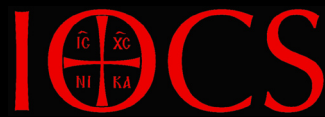


AN INTRODUCTION TO
DOCTORAL STUDIES

AT THE
INSTITUTE FOR ORTHODOX
CHRISTIAN STUDIES, CAMBRIDGE



THROUGH
THE CAMBRIDGE THEOLOGICAL
FEDERATION



AND VALIDATED BY
ANGLIA RUSKIN UNIVERSITY



Anglia Ruskin
University

THE GENERAL PROCESS

In advance of your application, you should contact a potential supervisor regarding your dissertation.

Research supervisors:

Please go to the pages for Visiting Professors/ Lecturers, Core Staff and Research Affiliates for potential supervisors in your chosen field of Theology. Also please check our Research Centre page for relevant research seminars in your chosen field.

Formal application:

Once you have identified a potential supervisor and have contacted him/her with an outline of your proposed research, please complete this application form.

You will need to provide the following as part of your online application:

- your outline research proposal
 - a copy of the original transcripts of your results
 - a copy of your degree certificate(s)
 - two references on letter headed paper, signed and dated. If you're applying for an MPhil or PhD, please supply two academic references to support your application. If you're applying for a Professional Doctorate (DBA, EdD and DProf), please supply one academic and one professional reference
 - a photocopy of your passport, including the photograph and personal details page(s).
- International applicants living in the UK must also provide photocopies of visa and immigration stamps.

We will invite you to attend an interview with our academic staff before making an offer.

There is no deadline for applications, but we do recommend submitting your application to us at least one month before your proposed start date. The doctoral programme starts in September, January, April and June.



THE INITIAL REQUIREMENTS

It is the normal requirement for entry to a PhD programme that an applicant hold a first or upper-second class honours degree from a British university or a qualification from overseas that is regarded as equivalent in standard. This will give entry to the first stage (that of Master of Philosophy), with the presumption that the candidate will, if progressing satisfactorily, be admitted to the PhD course.

Candidates who hold a Master's degree from a British university, or an overseas Masters degree of equivalent standard, may enrol directly as a PhD student, provided their degree was in a relevant subject and required some training in research methods.

However, it is possible for a candidate to gain immediate entry to the PhD programme who does not have a Masters degree but has appropriate research or professional experience as evidenced by publications and reports: an example might be a bishop or priest who has been long in diocesan administration and proposes to examine models of church organization.

Evidence of competence in English is required from candidates who are not native speakers: an IELTS score of 6.5 or a TOFEL score of 600.

WHAT IS REQUIRED OF A DOCTORAL THESIS?

Doctorates are awarded for expertise in a subject, as demonstrated before two examiners, who will read a thesis of not more than 80,000 words and give the candidate an oral examination on its contents.



But one criterion produces terror in prospective doctoral candidates: the requirement that the thesis must be 'an original contribution to knowledge'. Candidates know they must not plagiarize, presenting other people's writing as if it were their own, or taking over someone else's ideas without acknowledgement. But, understandably, they ask how there can be anything new under the sun. Where is the notion that hasn't somewhere been expressed before?

The answer is that originality can be shown in many different ways. Of course it is fine if your research turns up information that (for example) demonstrates that

a portion of the Liturgy attributed to St John Chrysostom appears verbatim in a manuscript much earlier; or that it is said by a writer from the eighth century to have been first introduced then. But though such discoveries happen, they are rare. Originality can be shown in less obvious ways: in demonstrating that evidence suggesting Father X. had heretical views as regards, say, our condition after death has



been misinterpreted in the process of transmission from writer to writer, or that Father X. elsewhere subscribes to views that modify or contradict positions he has been alleged to have held. Originality can be shown by a fresh interpretation of evidence always to hand, or by the introduction of considerations that till then have not been part of the argument. It has regularly happened to research students that at a late stage they discover someone else has written on their topic: their initial panic invariably turns into criticism and disagreement, in whole or in

part – and there is the basis for dissent that is both original and valuable.

CHOOSING YOUR THESIS TOPIC

More important than the question ‘Can I find anything original to say on this topic?’ is the question ‘Can I live with this subject for three whole years?’ (- or six or more years if you study part-time!). Ensure that your proposed topic is of such interest and

importance to you that it will carry you through all the highs and lows of research. If you care that much, you are likely to interest an audience. My own supervisor always told his pupils that there was not much point in writing a thesis unless, as a whole or in part, it was to be published for others to read and benefit from. Don’t be the person who devoted six years of his life

to documenting the changing forms of Sumerian ink-wells!

REGISTRATION AND SUBMISSION OF YOUR PROPOSAL FOR RESEARCH

Research students may register with Anglia Ruskin University at eight (8) points in the year: October, November, January, February, April, May, June and July. Registration forms can be requested by email (info@iocs.cam.ac.uk), by post, or by telephone call to the Institute. But whenever you register, you must submit

your 'Proposal for Research' within two months of registration to a specially constituted university committee who will give formal permission for you to proceed.

