WTC ADMISSIONS POLICY & PROCEDURE

2026-27

WTC Admissions Policy and Procedure	
Purpose	To set out clearly WTC's programmes and admissions process.
Enquiries	Enquiries should be directed to the Registrar at registrar@wtctheology.org.uk
UKPRN	10030973
Legal Address	16-17 Clarence Parade, Cheltenham, GL50 3PA
Author	Senior Registrar
Approved by	WTC Board of Trustees
Next Review	June 2027
Staff member responsible for update	Senior Registrar
Policy / procedure relevant to	Internal/ Public / Students and where to find it: *Internal - Board, Exec Team, Ops Team, Registry Team, Finance Team. - G-Drive* *External - WTC Website, MyWTC*

1. Introduction

WTC is a not-for-profit, interdenominational, charismatic theological college with the vision of taking rigorous and accessible Kingdom Theology into the heart of the local church across the UK. Our goal is to equip and empower people of all ages and backgrounds for leadership, mission, and discipleship and, through this, to effect personal and community transformation. We offer part-time, university-accredited qualifications in theology to around 250 students per year, and a non-validated, on-line Foundations in Theology course.[1]

2. Who are our programmes for?

Our student body currently consists of a wide age range (18-80), with the majority aged between 35-60. Students are drawn from a broad cross-section of professional and socio-economic backgrounds in the UK. Students come from a range of church denominations but the majority (c. 70%) are members of the independent church sector (i.e. not affiliated with a formal denomination), which have no dedicated theological colleges. WTC encourages students from a variety of educational backgrounds, including those who have struggled with formal education in the past. A number of our current students left school with no formal qualifications while others came to study with WTC already having multiple degrees. This richness in backgrounds, thought, and experience is part of what makes studying with WTC such a rewarding experience. Please see our Access and Participation Statement.

3. Mode of study

All WTC programmes are part-time and are specifically designed to fit around our students' busy lives. The flexibility of our programmes allows our students to study where they are, but also in community, avoiding the isolation of traditional distance learning. Students are able to remain in their jobs and communities. For Undergraduate (UG) programmes, students attend the residential teaching events and then a weekly Hub evening (20 teaching evenings a year, and two additional induction and celebration events). For Postgraduate (PG) programmes, students attend the residential weeks and one teaching Saturday per module studied.

4. Programmes in Kingdom Theology

WTC offers programmes in 'Kingdom Theology' because at the heart of our study is the belief that Jesus came proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom of God: God's Kingdom means hope for humanity and the earth in salvation, healing, freedom from oppression, reconciliation in relationships, joy, peace, creativity, and untold blessing. The Kingdom touches all aspects of life, and invites us to reimagine our life, work, and mission. Through his life, death, and resurrection, he has brought the reality of the Kingdom to this world.

[1] Birmingham Newman University validates all WTC degrees and qualifications.

4.1. Level 3

Foundations in Theology Course

WTC launched a one year, part-time, non-validated online WTC certificate course in Foundations in Theology in September 2023, and a filmed edition for churches in 2025. This course is designed for those who wish to explore the foundations of the Christian faith and gain the skills required to study theology in a formal higher educational setting.

4.2. Level 4

CertHE in Kingdom Theology

This is a two-year, Level 4 programme, worth 120 credits. This programme will suit students who have left school and have no higher education. This is a foundational and introductory programme in biblical studies, Christian theology, Spiritual formation, mission and church history. Students who successfully complete the CertHE may progress to the BA programme at Level 5.

BA (Hons) in Kingdom Theology

This is a six-year programme worth 360 credits, (120 credits at each Levels 4, 5, & 6). This programme will suit students who have left school and have no higher education, or anyone who wishes to study theology more comprehensively than a single-level programme allows. This degree programme comprises the core disciplines of biblical studies, Christian theology, spiritual formation, and mission, and the associated disciplines of Church history, spirituality, ethics, and world religions, in order to equip Christians with extensive biblical and theological knowledge, and a critical understanding of their own traditions.

