

# phd and mphil programme

advanced biblical and theological research



## PhD and MPhil Research Programmes at Mattersey Hall

*research degrees at  
mattersey hall*

The Mattersey Hall/Bangor University PhD, in common with just about all British PhD programmes, is a research-only qualification. There are no classes to attend or examinations to pass on the way, and no teaching input other than our Research Training Programme and the tutorial supervision you will receive. Both MPhil (Master of Philosophy) and PhD (Doctor of Philosophy) research degrees are examined entirely by dissertation and oral examination (or 'viva').

The MPhil dissertation runs to approximately 60,000 words and is awarded to candidates who have critically investigated a topic (in the process demonstrating their understanding of appropriate research methodologies) and undertaken a systematic analysis of data, resulting in a contribution to knowledge in their general field of scholarship. PhD candidates must have undertaken research resulting in an independent and original contribution to knowledge, normally of 80-100,000 words and of publishable quality. In both cases the thesis must be a work of substance which offers a genuine contribution to global knowledge.

Registration for the MPhil is normally for two or three years part time or one or two years full time, and for the PhD it is normally four or five years part time or three years full time.

We are able to offer research supervision, in combination with staff from Bangor University, in the following areas:

- Biblical Studies
- Pentecostal History and Theology
- Christian Leadership, Missions and Ministry
- Music and Worship

For example, studies on healing, the exercise of spiritual gifts, theologies of baptism or communion, church growth, leadership, church administration and structure, children's work, youth work, musical ministry, preaching, prayer, denominational or missionary society history and Pentecostal/charismatic biography are all feasible research topics. The library at Mattersey Hall contains a rich variety of Pentecostal and charismatic publications. In addition the Donald Gee Research Centre located at the college gives access to a unique range of valuable archival documentation spanning the twentieth century; it is particularly strong on the early years of Pentecostalism in the UK.

Potential research students should normally have a good undergraduate degree and have completed a master's degree (normally in a subject that relates directly to their research topic) which includes a substantial dissertation. Variation in these requirements may be possible where the student has already demonstrated research competence in other ways (e.g., by publication).

As a first step you should contact the Graduate School to discuss these matters informally. We will then help you work out a research proposal for formal submission. As part of the application process we will ask you to attend at least one of our doctoral seminars, which are held annually in September and during the Easter vacation.

In considering your application we will assess your ability to successfully complete the course, and the anticipated relevance of the qualification to your professional development and future career will be major factors in considering your suitability for the programme. Mattersey Hall Graduate School is a ministry training college and always gives priority to those applicants whose ministry contexts are most likely to benefit from their training.

The application process can be quite a long one – we need to make sure you have all the information you will need and that you understand the practical issues and arrangements. We also need to consider your ability to produce an extended piece of academic writing, and the viability and sustainability of your intended project. From these early discussions we can consider the availability of a suitable supervisor and begin the formal registration process before discussing your work schedule and getting the research underway (research students can begin their studies at any time in the academic year).

If you are seriously considering doctoral studies with us, you need to give consideration to the following questions. We will ask you about these things at interview or in email correspondence.

1. Do you have any experience of writing a thesis or other extended piece of academic work? In particular this will need discussion if English is not your first language and/or you were educated outside the United Kingdom.
2. How will your previous academic experience and qualifications relate to the project you have in mind? Is it in a related field? A copy of your CV will be very helpful in this connection.
3. How do you see research fitting into your other life priorities? Do you intend to study part or full time? How much time a week do you expect to be able to allocate to the work? A PhD is a substantial piece of academic work (about four times the length of a Master's dissertation, usually 80-100,000 words) that should make an original contribution to knowledge, and that takes a while to produce! It is therefore very important that your commitment is high and motivation is good, and to consider the practical issue of your workload, if you are to be studying part time. At Mattersey Hall we are generally most keen to work with students who see a PhD as something of a calling, part of their Christian life and ministry, and whose ministry and worldview will benefit from undertaking such a project.
4. You will need to put together a formal research proposal outlining your research interest, though we appreciate that many applicants for MPhil and PhD programmes have only vague ideas in the early stages of their planning and want to refine their ideas in discussion with their supervisor. Nevertheless it is good to have a clear project in mind.
5. As part of the formal application we will need:
  - a. A 1-2 page summary of your proposed research project;
  - b. A proposed outline of your thesis;
  - c. A timeline, which sets out the various milestones along the way to completion and sets realistic targets (in particular, scheduling any fieldwork or data collection you might need to do).

Part time registration for PhD is normally five years, though this can be reduced depending upon the circumstances. If you do not have substantial research experience it may be necessary for you to complete an MPhil en route to your doctorate – this normally takes two years, but that reduces the amount of time taken to complete the PhD thesis commensurately. An advantage to this approach is that you can earn two degrees in the time it would ordinarily take to complete one, but there is more writing to be done.

Even if you have research experience, it is normal for research students in the UK to be registered first for an MPhil and upgraded to PhD at the end of their first year if their work has been of an acceptable standard. It is also important to note that Bangor University has a strict progress monitoring system which serves to guarantee the quality of supervision you will receive and ensure you work consistently and produce a good standard of writing, and your continuance on the programme will be subject to satisfying this process.

Much of the supervision process can be conducted by email and telephone (we also have videoconferencing facilities), but there is no substitute for a face-to-face meeting and you would need to travel to consult directly with your supervisor once or twice a year. You can usually combine this with attendance at one of our doctoral seminars. These are held twice a year in partnership with Bangor University, and we expect all doctoral students to attend at least one of these a year. If you are based outside of the UK you need to factor such travel costs into your budget. Also your oral examination at the end of your project (called a Viva) will be in the UK.

#### fees

Current course fees are on our website (at [www.matterseyhall.com/fees.htm](http://www.matterseyhall.com/fees.htm)). Fees include supervision and all course materials including access to the Bangor University online library service. Additional incidental expenditure (including travel and subsistence costs) and the purchase of books will be necessary.

Please note that because of the way the UK government funds the universities, there are separate fee bands for UK/EU and non-European Union students. You must have been ordinarily resident in the EU for at least three years to be eligible for the reduced rate.

Ordinarily 50% of the annual course fee is due upon commencement of the course in October in each year, with the remainder due for payment by the end of May.

To apply, please complete the Mattersey Hall Graduate School application form (downloadable from [www.matterseyhall.com/apply\\_grad.htm](http://www.matterseyhall.com/apply_grad.htm)), ask your referees to complete their sections of the form and return it to us along with the £25 application fee. The application deadline for each intake is 1 September.

#### contact us

For further information, advice or guidance please contact us at:

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