKILLS FORMATION FEES

ENGAGE Leadership Certificate for MATIS and MDiv Programmes

MDiv students are required to take either the ENGAGE Certificate in Pastoral or Lay Leadership (ECPL or ECLL). Each Certificate costs \$2,300 and offsets 4.5 credit of leadership electives. MATIS students can take the same certificate to fulfil their Ministry Skills elective requirements.

Other ENGAGE Courses and Modules

BGST often collaborate with industry practitioners and executive trainers to develop ENGAGE Ministry Skills Formation Courses and Modules. Such training incorporates psychometric profiling, one-to-one coaching or spiritual mentoring and other practicums. For these reasons, ENGAGE module fees vary according to the nature of the modules.

FEES FOR SPOUSE OF FULL-TIME STUDENT

The spouse of a full-time student in any programme (i.e., one registered for at least 9 credits for the current semester) pays the following fees for courses registered within the same semester:

Up to 3 credits (audit)	Complimentary
Up to 6 credits (credit)	50% of course fees

This is applicable only for course fees. The spouse must go through the regular registration procedures and payment for all other expenses.

PAYMENT OF FEES

Payment of all applicable fees can be made through here: <https://courses.bgst.edu.sg/pages/fees>

BGST COMMUNITY AND BGST COLLECTIVE

BGST Community (formerly *Alumni Students' Network (ASN)*) comprises of alumni, students and BGST friends who seeks to develop and facilitate the community life within BGST. It is the first port-of-call where new students can find mentoring support for their learning. As a platform, BGST Community also organises regular events to provide opportunities for students and alumni to meet. It hopes that mentoring relationships and collaborations can be forged in this process. BGST Community is led by the BGST Collective (formerly *Alumni Resource Team (ART)*).

We invite all students to join the BGST Community. Write to us at contact@bgst.edu.sg to be included as part of the team!

SIGNING UP FOR BGST PROGRAMMES & COURSES

You can sign up for a BGST programme or course anytime. For course registrations, please take note of the deadlines for specific course registrations.

If you feel you are not ready for a BGST programme, you can sign up for a course as a Non-Programme Student first. When you register, you can opt to take the course as an audit or credit student. Please see Audit | Credit Course for more information.

While many students begin their BGST learning by registering for a course, you are encouraged to start by enrolling in our shortest programme: the Graduate Certificate. Signing up for a programme often helps your learning process. This is because the programme duration provides a structure and a timeline for you to complete your learning milestones.

CATEGORIES OF STUDENTS

BGST students are classified as follows:

PART-TIME OR FULL-TIME STUDENTS

Most students typically study at BGST on a part-time basis. If students take up 9 or more credits in a semester, they will be considered as a student with full-time load.

PROGRAMME STUDENTS

These are students who wish to take up studies leading to a BGST's Graduate Certificate, Diploma or Master. Students may enrol on a full-time or part-time basis.

NON-PROGRAMME STUDENTS

Non-programme Students – These are students who wish to take courses, in areas of interests to them, without enrolling into the Graduate Certificate, Diploma or Master programmes. If a student wishes to become a programme student later, he/she may do so by going through a Programme Admissions Application.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International students refer to any student who is not a Singapore Citizen or a Singapore Permanent Resident, intending to study at BGST. International students on a student pass are automatically considered as full-time students. They must fulfil a minimum of 15 credits per semester.

PROGRAMME ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

The minimum requirement for entry to any BGST's postgraduate programme is a Bachelor's Degree from a recognised institution or the equivalent with a minimum GPA of 2.5 out of a possible 4.0. The personal and spiritual aspects of the applicant will also be considered. Decisions made will be based upon the whole application.

Those who do not possess a first degree may sign up for any Graduate Certificate or credit courses as 'Non-Programme Students'. Non-Programme Students can later transfer their credits to the Graduate Certificate. To graduate from the Graduate Certificate, they must obtain an average grade of B- for their BGST courses. Upon graduation, they will be eligible to apply for any higher BGST programmes. For admission details, pls refer to the *Admissions Application Form*.

ENGAGE MODULES AND CERTIFICATES

Students can register for ENGAGE Modules and Certificates without prior academic qualifications. Should they intend to transfer their ENGAGE modules and certificates to a Postgraduate Programme, they will have to abide by the postgraduate requirements.

REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International Students intending to be a Programme Student are required to observe these requirements.

Before admission to studies at BGST all international applicants who are not native English speakers must submit, with their application, an official International English Language Testing System (Academic English) (IELTS) or Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score. Applicants must obtain a 550 (paper-based test), 213 (computer-based test) or 78 (Internet-based test) for TOEFL. Alternatively, they must obtain a minimum score of **6.0** for IELTS. Scores, not more than two years old, should be submitted to the Registrar from the Test Centre. Information about the tests and the location of test centres may be obtained from <http://www.ielts.org> and <http://toefl.org>

Upon acceptance, we will send a set of the Student Pass Application Forms to the student. Acceptance into BGST does not include automatic issue of a Student Pass by the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority of Singapore. A Student Pass will only be granted to a student enrolled full-time at an institution. The Student Pass application must be submitted at least two months and not more than six months from the course commencement date.

TRANSFER OF CREDITS, AND EXEMPTIONS

Students who have completed theological training of a level comparable to that of BGST may be able to transfer credits of their coursework obtained from their previous institutions. Alternatively, they may be granted exemptions from BGST required courses on the basis of such previously completed course-work. All transfers or exemptions must be specially applied for. *There are no automatic transfers or exemptions.* Applications should be made in writing to the Registrar, and must be accompanied by the relevant transcripts and other documentation. Students may transfer up to **50%** of the credits required by their programme, subjected to the discretion and approval of BGST.

PROGRAMME ACCEPTANCE

As soon as ALL application papers are received, the application will be processed and potential students will be notified of their admission status. A student whose application is incomplete may enrol in a first course but should make every effort to complete the application process as soon as possible. If the student is not admitted into a programme, the student will be considered a Non-programme Student. Applicants accepted into BGST Programme study need to register for courses.

Before registering for courses, students may consult their faculty advisors concerning programme requirements and course offerings. However, the responsibility remains solely upon the student to ensure all programme requirements are fulfilled.

COURSE SCHEDULE

The Course Schedule for each semester is publicised in May (for Semester 1 courses) and November (for Semester 2 courses) on the BGST Programmes and Courses (BPC) site <https://courses.bgst.edu.sg/pages/courses>

COURSE REGISTRATION

Please visit our courses site to learn which courses are offered for Live or SPL: <https://courses.bgst.edu.sg/>

LEARNING MODES: LIVE | SPL

BGST adapts to the “Open University” principle to theological education with the learning modes described below. Please refer to Course Registration for more details.

LIVE CLASS (LIVE)

These are lectures and tutorials conducted live in person or live via an online format, e.g., zoom. For Live courses, registration should preferably be done at least two weeks before the course begins.

SELF-PACED LEARNING (SPL)

This is primarily self-directed learning. Lectures may be in audio or visual format. Each student will have a tutor assigned for each SPL course. Students may register for SPL at anytime and are allowed to set their own time frame and pace of study. Students are to note that all audio-visual materials of the course must be viewed and listened to, and all assignments completed within 6 months from the registration of the course. Students may take up to 50% of the total credits required by their programme in the form of SPL.

LEARNING MODE CONVERSION

Students may convert from Live course to SPL or vice versa by submitting a Learning Mode Course Change Form, giving reason(s) for the change.

AUDIT COURSE | CREDIT COURSE

Audit students do not have to fulfil the assignment requirements. However, they are encouraged to do class exercises and assignments to get the maximum benefit from the courses. They will not receive grades that are transferable to BGST Postgraduate Programmes.

Credit Course students are required to complete all the course assignments by the stated deadline. They will receive grades that are transferable to any BGST postgraduate programmes.

AUDIT-CREDIT COURSE CONVERSION

When you take a course for audit, you may upgrade your course from Audit to Credit anytime throughout the course upon payment of the fee difference. You may also change from Credit to Audit due to work commitment or other constraints. This, however, must be done by the end of the first session, beyond which there will be no refund for the fee difference. An administrative charge of \$50 will be incurred for the change. All Credit-Audit course changes are to be made through the Admin Office with a Course Change Form.

For credit students, there are two deadlines for submission of assignments. Should you miss both deadlines, your course will be converted from credit to audit with no impact on your GPA.

COURSE TYPES: CORE | ELECTIVE | ETC

BGST course curriculum is organised around the following course types.