4.3. Level 6

Graduate Diploma in Kingdom Theology

This is a two-year, Level 6 programme, worth 120 credits. This programme will suit mature students who have a bachelor's degree in a discipline other than biblical studies or theology. This is an introductory programme in biblical studies, Christian theology, spiritual formation, mission and church history. Students who successfully complete the Graduate Diploma may be able to progress to the MA programme (usually an average mark of 60% across the programme is required).

In addition to the general GradDip, we offer a specialist GradDip track in Church Planting and Leadership. This programme is unique in the UK. Students can choose this specialist track either when they apply or after their GradDip first year.

Graduate Diploma track in Church Planting and Leadership

This is a two-year Level 6 programme, worth 120 credits. This track will suit students with a bachelor's degree in a discipline other than biblical studies or theology who wish to be equipped with theological and practical knowledge for church planting and leadership.

4.4. Level 7

MA in Kingdom Theology

This is a Level 7 programme worth 180 credits, which includes a taught modular portion which can be studied over two or three years, plus a research dissertation, which is usually (but not necessarily) undertaken in a subsequent year. This programme offers a part-time postgraduate degree programme that comprises deep engagement with core theological disciplines, applying critical insights to church life, ministry, and practices with a view toward Christian engagement with the world. The research dissertation (15,000 words) also gives students the opportunity to engage in independent theological study, engaging critically with primary texts and sources. This programme encourages students to become well-grounded in orthodox theological perspectives while exploring the breadth of current theological debates.

5. Admission Requirements

5.1. BA/CertHE

Applicants aged 18-24 will usually have a minimum of 72 UCAS Tariff points. In exceptional circumstances, applicants with fewer than 72 UCAS points may be asked to complete a short writing exercise and interviewed, in order to assess their ability to complete the programme.

Mature applicants (25+ years old) will ideally have a minimum of 72 UCAS Tariff points. However, applicants who have fewer than 72 UCAS points are more likely to be accepted on the basis of work experience and, if deemed appropriate, the completion of a short writing exercise. In borderline cases, an interview with a member of the Academic Team may also be deemed appropriate. Offers will not be made to anyone the Academic Team deems is unable to succeed on the programme.

All applications require a reference.

5.2. Graduate Diploma Programme

This programme is aimed at Level 6 entry (i.e. the final year of an UG degree), so students applying must demonstrate their ability to undertake a programme at this level successfully. Ordinarily, students must be graduates of a Bachelor's programme or equivalent in a subject other than Theology. In addition, students who hold a DipHE in Theology may be eligible for the Graduate DIploma.

Consideration may be given to applicants who are not graduates of a Bachelor's programme or equivalent in another subject. Such applicants must demonstrate that they would both benefit from the programme, that they have prior experiential learning and maturity in a professional and/or ecclesial context that prepares them for Level 6 study, and that they would be able to complete the programme. In such cases the applicant will be interviewed by a member of the Academic Team. The applicant may also

be asked to submit a piece of existing written work or write an assignment that demonstrates their readiness for the programme.

5.3. Specialist Church Planting and Leadership (CPL) Graduate Diploma track

In addition to the requirements outlined in 5.2, students applying for the specialist Graduate Diploma track in Church Planting and Leadership (CPL) may have up to two informal interviews. An initial interview with the CPL Programme Director may be used to help the applicant understand the programme's aims and outcomes, and to determine whether the specialist track is a good fit for their particular ministry needs. If necessary, they may have a further interview with the Dean of Studies to establish whether an applicant is to be offered entry, on the basis of an assessment of their ability to successfully complete the programme.

Students on the Kingdom Theology GradDip can also choose to change to the CPL for their second year. Students considering this change should speak with the Programme Director for the CPL GradDip (cplpd@wtctheology.org.uk).

5.4. MA Programme

Students who have successfully completed the WTC Graduate Diploma in Kingdom Theology with an average grade of 60%, or the BA in Kingdom Theology with a 2:1, a BA in Theology, or equivalent, are eligible for admission to the MA in Kingdom Theology Programme.

