Oxford Centre For Mission Studies
OCMS
Research Degrees Programme
Course Prospectus
2017-2018

The global church equipped to participate in the realisation of God’s transforming mission through research and applied scholarship

To advance study, education and research in God’s mission and to convene practitioners, scholars and leaders in creative and prophetic dialogue.
Welcome to OCMS!

For more than three decades, OCMS has functioned as a distinctive institution for research and training in mission. OCMS is located in Oxford, UK; a city known for its scholarship. Yet OCMS is not simply a British institution seeking to serve the Church worldwide. It is a global institution, founded by men and women from Latin America, Africa, and Asia, currently serving around 120 research scholars from over 40 nations. Our vision is to see the church, in all its diversity, better equipped to participate in God’s transforming mission by drawing on the best of research and scholarship.

Our academic programmes are designed to shape and equip Christian thought leaders. As one student explained to me recently, ‘Even if I were not to complete my PhD, my time in OCMS would have been a success because I know God has transformed me through my studies here.’ Of course, we are concerned not just about the process of study, but also its content. Our research scholars are exploring a wide range of mission topics, from local theologising or Biblical studies to the church’s role in areas like education, health care or micro-finance. Our commitment is to holistic mission, exploring what the Lordship of Christ (Ephesians 1:10) looks like for every part of human existence.

Our focus is on mission practitioners rather than academics. So part of our distinctiveness lies with the way the programme has been designed to enable part-time study. This enables practitioners to remain embedded in their ministries while studying through OCMS. We partner with Middlesex University, a quality research university that has a long history of bringing professionals and the academy together. We are privileged to work with Middlesex in the development of rigorous, relevant and creative cutting edge research in global mission and Christianity.

We welcome your interest in OCMS and encourage you to read carefully through this prospectus with a view to prayerfully considering if this programme is right for you. Please do contact us if you wish to learn more about OCMS or should you have questions regarding the programme. If you are in Oxford our doors are open and we would love to introduce you to the vibrant, unique community that is OCMS.

With every blessing,

Dr Paul Bendor-Samuel
Executive Director

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### THE OCMS TEAM

#### Faculty

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Paul Bendor-Samuel</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Thomas Harvey</td>
<td>Academic Dean</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Damon So</td>
<td>Research Tutor, Christian Theology and Doctrine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr David Emmanuel Singh</td>
<td>Research Tutor, Islamic Studies, PhD Stage Leader, Institutional Link Tutor with Middlesex University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Marina Behera</td>
<td>Research Tutor, Missiology &amp; History, MPhil Stage Leader</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Ben Knighton</td>
<td>Research Tutor, African Studies and Research Skills</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Hae Won Kim</td>
<td>Research Tutor, Academic Programme Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Bill Prevette</td>
<td>Research Tutor, Practitioner and Action Research and OCMS Admissions Tutor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Brian Woolnough</td>
<td>Research Tutor, Development Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Paul Woods</td>
<td>Research Tutor, East Asian Theology/Contextual Theology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Tim Keene</td>
<td>Research Tutor, New Testament Studies and Ethics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Brainerd Prince</td>
<td>Visiting Research Tutor, Philosophy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Stuart Judge</td>
<td>Research Tutor, Research Methodology</td>
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<td>Dr Guichun Jun</td>
<td>Research Tutor, Pastoral and Practical Theology</td>
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#### Administration

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<tr>
<td>Mrs Rachel McIntyre</td>
<td>Registrar, Admissions Officer, Executive Officer to Executive Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Imran Sarwar</td>
<td>Executive Officer, Quality Enhancement and Student Records, Institutional Link Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Nichola Clargo</td>
<td>Accountant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Blanche Marslin</td>
<td>Finance Officer &amp; Marketing Editor, Regnum Books International</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Ralph Bates</td>
<td>Librarian &amp; Learning Resources Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs Nadine Woods</td>
<td>Development &amp; Personnel Assistant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rev Andrew Anderson</td>
<td>Chaplain &amp; Independent Monitor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Liz Bendor-Samuel</td>
<td>Chaplain’s Assistant and Counsellor</td>
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HOW TO APPLY

You can fill in your application form electronically and send it to us from anywhere in the world. To download and complete an application form please visit our website or contact the Registrar.