CORE COURSES

For programme study, a number of core courses are required to be taken. These courses are usually foundational in nature and aim to introduce a particular area of study. The number of core courses increases as one moves from the diploma to master programmes. Core courses are usually 3 credit courses.

ELECTIVE COURSES

For each programme, a certain number of credits is allocated to elective courses. Students have complete freedom as to which courses they will take as electives. Depending on programme, allocated number of elective credits are required to be attained. Electives courses are usually 1.5 credit courses.

GUIDED STUDIES

Students are given the opportunity to pursue areas of personal interests, provided a faculty member is available to supervise the studies. These guided courses carry 1.5 credits each.

COURSE TYPES: CORE | ELECTIVE | ETC - CON'T

THESIS | PROJECT

Students who intend to work on a Research Thesis or Ministry Research Project must first complete the Guided Study in the topic relevant to the thesis or project. These carry 4.5 credits each.

PRACTICAL TRAINING

These courses (e.g., Field Education) may stretch over periods longer than one semester. Special regulations apply for these. Details will be provided for such courses.

ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES

Assignments can be in the form of Essays, Book Reviews, Project Presentations, Prayer Practicums, etc. Guidelines for assignment submissions include guidelines for

1. Assignment Format
2. Bibliographical Format, and
3. How to Write Them

Information about Style Guide, Paper Submission Formats and Research Thesis and Ministry Research Projects details will all be provided in the onboarding micro-learning course. Please refer to the – *Welcome to BGST* – onboarding course for details.

ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSIONS, DEADLINES AND EXTENSIONS

Most assignment deadlines are due 3 months after the last lecture. Details of the deadline are specified in the course syllabus of each course.

For all credit students, the deadline for submission of assignments is 3 months from the first day of the month following the last lecture / online session. Credit students who missed the 1st deadline, may submit their assignments no later than the end of the 6th month, but will incur a penalty of one third of a grade on the late assignment.

For all international students who are on a student pass, the deadline for submission of assignments is 1 month from the 1st day of the month following the last lecture. International students may continue to submit assignments no later than the end of the 2nd month, but they will incur a penalty of one third of a grade on the late assignments.

After this 2nd deadline (2 months for international students, 6 months for all other students), the course will be converted to Audit Course status automatically.

GRADING AND TRANSCRIPTS

GRADING SCHEME

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Marks</u>	<u>Grade Point</u>	<u>Remark</u>
A+	95	4.0	Excellent
A	90	4.0	
A-	88	3.75	
B+	85	3.5	Good
B	80	3.0	
B-	78	2.75	
C+	75	2.5	Weak Pass
C	70	2.0	
C-	68	1.75	
D+	65	1.5	Inadequate
D	60	1.0	
F	< 60	0.0	Fail

GRADING POINT AVERAGE AWARDS

<u>Grade Point</u>	<u>Award</u>	<u>Remark</u>
3.75	<i>cum laude</i>	with praise
3.85	<i>magna cum laude</i>	with great praise
3.95	<i>summa cum laude</i>	with highest praise

TRANSCRIPTS

Updates of academic records are issued by the Registrar's Office at the end of each semester. Official transcripts bearing the seal of BGST may be issued upon receipt of a completed Transcript Application Form and the related fee. There should be no outstanding fees in order for transcripts to be issued.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

BGST's Convocation is held in May each year. To be eligible for graduation, a student must have:

1. Satisfactorily completed all requirements for the programme by the end of April.
2. Submitted a completed Application for Graduation Form to the Registrar's Office by March 31st for the intended year of graduation.
3. No outstanding payments due to BGST.
4. Met the minimum academic Grade Point Average (GPA) accordingly:

<u>Programme</u>	<u>GPA minimum</u>
GCBS GCTS GCSF	2.8
GDCS DipTS	2.8
MATIS	3.0
MDiv	3.0

FAQs

Should you have questions that might not have been addressed, please write to us at enquiries@bgst.edu.sg or visit our FAQ page here: <https://courses.bgst.edu.sg/pages/frequently-asked-questions>.

Last revised: 22 Sep 2023

CONTACT INFORMATION:

50 Kallang Pudding Road
#07-01, AMA Building
Singapore 349326

www.bgst.edu.sg
contact@bgst.edu.sg