Students with a BA, BD, or BTh in Theology (or closely related subject) at 2:1 or higher are eligible for admission to the MA in Kingdom Theology. All applicants will need to submit a relevant piece of writing as part of the application to confirm their ability to study at the required standard. For internal WTC applicants, this can be an essay written as part of their BA/GradDip. In cases where students do not have a BA or Graduate Diploma in theology, they may in exceptional circumstances be eligible for the programme if they can demonstrate credible engagement with academic theology, if the Academic Team is satisfied that they can succeed, and subject to the submission and approval of an academic theology essay set by WTC to establish their ability to research and study at the required level.

5.5. Exegesis/Evidence

Some applicants may be required to carry out a written exercise to gauge their level of academic engagement, and if necessary, level of study.

MA applicants are required to submit a piece of written work as part of their application to the programme.

6. Language Requirements

For UG programmes, if English is not the first language of the applicant, an IELTS score of 6.0, or a TOEFL IBT score of 72 is required.

For PG Programmes, if English is not the first language of the applicant, an IELTS score of 6.5, or a TOEFL IBT score of 88 is required.

7. Residential Teaching

It is important and expected that students attend both Residentials in each year of their programme in person in order that they receive critical student orientation information, study skills tutoring and approximately 50% of their modular teaching. Where students are unable to attend in full, they need to disclose and discuss attendance with WTC as part of their application process.

8. Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

Some applicants may have gained credits from other HEIs, or have extensive experience that may contribute to an RPL application.

8.1. Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

Some applicants will join WTC with prior accredited learning that holds equivalence to some specific modules. Applicants can request that these credits be transferred to their new programme. Any claims need to be:

- Five years or less
- Hold equivalency to modules on WTCs programme
- If older than five years, additional evidence to show currency of original award
- Not more that ⅔ of the programme may be subject to RPL
- All applications must be approved by the Dean of Studies or director of Student Services.

8.2. Recognition of Experiential Learning (RPEL)

Some applicants will join WTC with prior experiential learning that holds equivalence to some specific modules. Applicants can request that this experience is considered as credit towards their new programme. Any claims need to:

- Provide written evidence and references to verify the experience of the applicant
- Details of how this shows equivalency to module/s being applied for
- Not more that ⅔ of the programme may be subject to RPEL
- All applications must be approved by the Dean of Studies or Director of Student Services.

9. International Students

WTC cannot sponsor student visas. Consequently, international students may only study on the Graduate Diploma and MA Flexi programmes, which do not require local Hub attendance, unless they hold residential status in the UK on an incidental basis, such as a work visa. In these instances, the relevant visa must cover the full duration of the programme that they hope to study. International students on a Flexi programme must make arrangements to attend the UK-based Residential weeks in September and January on a Standard visa, ETA, or tourist visa and their stay may not exceed the terms of such visas.

International students are welcome to study on our non-validated Foundations in Kingdom Theology Course (see Section 4.1 above).

10. Admissions Procedure

Applicants wanting to study with WTC are required to complete an online application via the WTC Website. These are then processed initially by the Registrar and Assistant Registrar who carry out checks which will include:

- Ensuring that the applicant has applied to the appropriate programmes based on their former education;
- Checking for any evidence required (i.e. visa, qualification certificates, exegesis);
- Acknowledge receipt of references;
- Ensure any Learning/Disability/NeuroDiverse issues are acknowledged and alert any appropriate members of staff to additional student needs;
- Contacting the applicant if there are any other issues or concerns regarding their ability to study.

Applications are then reviewed and approved by the Director of Student Services or another member of the Academic Team.

11. Admissions Deadlines

The deadline for applications to be submitted to WTC is determined each year by WTC's Senior Executive Team, but is usually mid-August. Students are then enrolled with WTC in time for the first residential teaching week at the start of September.

For some MA students, their studies may begin in the January of each academic year, and applications are accepted until mid-December.

12. GDPR

Applications are processed in line with our Privacy Notice. All data provided in applications is treated and processed in line with our Data Handling Policy, which is aligned with GDPR requirements.