



Prospectus

Transforming

head, heart and hands

Message from the Principal

Here at IBI, excellence in biblical education and leadership development is at the core of what we do. We are an interdenominational Bible college and we have been seeking to serve the church in Ireland for over thirty years.

We are committed to training the whole person and talk about loving God: head, heart and hands. We want you to grow in head knowledge, since we are convinced that the more you know God, the more you will love him. We also desire that your heart will be transformed, growing in maturity and Christian character. We will equip your hands to be more effective in ministry.

For me, Bible college was a life-changing experience. My teachers instilled in me a love for the Word of God and for the God of the Word in ways I had never experienced before. Being part of a community that accepted, loved and encouraged me with all my failings, provided a space where God clarified his calling and plan for my life. My prayer is that those same kinds of things can happen for you at IBI.

Jacob Reynolds.



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Courses in Applied Theology

Modular, online and evening courses

Certificate in Applied Theology

BA (Honours) in Applied Theology

BA (Honours) in Applied Theology with Youth Ministry

BA (Honours) in Applied Theology with Christian Leadership

MA in Applied Theology

MA in Transformational Leadership

2. Introduction

At IBI we are passionate about spiritual formation.

We seek to provide biblical education and training that renews the mind, transforms the heart and equips the hands.

Our desire is that students leave not only with a deeper understanding of the Bible and a firmer theological foundation, but that they leave transformed by God, more deeply in love with him and his church, and better equipped to serve in ministry.

Whether you complete one module, a BA or an MA degree, what you learn at IBI will have a profound and lasting impact on you, your ministry and the people around you.

IBI: Head, Heart and Hands

I have gained a deeper understanding and knowledge of God, his plan, and his purpose for the world. IBI has equipped me to be involved in God's plan and mission for the nations. I now view mission as involving all aspects of my life, not just on a Sunday morning.

SINEAD HUSSEY
Church administrator.



Biblical

- ✦ be taught by teachers passionate about God's Word in classes where the Scriptures are central.

Community

- ✦ learn in a friendly and supportive community.

Excellence

- ✦ study in a place of academic excellence that offers university-validated qualifications.

Diversity

- ✦ sit in a classroom with men and women from Christian churches throughout Ireland and beyond.

Flexibility

- ✦ choose a flexible mode of study most convenient to your personal and professional schedule.

Relevance

- ✦ leave with a qualification that equips and prepares you for real life and Christian service.

DERMOT O'MAHONY

Dermot is involved in church planting in Limerick .

“Studying at IBI will give you a unique perspective of ministry in Ireland and how it applies in your local context. Whether you are in full-time ministry or you just want to grow more in your faith, IBI will not simply give you a firm theological understanding, but it will teach you how to think for yourself and not just regurgitate what you've heard or read.”



4. BA Courses in Applied Theology

HE Certificate in Applied Theology

- ✦ A foundational, university-validated course that focuses on head, heart and hands
- ✦ One year full-time course
- ✦ Two year part-time course

Certificate modules (year one of the BA)	
*Introducing Biblical Theology	*Interpreting and Applying the Bible
*Life and Teaching of Jesus	The Story of the Church
*Overview of the Old Testament	Introduction to Pastoral Caring
*Ministry and Personal Development	Discipleship
Communicating the Bible	

* = core modules

This programme is validated by York St John University.

There are also non-validated options of an IBI Certificate or individual modules.
See Flexible study options page 16.



“
The Old Testament, Pastoral care, Life of Jesus, Discipleship and Theology modules have all had a big effect on my relationship with God. I have a better understanding of his love for me and His plans for my life which has impacted my ministry in a powerful way.”

ASHYLN MERRIGAN
Street evangelist.

BA (Hons) in Applied Theology
 BA (Hons) in Applied Theology with Youth Ministry
 BA (Hons) in Applied Theology with Christian Leadership

- ✦ Three years full-time
- ✦ Six years part-time

Level 2 and 3 for rotation 1

Level 2 and 3 for rotation 2

*Ministry & Personal Development 2 and 3	*Ministry & Personal Development 2 and 3
*Person and Work of the Holy Spirit	*New Testament Christology
*Poetry and Wisdom in the Old Testament	*Old Testament Narrative
*Enabling Biblical Interpretation	*NT Text: Hebrews
*Dissertation (level 3 only)	*Dissertation (level 3 only)
Christian Spirituality	Christian Mission in Contemporary Ireland
Issues in Contemporary Theology	Christian Ethics
Preaching	The Story of the Irish Church
Developing Pastoral Care	Faith in Contemporary Culture
Church and Ministry (L)	Developing Leadership (L)
Youth Ministry: Theology and Strategy (Y)	Youth Ministry: Faith Formation in Contemporary Culture (Y)

* = core module for all programmes.