The process to admit applicants into OCMS is managed and overseen by the OCMS Admissions Committee, administered by the OCMS Admissions Tutor and Officer. Using evidence of appropriate qualifications, commitment to and work in Christian mission, satisfactory references, secure funding, and a well-thought out research topic that relates to the broad definition of Mission Studies. Referees will be contacted and all documents required must be submitted before your application can be presented to the Admissions Committee.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- **Academic qualifications.** The normal minimum entrance requirement for applicants is an upper second class honours degree or a Masters’ degree relevant to the proposed research project awarded by a UK or other recognized University or higher education institution, or by the Council for National Academic Awards (CNAA).
- **3 Professional or Academic references**
- **Proof of linguistic proficiency.** Applicants must be sufficiently proficient in English to complete the programme of study. Candidates whose first language is not English should provide evidence by a minimum IELTS score (or equivalent eg TOEFL) in academic English of 6.5 at entry with a minimum of 6.5 in the reading and written components.
- **Proof of funding of full academic fees.** As Academic Fees are payable in advance before enrolment, we advise students to look for independent funding from local churches, agencies and organisations before submitting an application form. We are unable to offer full enrolment until evidence of proof of finances have been provided.
- **Area of Interest.** A short academic essay about your proposed research interest or question, which must have the potential to develop into a topic suitable for MPhil / PhD study. (500-1000 words)

OCMS ACADEMIC PROGRAMME

The OCMS Research Degrees Programme, as a collaborative partner of Middlesex University, offers the qualification of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and Master of Philosophy (MPhil). OCMS welcomes students from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences. Due to the diversity of our student body and the flexible nature of the OCMS programme, most of our scholars are part-time, only spending limited amounts of time at OCMS.

The OCMS academic programme consists of three stages: the OCMS stage, the MPhil stage, and the PhD stage.

### THE OCMS STAGE

All our students begin in the OCMS Stage, which includes the Research Induction School (RIS), a five week long intensive programme focused on giving our students the tools they need to carry out world-class research—introducing students to various research methodologies, the OCMS and Bodleian libraries, and online resources. The RIS takes place twice a year in spring and autumn, and is designed to induct new students into the OCMS and Oxford communities. Once the RIS is complete, students will develop a proposal through independent reading and working with their OCMS mentor. This stage is designed to help students make the transition to the UK higher education system and prepare them for their own research and fieldwork.

The OCMS Stage begins at admission and lasts until registration with Middlesex University, a time span of 6-18 months.

### THE MPHIL STAGE

Once a student’s proposal has been approved by the OCMS faculty and Middlesex, they enter the MPhil stage. This stage involves deepening their research through engaging with the literature, planning their methodology, and beginning their fieldwork. The MPhil Stage concludes with a transfer panel which assesses their portfolio that should show engagement with primary and secondary sources. Once the panel and OCMS & Middlesex approve, they are transferred to the PhD stage.

Applications to transfer from MPhil to PhD can be submitted 24 months after registration for part-time students and 12 months after registration for full-time students.

In the case of students who are registered for the MPhil degree as their target award, this Stage involves research leading to submission of a thesis for examination. To be awarded the degree of MPhil, candidates are expected to have critically investigated and evaluated an approved topic, and contributed to knowledge of this topic.
The candidate must demonstrate an understanding of research methods appropriate to the chosen field, presenting and defending a thesis by oral examination to the satisfaction of the examiners.

The length of an MPhil thesis should not exceed 40,000 words. Full-time students take between 1.5 and 3 years after university registration to complete their MPhil, while part-time students have between 2.5 and 4 years to complete their degree.

**THE PHD STAGE**

The PhD Stage commences when students transfer their enrolment to the PhD degree. This stage is a continuation of the MPhil stage and will result in the student producing a piece of research which makes an original contribution to their field of study.