The Institute strongly advises prospective students to work out their Research Proposal before registration and to do so by a process of consultation with the staff of the Institute. Our experience is that discussion often uncovers areas for research that represent the deeper interests of prospective students and can suggest avenues of approach that they had not considered hitherto. And we are experts at deterring a candidate who wants to write a sermon or a propaganda manifesto: no doubt such things have their place – but not in an academic thesis where precise argument and convincing evidence are the prime concerns.

APPOINTMENT OF SUPERVISORS

One major reason for arriving early at your 'Proposal for Research' is that it will enable us to nominate, with your concurrence, the most appropriate supervisors for the work-in-hand. Gone are the days when a university appointed a nominal supervisor who might leave the student to sink or swim, as chance dictated. Anglia Ruskin University requires that we propose two supervisors, a first and a second (specialist) supervisor, whose appropriateness must be approved and whose care of their student will be carefully monitored.

Normally, your first supervisor will be a member or associate of the Institute or from the Cambridge Theological Federation, whereas the second or



specialist supervisor need not necessarily reside in Cambridge or even in the British Isles. This allows us to nominate as specialist supervisor a scholar who has intimate knowledge of the student's field of study yet may reside anywhere, provided he or she can keep contact with the student by the means that modern technology allows, such as Skype, telephone, email, as well as personal face-to-face meetings.

The uniqueness of the Institute for Orthodox Studies means that we are able to call on a raft of specialist scholars and to provide supervision on most of the topics that a student might offer. Your subject has of course to be accepted as suitable for research and the proposed supervisor must agree to take you on: nevertheless, the system makes it possible for a student to work under some of the most distinguished scholars of the Orthodox world.

WHERE AND WHEN DO I DO MY RESEARCH?

www.iocs.cam.ac.uk

Work toward your research degree can be full-time or part-time – though in either case, you will be expected to complete within a maximum period: 60 months full-time and 72 months part-time. The period of registration can be extended for good reason, such as illness or unexpected commitments; but you must expect considerable pressure to deliver on time. Where you work is another matter. Traditionally, doctoral students have tended to study within a university environment, and we encourage our students to enjoy first-hand what the Cambridge environment has to offer: contact with the finest minds, among both university staff and your fellow-students, access to the whole range of mental stimulus and educational opportunity offered by a city that is at a cross-roads of the intellectual trade-routes of the world. Here also you can study as an Orthodox student among fellow-believers.

However the advent of modern communications has made the world our neighbour and much improved the facilities for study, wherever you are. All students are now required to handle resources such as internet, email, word applications and a virtual learning environment. A student may now be located in Great Britain or overseas, the major stipulation being that they must have access to an adequate library. You will be in contact with your supervisors by Skype, email,

telephone, letter, and personal meetings where they can be arranged.

You may, unless we can make provision for local training, be required by Anglia Ruskin University to attend an annual week-long research training session in Cambridge on at least two occasions during your registration. Where a local supervisor can be found with the requisite knowledge and experience, we will endeavour to secure a supervisor or adviser in your country of origin.



VISAS

Students from outside the European Union who wish to study full-time in the United Kingdom must obtain a Tier 4 Visa, and Anglia Ruskin University and the Institute are required to see that regulations and attendance requirements are fulfilled. For doctoral students consulting a supervisor or attending a short-term course a visitor's visa should be sufficient.

COSTS

Course Fees for the MPhil/PhD programme will be in the region of £5,500 per year for UK and European Union students and in the region of £10,000 per year for international students. (The differential between European Union and international students is (alas) imposed by the British government, and we can only apologise for it). Fees include all tuition, supervision and access to facilities, especially library resources, but accommodation and meals are not included. Fees must be paid on registration: in the case of international students direct to Anglia Ruskin University, while in the case of United Kingdom and European Union students £4,200 must be paid to Anglia Ruskin at commencement and £1,300 to the Institute.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES

The Institute is an educational charity committed to teaching all aspects of the Orthodox Christian Faith and practice, and can offer scholarships and bursaries in proportion to the generosity of our supporters. The Koga scholarship has been endowed to enable a student from one of the oppressed Christian communities of the Middle East to study for a doctorate in Cambridge for three years with all expenses met, including travel, in the expectation that the scholarship holder

will return to his or her country of origin and contribute to reconstruction. We are actively seeking similar scholarships, on whatever terms and conditions the donors think appropriate.

Potential students are also invited to apply for a bursary that will give a reduction in fees to anyone who has difficulty in meeting the costs of higher education. These are met from the limited resources of the Institute, and statement of need should accompany your application. Awards will be made towards the conclusion of a registration period.

Professor David Frost



My experience at IOCS where I have been working on my PhD in the Philosophy of Religion, has been a beautiful balance of excellence in academics and a deep spiritual encounter with the fathers of the East. This model fits with my desire to study within a spiritual environment instead of just a 'sterile' academic one. Everyone here has been so helpful in answering my questions, and in helping me to get established in the community. I have studied in many excellent universities in America, but they lacked the fullness of this educational institution, due to this component of spirituality.

Rev. Michael Pacella III, PhD Student, second year.



www.iocs.cam.ac.uk

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