(Y) = required for the BA Hons in Applied Theology with Youth Ministry.

(L) = required for the BA Hons in Applied Theology with Christian Leadership.

Note: Flexible study options allow most modules to be taken individually for personal and ministry development. See page 16.

These programmes are validated by York St John University.



6. Student life

Academic Support

One of IBI's strengths is the close working relationship between staff and students. Teachers operate an open door policy. As a result of the robust support system offered to all students, no one gets left behind.



Mentors

As part of the Ministry and Personal Development programme, all students choose a mentor to help them to reflect on what they learn and to apply it to their lives and ministries.

Prayer and worship

Students are part of a 'small group' which is a staff-led single gender group where students and staff can meet to pray for and encourage one another. The entire staff and student body also meet together for prayer, worship and reflection.



Student Retreat

Once a year, the classroom doors close and studying is paused while staff and students spend a few days together in retreat. This gives the opportunity for the whole community to spend extended time together.



Studying in Dublin

IBI is situated at the heart of Dublin city, right beside the central transport hub in Connolly Station, with a wide range of restaurants, cafés and cultural sites within its reach. Students who travel from all corners of Ireland avail of local eateries at lunchtime or prepare their own food in the Institute's dining area.

8. Where are they now?

BA graduates are involved in a wide variety of work and ministry.

“As someone who is involved in leading a youth ministry, I can say that the knowledge that I have gained at IBI has had a direct effect on what I do. I have been able to use and apply the knowledge I have gained in this field of ministry.” **Stephen Greer, Youth Worker**

“I have learned the skill of critical thinking which has helped me build a solid foundation of the principles of the Christian faith. This has given me a confidence to share my faith and also a security to be able to engage with people of different beliefs within and outside the Christian faith.”
Irene Byrne, Nurse

“IBI’s motto is ‘head, heart, hands.’ They don’t just fill you with information and knowledge. They help you to apply what you learn to your life so you can use it in your church, work and social life.” **Darren Curran, Pastor**



Admissions criteria

All candidates will demonstrate:

- active engagement in some form of Christian ministry;
- appreciation of and respect for IBI's ethos;
- an ability to study at third level.

Entry routes to the BA programme

1. Academic entry: Irish Leaving Certificate: 240 points or equivalent
2. AP(E)L: You may apply for entry to the programme, or for credit transfer, on the basis of Accredited Prior Learning (APL) or Accredited Prior Experiential Learning (APEL). <http://www.yorks.ac.uk/study/admissions/admissions-policy/entry-with-advanced-standing.aspx>
3. Associate status entry: you will be required to demonstrate that you are able to work at BA level by successfully completing a semester as an associate student. Upon successfully completing and passing the modules in the first semester you can enrol for the full BA programme and transfer credits gained.

Application

See our website for further details.

Download and complete the application form.

✉ Send it (by post or email) along with the following:

- copies of all academic transcripts (please do not send originals);
- one passport-size photo;
- IELTS certificate if applicable*;
- a non-refundable application fee of €50 for EU applicants and €75 for non-EU applicants.

Post: Academic Administrator, IBI, Ulysses House, 22-24 Foley Street, Dublin 1.

Email: application@ibi.ie

*Non-native speakers of English must have an IELTS certificate or equivalent with a minimum score of 6.0.

Please visit www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/Study for visa requirements.

10. MA Courses in Applied Theology

MA in Applied Theology

MA in Transformational Leadership

- ✦ Two years full-time (three weeks of class in year one, one week of class plus dissertation in year two)
- ✦ Three years part-time (two weeks of class in years one and two, dissertation in year three)

These programmes are validated by York St John University.

MA Modules	
Church and Mission	Evangelicalism: Identity, History and Theology
Developing Biblical Interpretation	Preaching/Communication Practice
Developing a Theological Framework for Life and Work	Transformational Leadership in Practice (LO)
Developing Spirituality	Independent study
Enabling Leadership (L)	Dissertation
Enabling Pastoral Care	

(Note: modules will be offered subject to student demand.)