The process in the PhD Stage involves:

- **A Dean’s Review**: a formal review of progress held midway between transfer of registration to PhD and the minimum submission date, when a student has written approximately half their thesis.
- **A Pre-Submission Sub-Committee**: A formal pre-viva held 3 - 6 months before submission.
- **Oral examination by Examining Board**: 'viva voce'.
- **Corrections or modifications, and re-submission of thesis, as required by the Examination Board.**

The length of an PhD thesis should not normally exceed 80,000 words. Full-time students take between 3 and 5 years after registration with Middlesex to complete their PhD, and part-time students have between 5 and 7 years to submit their thesis for examination.

**MIDDLESEX UNIVERSITY PARTNER INSTITUTION**

The institution partnership with Middlesex University brings a wealth of learning opportunities to OCMS students, you will have access to an extensive catalogue of resources, including 350,000 books & e-books, and over 24,000 online journals.

In addition, borrowing and visiting rights at the MU library, access to research seminars and lectures, sports facilities and MU social events are also available to university registered students. The academic management of OCMS’ research degrees programme operates in compliance with the Middlesex University’s Regulatory Learning and Quality Enhancement Handbook (LQE Handbook) and the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA).

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**CENTRE OF MISSION ENGAGEMENT AND THINKING**

As well as personal study, OCMS is often a place selected to host international conferences and meetings. Some of these are generated by OCMS itself, and others are supporting the global and local church as it wrestles with ideas, concepts, developing strategy and general enquiry.

**Stott-Bediako Forum**

John Stott and Kwame Bediako were both scholars crucial to the development of mission theologies in the Global South. To remember the contributions of these great men and inspire others to follow the paths they walked, INFEMIT partners with the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies each year to present the Stott-Bediako Forum on the Gospel and World Today. Theologian-practitioners representing each of INFEMIT’s regional fellowships share their work and respond to their sisters and brothers in dialogue about continuing the mission of God in the world.

Recent conferences include Faith, Public Integrity, and Development, as well as the 2016 Stott-Bediako forum, The Refugee Crisis: Shared Human Condition.

**CONSULTATIONS**

OCMS seeks to nurture an effective interface between scholarship and practice with the goal of fostering dialogue and mutual learning. One of the ways we do this is through hosting consultations designed to address critical mission themes identified by the church, whether mission agencies, networks, church or NGO leaders. Consultations may take place in Oxford or in different parts of the world where partners perceive a felt need.
GROWING LEADERS OF DISTINCTION

Graduate Judy Berinai is currently a full-time lecturer and Associate Academic Dean in the Sabah Theological Seminary and an adjunct lecturer in the Anglican Theological Institute. She is also involved in the Association for Theological Education in Southeast Asia accreditation team & Contextual Theology.

Selection of Thesis Titles from Recent OCMS Graduates

- Impacts of Congregation-based HIV/AIDS Programmes in Lusaka, Zambia
  Joshua Banda, PhD (May 2017)

- Enhancing Organizational Communication Through Appreciative Inquiry: The Case of East African Union of the Seventh-day Adventist Church Kenya
  Catherine Nyameino, PhD (September 2016)

- Responding to the voices of poor people through microfinance in sub-Saharan Africa: an action research study in Zimbabwe and Zambia
  Irene Mutalima, PhD (September 2016)

- Unbreakable Bones: Christian Mission and the Resilience of Temi Culture
  Klaus Derungs, PhD (February 2017)

- Grammar of Death in the Psalms: with Reference to Motion as Conceptual Metaphor
  Daniel Berkovic, PhD (August 2016)

- A Band of Evangelists, Native and ‘Foreign’: the story of Japanese Initiatives Indigenizing the Japan Evangelistic Band: 1903-1940
  Esther Maxton, (May 2017)

Las Newman is the recently appointed Global Associate Director of the Lausanne Movement. Before that, he was president of CGST, previously having served in campus ministry for over thirty years with the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES).

