



BA (Hons) Theology Distance Learning FAQ

Why distance learning?

The ultimate aim is to train men for the preaching/pastoral ministry and men and women for cross-cultural and church work worldwide. However the practicalities of leaving employment and relocating to Wales have made it impossible for some to enjoy the privilege of studying on campus.

So I could do further training and work at the same time?

Yes. If you are already serving the Lord and feel the need for training but do not want to give up what you are doing then the good news is that we can bring our course into your own home and help you to fit the study of the Bible and theology around your own daily schedules.

So this course fulfils the aim of providing rigorous training for Christian workers?

Yes because of this our BA programme needs to have an academic focus and provide a safe environment in which to engage in academic issues, whilst simultaneously encouraging the devotional and practical aspects of theological study.

How long will it take?

The minimum registration period for a full time BA Honours Degree is three years and the maximum is seven years. How long you take depends on how much work you can manage and afford at one time.

Am I free to study at whatever pace I feel is appropriate?

Although many programmes allow this, our programme has certain fixed timings such as the programme start dates, the deadlines for assignments, and exam dates. Apart from this it is the student who determines how and when to study.

So I would need to be organised in terms of time?

We strongly advise students to endeavour to sit down and devise a weekly schedule so that they study consistently each week so that work is submitted regularly to the School throughout the academic year.

Is there regular coursework to do?

Most modules are assessed by either an exam or course work, or a combination of them. Furthermore, modules are divided into units that include activities that you are encouraged to complete and email to your lecturer. The lecturer will then provide you with feedback.

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How will I remain motivated to study?

Ask any DL student what is his or her biggest problem and most of them will answer 'isolation'. Here at WEST we recognise this problem and have put in place various initiatives that seek to address this issue. Some of these are:-

- Our Moodle virtual learning environment through which course materials, readings etc are delivered.
- Personal lecturer for each module, who is contactable via phone, email or post.
- Feedback on all activities sent in.
- Students are encouraged to support each other via email and phone and through discussion forums on Moodle.
- Each student is allocated a pastoral tutor and can contact them at any time.

I have not studied for years, how will I cope with essays and exams?

When you enrol on the programme you will be provided with practical advice about writing essays and how to prepare for exams.

So I need to have access to and be able to use a computer?

It is essential for you to have a computer with access to the internet that you can use. We provide some help with basic training for those who are not computer literate. Our course material is delivered via the internet.

Do I ever have to come into the School?

Distance-learning students are strongly encouraged to attend our Welcome Week in September each year along with campus-based students.

What sorts of people study on your programme?

Amongst others we have missionaries, people in full- and part-time church ministry, medical doctors, and others in full-time and part-time employment.

How many modules can I take?

The maximum is twelve per year but it is more realistic to take between four and six modules per year which qualifies you as being a part time student. A part-time undergraduate student will take between 10 credits (one module) and 60 credits (six modules) per year.

How many hours will I need to put in each week?

A rough estimate would probably be around 8-10 hours a week per module but there are many variables that come into play in this area. But you will be advised on this in the light of your circumstances.

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What if I am still unsure?

If you want more information about the course and to discuss matters further then do not hesitate to send us an email info@west.org.uk

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