L = required for MA in Transformational Leadership

LO = required for and only available to MA in Transformational Leadership



Church and Mission

The contemporary mission of the church is a debated topic, particularly as the paradigm referred to as “Christendom” diminishes in Western Europe. This module offers you an opportunity to critically examine some of the current thinking about mission. Part of that analysis will be how the church of the 21st century might become a missional community able to demonstrate by word and deed the relevance of the Christian message in an increasingly globalized world. The focus for the module will be the church in Ireland, but it can also function as a paradigm if you are living and working in another context.

Developing Biblical Interpretation

If you are engaged with and working at the interface between theology and ministry you need to have an in-depth, working knowledge of the issues that biblical interpretation raises. This module gives you the opportunity to master a range of aspects of the tools of interpretation. The content of this module will relate both to other areas of study on the programme and to your own ministry practice.

Developing a Theological Framework for Life and Work

Understanding theological commitments and presuppositions is an important aspect of developing an applied theology. Thinking and reflecting theologically and biblically on life and ministry as an aspect of applied theology is central to this module and gives you the opportunity to engage in critique and reflection on your own theological framework.

Developing Spirituality

In recent years there has been something of a resurgence of interest in Christian spirituality, perhaps reflecting general cultural trends. Properly understood, Christian spirituality should always critically engage with a wide range of biblical and theological resources. It should also be regarded as a “lived theology”, an example of applied theology in practice. This module offers you an opportunity to explore aspects of Christian spirituality. This is important for those who are involved in many areas of Christian ministry.

Enabling Leadership

Leadership is a critical issue for the future of any church, and this is certainly true for the church in Ireland. The leaders of the future are the people who will shape the future. The key question is what “shape” should that leadership be within the context of the church? If you are either involved in or interested in leadership this module offers the opportunity to reflect critically on not just some theories of leadership but also on your own leadership practice.

Enabling Pastoral care

It is vital that people who are involved in pastoral caring in either a local church context or in a broader sphere reflect critically and systematically on both the theory and practice of their caring. The module gives you an opportunity to do this for

12. MA Modules

the context in which you are working. It will also encourage you to reflect on your practice of pastoral caring and to develop appropriate strategies to enhance this. The main focus will be on church-based caring, but the learning is applicable to any context.

Evangelicalism: Identity, History and Theology

Questions of identity are important in the contemporary world. Theological identity is an important aspect of an applied theology as it impacts theological and biblical reflection in a range of ways. This module provides an opportunity for you to engage critically with, and reflect on, aspects of evangelical identity and how that impinges on an applied theology.

Preaching/Communication Practice

The communication of the Bible is important in the life of the church and being able to preach and communicate the Bible are important aspects of an applied theology. The contemporary context, however, poses some major challenges to traditional understandings and practices of preaching/communication which need to be addressed. This module encourages you to self-critically engage with both the theoretical underpinning of, and the skills required for, preaching/communication.

Transformational Leadership in Practice

(This module is only available to students studying for the MA in Transformational Leadership award.)

Transformational leaders need to develop the self-reflective skills that will enable them to be most effective in a leadership role. This module offers that opportunity and is designed to facilitate those specific skills, abilities and attitudes. The module aims to give you an experience of transformational leadership in practice.

Independent Study

This module allows you to study a specific topic that interests you, and which is not covered anywhere else on the programme. To facilitate this, the class-based teaching sessions are replaced with supervised guided reading and independent study. This module is only available to students who have demonstrated that they will be able to manage this mode of study.

Dissertation

This module allows you to demonstrate your ability to carry out a research project through independent study.

MA in Applied Theology/Transformational Leadership

- will enable you to apply the insights of Scripture and other disciplines to your ministry/leadership context;
- is rooted in the context of contemporary culture;
- will impact your life, work and ministry.

	MA in Applied Theology	MA in Transformational Leadership
Course structure	Any four modules + dissertation	Any two modules + 'Enabling Leadership' + 'Transformational Leadership in Practice' + dissertation
Study modes	Full-time (1-2 years) Part-time (3 years)	Full-time (1-2 years) Part-time (3 years)
Module delivery	2-3 modules are offered annually Teaching is focussed in one-week blocks in January, February and August	2-3 modules are offered annually Teaching is focussed in one-week blocks in January, February and August

"IBI has changed the way I see myself and the society in which I live. It has helped me to contextualise my faith. IBI has encouraged me to see Ireland's story through the eyes of faith: our collective history, our turbulent present and our uncertain future." **Ingrid Harley, Teacher.**

These programmes are validated by York St John University.