PASTORAL AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT

When a student registers with the University, a supervisory team is appointed to guide and support their research. The team has three members: a main supervisor, a second supervisor who provide expertise in a particular aspect of the project, and an OCMS House Tutor who offers personal support, liaises with supervisors, and helps develop research skills. Mission Studies often cross academic boundaries and many OCMS students are pursuing multi-disciplinary research in diverse contexts around the world. OCMS strives to match supervisors’ expertise as precisely as possible to each student’s individual project. Consequently we seek out scholars from universities across the UK and overseas to supervise projects, many of whom are leading academics and acknowledged authorities in their field. Interaction with this international network of supervisors is another distinctive feature of student experience at OCMS.

At OCMS, we strive to ensure that each student has the academic and personal support that they need to complete their research successfully. In the OCMS Stage, students can always turn to their Mentor for support and advice on personal matters affecting their studies. In the MPhil and PhD Stages, a student’s house tutor fulfils this role. Global communication these days means that your Mentor or House Tutor is only an email or Skype call away.

OCMS COMMUNITY

OCMS functions as a spiritual, missional, and academic community. Our first calling is to support one another in our personal and communal spiritual growth. We share the journey of discipleship, encouraging, challenging and praying for each other. Weekly chapel is a central part of our community life. Our chaplain is available for pastoral support and our female chaplain’s assistant is available especially for female members of the community.

In addition, we recognise that although a PhD can be a lonely experience, personal growth and learning takes place in the context of community. OCMS provides a space for scholars and faculty to exchange knowledge, experience and insights from widely diverse cultural, denominational and ethnic backgrounds. Weekly seminars and lectures form a critical component of the learning environment as the community and external scholars gather to debate research, methodology, academic theories and developments in mission and mission studies.
Through OCMS’ programme of open lectures and research seminars, its publications and the input of their supervisors, students can keep abreast of current issues in mission studies and higher education.

**MONTAGU BARKER LECTURES**

The public lectures given at OCMS by visiting academics or professionals involved in Mission Studies research provide opportunities for students to engage critically with a wide range of disciplines and perspectives, both religious and non-religious.

The topics reflect the diversity of Christian backgrounds, cultural contexts and multidisciplinary nature of mission studies.

Lectures take place at 11am each Tuesday. The lecture schedule is advertised on the OCMS website.

**RESEARCH SEMINARS**

Research seminars are held at OCMS every Wednesday at 11am. Papers are presented by students and students in residence are expected to attend along with faculty. These seminars give students the opportunity to present a paper on their current research for constructive criticism by peers and faculty, and to defend their research findings and theoretical models in the forum of academic debate.

Seminars vary in their format depending on the stage that the presenter has reached in their research. Students presenting and participating in seminars learn how to articulate their arguments and ideas clearly and coherently, to give and receive feedback constructively, ask incisive questions and employ the language of academia in the context of debate. The seminars prove a framework for participants to critically analyse and evaluate their own writing.

Student seminars are important to the student’s academic progress, skills development and the successful defence of their thesis in the oral examination.

Part-time students are expected to present at least one research paper and full-time students two research papers each year.

**STUDY FACILITIES**

As a specialist research centre, OCMS provides a rich environment for scholars undertaking research in Mission Studies. Students have access to resources and training at the centre itself and internationally through OCMS links with other institutions engaged in mission research.

OCMS has its own specialist reference only library in Mission Studies with over 16,000 volumes and 80 journals on Mission and Theology, Mission History, Development and Economics, Media and Communications and Research Methodology. The library holdings focus on Asia, Africa and Latin America and materials not available in the Bodleian and other libraries in Oxford.

OCMS students are issued with a Bodleian Library Reader’s Card that enables them access to the Bodleian Library - both the international research library of the University of Oxford and a national library of legal deposits and dependent libraries including the modern Social Sciences Library.

OCMS’ Moodle platform for a virtual campus provides secure links to extensive resources for research. OCMS also uses web conferencing during the Montagu Barker Lectures and seminars to permit students to fully participate with the lectures and discussions even when they are not in residency. Each lecture is also recorded for students to listen back at a time that is convenient.

Many students would add that the OCMS community itself; composed of typically mid-career professionals, in leadership positions and with global connections; is a stimulating and challenging academic resource and personal support for their research.