14. Where are they now?

MA graduates are involved in a wide variety of work and ministry.

“One aspect of my time at IBI which I found particularly valuable was Reflective Practice. This was something with which I was unfamiliar in any of my previous studies. It proved to be very worthwhile in providing the opportunity to examine each aspect of our studies from a fresh angle, how I thought about it and put it into practice.” **David Moore, Minister.**

“I’m a secondary school teacher, that is my area of ministry, it’s where God has placed me at the moment. My whole view on leadership and the responsibilities and challenges involved in that were definitely questioned. I found that very beneficial and very practical!” **Rhoda Brookes, Teacher.**

“IBI has been a fantastic experience for me. The modules were challenging and the work was thoroughly rewarding, equipping me with a deeper knowledge for my ministry. I also found myself refreshed as I had time to reflect on the modules we covered. That ensured that the modules could not remain merely theoretical but became truly transformative.” **Paul Perry, Pastor.**



There are two entry routes to the MA

Direct entry

For direct entry to the MA you need to have achieved **one** of the following qualifications:

1. an honours degree (single or joint) at 2.2 or above (2.1 preferred) or a Graduate/ Postgraduate Diploma in Theology and/or Religious Studies or a closely related subject;
2. a Postgraduate Award or first class honours in another Humanities subject;
3. a first degree, and at least the equivalent of a Certificate of Higher Education in Theology and/or Religious Studies.

Associate student

This access route is open to you if you meet one or both of the following requirements:

(a) you have obtained a first degree in a subject other than Theology and/or Religious Studies at 2.2 honours or above;

or

(b) you can demonstrate sufficient ministerial, professional or vocational experience to indicate that you have the ability to study at postgraduate level.

You must have at least two years of significant and relevant professional/Christian ministry* experience (evidenced by referees).

If you enter via this route you will be required to demonstrate that you are able to work at MA level by successfully completing a module as an associate student. Upon successfully completing and passing the module you can enrol for the full MA programme and transfer the credits gained.

*Relevant professional/Christian ministry experience means significant involvement in the broad area of Christian ministry (either paid or lay) or some specific professional practice that demands aspects of theological input/reflection.

International students: in addition to the above criteria, non-native speakers of English must also have an IELTS certificate or equivalent with a minimum score of 6.0. Please consult www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/Study for visa-related queries.

Application

See our website for further details.

Download and complete an MA application form.

Send the completed form (by post or email) with copies of all academic transcripts (please do not send originals), one passport-size photo and a non-refundable application fee of €50 for EU applicants and €75 for non-EU applicants to:

Post: Academic Administrator, IBI, Ulysses House, 22-24 Foley Street, Dublin 1.

Email: application@ibi.ie

16. Flexible study options

Day and evening study
IBI Certificate and Foundation Awards

Not everyone can study full or part-time, or wishes to pursue a validated award. That is why we also offer the option of taking individual modules.

You can take a module during the day or evening. You can also gain an IBI Foundation Award, or even complete the IBI Certificate (a total of 8 modules) on a modular basis at your own pace.

Foundation Award in Pastoral Care: Introduction to Pastoral Caring; Developing Pastoral Care.

Foundation Award in Theology: Introducing Biblical Theology; and then either New Testament Christology or Person and Work of the Holy Spirit.

Foundation Award in Biblical Studies: (two of the following) Interpreting and Applying the Bible; Overview of the Old Testament; Life and Teaching of Jesus; Enabling Biblical Interpretation.

Course	When	Duration	Calendar
Day module	Tuesday, Wednesday	13 weeks	Term 1 : Sept - Dec Term 2: Jan - May
*Evening module	Tuesday evening	9 weeks	Term 1: Sept - Nov Term 2: Nov- Feb Term 3: Feb - May
Foundational awards	Tuesday, Wednesday	13 weeks x 2	Term 1: Sept - Dec Term 2: Jan - May

*Note: This option is under review, please check www.ibi.ie for details.

Whatever your availability, location or education, we would love to discuss your options with you.

For further information about admissions criteria and how to apply see:
Online courses visit: www.ibi.ie/courses/online-modular-study/
Flexible study options visit: www.ibi.ie/courses/modular-study/





LOVING GOD: HEAD, HEART AND HANDS

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